

LESSONS OF VALUE.

Dr. Talmage Discourses on the Beauties of Home Influences.

Remembrances Called Up By Chairs Left Vacant—The Voices of the Children the Sweetest Music—Preparation For the Future Home.

In a late sermon at Lakeside, O., Rev. Talmage, of Brooklyn, N. Y., took for his subject "The Vacant Chair." His text was from 1 Samuel, xx, 13: "Thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty." He said: "Set on the table the cutlery and the chased silverware of the palace, for King Saul will give a state dinner to-day. A distinguished plate is kept at the table for his in-law, a celebrated warrior, David by the name of the Jeweled and Plumed, come in and take their places. When people are invited to a king's banquet they are very apt to go. But before the covers are lifted from the feast Saul looks around and finds a vacant chair at the head of the table. 'What does this mean?' he asks: 'Where is my son-in-law? Where is David, the great warrior? I invited him. I expected him. What? A vacant chair at the head of the table? The fact is that David, the warrior, had been seated for the last time at his father-in-law's table. The day before Jonathan had coaxed David to go and occupy that place at the table, saying to David in the words of a prophet: 'Thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty.' The prediction was fulfilled, David was missed, his seat was empty. That one vacant chair spoke louder than all the occupied chairs at the banquet. It struck every house the articles of furniture take a living personality. That picture—a stranger would not see anything remarkable either in its design or execution, but it is more to you than all the pictures of the Bible—remember who bought it and who admired it. And that hymn book—remember who sang out of it. And that cradle—remember who rocked it. And that bed—remember who slept in it. And that room—remember who died in it. But there is nothing in all your house so eloquent and so mighty-voiced as the vacant chair. In almost every house Saul and his guests got up from this banquet there was a great clatter of wine pitchers, but all that racket was drowned out by the voices that came up from the vacant chair at the table. Millions have gazed and wept at John Quincy Adams' vacant chair in the house of representatives, and at Henry Wilson's vacant chair in the vice-presidency, and at Henry Clay's vacant chair in the American senate, and at Prince Albert's vacant chair in Windsor castle, and at Thiers' vacant chair in the councils of the French nation; but all these chairs are unimportant to you as compared with the vacant chair in your own household. Have these chairs any reason for us to cherish? Are we any better men and women than when they first addressed us? First, I point out to you the father's vacant chair. Old men always like to sit in the same place and in the same chair. They sometimes feel more at home, and sometimes when you are in their place and they come into the room, you jump up suddenly and say: 'Here, father, here's your chair.' The probability is, it is an arm-chair, for he is not so strong as he used to be. He needs a little upholding. His hair is a little frosty, his gums a little depressed, for in his early days there was not much denture. Perhaps a cane chair and old-fashioned apparel, for though you may have gone to school in the modern, father does not want any of your nonsense. Grandfather never had much admiration for new-fangled notions. I sat at the table of one of my parishioners in a former congregation; an aged man sat at the head of the table, and he was presiding, and the father somewhat abruptly addressed the son and said: 'My son, don't now try to show off because the minister is here.' Your father never liked any of these modern manners, he preferred the old way of doing things, and he never looked so happy as when, with his eyes closed, he sat in the arm-chair in the corner. From the wrinkled brow to the tip of his slippers, he presided at the table of the past years of his life broke at the foot of that chair. Perhaps, sometimes he was a little impatient, and sometimes told the same story twice, but over that old chair how many blessed memories have passed, how you did not crowd that old chair and that it did not get very much in the way. Sometimes the old man's chairs gets very much in the way, especially if he has been so unwise as to make the vacant chair in all the household. All the chairs wait on it; it means more than David's chair at Saul's banquet. At any rate, it makes more racket. Why is that? I would like to have it all the first time over more than I could have used the sharp one the second time. You must have a keen edge to get off the back of the beard, but for shaving close the edge must be worn. Why is that? Oh, I am not giving explanations; I'm simply stating facts. 'Well, good day, sir. Next!'—N. Y. Herald.

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But when one of these invalid chairs became vacant, how suggestive it is! No more laughing and sniggering, no more changing from side to side to get a case position. No more use of the bandage, and the cataplasm, and the prescription. That invalid's chair may be folded up and sent to the store, but it will never lose its quiet power; it will always preach of trust in God and cheerful submission. Suffering all ended now. With respect to that invalid the words of my text have been fulfilled: 'Thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty.' I pass on and find one more vacant chair. It is a high chair. I am the child's chair. If that chair could be occupied, it is the most precious chair in all the household. All the chairs wait on it; it means more than David's chair at Saul's banquet. At any rate, it makes more racket. Why is that? I would like to have it all the first time over more than I could have used the sharp one the second time. You must have a keen edge to get off the back of the beard, but for shaving close the edge must be worn. Why is that? Oh, I am not giving explanations; I'm simply stating facts. 'Well, good day, sir. Next!'—N. Y. Herald.

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History tells us of an old man whose three sons were victors in the Olympic games and when they came back these three sons, with their garlands, put them on the father's brow and the old man was so rejoiced at the victories of his three children that he fell dead in their arms. And are you, O man, going to bring glory to your house by your Christian usefulness and put it on your father's brow, or on the vacant chair, on the memory of the one departed? Speak out to your father the words of my text have been fulfilled: 'Thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty.' I go a little further on in your house and I find the mother's chair. It is very apt to be a rocking-chair. She has had a headache and troubles to soothe that it must have rockers. I remember it well. It was an old chair and the rockers were almost worn out, for I was the youngest, and that chair rocked the whole family. It made a creaking noise as it moved; it made a music in the sound; it was just high enough to allow its children to put their heads into her lap. That was the bank where we deposited our our hurts and worries. As I sit in that chair that was it was different from the father's chair; it was entirely different. You ask me why? I cannot tell, but I felt it was different. Perhaps

There are three-fourths of the homes of this congregation there is a vacant high chair. Somehow you never get over it. There is no one to put to bed at night; no one to ask strange questions about God and Heaven. Oh, what is the use of that high chair? It is to call you higher. What a drawing upward it is to have children in Heaven! And then it is such a preventive against sin. If a father is going away into his leave on the interposition of his mother, but if a father is going away into sin what is he going to do with his dead children floating about him and hovering over his every wayward step. O, speak out, vacant high chair, and

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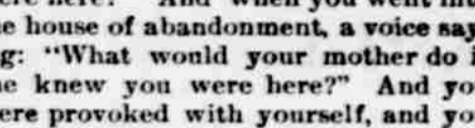
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AGRICULTURAL HINTS.

STABLES FOR COWS.

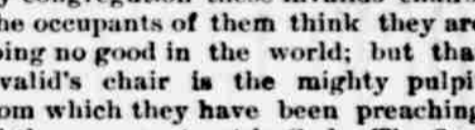
How to Construct Floors Which Can Easily Be Kept Clean.

Not one barn in ten throughout the country has a properly constructed stable floor. The cattle are obliged to be in their own filth. The sides, legs and udders of the cows are in a dirty condition in the morning and it takes the greatest care in washing and brushing to remove the filth and get the milk out of the stable without its becoming tainted. In milking, the movement of the udder will cause the fine particles of dirt to drop into the pail. A gutter behind the cows is objectionable because their tails will lie in it and a large portion of their body is besmeared with dirt when they rise. Then, too, it is injurious to cows heavy with calf to step down suddenly in moving around in the stable. The gutter should be enlarged and covered with a grating of slats on which the cattle can stand and yet wide enough apart so that the



manure will fall through. Iron gratings are made expressly for this purpose, but are too expensive and a wooden grating may be made at much less expense and will serve the same end. The slats should be of hard wood 1 1/2 inches wide and the same space between them. The grating may be fastened on hinges and raised to take out the manure. Another bad thing in many stables is the ordinary stationary stanchion by which the cows are fastened by their necks. It is very hard on the cattle in lying down, as it always holds their heads and necks in one position. They should be discarded for the tie or a swing stanchion fastened by a chain at the bottom and top, if possible. The floor should always be level and well-bedded and the stables kept dry, clean and sweet.

Among the best arranged stables for comfort of the cows, cleanliness and convenience that we know of are those of George T. Powell, of Columbia county, N. Y., director of the New York farmers' institutes. They are in the basement of his concrete barn and run lengthwise of it. The stanchions used



HOW TO CARE FOR A RAZOR.

A Barber Explains Why It Is So Difficult to Shave One's Self. 'Been shaving yourself, sir?' asked the barber in a tone offensively patronizing. 'Yes, how could you tell?' 'Oh, that's easy enough. I can follow your tracks. Your neck shows it.' 'Well,' I said I, apologetically, feeling as if I had committed a crime, 'the trouble is I can't keep my razor in order.' The barber smiled in that superior manner barbers have, and said nothing for a few strokes. 'Would you like to keep a razor in order?' I asked with humility, whereupon respecting himself approached with becoming respect, the barber delivered the following extempore address on the subject of caring for razors: 'I would take you a long time to understand the razor,' said he, 'as if deciphering hieroglyphics were child's play in comparison. In the first place, you must learn to hone your razor. The razor is honed by rubbing it on a whetstone, smooth stone, and applying to it the flat blade moved it diagonally back and forth with scientific motion. Then he laid the keen edge against his thumb nail and made an observation. 'Now it's in the shape of a chisel, and it's sharp alike from end to end, but it's hard to get it so. You would spoil that edge with half a dozen strokes. 'The next thing is to know how to stop your razor when you've got the keen edge. And the last thing is to keep your razor in order. Look at this one.' (Two broad straps of leather and canvas used alternately. 'Notice how soft they are. That is because I keep them oiled just enough. I pay a dollar for a brand new set of two months later I would not sell it for two dollars, because I've had the trouble of breaking it in. It's the same way with razors; they're worth twice as much after they've been used. 'Another thing you amateurs don't understand is that a man needs a dull razor in shaving just as much as a sharp one. Didn't you notice that I changed razors in going over your face the second time? Well, the second one I used was dull. I could not have used it all the first time over more than I could have used the sharp one the second time. You must have a keen edge to get off the back of the beard, but for shaving close the edge must be worn. Why is that? Oh, I am not giving explanations; I'm simply stating facts. 'Well, good day, sir. Next!'—N. Y. Herald.

AGRICULTURAL HINTS.

ONE protection against borers around trees is air-slaked lime, liberally applied, first removing the earth around the tree.

AFTER each rain the cultivator should be used in the oriental manner, so as to remove and the soil prevented from baking and becoming hard.

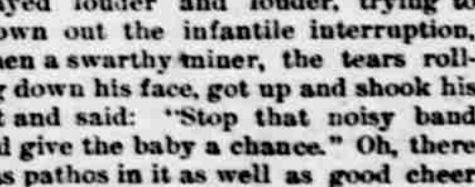
HEAVY hares are chiefly needed in crowded cities where horses cannot move rapidly and where heavy loads are carried. For the country a different sort of horse is wanted.

Some sections of our happy country goats and sheep are used for "sprouting" new land. Starvation or the principle of "root hog or die" is the motive power. But it never makes the animals fat.

JUDGMENT on the varying opinions expressed about dehorning cattle, it would appear that the first thing to be done is to settle whether or not the practice is really to the advantage of the cattle, and whether the operation is cruel.

HANDY WAGON JACK.

Its Construction Is Fully Explained by Mr. L. M. Pierce sends to Farm and Fireside a description of a handy wagon jack. In the illustration, A



is a piece of oak 24, 33 inches long, B is a 2x4 inch lumber, C is 12 inches long, and the lever, D, is 5 feet long, the shorter end being 1 foot in length. Its construction is fully explained by the cut.

When the ransom money arrived the chief expressed deep regret that he must part company with his new German acquaintances. He gave each one twenty-five dollars for traveling expenses, embossed and kissed him, and after leading a cheer for them all marched his bandits off through the thicket. Herr Graeger was greatly impressed during his captivity by the amount of time devoted by the brigands to developing their possibilities as lady-killers. After sleeping, he says, they made toiletts with the greatest care. They seemed never to tire of admiring themselves in hand-mirrors. Each carried such a mirror and a hair brush with him. So as to get every inch of himself, each would turn and twist in every imaginable position. Frequently he would throw himself flat on his back so as to see his face in a stronger light. —Chicago Tribune.

FIRE-SIDE FRAGMENTS.

—It saves time and leather to have a broom, brush and dustpan for every floor in the home.

To arrest thorough close both ears with the fingers with pressure, while a few swallows of liquid are taken.

This banana is too good a conductor of heat to be advisable for keeping hot liquid creama, which preserve their quality best in thick queensware or pottery.

Banana Custard: One quart milk, two eggs, one heaping tablespoon corn starch, one-half cup sugar, three bananas cut in thin slices. When custard is cool pour over the fruit.—House-keeper.

Instead of putting food into the oven to keep hot for late comers try covering it closely with a tin and setting it over a basin of hot water. This plan will keep the food hot and at the same time prevent it from drying.

Never wash cups, plates, or knives used in the sick room with those of the family. The germs about these articles have been spread in this way.

Do not eat in the sick person's room or partake of anything that has been left there.

When decanters and carafes become so discolored by use of wine or beer, coal will not clean them. Fill the bottle with finely-chopped potato skins, cork tightly, and let the bottle stand for three days, when the skins will ferment. Turn out and rinse; the bottle will be as bright and clean as when new.

What to do with cold beefsteak: Chop the best and most tender portions, add hot water, enough to moisten slightly, and quickly cook on a stove as soon as you can. Add butter and salt and pepper. The tough parts of steak or of roast beef are much more palatable if boiled first in water to cover until tender. Then use them in any of the ways given for cold meat, as croquettes, hash, omelet, or trout, veal, meat and potato pie, braised meat, etc.—Boston Budget.

To remove grease spots from books scrape some French chalk or take powder from a clean face and rub the grease spot, both sides, as will cover it. Then press a moderately hot fatiron on the spot, covering the powder with a small piece of blotting or common brown paper. The heat will dissolve the grease and the powder will absorb it.

Remove old spots from woodwork with a solution of white lead and turpentine. Rub the wood with a soft cloth until the spots are removed.

Roast Apples: Take nice firm apples, core and peel them, and place in a shallow pan with a little sugar, sugar, and fill the dish one-third full of cold water, sprinkling two tablespoonfuls of sugar in it. Bake in a quick oven until they can be easily stuck through with a fork. The result will be beautiful amber balls, with a jelly syrup to pour over them. A thin slice of lemon could be baked on each apple, or a drop of vanilla, or a clove stuck in the middle of each apple makes a pleasing variety. Good Housekeeping.

Lemon Cakes: One pound of powdered sugar, three-fourths of a pound of flour, fourteen eggs, two tablespoonfuls of rose water, the grated rind and juice of four lemons. When the yolks are well beaten up and separated with the powder and sugar, mix the whites with a round bottom till it becomes quite light—say for half an hour. Put in the frothed whites and beat lightly. When mixed, place the batter in the muffin tin and bake for five minutes and place an icing over the tops if desired.—Detroit Free Press.

THE AMERICAN WAITER.

An Imperious Creature Who Rules with a Despotism in the Hotel and Kitchen.

The hotel clerk's imperious ways have long been a subject of admiration not unshared with awe to the unassuming traveler, but it is doubtful whether even the hotel clerk, as a man, is any more dignified than the waiter.

The waiter is the Englishman of waiters. One of these distinguished Englishmen, who has a X-marks-the-spot, explains that Americans have copied the bad English habit of tipping waiters, a custom that is especially distasteful to an Englishman in America from the fact that, whereas the London waiter carries his money in a bag, the American waiter is frequently inattentive, impertinent, and takes his tip without a word of acknowledgment.

There is much to be said in favor of the Englishman's view of the case. Tipping certainly is an un-American custom, and is not compatible with the spirit of democracy, and inevitably tends to servility on the part of the receiver and a patronizing manner on the part of the giver.

Possibly it is the essence of this spirit of servility in America that is responsible for the lordly ways of the Englishman on the part of the waiter that is responsible for many of the impertinences and much of the friction which is the Englishman's portion when traveling in America. The waiter of Great Britain gives his orders to a waiter in a tone and manner rarely used by an American, and it is but natural that the American should resent it.

The American waiter, however, and Americans, as a rule, recognize that the waiter need not be constantly reminded of his inferior position by the tone and manner of the guest. Any one who adopts this manner toward waiters in America is likely to make every body uncomfortable and his course through the country will be merely a succession of rows with the various "menials" who minister to his wants.

American waiters by no means perfect and a little more attentiveness and deference towards those he serves would undoubtedly improve him, and it is also barely possible that a little more consideration for the waiter would improve the average guest.

Better Tea Medicines. It isn't drugs or medicine that is needed at all; it is plenty of the purest air that can be had. Open the windows and the doors, clear out the cellar, and ventilate it thoroughly, remove the dampness, the moisture, the ancient odor of the smell of decay, which greets the nostrils when one enters from the health-giving atmosphere out of doors. Never mind if the outer air bears the taint of the gas house, the manufactory, the city, with colds and a thousand resistant evils following in their train, nineteenth-twentieths of that is imaginary, and the other twentieth is easily avoidable. —Boston Budget.

How to Remove. Mrs. Godfrey says: "I wouldn't grumble about the price of this bonnet. Alford. It was the finest on the street yesterday."

Mr. Husband—How do you know, my dear Godfrey—How do I know? I met Mrs. Godfrey while I had it on and she didn't speak to me.—Chicago Tribune.

NERVOUS DISORDERS.

Queer Fancies Which Annul Extremely Nervous People.

A doctor who has given much attention to cases of nervous disorder, and a specialist in that line, spoke the other day about peculiar nervous disorders he had met with in his practice or had heard of from his brother physicians.

"It is strange," he said, "that scarcely any one sympathetic in health with a person suffering from nervous disease, unless indeed, on some condensation from some one who has been there. But a strong man or woman, with no more nerves than the law allows, thinks that nervous disorders are a fancy, and that the feeling is associated to some ulterior purpose. And yet men will go through the greatest agony from these causes. I remember one case of a student, who wished to make a hurried journey. He had about packed his trunk, but soon he decided to postpone his departure until the morning, as he had a great deal to do about the disposition he should make of each particular article. Then he changed their places a great number of times, and fell into great perplexity with regard to each one of his modifications. Finally he was advised by a friend to pack his trunk in the order of its contents, and he did so. The result was that he was able to start on his journey at once."—Buffalo Enquirer.

It is to be feared that you are recovering vitality and flesh, improving in appetite and in ability to sleep. These are the inevitable results of using Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, most reliable of all tonics. No also are your departure of indigestion, the disappearance of morbid humors, and the fact that which marks the presence of rheumatism and kidney complaints.

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James says he does like to spring cannon, drums on swank people because they are so willing to give anything—Kinney Gazette.

"These seven were a remedy made with more care than Dr. John Bull's Sarasaparilla. Each one of the several herbs and roots used in its composition, and before their various virtues are extracted, the remedy is not largely advertised, but people who have tried it will talk about it and praise it, and it deserves itself. It will cure you of blood disease. Try it when these larger advertised waters compound fail."

"I thought I speak of one language, I am familiar with many tongues," said the physician. —Buffalo Enquirer.

Must not be confounded with common cathartics or purgative pills. Carter's Little Liver Pills are entirely different from every other species of pills and prove their superiority over all.

A Kentucky man called his horse "Hot Biscuit," because it was the finest breed he knew of. —Washington Star.

It is positively harmful to use ointment for skin diseases. Use Cuticura Sulfur Soap. Hill's Hair and Whisker Dye, 50c.

As aquatic champion at this season of the year is bound to be in the swim.—N. Y. Herald.

If you think your child has worms, do not neglect it until it has grown. Always give it Dr. Bull's Worm Destroyer. They taste good.

The soprano of a church choir has been advised to sing the lightest part in the choir, for time at least, of her malady.

A man belonging to the first mentioned group devoted himself for a long time to trying to recall the name of a man he had met but once, and in whom he had not the slightest interest. At last another man affected with the word mania, which he felt himself obliged, under pain of a horrible perplexity, to pronounce, performing certain acts of eccentricity some particular movements. The fear of dirt is called mysophobia. The individual dreads to touch anything. An example is that of a lady having this affliction, who washed her hands more than two hundred times a day. Another woman would not touch a door knob without putting on gloves, while another, who spent four hours every night in preparing for bed, always used up twenty fresh towels in drying his hands. A curious case of this sort is that of a young lady who conceived so great an abhorrence of a man who had been paying his addresses to her, that she heaped together all of the articles in her parlor which had been touched by him, and set fire to them.—Albany Argus.

Every one suffers from Catarrh in the Head. Those who don't have it suffer from those who do. It's a disease you can't keep to yourself.

Here are some of the symptoms: Headache, obstruction of nose, discharges falling into throat, sometimes profuse, watery, and acrid, at others, thick, tenacious, mucous, purulent, bloody, putrid, and offensive; eyes weak, ringing in ears, deafness; offensive breath; smell and taste impaired, and general debility. But only a few of these symptoms need be present at once.

The cure for Catarrh is Catarrh itself, and all the troubles that come from it—a perfect and permanent cure, Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy. The worst cases yield to its mild, soothing, cleansing and healing properties. A record of 25 years has proved that to its proprietors—and they're willing to prove it to you.

They do it in this way: If matter can't cure your Catarrh, no matter how bad your case, or how long standing, Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy will cure you. You can have better proof of the healing power of a medicine?

"German Syrup"

A Cough and Croup Medicine.

For children a medicine should be absolutely reliable. A mother must be able to pin her faith to it as to her Bible. It must contain nothing violent, uncertain, or dangerous. It must be standard in material and manufacture. It must be plain and simple to administer; easy and pleasant to take. The child must like it. It must be prompt in action, giving immediate relief, as children's troubles come quick, grow fast, and end fatally or otherwise in a very short time. It must not only relieve quick but bring them around quick, as children chafe and fret and spoil their constitutions under long confinement. It must do its work in moderate doses. A large quantity of medicine in a child is not desirable. It must not interfere with the child's spirits, appetite or general health. These things suit old as well as young folks, and make Bosche's German Syrup the favorite family medicine.

Constipation Cured

DIET OR ENEMA? Approved by the highest medical authorities. Free of all narcotics. Prepared by H. W. WEBSTER, Kansas City, Mo.

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People who live in the country have little idea of the waste that goes on in cities. What goes out of the city kitchen into the garbage wagon, if it had been economically managed, would have had ten times the number it was bought and paid for. The extravagance in the dwellings of the rich in cities is startling, but while the farmer's wife can give her city sisters lessons in management, the farmer himself can take lessons from city business men and manufacturers in business management.—Northwestern Agriculturist.

The Soap that Cleans Most is Lenox.

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Both the method and results when Syrup of Figs is taken; it is pleasant and refreshing to the taste, and acts gently yet promptly on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels, cleanses the system effectively, dispels colds, headaches and fevers and cures habitual constipation. Syrup of Figs is the only remedy of its kind ever produced, pleasing to the taste and acceptable to the stomach, prompt in its action and truly beneficial in its effects, prepared only from the most healthy and agreeable substances, its many excellent qualities commend it to all and have made it the most popular remedy known.

Syrup of Figs is for sale in 50c and \$1.00 bottles by all leading druggists. Any reliable druggist who cannot get it on hand will procure it promptly for any one who wishes to try it. Do not accept any substitute.

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