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THOMAS NELSON PAGE.

A Literary Man of Unusual Ability and His New Departure. (Special Correspondence.) New York, Jan. 21.—Mr. Howells' assumption of editorial control of The Cosmopolitan Magazine has involved several changes in Franklin square, where the Messrs. Harper & Brothers make their New Monthly Magazine.



THOMAS NELSON PAGE.

As a matter of fact the "Drawer" has never been made up, I believe, by the gentleman who nominally conducted it. The anecdotes and jokes which are placed in it have been selected for four years past by that genial humorist, Mr. John Kendrick Bangs...

Personally, Mr. Page is a man of great gentleness, and those who have been thrown in contact with him have been charmed by his modesty and grace of manner.

The Tattle Tongued Tradesman.

SOMETOWN, N. J., Jan. 21.—In this region it is as impossible not to know your neighbor's business as it is for your neighbor not to know yours. You may not be personally acquainted with many people whom you well know by sight, but you are sure to know something of them if you deal with the local butcher and grocer...

"Everybody is buying sausage because it is only twelve cents a pound. Even the Griggses, living in that big stone house and keeping four servants, have stopped on prime rib and taken to pork trimmings. They used to buy a hundred dollars worth a month, and now they're only buying forty and less."

MR BOWSER GETS THE GRIP.

It Doubles Him Up in Spite of His Knowledge of Grip. Four or five weeks ago, when Mr. Bowser came home one evening and found Mrs. Bowser in bed, and was informed that it was a case of grip, he blurted out: "Grip! And you have gone to bed and had the doctor for a case of grip? Humph! "But I am awfully sick!" she replied.

"You may have it before you get through." "If I do—if I am silly enough to lay down with any such thing as that—I hope somebody will pound me to death with a fence rail! I have the grip? I call a doctor for such a nonsensical thing as that? Not if my name is Bowser!"

"I will, oh! There isn't enough grip in North America to pull down one of my ears. I'd really like to be attacked, just to show you how strength of will could throw it off."

"I'm—I'm a dead man!" he gasped as she pulled off his overcoat and helped him on the lounge in the back parlor. "Have you got a chill?" "Yes! Get forty bedquilts to cover me up!" "And does your back ache?" "Does it? Great Scott, but I don't believe I can live half an hour longer! It's a positively chilling supposition."

"How many weeks will I be in the house?" "Weeks? Why, you can go out tomorrow if you feel like it. Better get up after supper and walk around. It's a wonder to me that such a slight attack brought you home."

"But Mr. Bowser's backache grew worse, and when the chill finally went off, he was the best of his kind most of the time with the fever. During Mrs. Bowser's sickest night he had gone to bed to sleep and snore and rest undisturbed by her moans. She had to sit up with him, of course. He wanted iced water, lemonade, ice water, ginger ale, pickles, tea, toast and a dozen other things, and he seemed to take solid comfort in keeping up a groaning so dolorous that it finally stopped the clock."

"The doctor returned in the morning, to find Mr. Bowser's pulse jumping, his tongue covered with fur and his throat almost raw, but he expressed his great surprise that he had not gone to the office. He encouraged him to get up and go down cellar and up stairs, but Mr. Bowser stuck right to the bed."

"Doctor, I don't think you realize how serious this case is," he groaned. "I am sure I do. It's a very mild case of that nasty puny epidemic called the grip. I have five children in this neighborhood who have it worse than you, but all are up and playing with their dolls. Very curious that a man of your stamina should give up. Keep on with the medicine, however, and I'll send a gargle."

"For four days Mr. Bowser gargled and dozed and dozed and dozed. Mrs. Bowser had to attend him as if he were a baby. He had very little to say during this period. He seemed to flatter all out and lose his conceit. Once he even went so far as to observe that if his life was spared he would be a humble man in future. On the fifth day, however, after getting out to the gate and back, his meekness seemed to be disappearing, and on the sixth, as he started for the office he said:

"I propose to visit two or three different doctors today and find out what caused my sickness." "Why, it was grip, of course," replied Mrs. Bowser. "Not much! There was a combination there and I know it, and it was a mighty serious one too. Nothing on earth but my determination not to give way to it pulled me through. Plenty of men in my situation would have turned up their toes, and plenty of others would have been in bed for months. Grip! Humph! Mrs. Bowser, you don't know me yet. When I knock under to grip I'll have the decency to go and drown myself! Grip and brain fever are too widely different things, and I want you and that fool of a doctor to know it too!"—M. Quail in New York World.

Ma'sells Possum—I had been pausing for you, ze— Mr. Kowal—Pausing? Pausing you mean. Pause is to wait. Ma'sells Possum—Zat is eet; zat I mean. I had been pausing for ze pay, and now I pause no longer!—New York Sun.

The Only Way to Account for It. Jenkins—Have you met Miss Whitshire? Johnson—Yes, I met her at a ball early in the season. What a lovely girl she is! Jenkins—Do you think so? Say! It must have been a masquerade ball where you two met.—Somerville Journal.



How to Stain and Wax Floors.

The simplest way to apply staining to floors is to put it on with an ordinary paint brush. It is better to apply several coats, in order to get the desired tint. When this has been reached, melt some wax and mix in enough turpentine to make it when it cools a little harder than fresh butter. This mixture must be kept in a tightly stoppered bottle or jar, and may be dug out with a broad bladed knife. To apply it place it in small lumps on a rubber made of rags and covered with coarse cotton. With this it is lightly rubbed on the wood. Then make a wooden rubber of soft wood, with a handle like that on a scrubbing brush. The lower edges of the rubber are rounded, of course, and it will be found easy to work if it be attached to a long broom handle by a stout strap iron hinge. With this give the floor a good rubbing until the wax is forced into the wood. If bare spots are seen put on more wax. When this process is finished go over it all with a stiff brush which will polish it until it shines. Floors do not require to be waxed and rubbed more than once in three months, unless they become worn in spots, and these can be "patched" in a few minutes. But they cannot be polished with the brush too often. When kept properly they should always shine.

How to Make Rheumatic Liniment.

Take two ounces saffron oil, one ounce tincture of prickly ash, one ounce tincture of cayenne and one ounce henlock oil. Rub the parts affected vigorously. A few applications will relieve the pain, but it is not claimed to be a permanent cure.

How to Make Lemon Flavor at Home.

The oil of the lemon peel is contained in the cells of the outer, yellow rind, and can readily be obtained by rubbing it off with pieces of loaf sugar, which absorb the oil. A fine extract can be made by pouring off the yellow portion of the lemon rind. Place in a bottle of rectified spirits of wine, cork tight and steep two weeks. The proportion of parings to spirit should be as four to five by weight.

How to Teach Tricks to Cats.

Cats are more difficult to teach than are any other animals. Still, patience, perseverance and food will go a long way. The best food to use is fish, and the kitten should not be too hungry. To train kittens to dance you first teach them to sit up by holding bits of food just above them. Then hold the finger only as soon as they rise readily to the food, and reward them for lifting the forefoot from the floor. Move the finger to one side and feed the kitten just as soon as it turns the body. Move the finger to the other side, and keep this up until when your finger moves the kitten will move its body with it. The next step is to make the kitten stand on its hind feet. At first you must support it for a second, feeding it for retaining the position. At last the kitten will stand and bow to the right and left when you merely move your finger, and this is called dancing. Of course when giving the lessons you will see that you are alone in the room with your little pupil, as the presence of any one else will distract the kitten's attention. Do not punish it, no matter how slow it may be.

How to Make "Ivory" Harness Polish.

Mix ivory black with copal varnish. The best method of mixing is to rub the black with a small quantity of the varnish until it is all moistened, and then add a sufficient quantity of the varnish to reduce it to the proper degree of consistency. This black, being elastic, can be used upon collars as well as other parts of the harness and as a renovator for carriage tops, etc.

How to Select Sandpaper.

When about to buy sandpaper, rub your finger roughly over the surface to see if the sand is well secured. Then tear the corner to test its strength. If poorly made or rotten, don't buy it.

How to Train a Setter.

Three things are necessary to remember in training any dog—first, what he most desires; second, what he most fears, and third, that instinct which lead him certainly to certain results. Your dog desires food more than anything else, and the person who feeds him most is to his apprehension his best friend. Therefore feed him yourself. Be cruel with him for a time in order to be kinder afterward. Starve him for two days, tying him up and giving him nothing whatever but water during that time. Then feed him. You won't have to do this more than two or three times. Pain is the only thing he fears. After he has learned to love you, make him fear you. Keep a stout whip always at hand and thrash him heartily for every fault, especially for disobedience to your orders, but never strike him excepting at the moment of the offense; otherwise he will not understand the pain and it will do him no good.

Teach him to retrieve when he is a puppy. You can do this readily and easily, after having taught him always to come to you at call. Use a rubber ball which he will run after without coaxing, and which he will bring at call after he has learned that a call back must always be obeyed. Never allow him to disobey this or any other command that he can understand without prompt punishment. Pat his head and speak kindly when he obeys.

Take him in the field with an old dog already broken, and if his breed is good and his nose not diseased he will follow scent by instinct and mimic the old dog in all his maneuvers. The only thing to guard against is his roving too far afield. He will learn the field words of command by seeing the old dog obey them, and after two or three trials will retrieve your birds.

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