

The Nut-Shell

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THE NUT-SHELL

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This miniature journal is printed from the smallest type ever manufactured, being cast and composed from Europe especially for this publication. It is a marvel of mechanical skill, and a fair-weather of typographical art. This, and other numbers, should be carefully preserved as they will prove not only a curiosity, but will furnish our readers a mass of valuable information not to be obtained elsewhere.

TRIALS WHICH ADAM ESCAPED.

No doubt it was a severe affliction to old transgressor Adam to be turned out of Paradise, to wander about on two sides of every question, and perhaps he was not wholly wretched over it. We are now going to argue that point at present.

What we want to get at is the fact that, though Adam lived a long age, when the world was young, he escaped a great many troubles and trials which beset the modern man.

He had never to wrestle with a set of false teeth which did not fit, and which would not fit, and which felt, in spite of the smiling dentist's assurances "that they looked perfectly natural, sir," more and more like a breast in his mouth every day.

He did not have any pretty girl neighbor, younger and more blooming than Mrs. Eve, who made him waltz, whenever he looked at her, that he had waited a little longer before settling for life.

Nobody asked him to subscribe for a cyclopaedia.

Nobody asked him to give a hundred dollars to a minister.

No friend wanted his name on a little bill, just for thirty days, as a mere favor, you know.

Nobody wanted to insure his life or sell him a sewing machine, or a new lot of soap, or a patent churn, or a liver pad, or a new English apple, or a prize package of stationery.

Nobody wanted to put lightning rods on his house. Chances peddlers had not then begun their travels. Organ grinders did not pursue him with their hats held out. Bills for French millinery and "sundries" never clouded his brow.

He had never hankered after a 2-29 house. He had no ambition to mount a bicycle. He never had to fight potato bugs. We may safely conclude that he did not take pills, or bitters, or remedies, or compounds to cure all diseases under the sun in one month, or money refunded.

He was never mashed to a jelly in a crowded horse car, nor blown up in a steamboat where the life preservers were put away so safely that nobody could find them. He was never pruned, or scalded to death besides, in a railway collision, where nobody was to blame, and the company was not censured.

As he was born grown up, we may conclude he never had to contend with teething, or nursing bottles soiled, or

the mumps, or the measles, or the whooping cough, or the rash, and, as he had no mother, of course he was never properly spanked, which may account for the mistakes he made in his career.

His heart was never torn by the agony of jealousy. He never had to stand by and keep cool, while Miss Eve walked off with the "other fellow," for the simple reason that the other fellow was not there to walk off with. He had not been born just then.

Adam, in all probability, never wore a stiff stand up collar, or a pair of pants in which he would not sit down. He never ate oleomargarine, under the fond delusion that it was butter.

He never attended any lectures on health, to learn that all food was poison, and that nothing was wholesome for man to eat. He did not know what the modern man knows, that to be healthy we must starve, freeze, and show all things called happiness, and take cold-water baths and gymnastics and dandelion tea daily.

He never got divorced. He never committed a murder when he was insane. He never robbed a bank. He never ran away with another man's wife. He was a brave old fellow, and took great care of his farm, and he lived to be 900 years old, and died without knowing the multitude of troubles he had escaped by having been at existence at such an early stage of the world's history.

CURIOUS MARRIAGES.

Of the many interesting matters that come under the notice of the Registrar General, there is nothing more surprising than the frequency, with which youth and age try the paths of matrimony together. The union of May and December is not nearly so rare as many persons suppose, and it is not always the young ladies who are the "said maids."

Of 3368 brides over 50 years of age who were married last year one secured a youth of 29, three were accommodated by men of 21, and fourteen others kept their choice of striplings below 25. In one of the last named cases, the good lady was forty years older than her partner. Turning to the veterans among the husbands, there is even greater diversity. There were fewer than 320 bridegrooms above 70 years of age, and of these one took a girl of 17, another one of 19, and four others kept on 70 and over. One of 70 years of age married a girl of 20, who had not reached her majority.

As many as 4576 males whose ages ranged between 50 and 60 were also brought to the hymeneal altar, and here again we find the most interesting. A hundred were not more than 25, and 248 were under 25. Amongst other strange matches was one between a couple of octogenarians, while three ladies of "85 and upwards" got husbands whose ages were 75, 65 and 55 respectively.

Taking the whole gamut, we have then secured a bride of 45. But even greater variety is to be seen in which men of 21 and 22 themselves, were secured. We find that one of 21, and in the 75-year-old luck who secured a blushing damsel of 19. At the other end of the scale we have a marriage between a girl of 13 and an old man of 18, another where the contracting parties were 16 each, and a third in which men of 21 and 22 themselves were married to girls of 13 and 14, and two husbands of 30 took partners whose ages were under 15, while of more than 70 husbands there are 15, and 16, and 17, and 18, and 19, and 20, and 21, and 22 years of age.

AFTER A BIG THING.

About six weeks ago a man who claimed to be in hard luck entered a Detroit stove store and asked for money. The proprietor gave him a dime and a blowing up at the same time, and asked him why he did not brace up and try to do something.

"Say! I'll do it!" was the reply. "I'm already working at a big thing. It is a coal stove and refrigerator combination—one side to cool your provisions in summer and the other to heat your bodies in winter."

He was encouraged to go on, and in about two weeks he returned to inquire: "Do you think it will make any difference which side is the stove and which the refrigerator?"

He was told that it would not, and he went away to be gone another fortnight, and then to return and ask: "Wouldn't it be a good thing to arrange to save the heat of the stove to run a washing-machine?"

He was warmly complimented on the idea, and was not seen again until yesterday, when he returned with enthusiastic step to ask for a private interview and to say: "Got another idea! I'm going to make the cold air which passes off the elevator run at least six feet below the ground."

What I want just now is a capital of 1,000,000 dollars to enable me to experiment, and I shall try to parties in New York to-day. Meanwhile you advance me twenty-seven cents and take a first mortgage bearing 12 per cent interest in gold!

GEMS OF THOUGHT.

Faults are always thick where love is thin.

Deeds are fruit; words are but mere leaves.

Be slow to promise and quick to perform.

The longest life is but so many moments.

One good mother is worth a dozen school-masters.

Be not afraid to die, for you will travel a well-beaten track.

He is comparatively idle who might be better employed.

Never be sorry to lose, for you are quite willing to lose.

God gives every bird its food, but does not throw it into the nest.

Love your head and love the battle, lose your heart and you have lost it.

You can lay it down as a sacred maxim that every man is wretched in proportion to his vices.

The shafts of sarcasm are only effective when barbed with the truth, tempered with justice, and feathered with wit.

Money will make us work but money will not make us give our hearts to the work. Nothing but love for our work or real good principle can make us do that.

Wisdom makes all the trouble, griefs and pains incident to life, whether casual adversities or natural afflictions, easy and supportable, by rightly valuing the importance and moderating the influence of them.

We are to remember that it is not so much by the words they speak, or by outwardly and apparently important actions, as by slight unobtrusive influences, that friends help every moment to mar or make our characters.

A bad daughter seldom makes a good wife. If a girl is ill-tempered at home, she will be ill-tempered at her husband's and sisters, and shirks her ordinary duties, the chances are ten to one

that when she gets a home of her own she will make it wretched.

A smooth sea never made a skillful mariner, neither does uninterrupted prosperity and success qualify anyone for usefulness and happiness. The storms of adversity, like the storms of the ocean, arouse the faculties and excite the invention, prudence, skill and fortitude of the voyager.

He who does the best in an always improving. His best of yesterday is outside to-day, and his best of to-day will be outside to-morrow. It is in this steady progress, no matter from what point it starts, that forms the chief element of all greatness and goodness.

The exercise of every faculty is necessary to its development, and therefore to its life. Inaction, fully carried out, means stagnation and death. On the other hand, over-exercise of any part tends to exhaustion, and, if the part of rest necessary to restore it vigor be denied, it will wear itself out. Health and happiness require that these laws be recognized and obeyed.

Perhaps there is no more important art in all life than to receive the very-thing of what we want, and in many cases that they may each develop something worthy in our character. There is a latent power in each of them all, but too often it is never brought into action.

It is a common error to suppose that we are wretched, but the good things that belong to adversity are to be admired."

No matter the rank of life, any woman, be she princess or peasant, who undertakes the care of a family, is actually at once responsible for the welfare of that family, whether she actually toils for them with her own hands, as does the laborer's wife or simply oversees and superintends the work of others, and the lady rich in all the goods of this world, and whose responsibility is there, and not one cent less, without risking not only her own happiness and that of her family, but those of all connected with her.

WEIGHTS AND DISTANCES.

There are doubtless a large number of intelligent persons in every community, who, though not particularly interested or well versed in the study of mathematics, have often felt the importance of knowing some convenient and simple method for determining the height of a tree, or the depth of a stream, and to whom such knowledge would be very useful and desirable. It is related of Dr. Livingston, the famous explorer that when travelling in the wilds of Africa, he first came in view of the magnificent Victoria Falls he endeavored to measure the height of, but the most provoking trial to him was that he had forgotten the simple mathematical rules of his school-boy days, and in great sorrow of heart, he was obliged to turn away from this beautiful river without being able to calculate its "girth." Its dimensions were a "guess" at best. The erroneous estimates which are made of the height of trees, buildings and other objects, render desirable an easy and convenient method for measuring them. An excellent process with a "liberal education" have doubtless found themselves in the unpleasant predicament of Dr. Livingston, and regretted their inability to estimate the height of a stone, or the distance of an object, or the distance across a river.

The height of a tree may be estimated sufficiently exact for ordinary purposes by the following method: Being in the vicinity of a tree, the height of which you wish to know, and in your hand you carry a walking cane or