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Heart to Heart

(Continued from Page 23.)

GRAND CANYON

There are "sermons in stones" and the stones of this canyon preach many impressive ones. They not only testify to the omnipotence of the Creator but they record the story of a stream which both molds and is molded by, its environment. It can not escape from the walls of its prison and yet it has made its impress upon the granite as, in obedience to the law of gravitation, it has gone dashing and foaming on its path to the sea.

How like a human life! Man, flung into existence without his volition, bearing the race-mark of his parents, carrying the impress of their lives to the day of his death, hedged about by an environment that shapes and molds him before he is old enough to plan or choose, how these constrain and hem him in! And yet, he too, leaves his mark upon all that he touches as he travels, in obedience to his sense of duty, the path that leads from the cradle to the grave. But here the likeness ends. The Colorado, pure and clear in the mountains, becomes a dark and muddy flood before it reaches the ocean, so contaminated is it by the soil through which it passes; but man, if controlled by a noble purpose and inspired by high ideals, may purify, rather than be polluted by, his surroundings, and by resistance to temptation make the latter end of his life more beautiful even than the beginning.

The river also teaches a sublime lesson of patience. It has taken ages for it to do its work and in that work every drop of water has played its part. It takes time for individuals or groups of individuals to accomplish a great work and because time is required those who labor in behalf of their fellows sometimes become discouraged. Nature teaches us to labor and to wait. Viewed from day to day the progress of the race is imperceptible; viewed from year to year, it can scarcely be noted, but viewed by decades or centuries the upward trend is apparent, and every good work and word and thought contributes toward the final result. As nothing is lost in the economy of nature, so nothing is lost in the social and moral world. As the stream is composed of an innumerable number of rivulets, each making its little offering and each necessary to make up the whole, so the innumerable number of men and women who recognize their duty to society and their obligations to their fellows are contributing according to their strength to the sum total of the forces that make for righteousness and progress.

(From "The Wonders of the West," an article published in The Commoner, Oct. 7, 1904.)

VEHEMENT

"Freddie, you've been fighting again."
 "No, I haven't, mother. I've just been arguing with Jimmie Brown."
 "Nonsense! How could you get a black eye from merely arguing?"
 "Well, you see, Jimmie gesticulates an awful lot when he argues."
 —New York World.

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HOW VICE-PRESIDENTS ARE MADE

Juries are said to sometimes bring in verdicts so they can go to dinner. It has been suspected that national conventions sometimes nominate candidates for vice-president for reasons as weighty. In the republican convention of 1876 that nominated William A. Wheeler for that office there was one delegate, at least, who had a better reason. That delegate was James A. Lowell.

Lowell didn't know much about Wheeler and was at first disinclined to vote for him, but George F. Hoar, who was working for Wheeler, took Lowell aside and said: "Wheeler is a very sensible man. He knows 'The Biglow Papers' by heart."

A little later Hoar saw Lowell talking earnestly to James Freeman Clarke and stepped up in time to hear Lowell say: "You ought to vote for Wheeler. He is a very sensible man."—Kansas City Post.

FRAGMENTS OF FUN

"Father, when people go to Heaven, do they get to be angels right away or do they have to pass a lot of darn old examinations?"—Life.

"Si Hubbard told me that he got a heap of work out of you when you was workin' for him," said the farmer. "Well, I allow he did," said the hired man. "Yas. Fact is I guess he jist about got it all."—Boston Transcript.

Mother (horrified)—"Is it possible, Sammy, that you are in the preserves again, after I whipped you an hour ago?" Sammy—"Yes'm. I heard you tell grandma you had whipped me too hard. So I thought I'd make it even."—Puck.

"Has your boy Josh decided what he is going to do for a living?" "No," replied Farmer Corntassel. "Josh is that unselfish he keeps thinkin' about how I'm gettin' along an' never pays no attention at all to his own prospects."—Washington Star.

"I see you have a new man at the head of that important department. I suppose he came to you highly recommended?" "Yes, indeed. He is a graduate of one of the best-known prisons in the country, and has the best recommendations from several other wardens."—Baltimore American.

"Justice is said to be slow." "Maybe that is why the old girl is so hard on speed fiends."—Kansas City Journal.

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