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JOE JEFFERSON LOVES BOOKS. The Authors He Admires and His Opinion

A CHAT ABOUT HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

of Literary Actors.

He Tells How He Came to Write it-Brice's Ingratitude to Charley Fester-Gossip About , the Diplomats.

Copyright 1890 by Frank G. Carpenter.1 Washington, Dec. 24.—[Special to The Bee.]—Joe Jefferson is drawing crowded houses this week in "The Rivals," and he is as popular today as when he first made his appearance on the American stage in a Washington theater. This was when Jackson was resident and little Joe Jefferson, a boy of our, was carried to the stage in a bag by the famous minstrel Rice, who wa making a hit by dancing Jim Crow. Rice came on the stage and turning the bag upside down turnbled little Joe Jefferson out, and then began to dance. The boy was dressed just like Rice, his face was blackened and the two sang verse apart as they danced. As they finished the song the audience was so delighted that they threw dollars and half dollars on the stage and little Jefferson received \$24 for that night's acting. He now receives, no one but his manager knows how much, and he is as well off as any actor on the American stage. He is said to be worth a million, and he has a sugar plantation in Louisiana, a beautiful country home in New Jersey, a quaint seaside cottage on Cape Cod, and bonds and stocks and gold galore. Since he dropped down upon a Washington stage until now he has been tickling the sides and delighting the souls of a fun-loving public, and every cent of his money has been well-carned by himself, and his great genius has been sold cheap to the people. He has child-ren and grandchildren but his soul is as young now as when he tumbled out of that bag, and his blue eyes are as merry and his voice as cheery as that of a boy. He will be in February, but his acting is as good now as it has ever been, and he enjoys a good story, a good laugh and a good theater as well as any man in the country. He goes to the theater whenever be can, and I caught him at the hotel today just as he was about starting out to see "The Lilliputians" with Billy Florence. He is a delightful conversationalist and his voice and his manner are as gentle and good natured

AS THOSE OF RIP VAN WINKLE. During the short chat I had with him ! asked him some questions as to his autobiography, which appeared in the Century Magazine, and is now being sold over the book counters. This book is one of the great books of this generation, and it is the belief of many good judges that it will be one of the few which will last. Its style is delightful, and it has been wonderfully successful in its magazine publication. It is full of bright descriptions and its pictures are complete in all their details. I asked Mr. Jefferson as to whether it was not made up from a diary.

He replied: "No I have never kept a diary, and I had no notes. I am fortunate in having a good memory, and I wrote the entire book from it. I felt very doubtrul about undertaking the book. It seems to me that an actor undertaking to take up the role of the literary man and to write a book is much like the part of a literary man who decides to go on the stage and make his first appearance in the part of Hamlet, I am glad to see that my work was popular, and it is a wonder to me that I have succeeded in making it so. I have had the book in my mind for a long time, and had intended to have put the matter in a book form and not in a magazine. My friend, Mr. Gilder, however, advised me that he could give me a wider circulation through the magazine, and the result shows that he was

"Did you have any regular habit of writing!" I asked.

"No," replied Mr. Jefferson, "I began the book about three years ago and wrote at it by fits and starts as the humor took me. At first I kept no notes at all, but after I began my writing I found that my memory of events and persons could be very vivid at some times and that I could not recall them at all at others. I then carried a note book and made memoranda of material for the book whenever it struck me. It seemed curious to me the way my mind worked. I would awake in the middle of the night from a sound sleep for no reason that I can see, and think of some part of my past experiences. If I went asleep again I would find in the morning that I knew that I had remembered something during the night which I intended to record when I got up, but I could not think what that something was. After this I had a pencil and note book by my bedside, and at such times as I woke and thought of matter for the book I would rise and write out the material. In preparing the book finally I found these memoranda of great value, and that in most cases the first records waite, and that in most cases the first records were better than anything that I could write. I think on the whole I am fortunate in not having kept a dairy. It might have caused me to draw my stery out to an insuf-ferable length and I might have magnified details which were better omitted. I am of course pleased that the book did succeed, and I am told that the sale of it has been good." The conversation here turned to literature and actors, and Mr. Jefferson spoke very kindly of the memoirs Mr. Florence is now writing, and which promise to be full of interest. Mr. Jefferson said:

"I don't see why an actor should not have a NATURAL BENT TOWARD LITERATURE and why he should not write fluently and and why he should not write fluently and well. His whole life is made up of the inter-pretation of literature. He has to study and play the classics. He has to appreciate all the phases of thought and expression and in the rendering of these great literarry pro-ductions, his whole life is to a certain extent a time of education. It would be strange in-deed if he did not absorb something and he has also to study the neonle and to make his has also to study the people and to make his idea of his parts plain to them. I feel a delicacy in saying anything about such subjects. I am not a professional writer and I doubt if I ever write again. I had a story to tell and my life has been so eventful, and I have mot so many men about whom I could talk that this is perhaps one of the reasons of its success."

There are few botter read men than Mr. Jefferson. He possesses a remarkable culture, has done some work as an artist which has been well spoken of by the art critics and he carries his paints and easel with him during his acting. I was curious to know how he found time for such a variety of work, and I asked him as to whether he had been a systematic student during his life time. Beginning his career as a boy on the stage for the past fifty years he has been playing to the people and you will find few college bred men so cultured or well read as he: In re-

men so cultured or well read as he: In respons, to my question he said:

"No, I don't think I have ever been much of a student, and indeed I don't believe in hard study. I would not give a boy anything to learn that would make his head ache, any more than I would ask him to learn anything that would make his back ache. I don't believe that it is the study that koits the brow that improves the mind, but it is that which that improves the mind, but it is that which pleases the student and which the mind easily assimilates. Such things as I have learned from books have come to me easily and with-out effort. My reading has been very varied, out effort. My reading has been very varied, and I read according to my moods. I can enjoy myself in almost any of the fields of literature. I can spend a pleasant sober hour with Seneca, and I can onjoy a laugh the same evening over the letters of my friend, William Nye, or as he is more commonly called, Bill Nye. I have my fun with Pack, and I become acquainted with my soul with pleasure over.

pleasure over THE PAGES OF EMERSON. I don't mean to say I read one the same as he other. I have sometimes to read a page of Emerson or Browning over several times before I get at its meaning, and sometimes I

and not with either Emerson or Browning."

Mr. Calvin Brice, the New York millionnire who will take Henry B. Payne's pince
as the next seantor from Ohio, has been in
the city this week. He is a clean-cut, redthe city this week. He is a clean-cut, red-whiskered, bine-eved young man with a hard smile and a western manner. I remember him when he began his money-making career about ten years ago by pushing the Onio Central railroad down through the rich coal fields of that state. He was then often seen about Columbus, with his pants in his boots, a slouch hat on his head, and with by no means the best of clothes covering his angular frame. Last night at the Arlington, he wore a slik hat, a broad-cioth coat and every sign of his clothing deat the Arlington, he wore a silk hat, a broadcioth coat and every sign of his clothing denoted prosperity. Ten years ago he was
worth nothing. Now he is supposed to be
worth millions. Ten years ago he was in
debt to Governor Foater, and it was Foster
wao lent him the money and gave him the
boost which enabled him to climb the tree of
fortune. Now that he has plucked the fruit,
however, he seems to have little use for
Foster, and I am told that it was his money
and his efforts that caused Foster's defeat as
a candidate for congress this year. However this may be, if this is true, the future
senator has shown himself to be the senator has shown himself to be the INCARNATION OF INGRATITUDE.

INCARNATION OF INGRATITUDE.

Ex-Congressman Lamieson of Lima once told me that Brice, when he was worth practically nothing, owed Foster \$115,000, and it was only through additional money which Foster put into enterprises in which he gave Brice a share that enabled him 'to pay this debt. He did pay it finally and came out with \$135,000 ahead. It was this money that enabled him to organize his nickel-plate scheme, which enabled him to make somewhere near \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000 and establish himself as a big financier. Brice was asked by McKinley during his visit how matters were in New York. He replied: "A dollar in New York is now as big as the moon. It keeps growing bigger every day and money is so tight that we have nothing for Christmas." "I wish it had been so before the election," replied McKinley, and thereat the two statesmen laughed, and Brice laughed the louder. laughed the louder.
Colonel Moses P. Handy has refused the

consul-generalship to Carro, and he is happy in his newspaper duties in connection with the world's fair. He tells me he got the two appointments on the same day, and preferred the world's fair position, because it enabled him to remain at home. Handy would have made a good consul-general, and he would have been a refreshing change to some of the have been a refreshing change to some of the men who have occupied the Cairo consulate in times past. Schuyler was a good man, and Cardwell who preceded him was above the average of the country editor, the position which he left to take the place under Presi-dent Cleveiand. Wolf was accused of lean-ing toward Arabi Pasha and as for E. H. Butler, his mission was one long career of disgrace to America. He was drunk during the greater part of the time that he held the position, and when he got out of funds he the greater part of the time that he held the position, and when he got out of funds he would go to the khedive and ask for aloan or a present on the grounds that the United States government did not give him enough salary to live upon. America ought to have a very good man at Cairo. Our churches manage the missionary business of the country, and about two thousand Americans visit Egypt every winter to see the country and to enjoy every winter to see the country and to enjoy the delightful climate. There is no doubt that the proper man might be able to

MAKE AN OPENING FOR AMERICAN TRADE, and the bulk of our goods which now go to Egypt, are sent to London or Holland and there forwarded on to the country under new labels as Dutch or English goods, Dr. Edward Bedloe, our new consul to Amoy in China writes me that he is much better and that he will be able to leave London in the days for his root. Bedloe is an don in ten days for his post. Bedioe is an accomplished linguist. He has occupied a position at several of the consular ports of position at several of the consular ports of Europe, and he will be very popular in the far east. He proposes to learn the Chinese language, to make a study of Chinese litera-ture, and to open the country as far as possi-ble, to our American manufacturers. His ai-dress will be Amoy, China, and he is in the most thickly populated and in one of the pest parts of the empire. American manufacture. parts of the empire. American manufacturers who have any products that might be of value to the celestials, will do well to write him, and they will find their interests pushed from the word "go." Bedloe is a member of the Clover club of Philadelphia, and this club is fast becoming a distoration in this club. is fast becoming a diplomatic institution. General E. Burd Grubb, minister to Spain, is one of its members, Charles Emory Smith, who represents the United States at the court of the czar, is another, and Colonel Tom Doneldson, the census taker of the redskins, is a third. Major Handy is also a member of the Clover club, and I understand that Bill Nye will be alegated as one of its members. will be elected as one of its members at the inext meeting.

Korea has at last buried the queen dow-

ager, and my mail of today brings me a letter from the capital stating that she was planted in great state on the 13th of last month. This describes the funeral. It seems that she at one time held the seals of state, and that she made three kings of Corea. She was a

WOMAN OF EXTRAORDINARY ABILITY, and the reigning king was her adopted son. The funeral procession was grand in the extreme, and it must have been very strange to American eyes. My letter describes it as

"The procession bearing the body to the grave was composed of two parts as distinct as life and death. The forepart included eatables, beautiful banners, animals regally caparisoned, and things making up a numerous retinue of horse and of foot as though the queen were going out to a picnic. Behind this was the funeral procession proper, containing the catafalque, accompanied by large military escort. Many a thousand of OFFICIAL RED LANTERNS

lighted the length of the procession, and the king caused certain places along the line of the procession to be prepared for the use of such of the diplomatic representatives who desired to see something of eastern pageantry. The American minister had an escort of marines and sailors, and a number of the former had Kodah cameras, but it is doubtful whether any good pictures were gotten, owing to the light and to the difficulty of taking them. The coffin was not placed into the ground till 4 a. m., until the opening of a new day, emblematic of the new life for the departed. Although much time was con-sumed, the closing ceremonies were very simple. A bountiful repast was spread upon a massive stone tablet in front of the mound, and at this time a son or near relative of the deceased usually bows before the grave. In the household of every Korean, each member has a low eating table, and when a father or a mother dies, this table is not taken away, but it is kept in the family and upon it for three years after that, every morning and every evening, there is placed a meal for the ghost of the departed. There were at this funeral sedan chairs and wooden horses, praises and prayers on many paper rolls together with incense—all these were burned that they might go to the spirit, and a tablet to her memory was set up in the temple. His majesty the king met the procession on its return and the sedan chair in cession on its return, and the sedan chair in cession on its return, and the sedan chair in which he rode was white and it was carried between two white horses. An embassy bearing the condolence of the Chinese emperor is expected here in a day or so, and after this time the business of the country may be resumed. At present nothing is done by the people or by the court. The civil ser-

vice examinations have been suspended and the whole nation has given itself up to grief." "By the way." this letter goes on, "I see in a Washington newspaper the report of an in-terview with the Chinese minister to Amer-ica in which he says that the Korean government is indebted to the Chinese government and that it cannot make a loan without the latter's consent. This is preposterous. Korea latter's consent. This is preposterous. Korea owes no money to China, and she has long since discarded the Chinesa leading strings. When Korea makes up her mind that she wants more money for development and improvement, she knows where to get it without the intermeddling of Chinese officials of high or low degree. Judge Denney, the former foreign advisor to the king, who you will remember is an Oregon man, is still in Seoul, and he does not seem to know when he will get through. The English are making a new departure here. They are now sending docdeparture here. They are now sending doctors and missionaries, including a bishop, and it is to be hoped that they will do less po-litical and more Christian work than they have been known to do elsewhere."

FRANK G. CARPENTER. Trindad's Future.

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The Union Pacifics will have a team out for next season which will include Hoxie, Holland, Shields, Liddell, Keys, Conce and never get at it. But the fault in this case is, a few new men.

WINE SERVING ONNEW YEAR'S

Mrs. Admiral Dahlgren Gives Her Views on the Subject.

THE DANGERS OF HEADY STIMULANTS.

How to Treat Callers-Tender Society Lambkins - The "Baid Head" is Generally Safe - Little Points for Wemen.

As the recurring season approaches, it is a subject discussed in social circles, how far young men are unduly tempted if wine is offered to them when they make their round of New Year's visits.

To the direct question: "Shall we offer wine to the men who call upon us?" I would answer: "With discrimination." And when it is again asked: "Pray, what does that mean!" I would reply: "One cannot, on a social point, make an absolute rule or a definite law unless good morals may be endangered, but it is necessary to be guided by a variety of circumstances."

If, as should be the case, a very cautious surveilance existed, as the character of the men who form one's circle of acquaintance, any selectian thus made would doubtless be such as to render it quite safe and proper to offer a glass of wine.

In order to arrive at this conclusion it must of course be presupposed that the carefully chosen guests who visit at the house are well known to us, approved as men of good habits, and gentlemen who know how to avail themselves of the amenities of life without overstepping the bounds of decorum.

If from defective training or inherent bad qualities such is not the case, a mistake will have been made in permitting these men to visit the house at all, and the sooner the illtimed acquaintances ceases the better.

it is doubtful if a man who is not sure of his power of self-command is a desirable acquisition in any society, for at the best his moral nature needs strengthening before he can be ready to battle with the world, inasmuch as a lack of moral power in any one d rection is apt to be a signal light of danger all around. Or if a man is simply weak, then he is so negative as to be, to say the least, Is not a high sense of honor, a keen sensi-

tiveness against all reproach, the best proof armor in which to encase our youth! A man must already have a dangerous appetite for drink if a glass of good wine, ten-dered on a festive occasion, prove an incen-tive to excess. Education teaches self-re-straint, culture enforces the lesson, and a true gentleman understands the requirements

of his social position.

It is but a poor compliment to a selected circle of friends that we dare not trust to their refinement or discretion. This and much more may be said concerning those delicate distinctions that mark the intercourse of the

But here one must pause, for no broad line can be safely drawn, no sweeping rule de-

fined.

On New Year's day many men visit the houses of merely casual acquaintances, and how to entertain such callers must be left to those particular circumstances known best to each hostess who thus receives.

The Christian obligation of setting a good example may never be ignored by any woman, and it rests with us also not only to sustain in tact, but to elevate the social standard.

It is a great responsibility.

How can we best meet it?

Again, I repeat, by the exercise of good common sense which involves nice discrimi-

Certainly the official receptions of Washington are held upon such a scale that no dis-criminations are made and no selections are possible. It may be said that these assem-blages are, in deed and in fact, public receptions. The public pay their respects to the leaders. It is a patriarchal sort of business, which can scarcely be considered as society. Assuredly it would be unwise to present to a collection of people, of whose antecedents one knows nothing, that which might prove a stumbling-block or a saw.

a stumbling-block or a snare.

It is said that an inebriate is a walking powder magazine, to which the ungarded application of a lighted match might cause spontaneous combustion.

At any general assembly, where distinction as to the character of participants is impossible, every care should be exercised to avoid tempting the weak. Certainly no wine should be offered where to just discrimination can be practiced. But this is not the exercise of hospitality, that graceful tribute of regard and respect

that graceful tribute of regard and respect we pay to those who have won our esteem.

Speaking of this subject of hospitality, I am reminded of an anecdote of Robert Toombs, of Georgia, whom I knew very well in ante-bellum days. He was a wealthy, typical southern planter, and he held a sort of feudal away over the town adjacent to his extensive plantations. It is told that he declared that no man should keep a tevern in that town for he nan should keep a tavern in that town, for he

said "if any stranger comes along who is worth knowing I propose to entertain him, but if he is poor white trash he must clear out anyhow." While one might not exactly subscribe to the way the old planter formulated his opin-ion, the principle involved is not bad. If a man is "worth knowing" he is worthy of good cheer and hospitable treatment.

There is one thing not to be overlooked, that there is a special danger of offering stimuiants that are too heady on New Year's day on account of the number of visits that men are expected to make, so that the inevitable repetition of the glass that cheers may ead by inebriating. This is a serious objection to the use of wines on that occasion, and one that should be carefully weighed. It is sub-jecting to a cruel mortification a sensitive

young man to render him liable, by hospita-ble intent, to do or say silly things. Then, again, some very nice young men are at best easily mudded, not being naturally blessed perhaps with extra strength of brain, and to these society lambkins very tender treatment should be extended and no tempta-tion of strong potations allowed.

On the other hand, it is always thoughtful

to offer a glass of choice wine to an old gen-tleman. The presumption being that, if God has honored him with a coronet of silver, or may be that "bald head," the scripture teaches us to respect, that he has not reached his three-score and ten without having learned how to take proper care of himself. Again, the gradual introduction of native wines is really a biessing, as their general use will belp to solve a difficult problem. One can now procure pure wine, not intoxi-cating, from our own vineyards, that are healthful and adapted to this exhausting

When these wines can be sold at such cheap rates as to be within the reach of peo-ple of moderate or restricted means, the day or strong drinks will have passed away. I have been told that our native wines could

climate.

be made at such low rates as to be as procurable by poor people as the wines are in Europe, but that the prices have to be held at higher rates in order to induce the fashionable world to buy then.

This, if so, is a set commentary upon the absurd American sensitiveness as regards the outlay of money, which makes it needful to make an article high priced to be held is es-

I would submit this reflection to society whenever it may become susceptible of any philanthropic considerations.

philanthropic considerations.

There is one rule of high breeding in the exercise of hospitality that may well be remembered at all times, but especially in this connection, and that is, never urge a guest to partake of whatever you may have to offer.

It is to be supposed that the old Spanish custom of unbounded liberality is also ours when we entertain our friends, although we may not choose to ofer "our house and all that it contains" with the Castillian grandilogence of phrase, yet the spirit of generous that it contains" with the Castillian grandiloqeace of parase, yet his spirit of generous
hospitality is everywhere the same. We
place before our guests whatever we may
have to offer them, and in doing so we take it
for granted they will for the time being consider our house as theirs. To insist upon
choosing for them is a sort of tyranny, not
graceful, to say the lesst.

Men often complainin making a round of
visits of this amiable histenec on the part of
the fair hostess, which really deprives them
of the liberty of choice and actually enslaves
their inclinations. It gultiplies, for instance,

a glass of wine on New Year's day beyond a prudent or even safe limit.

A bashful young man once confided to me that this very persistance, which occurs oftener than is agreeable, formed one of his most dreaded social woes. Another complained of the "awful time" he had at a country dinner on this very score, where a lynx-cyed hostess scemed to consider him as a sort of a cormorant, keeping his plate replenished with inexorable zeal.

There is no finer point in entertaining than

There is no finer point in entertaining than to notice without seeming to do so. This, indeed is that indefinable something which may be felt but not explained, and that may for the lack of a better name be called "tact." However, tet no one despair of its acquisi-sition, for it has as its foundation good feel-

sition, for it has as its foundation good leading.

Can it be that this basis is counted out of polite society! Assuredly not. One of its cherished maxims is, "Lead us not into temptation," even with a glass of wine, when not advisable, on New Year's day.

After all, any inconsiderate or foolish conduct that might result from the too free use of wine by a guest, even if accidental or un-

of wine by a guest, even if accidental or unforseen, must always be a source of keenest
mortification to the hostess, and one which
every lady prefers to avoid.

Madeline Vinton Dahleren.

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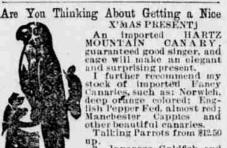
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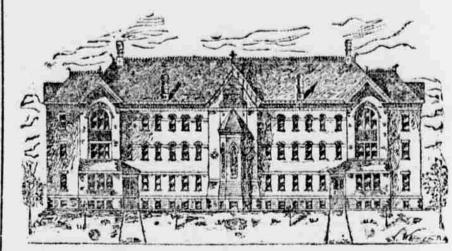
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sive their breath may be. This is not all. The decomposed matter in a cavity of decay is constantly being swallowed and is frequently the cause of diseases of the stomach, which in many cases bring on other complicated diseases of the general system. How important it should be then, to keep your mouth in a clean and healthy state, for so much of your health, comfort and happiness depend upon it. Visit

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