

A BEAUTIFUL VOICE.

It is often said that the American voice is the least musical known to civilization. Americans themselves no doubt...

Surely we are clever enough to change all that if we try. Let mothers think of their own voices and cultivate them into low, soft tones in speaking, and see to it that the children's voices are not rendered raucous and nasal by screaming...

Approx of which topic an interesting little story is told by a young woman who, in her school days, was the object of boundless adoration upon beautiful Mary Anderson, and one day ventured to call upon the famous actress with another girl adorer.

Miss Anderson was lovely to them and they had an "interview" that would have enraptured the soul of the staidest. She told them about her favorite books when a child, her dolls' theatricals in which she played the entire cast, and the more ambitious plays shared by her schoolmates.

She told them also of her delight in one particular room in the Boston Art museum in which she passed as many delighted hours as could be counted from duty and her art. It was the Lawrence room, and even now those school girls—no longer school girls alas!—never go into the art museum without giving a flying moment to "Mary Anderson's favorite room."

Equal to the Occasion.

She was a woman about 40 years of age, and there was a dignity in her mien as she boarded a street car with a bundle in her hand.

She looked at him in an eye sort of way, and did not recognize his existence; but after a minute he continued: "It may be a mocking bird, but I should judge that the results would be the same."

This time she did not turn her head, but gazed blankly across the car. Some of the passengers thought the old man would haul off with this, but he didn't.

"I once took a parrot on the street car for two miles, and when I got off he was dumb as an oyster. He lived for thirteen years after that, but alas! he never spoke again."

"The woman turned on him as if to crush him with a word, but the giggles and grins of the passengers checked her."

"People don't carry roosters about in bird cages," continued the old man as if speaking to himself, "and I never heard of any one taking home clams or oysters in that way. Madam, if this is a nightingale, now—if you are transporting a nightingale to some other—"

In his earnestness he made a gesture which knocked the wrapped up cage to the floor; and as it rolled around the paper fell off, the door came open, and a black cat darted out with a hiss and a squeal.

"Madam, let us appreciate the situation and get out of this."

He led the way and she followed. She was erect and calm and haughty. As they reached the pavement he handed over the cage, but she dug her left elbow into his ribs, passed into the crowd on the sidewalk and was seen no more.

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MR. MCKINLEY'S WEAKNESS

WEIGHED AND FOUND WANTING.

His Message Shows that He is Utterly Incapable of Appreciating the Situation that Appeals So Forcibly to the American Patriot.

(Metcalfe in the World-Herald.)

The president's message was a serious disappointment to those who have clung to the hope that Mr. McKinley would be equal to the emergency by which he was confronted. The World-Herald has been slow to criticize Mr. McKinley in the matter of our Spanish relations, but the message of yesterday calls for the most severe criticism. No American president in recent history had such an opportunity as was afforded by Mr. McKinley, but when he was weighed in the balance he was found wanting.

The message shows on its face that Mr. McKinley is either utterly incapable of appreciating the situation that appeals so forcibly to the American patriot or that he is deliberately trying to take this nation down to the level that has been staked out by the mercenary and unpatriotic men who comprise the president's cabinet.

Sifted down, the message can be accepted as nothing more nor less than a plea for more time in which Spain may accomplish its designs against liberty. Mr. McKinley asks the congress to authorize the president to take complete termination of hostilities on the government of Spain and the people of Cuba, and to secure in the island the establishment of a stable government capable of maintaining order.

On Wednesday last, when it was announced that the message had been postponed, it was given out that the postponement was due to the delay in the delivery of the message, would cause the massacre of American citizens in Cuba. Republican newspapers and leaders who have championed Cuba's cause accepted this as an assurance that the message would be all that could be asked for.

Mr. McKinley gives an accurate and interesting historical account of Cuban affairs and that statement itself affords a most thorough condemnation of the course outlined by Mr. McKinley. He graphically pictures the policy of devastation and concentration inaugurated and persistently adhered to by the Spanish government, and he admits that at least 150,000 people have starved into eternity by this brutal policy.

He speaks of "the war in Cuba," and yet he objects to granting the Cubans belligerent rights. He acknowledges that Spain has lost control of the island, but he objects to formal recognition by this nation of the existence of a state of war. His objection to belligerency is that "it could accomplish nothing toward the instant pacification of Cuba and the cessation of hostilities."

He objects to the recognition of the Cuban independence on the ground that the Cubans do not possess a "government in substance as well as in name, possessed of the elements of stability." Mr. McKinley ought to know, does know, and his message contains practical admission of the fact that if the United States had done its duty and granted belligerent rights to the Cubans, they would long ago have driven the Spaniards from the island and would have established a government "in substance as well as in name."

COUNT TOLSTOY.

(The Gentleman Farmer.)

The story of how Tolstoy became, by degrees, imbued with socialistic or communistic ideas, necessitating, for the sake of consistency, his leaving the army in which he was an officer, has been often told, but few people have had the opportunity to hear from Tolstoy's own lips any suggestion as to how he would work out the details in his model social paradise.

Tolstoy has had some publications suppressed, but others, in the original Russian, are sold in great numbers. Not only that, but at the exposition in Nijni Novgorod I have seen bronze busts of "Graf Tolstoy" for sale, standing on the same shelf with like bronzes of the czar and leading men of the empire.

The Russian recognizes Tolstoy's literary ability but in general thinks little of his political opinions or social schemes. If you speak of an intention of visiting him you are only smiled at though you may be asked why you want to see him.

It was far away, they could not possibly go out into the country so far as the money amount they had agreed to accept as compensation. There were a hundred reasons ready, plausible and satisfying—to the Eschwes. But they would not go with us, and we calmly took our baggage in our hands, alighted from the vehicles, and then they came back to us.

The contour of this portion of Russia is almost exactly like that of our own country. The hills are not high, the forests one would not know but that he were in Illinois or Nebraska.

Isnaya Polyana is the old ancestral home of the Tolstoy, where the family, following the common custom of the Russian nobles, spent the summer in a delightful drive, brought us, in a comparatively short time, to the entrance of the grounds, a gateway of the olden design, beautiful to see.

Because They Were Asses. (The following fable is from a late work on social reform entitled "Even as You and I," by M. Bolton Hall.) The monkeys, being as lazy as you and I, began to ride the donkeys.

Sometimes the donkeys kicked. Then the monkeys called them "anarchists." The monkeys grew so fat and heavy that the great republic would not be able to get their own food, and they began to complain and to seek for causes and cures.

A big ass said: "What we need is a high wall around us to keep out the great republic, the monkeys will give us employment cultivating hay fields and pay us with some of the hay." The monkeys made a wall so close that the asses could not see through it.

FARM FACTS.

DAIRY DOINGS.

A great improvement on the mass of butter sold for the grocery trade is effected if some good butter coloring was used intelligently and the butter put up neatly in pound prints, each print wrapped carefully in parchment paper.

In visiting the numerous butter stores and ladies I find that butter made by the average farmer comes on the market in a very unsatisfactory condition. It is inferior in color, salt and general texture.

I have seen milk pails and cans washed with a rag that would make a horse snort, and I sometimes think the quality of milk is rather dull in most people. I was in a butter buyer's cellar in a town not far from here last season before the heat of the summer was quite over.

Judges Hancey, Bretano and Chetlain handed down a decision which, in effect, knocks out the butterine law passed by the last Illinois legislature. The judges, sitting en banc, decided that manufacturers have a constitutional right to color butter with oleomargarine yellow or imitation. Under the terms of the law this is prohibited.

COWS, CALVES AND CATTLE. C. W. Taylor, of New Mexico, reports a good half brood cow, which in the season and all speak as being confident of the heaviest crop this year of any in several years past.

When calves are quite young they should be fed three times daily; when about two months old, the quantity of milk and meal fed to the animal should be governed largely by its effect upon the bowels. If underfed the calf will not grow as rapidly as desired; if it should not become fat, it is too expensive to raise.

WHAT WEARS OUT THE MEADOW. The majority of stockmen do not stop to consider what is the use of green leaves in a pasture. They allow grasses to spread their leaves in the air and sunlight for at least a part of the growing season, they will fail to store up nourishment in their underground portions and will gradually starve to death.

CANTALOUPE GROWN FOR PROFIT. The culture of the cantaloupe in the Arkansas valley is going to be one of the prime occupations of the great section this season. Up to this year melon growing has been principally confined to the district lying between Fowler and La Junta.

HOW AND WHEN TO SPRAY FRUITS. Apple—For the tree that caterpillars, apply paris green, first, before buds open; second, two weeks later; third, when the caterpillars appear.

KEEP THESE RECIPES. Alkaline Wash—Dissolve washing soda in water till no more will dissolve; add soft soap till it gets as thick as paint; add carbolic acid enough to give a strong smell.

LABOR NOTES.

Ithaca is to have a co-operative glass factory.

One firm in Sweden makes 21,000,000 candles yearly. The Massachusetts electric lines are going into the express business.

Massachusetts textile mills produce \$200,000,000 worth of goods a year. At Huntsville, Ala., it is proposed to build a factory to make wooden articles used by cotton mills.

A ten-hour day for railroad employees will be secured by a bill before the Massachusetts legislature. Laboring men have 312 working days a year in Hungary 308 in the United States, 273 in England and 267 in Russia.

There are 20,000 unionists in Japan, two-thirds of them added during the last year. The Japs catch onto the benefits of organization early.

Coal mined by convicts is used by two Alabama iron works and Great Britain will exclude this iron under a law barring convict products.

The new \$60,000 cotton mill at Vrondale, Ala., will start up within the next few days. It will employ 600 hands and consume 12,000 bales of cotton annually.

Two thousand two hundred acres of cedar timber are cut down every year in order to make wood for iron and pencils, of which more than 2,000 acres are in Florida.

Alaskan demand has caused dealers in evaporated fruit and vegetables at Portland, Ore., to double their plants and the number of their employees.

The seven years' struggle between the Brunswick-Balke Colliery company of Chicago and the woodworkers' union ended by the former signing an agreement to hereafter employ union men only.

Japanese matches threaten to drive out the Swedish. The exportation, which was 9,000 gross of boxes in 1884, rose to 9,000,000 gross in 1892 and 18,000,000 gross in 1896.

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