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It is almost as difficult to make a man unlearn his errors as his knowledge.

All is hollow where the heart bears not a part, and all is in peril where principle is not the guide.

We don't ask that the stump speakers give up all their idols, but couldn't they possibly get along without the "ides of November" this year?

It is less by strength than by good management that many of the hardest tasks of life are done. It is less what one lifts or moves than how one does the lifting and the moving.

Young Vanderbilt has married the girl of his choice, and now, notwithstanding the displeasure of his rich father, he may be expected to grow himself some sidewhiskers and become extremely rich, and highly uninteresting after the manner of his kind.

New York has at last found that its garbage is valuable and has made a contract with a garbage company, so that the historic garbage scows, which have so long been used for dumping the refuse into the harbor, will no longer be a feature of the city. Gotham has been a long time in learning this simple lesson in economic science.

"The sweet delirium of the cycling craze" is soon to set the untutored and naked savages of the South Sea islands wild, as they spin along their shelly shores on the dozen bikes which are borne to them by Oscar Passare, Prince of Bora Bora, in the Society group, who has recently started for home after completing his education in England.

There is perhaps nothing more certain in the universe than the fact that "it takes two to speak the truth, one to speak and another to hear;" human nature is so prone to distort, to interpret speech according to its own prejudices, to warp the utterances of another, it may be unconsciously, to suit its own views, to supply or omit a word which may change the whole complexion of a remark, or use a punctuation which may set it all awry.

People often boast of their long and varied experience, and claim, on account of it, the deference and acquiescence of all who are younger. The test of any such claim must be, not what they have been through, but what they have developed from it. Has the result been a fuller, nobler, richer life? Is the mind clearer and stronger? Is the character firm and established? Is the heart pure, true and sympathizing? If so, they have accumulated experience in the right way, and are worthy of all respect. But the mere passing through different phases, however exciting or numerous they may be, the mere suffering or enjoyment caused by various events, however intense they may be, does not constitute such a claim.

The "emancipation" of woman and her now unchallenged right to enter the field of gainful labor has made it no longer necessary for thousands of females to look to marriage as a means of support. Of the total number of persons employed in some occupation in 1880 15 per cent. were women. In 1890 17 per cent. of the employed were females. Mr. Edward Cary, in a recent number of the Forum, concludes that men have been displaced only to a very slight extent by women, although a great many more of the latter are earning a living now than ever before. What the effect will be upon the marriage institution is an interesting subject, and no doubt the census of 1900 will develop some significant facts. Of course, women who are inclined to enter upon the state of matrimony only because it affords a livelihood will be in no hurry to "make a match" if they are self-supporting and find their employment more congenial than the bonds of holy wedlock. To what extent and in what respect society will be affected by the changed conditions cannot be estimated in the early stages of this remarkable revolution.

It seems that the world can never take up with a new occupation or amusement without wanting to push it to extremes. This is particularly true of sports, and a specimen case is that of the St. Louis young man who proposes to attempt to ride one mile in a minute or less, a steam locomotive being used as his "pacemaker." The center of a stretch of straight railway track will be smoothly boarded over. The wheelman will mount his bicycle behind the engine and chase it over the course. He runs the risk that the engine may suddenly slacken speed, and thus bring him into collision, or that some accident may force him out of his place just behind the pacemaker and thrust him into the vortex of rushing air currents formed by suction. It is claimed that the experiment will be serviceable as showing what speed the wheel may attain if protected from the resistance of the air. In the experiment the engine is to remove this substance. Even granting that the test may serve the purpose named, it is impossible to see what useful end is to be served. Speed on a bicycle must be obtained under the restrictions and conditions upon which bicycling is practicable. Eliminate the element of atmospheric pressure and it ceases to be bicycling, the resistance of the air being as inevitable a feature in bicycle riding as the friction of the road bed, the weight of the wheel or the limits of the physical capacity of the rider. There has been too much tendency to extreme and unimportant extensions of sport of late. It would be a good thing to suppress these extravagances on behalf of sane and healthful athletics.

The rescue in midocean of the German sailors from their wrecked vessel by the men of the French liner La Bourgogne was one of those grand deeds that ennoble humanity. It was accidental that the rescued men were Germans, for we well know that the gallant Frenchmen would have done the same for any who were in peril of the waves, but it is none the less pleasing that this heroism was performed by Frenchmen for Germans. Compared with the mighty deeds that influence states and nations, this act perhaps was small and insignificant. The lives of a dozen men were saved, but what are a dozen men to the destinies of empires? The fatal war that ended at Sedan saw ten thousand times as many sacrificed to the ambition of rulers. That war left bitterness and hatred behind it, and wrathful memories, that a quarter of a century has not assuaged. At the moment these gallant Frenchmen were delivering their one time enemies from death other Frenchmen were denouncing their own government for having extended invitations to the German people to participate in the great Parisian Exposition of 1900! But how they will cheer to the echo when they learn of this ocean heroism! Small, then, as this act appears to be, in a general comparison it may, after all, have great results in convincing the French and German people that humanity is broader than empire, and that dauntless courage may be shown elsewhere than on the battlefield.

The death of Robert Garrett removes a figure which is inseparably connected in American history with the great romances of railroad building and wrecking. When young Garrett left college and took a subordinate position in the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad service, of which his father was president, he had every reason to expect success of a most brilliant kind. The Baltimore and Ohio was becoming one of the greatest and richest railroad properties in the country. Its stock was regarded as the best of investments, and it was extending its lines with every year. But the son was not of the character to carry on the successes of his father. His entrance into posts of responsibility on the road was marked by the beginning of a series of disasters, due largely to extravagant and unwise financiering and the personal shortcomings of the man himself. If the generally credited story is to be believed it was due to the careless utterance of a few idle words, spoken in a moment of exhilaration to a representative of a rival corporation which cost the Baltimore road $18,000,000 and considerably changed the history of American finance and railway operations. Garrett had perfected a deal to secure control of the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore line, thereby securing for his road adequate terminal facilities in Philadelphia. It was his own reckless talk in a sociable after-dinner chat which gave the information to the Pennsylvania managers, who set forth that very night and beat him out in the effort to get the road. From that time on until the Baltimore line went into the hands of a receiver some months ago, the road sank deeper and deeper in trouble. An investigation of the company's affairs disclosed a woeful amount of reckless and worse than reckless financiering. The property which twelve years before had been said to be one of the richest railway possessions in the world went down to failure with frightful speed. Garrett and his unwise actions afford a striking illustration to financiers of the inevitable result of such business methods as he pursued.

Reality of Wart-Charming.

Prof. Newbold, in Popular Science Monthly: The ease with which warts can be "charmed away" by suggestion has long been known. I will quote two cases. The patient in the first case was my wife, then a little girl, and the account was written for me by her mother. "I remember it all perfectly. It was when E—— was about 6 years old, just before we went to Boston to live. She had had warts on her hands for over a year. They had spread until her hand was not only badly disfigured but very painful, as they were apt to crack and bleed. Two physicians, both relatives of ours, had prescribed for them, and we had followed directions without success. We were in Lawrence, at M. P.——'s. A lady came to tea, noticed the warts, and offered to remove them by a 'charm.' As I had once or twice been relieved in childhood in the same way I was delighted at the offer. She went through some mummery, rubbing them and muttering something, I think, and then announced that they would be gone in a month. They were, every one. In a few days they began to dry up and disappear. So far as I can remember she never had another. When I was a child there was a neighbor of ours who used to remove all the warts in the neighborhood. I never heard of his failing, and I know of many successful removals in our own family. He used a piece of thread. He would tie it around the wart—if he could—with great solemnity, rub it three times, and very carefuly put the piece of thread in a paper in his pocketbook. This made a very great impression on us, I remember. It seemed next to a church service, having your wart taken off."

England's Potato Crop.

The estimates of the yield of the potato crop in Great Britain show that on 583,000 acres a crop of 3,058,065 tons were secured, against an almost exactly similar quantity produced on much larger acreage—738,000 acres—in Ireland.

Intoxicated Bees.

It is believed that bees possess an immunity against the poisonous effects of certain flowers from which they obtain nectar. But while this may be so, it is certain that bees are not proof against the narcotic and intoxicating properties of plants, for they have frequently been seen to fall out of gladiolus blossoms in a state of helpless intoxication.

The Senses of Insects.

With reference to a recent paragraph in the Nature and Science column, a correspondent writes to us that the brilliant color of a wall paper in his house attracted bees, which found that they had been fooled when they tried to get the honey from the flowers pictured on the paper. This does not contradict the paragraph referred to, which only asserted that the odor is even more powerful than the sense of color in attracting insects. Probably both senses play their part in the case.

A Strange Explosion.

A singular accident, the cause of which is somewhat obscure, occurred recently in Brooklyn, New York. Two men were busy in a steam engine factory breaking up an old brass "plunger" from the water cylinder of a steamship. The plunger was two feet long and six inches in diameter, and its walls were five-eighths of an inch thick. It was first placed in a red-hot oven to soften the metal. Then one of the men struck it a violent blow with a sledge hammer. It exploded with a noise like the discharge of a cannon. The workmen were so badly mangled that both were compelled to undergo amputation, one losing both legs and the other one leg. The accident was ascribed to the absorption of moisture in the pores of the brass, and the subsequent turning of the moisture into steam by the sudden heating in the oven. The blow of the hammer, it was thought, released the pent-up force of the steam, and thus caused the explosion.

A New Metal in Brisk Demand.

French inventions frequently call into use natural products which had previously possessed no practical value. This is illustrated by the rare metal, thorium, discovered by the great chemist, Berzelius, early in the present century. When burned, the metal emits a light more brilliant than that of burning magnesium, but until the recent invention of incandescent gasburners, in which the flame is encased in a metallic mantle, no use was discovered for it. Upon experimenting with various substances it was found that the oxide of thorium, called thoria, makes the best mantle for such burners, and a demand being thus created for it, the value of thoria suddenly sprang from almost nothing up to $250 per pound. Then a search began for new sources from which thoria could be obtained, and this search is not yet finished. Originally the new metal was found only in certain rare minerals in Norway. Recently it has been discovered that the mineral "monazite" contains a liberal quantity of thoria, and monazite is found in North Carolina, Canada and Brazil. The price of thoria is now much lower than it was at first, although it still commands $15 or $20, and even more, per pound, the price fluctuating with the supply.

Welcoming a River.

In the long coastal desert of Peru, which is some 2,000 miles in length, but only 120 miles broad at its widest part, the rivers, Major A. F. Sears says, disappear in the dry season and begin to flow again in February or March when rain falls in the Cordilleras. One of the most important of these rivers is the Piura, the return of whose waters is welcomed with great rejoicings by the inhabitants of its banks. About the time when "the coming of the river" is expected, eager inquiries as to the progress of the water are put to all persons who chance to come from the head of the valley, and when the water approaches the town of Piura processions go out to meet it, and escort its first trickling stream down the dry river bed with music and fireworks. At the outskirts of the city thousands of people greet its arrival. The valley of the Piura is said by Major Sears to produce excellent cotton, although its possibilities in this respect are not well developed for lack of systematic irrigation. Once in a period of from five to seven years rain falls upon the coastal plain, whereupon, with magic quickness, grass and flowers cover it, and cattle browse in its pastures, but in a few weeks everything withers, and desolation reigns once more upon the barren sands.

"Odd, but Rather Nice."

Readers will perhaps be amused by a bit of "society" gossip overheard at some "function," and reported by the New York Tribune. Two young ladies were talking.

"Fancy what a shock I had last week," said vivacious Miss B., who had been visiting in a large Western city; "and yet it was rather nice, you know.

"The people I was stopping with are related kings—always travel in a private car, step over to Europe with less effort than New-Yorkers make in going to Brooklyn, and all that.

"Well, the day after my arrival they gave me a tea, and the prettiest girl in the room was a red-haired creature, with a ravishing figure, and a gown which fitted worlds better than mine. I was immensely taken with her, and we chatted, and she was jolly and clever and most fascinating. Finally, as we were drinking tea together, the butler offered me some cake—a blow-away, melt-in-your-mouth concoction of sugar and chocolate, utterly delicious.

"I said at once I had never tasted anything so delicate, whereupon the beauty calmly remarked:

"'I'm glad you like it; I made it.'

"I thought she was joking.

"'Why, you are not a relation, are you?' I asked.

"'No,' she said, with a little laugh; 'I must have looked bewildered. 'No. I am a professional cook. I make almost all the fancy desserts and cake for the swell set here.' And it was true.

"She belonged to a poor family, good enough as to birth, the father incapable of earning much, and as she grew up it became necessary to do something. She liked cooking, and began with this sugar cake, making it occasionally for a few friends. When I met her she was on the top round, had two rooms at the back of the house, with a telephone, an assistant cook and errand boy, and bought her flour and sugar and things at wholesale.

"The remarkable thing was that she remained the intimate friend of these rich girls with whom she had gone to school, dressed better than a good many of them, and after making the cakes and creams for a big reception, would dress and go and eat her own wares.

"'It used to sound very droll,' she said, 'when my hostess would call through the telephone: "O Betty, dear; can you send me two quarts of biscuit Tortoni for dinner to-morrow night?" And "Betty, if you are going to the dance Friday, I'll take you up in the carriage." But, you know, it seemed rather nice, too.'"

He Was Disappointed.

She opened the door to her father's den, but hesitated on the threshold.

"Well?" he growled inquiringly. Then, as he saw her indecision, he said in a more kindly way: "Come in. What's the trouble?"

She entered and stood before him with downcast eyes and cheeks suffused with blushes.

"I have a confession to make," she said slowly.

"Fire away!" he returned cheerily, his whole manner having undergone a change when he saw she was perturbed. "I guess it's nothing very serious."

"Oh, but it is," she protested; "it's very serious, indeed. You know Harold——"

"Well, what about Harold?"

"——has been coming to see me for quite a long time," she continued, paying no attention to the interruption, "and last night——"

"Well?"

"Last night he proposed that we—we—should run away together, and—and be married."

The old gentleman frowned.

"And what did you say?"

"I refused," she replied promptly and proudly. "I refused absolutely, and told him that he must go to you and ask for my hand properly if he wished me to be his wife."

The old gentleman still frowned.

"I recalled all that you said about our aristocratic ancestry," she went on, "and insisted——"

"Um—yes," interrupted the old gentleman, musingly, "that's all very pretty and very creditable, but far from business-like. It seems to me you might have given your poor old father the best of it once, and saved him the cost of a wedding when times are so hard. If he brings the subject again, just have your bonnet handy so that you can make a quick trip to Milwaukee and let the old man down easy."—Chicago Evening Post.

Former Slave Market.

On benches so placed as to command a good view were the buyers, coarse-looking Turks, whose calm, searching gaze seemed to take in every detail. The merchant conducting the sale stood before them, talking and gesticulating with great vehemence. He turned to one of the pens, which was filled with young Circassian women, most of whom were very handsome. They were seated close together on the ground, in an attitude of listless despondency, their white garments flowing around them, and as they gazed up at me with their sad, dark eyes, I felt painfully how they must envy the free and happy stranger who came to look on them in their infamy and misery.

The slave trader came forward, followed by a phlegmatic-looking Turk, and, seizing one of the women by the arm, forced her to stand up before this man, who, it appeared, wished to buy her. He proceeded to inspect her, very much in the same manner as he might have examined a horse or a dog, and his decision was unfavorable; he turned with a contemptuous movement of the head, and the slave merchant, in a rage, thrust back the unfortunate girl, who sank down trembling among her companions in activity. This scene was as much as we could stand, and we left the place hurriedly at once; it is well, indeed, that such sights can be witnessed no more, at least in Europe.—Blackwood's Magazine.

American Horses for England.

The London General Omnibus Company has entered into a contract with an American firm for the supply of 6,000 horses for 'bus work in the metropolis, which does not seem as though they were much afraid of the new motor car.

The people who have seen you in an embarrassing situation never die or move out of the neighborhood.

AGRICULTURAL NEWS

THINGS PERTAINING TO THE FARM AND HOME.

A Good Dairy Cow Will Yield Nearly 5,000 Pounds of Milk Annually—Threshing Damp Grain—Have a Room for Harness—Farm Notes.

Average Milk Yield.

An Agricultural Department bulletin says: A very good annual average yield of milk is 5,000 pounds instead of 3,000 and 200 to 225 pounds of butter per cow instead of 125 pounds. Many herds kept in a plain, practical farm fashion attain still better results. There are manifestly many cows in the country, probably some millions, that do not produce the value of their annual cost, however cheap and wastefully poor their keeping may be. It is apparent that if but two cows were kept, of the suggested standard of production, in place of every three of the existing average quality, the aggregate products of the dairy industry of the country would be increased more than 10 per cent, while the aggregate cost to their owners ought to be less and probably would be.

Every possible influence should be exerted to induce dairy farmers to weed out their herds and keep fewer cows and better ones. At least the average quality of cows kept for dairy purposes should be brought up to a respectable and profitable standard. For the present the cow owner may reasonably require something over two gallons of milk per day for four months, then two gallons a day for the next four, and at least two months more in milk during the year with constantly decreasing yield. This provides for an annual yield of 5,000 pounds of milk, or about 575 gallons, which is a fair ideal standard for the dairy cow in the United States.

Threshing Damp Grain.

It is quite likely that much grain will be threshed while damp this year, as wet weather in harvest time caused it to be got in before fully dry. In most cases the grain will take less harm in the bundle than out of it. So long as grain was threshed by hand there was no danger of the work being done while either straw or grain were damp. It made the work too hard, and the threshing was always reserved for cold weather, after frost had thoroughly dried out both straw and grain. When horse-power threshing machines came into use there was nearly as much care in having the grain in good condition for threshing. We have seen the thresher stalled when the grain came too fast or too damp. In the large steam threshers the bundles go through all right, but if damp more or less of the grain goes into the stack. The evil of threshing damp grain is not confined to the loss by waste. What is put in the granary is much more likely to heat and become musty than it is if the grain has been thoroughly dried in the straw.—American Cultivator.

A Special Room for Harness.

A great many farmers continue the practice of hanging up the harness on the pegs behind the horses, where it is exposed to the odors which come from their excrement, and it is quite often knocked down and trampled in it. This wears out a good harness much faster than will use. It will pay good interest on the cost to have a separate room in which to keep the harness. Nothing destroys leather more quickly than dirt and the ammonia which is always found in stables. The harness should be frequently spunged to remove the dirt, and then be oiled, allowing the oil to soak in, and then lightly rubbed with a dry cloth. Kept thus, instead of becoming rotten after one or two years, a harness may be kept in good condition for from ten to twenty years. We know farmers who have kept harness for this longer time, while other farmers, who did no more work with their horses, had to buy a new harness every two or three years.—Ontario Family Herald.

Guinea Hens.

The reason so many people fail in rearing guinea fowls is because they insist on keeping the hen under a coop. Guinea chickens are peculiarly dependent on natural food, and they cannot get enough of this unless the old bird runs with them. The first week they should not be let out longer than an hour at a time, and then shut them up in a shed for an hour and a half; then out again, and so on. Feed every two hours in addition; and as they get older increase the time they are out until they need only to be put in if any of them look at all tired. Give a little meat chopped very fine and mixed with meal or mashed potatoes twice a day, and oatmeal made into a dry paste for the other meals until they can pick. But they are very difficult to rear if the hen is not left free, for plenty of insects is the great thing.

The Difference.

There are hundreds of farmers who are skeptical of the merits of pure-bred swine. With them a hog is a hog, and they insist that with plenty of food and under like conditions one will gain as much weight as the other and make as much profit. A careful trial will prove the contrary. Any one breeding a scrub sow to a thoroughbred male will readily see that pigs from such sows are far more attractive and will fatten more readily, and even the first cross will mature earlier than do scrubs. A well-bred hog will make more meat in less time, and therefore with less feed. However, the farmer who breeds the improved hog with the expectation that he will make a large hog without attention will be disappointed, for good care and attention are essential to success. With good feed and treatment the thoroughbred can be made fit for market in from eight to ten months, while the scrub will require from fifteen to eighteen months to make the same weight.

We quote the above from the Southern Stock Farm and believe that a fair test will satisfactorily demonstrate the truthfulness of the assertions made.

Feeding Corn and Beets.

An extensive cattle-feeder of Nebraska, who feeds 1,000 acres of corn of his own raising and 100 tons of beets a year, has kept careful accounts of his operations for the last ten years. From that record the following facts are given:

For the first nine years the cost per head ranged from $14 to $22.39, but in 1893 he began feeding beets and corn, which had been cut and cured in the shock and then run through a shredding machine, ear, stalk, and blade, all of which is by the machine reduced to the condition of coarse hay. The cost of harvesting, shocking, shredding and feeding is three cents per bushel of grain and $1.87 per ton of fodder.

The 1,000 acres averaged 40½ bussels of corn and a ton and a half of fodder per acre. The beets (sugar beets) yielded 30 to 50 tons per acre, counting tops and all, and were fed whole. Both cattle and hogs are fond of them, and it was found that after cutting them the first few days cattle learn to bite them off as a boy bites an apple. Since adopting this ration the cost of fattening cattle has never exceeded $10 per head. No cholera has ever occurred among hogs following the cattle while feeding beets. It is estimated that beet-tops from beets used in sugar-making are worth on an average $3 per acre for cattle food.—Wisconsin Agriculturist.

Burning Potato Vines.

Wherever rot or blight has prevailed in potatoes no time should be lost after the potatoes are dug in burning the tops. This will prevent the spread of the fungus, with which the tops will always be found filled where disease prevails. It is a good plan to burn the potato tops any way. About all the manurial value they contain is their potash, and this is all saved in their ash. The old-time plan of using the vines to plow under as manure, or, worse still, taking them to the barnyard and composting with manure, is known now to be often a means of keeping the germs alive. In the manure heap especially the potato rot finds a good field for propagating. For this reason the feeding of diseased potatoes to stock in winter should never be practiced. The worst parts of the potato will be rejected, and these will go into the manure pile to make trouble next year.

The Hands of Milkmen.

It requires good muscles in the hands to milk eight or ten or more cows in succession. As a result a milkman will endure a good deal of handshaking without having the muscles of his hands made sore by the operation, as are the hands of the lawyers and professional men who secure Presidential nominations. We had a friend once who said he could select the milkmen in any crowd of men by the firmness of their grip. It is as distinct, he said, as that of any secret society, though of course in a very different way.

The Orchard.

Apple trees that have not been sprayed may produce large crops, but are not likely to do so.

Those who have never fertilized their orchards or gardens should try it this year and note the results.

Seaweed is a good fertilizer for most all fruit trees, and it may be obtained by the ton for the mere cost of hauling, in several of the southern counties.

The Ben Davis apple, one of the universal favorites, originated in Tennessee, and were introduced by Captain Ben Davis of Logan (now Butler) County in 1799. The grafts, however, came from Virginia, and the apples were at first called the Virginia Pippin.

Apple trees need to be fed. They will often exist if utterly neglected, but they respond quickly to a proper system of fertilization. A liberal topdressing of farmyard manure is good. In the absence of this a liberal dressing of wood ashes will help. Seaweed is also a good fertilizer for apple trees.

Notes from the Garden.

Whether you think it's bugs or not, give your potatoes a dose of bordeaux.

There are 338 distinct varieties of raspberries growing in the United States, besides a number of new varieties now on trial which have not been named.

The Wisconsin station recommends the following named varieties of strawberries: Warfield No. 2, Enhance, Beder Wood, Parker Earle, Boynton, Yale, Park Beauty, Haverland, Lovett's Early and Barton's Eclipse.

The Rhode Island station finds that equal parts of quicklime and sulphate of copper, with four to eight gallons of water for each pound of the sulphate of copper, make a good bordeaux mixture for use in the potato patch.

It is claimed that two ounces of castor oil applied to the soil near the roots of the calla lily will cause the plant to bloom more freely. We fail to see any good reason for such a claim, but the practice is now widespread in the East.

The importation into the United States of plants from China and Japan is forbidden on account of the prevalence of cholera in the Asiatic countries. Nothing holds the germs of disease so well as the soil in which the plants are shipped.

The Connecticut Experimental Station, calling the yield of potatoes on a plat that was not fertilized 100, found that the relative yield when lime was used was 137; nitrate and acid phosphate, 192; nitrate, acid and sulphate of potash, 268, while a "home mixture" gave 321.