

Silence.

How eloquent is silence! Acquiescence, contradiction, difference, disdain, embarrassment, and awe, may all be expressed by saying nothing. It may be necessary to illustrate this apparent paradox by a few examples. Do you seek an assurance of your lady-love's affection? The fair one confirms her lover's fond hopes by a compliant and assenting silence. Should you hear an assertion, which you may deem false, made by some one of whose veracity politeness may withhold you from openly declaring your doubt, you denote a difference of opinion by remaining silent. Are you receiving a reprimand from a superior? You mark your respect by an attentive silence. Are you compelled to listen to the frivolous conversation of a fop? You signify your opinion of him by treating his loquacity with contemptuous silence. Are you in the course of any negotiation about to enter on a discussion painful to your own feelings, and to those who are concerned in it? The subject is almost invariably prefaced by an awkward silence. Silence has also its utility and advantages. And first, what an invaluable portion of domestic strife might have been prevented, how often might the quarrel which by mutual aggravation, has, perhaps, terminated in bloodshed, have been checked at its commencement by a judicious silence! These persons only who have experienced them are aware of the beneficial effects of that forbearance, which to the exasperating threat, the malicious sneer, or the unjustly imputed culpability, shall never answer a word. Secondly, there are not wanting instances where the reputation, fortune, the happiness, nay, the life of a fellow creature, might be preserved by a charitable silence.

Something Worth Knowing.

People in general suppose by extracting and insulating what they conceive to be the nutritious principle or principles of any alimentary substance, they are able with greater certainty and effect to nourish the body of the sick and delicate. Thus we continually hear of strong beef-tea, pure arrow-root jelly, and the like, prepared with great care for such persons. But it will surprise many, to hear that a dog, fed on the strong beef-tea alone, rapidly emaciates, and dies within a short period; and that precisely the same consequences would ensue on confining the strongest man to the same food. It is also a fact that a dog fed on fine white bread (usually considered by far the most nutritive kind of bread) and water, both at discretion, does not live beyond the fiftieth day; and a rabbit or guinea pig, fed on best wheat alone, dies, with all the symptoms of starvation, commonly within a fortnight, and sometimes much sooner. The same effects follow if they are fed on oats or barley singly. An ass fed with rice boiled in water does not survive above a fortnight. The reason of all this is, that diversity of food, and a certain bulk, are essential to nutrition. It follows that strong soup, beef-tea, arrow-root, and animal jellies, and such articles of food, should at all times be taken with some alimentary substance, and particularly with bread.

INQUISITIVENESS.—The man who wants to know about things. We have all seen him. Have all "been there," as they say in the beautiful West. A dear son of New England having plied a newcomer in the mining region of Nevada with every conceivable question as to why he visited the gold region, his hopes, means, prospects, etc., finally asked him if he had a family.

"Yes, sir," was the reply. "I have a wife and six children, and I never saw one of them."

Then there was a brief silence, after which the bore commenced: "Was you ever blind, sir?"

"No, sir."

"Did you marry a widow?"

"No, sir."

Another pause.

"Did I understand you to say that you had a wife and six children living in New York, and had never seen one of them?"

"Fact."

"How can that be?"

"Why," was the brief reply, "one of them was born after I left!"

"How dare you say that I never open my mouth without putting my foot in it?"—"I hope you will forgive me, for when I said that, I had never seen the size of your foot."

Mothers and Children.

It is singular, but it is no less a fact, that in reference to juvenile folly, frequent instances of mistaken management proceed from the laudable anxiety of the mother to encourage the tender sympathies of children towards each other. We have seen her bestowing praise and admiration on those who had made little sacrifices to please their younger brothers and sisters, or who bestowed caresses and signs of affection on them; and we have seen the sacrifices repeated, and the caresses bestowed for the very purpose of exciting attention and admiration. And thus the very feelings it was the intention to call forth and strengthen have been smothered and nipped in the bud, by a rising emotion of selfishness and vanity. Alas! that simplicity, integrity, and perfect uprightness of character should thus early be endangered.

With proper management, the affection and care of the elder children towards the younger will be a matter of course. The exercise of this affection will bring with it its own reward, and repay them for any little sacrifice of their own self-indulgence it required of them. We must suppose, however, in this case, that all cause of irritation of feeling has been carefully avoided. The judicious nurse will always render the baby an object of interest, and not of jealousy. The little ones may almost fancy they are helping to dress, to rock it, to protect it. The sympathetic and tender feelings of children cannot be too early or too carefully excited and cultivated, but must, on no occasion, be the object of notice or admiration.

A child may be very early trained to be obedient; but this training must begin in the earliest infancy. Accustom your child to understand, and to adhere to, a certain number of prohibitions. You have it always in your power to enforce obedience, by removing the child from within reach of the forbidden object. But this is not what we mean; as soon as you can, endeavour to render obedience to such prohibitions in some measure voluntary. Beware of compromising your authority by giving, at an early age, positive injunctions which you have not the means of enforcing; and, before you arouse a spirit of self-will and independence, by battles and contentions, in order to gain your point, create a certain habit of willing obedience, by exacting attention to those prohibitions, which will prepare the child for compliance, afterwards, with positive orders. You thus inure a child, in a certain degree, to practice a little salutary self-denial, and to impose a restraint on its own wishes in compliance with your order.

The habit once formed is found easy of practice, and the child, with, as it were, natural ease, carries out the precept as a part of its every-day life, unhesitatingly, and with a willingness which makes the doing a pleasure and the act a graceful concession.

Medicinal Effects of Onions.

A mother writes:—"Twice a week invariably—and it was generally when we had cold meat minced—I gave the children a dinner which was hailed with delight and looked forward to; this was a dish of boiled onions. The little things knew not that they were taking the best of medicine for expelling what most children suffer from—worms. Mine were kept free by this remedy alone. Not only boiled onions for dinner, but chives also they were encouraged to eat with their bread and butter, and for this purpose they had tufts of chives in their gardens. It was a medical man who taught me to eat boiled onions as a specific for a cold in the chest. He did not know at the time, till I told him, that they were good for anything else." A case is now under our own observation in which a rheumatic patient, an extreme sufferer, finds great relief from eating onions freely, either cooked or raw. He asserts that it is by no means a fancy, and he says so after having persistently tried Turkish baths, galvanism, and nearly all the potions and plasters that are advertised as certain alleviations or cures.—[Hants Advertiser.]

A fat French lady despairingly says:—"I am so fat that I pray for a disappointment to make me thin. No sooner does the disappointment come than the mere expectation of growing thinner gives me such joy that I become fatter than ever."

"Julius, was you ever in business?" "Of course I was." "What business?" "A sugar planter." "When was that, my colored friend?" "Der day I buried dat old sweetheart of mine."

Pumice Stone.

Pumice Stone, a slag or cinder of some fossil reduced to the state we find it in, by heat, is a lax and spongy matter, full of little pores and cavities, of a pale whitish gray color; found near volcanic (or burning) mountains. It is not generally known, but really is, one of the most useful appurtenances of the washstand. Printers consider it next in importance to soap, and used in connection with it, it will remove the ink and other stains from the hands magically. It possesses a scouring surface for many purposes unequalled by any substance with which we are acquainted. In a pulverized state it is one of the very best for scouring grate bars, copper, brass, tin or wooden ware, where a finer polish is required than would be left by the use of common scouring sand. Many persons have a dread of cutting their nails or paring down corns on their feet with a knife; to all such nervous persons we can recommend this substance for rasping or filing down the nails to their proper lengths. For reducing corns there is nothing like it; in rubbing it over the hard and horny corn, it cuts off all that is objectional. The soft and fleshy parts that surround the corn yields to the pressure, while the corn is being reduced by the filing process. No person whose business requires him to stain his hands, and no practical farmer who works without mittens, and who desires to sit at his meals or read the papers with clean hands, will dispense with this useful article when once used. It can be obtained at almost any paint or drug store.—Ex.

THE REASONS WHY.—Somebody—a crusty old bachelor, of course—inquires why, when Eve was manufactured from a spare rib, a servant was not made at the same time to wait on her? Somebody else—a woman, we imagine—replies in the following strain: Because Adam never came whining to Eve with a ragged stocking to be darned, collar-button to be sewed on, or a glove to mend, "right away—quick now!" Because he never read the newspapers until the sun got down behind the palm-trees, and stretching himself yawned out: "Is not supper most ready, my dear?" Not he. He made the fire and hung the cattle over it himself, and—we will venture to say—pulled the radishes, peeled the potatoes, and did everything else he ought to do. He milked the cows, fed the chickens, and attended to the pigs himself, and he never brought home half-a-dozen friends to dinner when Eve had not fresh pomegranates. He never stayed out till 11 o'clock at a political meeting hurrahing for an out-and-out candidate, and then scolded because poor Eve was sitting up and crying inside the gates. He never played billiards, rolled ten-pins, and drove fast horses, nor choked Eve with cigar-smoke. He never loafed around corner groceries while Eve was rocking little Cain's cradle at home. In short, he did not think Eve was especially created for the purpose of waiting on him, and he had no idea that it would disgrace him to lighten Eve's cares a little. That is the reason why Eve did not need a hired girl, and from it may be inferred the reason why her fair descendants do.

SPIRITS OF TURPENTINE.—This is one of the most valuable articles in a family, and when it has obtained a foothold in a house it is really a necessity and could not well be dispensed with. Its medicinal qualities are very numerous; for burns it is a quick application, and gives immediate relief; for blisters on the hands it is of priceless value, searing down the skin and preventing soreness; it is useful for corns on the toes, good for rheumatism and sore-throat, and is the quickest remedy for convulsions and fits. It is also a sure preventive against moths; by dropping just a trifle in the bottom of drawers, trunks and cupboards, it will render the garments secure from injury during the summer. It will keep ants and bugs from closets and storerooms by putting a few drops in the corners and upon the shelves; it is sure destruction to bedbugs, and will effectually drive them away from their haunts, if thoroughly applied to the joints of the bedstead in the spring cleaning-time; and it injures neither furniture nor clothing; its pungent odor is retained a long time, and no family ever ought to be entirely out of a supply at any time of the year.

"If I am not at home from the party to-night at ten o'clock," said a husband to his better half, don't wait for me."—"That I won't," replied the lady, significantly; "I won't wait, but I'll come for you." The gentleman returned at ten o'clock precisely.