

Edwin Booth's First Appearance on the Stage.

Edwin Booth's first appearance on the regular stage was made September 10, 1819, at the Boston Museum, in the little part of Tressil, in Cibber's version of "Richard III." Junius Brutus Booth, his father—the rival of Edmund Kean, and one of the greatest tragedians that ever lived—was then keeping an engagement at the Museum, and Edwin was in attendance on him as dresser. Tressil had been cast to the prompter of the theater; but it chanced that this person wished to avoid the duty of acting it, and that he succeeded in persuading Edwin to undertake it. This arrangement was made without the elder Booth's knowledge, and he only became aware of it by reading in the play-bill the announcement of his son's first appearance duly underlined. "Fool!" was all he said when he read this announcement; and this remark was not understood to signify encouragement. When the night came, and Edwin had dressed his father for Gloster, and himself for Tressil, the eccentric parent—who, beneath an outward aspect of indifference, loved this son with the fondest affection—took a chair, lit a cigar, and, viewing the youth with a critical eye, made this inquiry: "Do you know that you are supposed to have been riding hard and far?"

"Yes, sir."
"Where are your spurs?"
"I haven't any."
"Take mine"—holding out one booted leg.

The boy took the spurs, and went on for his little scene with King Henry VI. When he returned, his father was still sitting negligently in the chair, and smoking the cigar. "Give me my spurs," he said, again holding out his leg; and this was all the comment that Edwin Booth's first professional appearance ever elicited from the parent whom he idolized. He learned subsequently, though, that his father had been down at the wing, and had watched this first effort with evident interest and satisfaction, and then hastened back to his nonchalant pose in the dressing-room. There never, surely, could have been a more singular being than Junius Brutus Booth. This little trait of character is but one of thousands that marked him as a unique person.—*William Winter, in Harper's Magazine.*

A Hint for the Girls.

A wood-engraver, being asked why he did not employ women, replied: "I have employed women very often, and I wish I could feel more encouraged. But the truth is that when a young man comes to me and begins his work, he feels that it is his life's business. He is to cut his fortune out of the little blocks before him. Wife, family, home, happiness, all are to be carved out by his own hand, and he settles steadily and earnestly to his labor, determined to master it, and with every incitement spurring him on. He cannot marry until he knows his trade. It is exactly the other way with the girl. She may be as poor as the boy, and as wholly dependent upon herself for a living, but she feels that she will probably marry by and by, and then she will have to give up wood engraving. So she goes on listlessly; she has no ambition to excel; she does not feel that all her happiness depends on it. She will marry and then her husband's wages will support her. She may not say so, but she thinks so, and it spoils her work."

The complaint made by this gentleman doubtless has much truth in it. But as the world seems to be at present constituted, the cause of it should not have much weight with girls who support themselves. The chances of a woman being obliged to rely on her own resources for support, even after marriage, are sufficiently numerous to justify any one in perfecting herself in whatever branch of business or trade she may be employed. Not to speak of the widows, who are left with children depending on them for support, there are numbers of women who assist in the family finances, not by attention to home affairs, (which is earning a living just as surely) but in other ways, and who are obliged to do so.

The advice is often given to a young man to learn a trade, not that he should feel obliged to follow it all his life, but that it is a good thing to fall back on. Now why, with so many chances of a woman finding it necessary to fall back on something, should she not be provided with that something? To be sure, one is apt to be perplexed by the multiplicity of advice given as to the education of girls. We are told that half the unhappy homes are caused by the limited knowledge of housekeeping possessed by those who take charge of them; that half the children born into the world die through the ignorance of their mothers, and that if girls are to be married they must be taught the things which it is necessary for them to know. At the same time young girls are urged not to make marriage the chief aim of their existence. It sometimes seems as if it would be an excellent thing to revive the old science of astrology and have a horoscope cast for each girl at her birth. If she was destined to marry young, she might devote all her time to domestic duties and learning housekeeping; if not, she could turn her attention to something which would prove more useful to her. But since this is not practicable, we must look for some other way out of the difficulty.

A lady who has seen considerable of life said the other day: "I have noticed in my life that a very large number of women, whether married or not, have had to earn their own living at some time in their lives, and I am going to provide my daughter with some way of

doing it if necessary." If every woman who begins wood engraving or any other business would realize that it is not simply to pass away a few years that she is working, but that at some time in the future not only her comfort, but her very livelihood, may depend on her becoming an expert, employers would not say: "She has no ambition to excel." If obliged to resume an occupation after laying it aside for some years, there is no time to be lost in preparation. To be able to command living wages, she must be acquainted with something more than the rudiments of a business.

There is another reason why women should not be satisfied with a moderate degree of proficiency. Every occasion for such remarks as those of the gentleman quoted above lowers the value of woman's work. Knowing that as a rule, women do not take pains to excel in anything, employers are slow to believe in the possibility of any one being competent to take a higher position than that usually held by them. Thus, even if no harm or inconvenience may come to the individual, every such case injures the whole class of women.

In regard to girls being ignorant of household affairs, house-keeping is a trade by itself, and one that seldom, outside of her own home, will yield a comfortable support for the young girl. No man is expected to learn two trades at once, and when a knowledge of the second becomes necessary the American girl is found equal to the emergency. The perfectly reasonable hope of marriage need deter no girl from aiming for the highest position in whatever department of labor she may be engaged.—*Western Rural.*

Advice to Young Men.

Young man, what are you living for? Have you an object dear to you as life, and without the attainment of which you feel that your life will have been a wide, shoreless waste of shadow peopled by the specters of dead ambitions? Is it your consuming ambition to paddle quietly but firmly up the stream of time with many strokes against the current of public opinion, or to linger along the seductive banks, going in swimming, or, careless of the future, gathering shells and tadpoles along the shore? Have you a distinct idea of a certain position in life which you wish to attain? Have you decided whether you will be a great man and die in the poorhouse, and have a nice, comfortable monument after you are dead for your destitute family to look at, or will you content yourself to plug along through life as a bank president? These, young man, are questions of moment. They are questions of two moments. They come home to our hearts to-day with terrible earnestness. You can take your choice in the great battle of life, whether you will bristle up and win a deathless name and owe almost everybody, or be satisfied with scabs and mediocrity. Why do you linger and fritter away the heyday of life when you might skirmish around and win some laurels? Many of those who now stand at the head of the Nation as statesmen and logicians were once unknown, unhonored and unsung. Now they saw the air in the halls of Congress, and their names are plastered on the temple of fame.

They were not born great. Some of them only weighed six pounds to start with. But they have rustled. They have peeled their coats and made Rome howl. You can do the same. You can win some laurels, too, if you will brace up and secure them when they are ripe. Daniel Webster and President Garfield and Dr. Tanner and George Eliot were all, at one time, poor boys. They had to start at the foot of the ladder and toil upward. They struggled against poverty and public opinion bravely until they won a name in the annals of history, and secured to their loved ones palatial homes, with lightning-rods and mortgages on them. So may you, if you will make the effort. All these things are within your reach. Live temperately on nine dollars a month. That's the way we got our start. Burn the midnight oil if necessary. Get some true, noble-minded young lady of your acquaintance to assist you. Tell her of your troubles and she will tell you what to do. She will gladly advise you. Then you can marry her, and she will advise you some more. After that she will lay aside her work any time to advise you. You needn't be out of advice at all unless you want to. She, too, will tell you when you have made a mistake. She will come to you frankly and acknowledge that you have made a jackass of yourself. As she gets more acquainted with you, she will be more candid with you, and, in her unstudied, girlish way she will point out your errors, and gradually convince you, with an old chairleg and other arguments, that you were wrong, and after she has choked you a little while, your past life will come up before you like a panorama, and you will tell her so, and she will let you up again. Life is indeed a mighty struggle. It is business. We can't all be editors, and lounge around all the time, and wear good clothes, and have our names in the papers, and draw a princely salary. Some one must do the work and drudgery of life, or it won't be done.—*Bill Nye.*

Sink spouts are easily cleaned out when filled up with grease and other refuse without the assistance of a plumber. Dissolve four or five pounds of washing soda in boiling water and pour down the sink once every month. Lead pipes leading from stationary washstands should be occasionally washed down by pouring in a good strong solution of potash in hot water. Be careful not to get these mixtures on the hands or clothes.

Miniature Irrigation.

Frequently persons have but limited space, but a plenty of time to attend to a few vines, such as cucumbers, melons, strawberries, etc., which by care can be made very productive, and some little device for suitable irrigation will produce magical results. An old barrel, which will hold water and which is not saturated with any agent injurious to vegetation, set down in the ground, the top level with the surface, is a prolific place to plant a hill of cucumbers. Fill the barrel half full with boulders, pebbles and gravel, then fill up the balance with strong, well-rotted manure and rich soil, well mixed. Plant your cucumbers in this, and keep the barrel half full of water, or to the top of the rocks and gravel, and more cucumbers can be raised from this than from a quarter of an acre of ordinary soil parched by the sun and winds of our summers. The same is the case with melons. Another good way is to make a rich mellow hill, by spading in rich manure eighteen inches deep and three feet wide. In the center of this hill set a tight nail keg, boring a row of gimlet holes close to the bottom all round. Fill it half full of rich manure. Plant a row of melons all round this keg three or four inches from it. When the melons are up and begin to grow thrifflily turn a pail of water daily into the keg and let it pass through the manure out through the gimlet holes, being careful to have the holes just below the surface of the ground. In this way we have raised more melons from one hill than in forty of ordinary field culture.

There is another simple contrivance which will pay. If you have a few rare strawberry plants, and every one can and should have, take your useless empty oyster cans and punch a small hole through the bottom, close to one side. Set it at the side of your strawberry plant. Fill every day, or twice a day, and let the water escape slowly through the hole to the roots of the strawberry, and you will see such wonders in berries as you read of in the papers.

All of these things need an abundance of water at all hours during our dry, hot winds, and by the simple but cheap device rich results can be attained. In cities where they have the advantage of water works a pipe with small holes all along it for the water to escape can be buried along a row of strawberries, and it can be regulated so as not to drown out the plants, nor allow them to parch in the sun. In this way almost any one can have this delicious berry in its prime, and many will be astonished at the quantity which can be produced from a row of vines twenty or thirty feet long. But there are other devices by which miniature irrigation can be accomplished, with satisfactory results.—*Iowa State Register.*

Catching a Humming-Bird.

A friend has informed me of an instance in her experience where the humming-bird has shown more cunning than its little brain would seem capable of manufacturing. The incident occurred in Vineland, N. J. In an unused apartment of the house where the lady was staying, one of the huge spiders common in that region had built its strong web unmolested. Passing into the room one summer day, she spied a ruby-throat, which had flown in through the open vine-clad window, struggling frantically in the net of Dame Arachnid. The more the bird fluttered, the worse were its filmy wings tangled and fettered in the spider's meshes; and unless help had been given, there is little doubt how the catastrophe would have ended. The lady hurried to the relief of the piteous prisoner, and handling it with the utmost care, freed it from the coils fastened to its feathers and binding its feeble members. As the bird lay in her palm at the end of the operation, it gave two or three gasping breaths and was still. Every muscle relaxed as in dissolution. The kindhearted liberator suffered a pang of distress from the conviction that she had killed the delicate creature by too rude a touch. After some moments of fruitless mourning, she laid the limp body down and turned sadly away. Quicker than thought the little trickster unfurled its wings and shot out of the window. Had it swooned from fright in the lady's hand, and recovered with the change of position? or had it actually feigned death, in order to facilitate escape, as some larger birds are known to do?—*Mrs. Sara A. Hubbard, in Harper's Magazine.*

Soiling Stock.

A writer in a recent number of the *Milch Zeitung*, on the danger to German agriculture from foreign competition, says that his own experience of fifty years has taught him that regular soiling of cattle is best for the farmer and for his fields, bringing in greater profit and maintaining the fertility of the land at a higher point; that twice as much fodder can be produced on a given surface when the forage plant is allowed to grow as a cultivated crop and reach a certain degree of maturity than when, as in pasture, it is continually cropped off and trodden down. He believes, as do all the best German writers on the subject, that the most successful system of agriculture, in the long run, is that in which a large quantity of stock is kept and fed well, and a careful rotation of crops is followed, in which the same crop is never put twice in succession on the same land. The soiling system makes it easier to carry out the second part of this programme, and the great variety of crops that can be raised on a long rotation provides a greater variety of fodder for the stock; so that these two features of the best modern agricultural practice work ad-

mirably together. The soiling system provides a more uniform ration in respect to quantity and avoids much loss of manure. It may be pretty safely affirmed that the droppings of cattle in the pasture are more than half wasted by drying in the sun, or by too strong dosing with manure in isolated spots, here and there. Where land is cheap and abundant, and cannot be profitably cultivated and carried up to a high degree of fertility, pasturage over a large portion of the farm may be allowed; but when high farming pays pasture-land is a poor investment and may eat up a large part of the profits from the cultivated fields.—*Michigan Farmer.*

The Hessian Fly.

There are two broods of these flies produced in one year, the first brood appearing in early spring, and the second a few weeks before the wheat is ready to be harvested. The flies of the second brood deposit their eggs upon the young winter wheat; hence, they can maintain themselves only in districts where this cereal is grown, while in localities where spring wheat alone is raised, they will be almost if not entirely unknown.

As a preventive against the attacks of this insect, many authors recommend not to sow the grain until all the flies have been killed by the frost; but this remedy will never be very generally adopted, as late-sown wheat is very apt to be winter-killed. Others recommend sowing the wheat that the flies will be enabled to pass through their transformations before winter sets in; but this plan will be objected to on the same ground as the first, as wheat too far advanced is about as liable to be winter-killed as the late-sown wheat is. Farmers usually know the date for sowing winter-wheat so that it will be most likely to withstand the winter, and they are not willing to sow it either earlier or later than this date without very good reasons for so doing. One of the very best remedies for preventing the attacks of this fly is that of sowing a narrow strip of land around the field intended for winter wheat about three or four weeks before the time for sowing the regular crop. When the wheat in this strip is well up the flies in the vicinity will deposit their eggs upon it, and, after waiting a week or so for this to be accomplished, plow under this strip with the rest of the field. By this operation the progeny of all the flies in the immediate vicinity will be destroyed, and unless other flies make their appearance later in the season from adjoining fields the regular crop will enjoy perfect immunity from their attacks. It cannot be too strongly urged that all the farmers who grow winter-wheat in districts infested with this fly should adopt this method; for if only one here and another there adopt it, the flies from the fields of those who have neglected to do so will stock the fields of their more careful neighbors with eggs in spite of all the latter can do to prevent it, and thus the industrious and thoughtful farmer must suffer for the negligence of others.—*D. W. Coquillett, in Germantown Telegraph.*

Pastures.

A great mistake is too often made in the management of pastures. Though we call our pasture grasses perennial, yet they as really reproduce their roots every season as they do their tops. The early spring growth is largely given to the reproduction of roots for the summer work. The material for this root-growth is elaborated and prepared in leaf or blade, and if this be largely diminished while this material is being prepared, the root-growth is arrested, and with this the ability of the pasture to make a heavy summer crop, or to reproduce itself when pastured close, is proportionally impaired. Short pastures in May will insure short pastures the whole summer. If a good root-growth be secured in May, grass will hardly be short in August, though it be hot and dry. A portable fence is a great convenience in the management of pastures. By this stock can be confined to lots of desirable size and not suffered to range the whole pasture. An advantage of long pastures, that is often overlooked is the fact that there is a constant ratio between the top and root of grass, and therefore the more the top is grown the greater the amount of vegetable matter contributed to the soil, as a fall crop of roots decay every year, to enrich the land. Pastures are generally left to take care of themselves, but if they are on land somewhat worn, a top-dressing of stable manure, or a mixture of one hundred pounds of bone and plaster, each, per acre, sown broadcast in the spring will pay a good profit.—*Home and Farm.*

Fashions in women are constantly changing, and the brunette has now been shelved for the glorious girl with the red hair—not lemon color, nor tow, nor corn color, but the genuine red. Big mouths have also come into fashion, and the woman who cannot take in a tea saucer is considered *passé* and second class.

Nine thousand three hundred and seventy-four women have been heard to remark, during the house-cleaning epidemic, "I have to look out for everything; everything is left for me; nothing is done unless I do it; it's enough to try the patience of a saint."

Mrs. Lelia Josephine Robinson, who desires to practice law in Boston, was formerly a reporter on the *Post* and on the *Globe* of that city. She took the regular course in the Harvard Law School.

A GREAT REVELATION.

Some Valuable Thoughts Concerning Human Happiness and Timely Suggestions About Securing It.

Synopsis of a Lecture Delivered by Dr. Charles Craig Before the Metropolitan Scientific Association.

"The free and independent thought of this age accepts statements only where they are proven to be truth, while the development of mental power seems equally great in every other department of life. The valuable inventions of the day are counted by thousands. The increase of scientific study is universal. The spirit of inquiry in all fields is so marked as to cause

COMMENT ON EVERY SIDE, while people spend investigating and advancing in every direction which can help them morally, mentally or physically. This is specially true of the human body and everything which concerns it, and the truths which the people have found, even in the last fifty years, are simply marvelous. How really ignorant some cultured and supposedly scientific people were only a few years ago, as compared with the present day, may be better understood from a few illustrative facts. A prominent writer prepared an elaborate essay to prove that steamships could never cross the Atlantic, and his pamphlet was issued just in time to be carried by the first steamer that went to England. People once believed that the heart was the seat of life and health. It is now known that this organ is only a pump, simply keeping in motion, for other and more important organs of the body have created and transformed. It was once supposed that if a person felt a pain in the back, the liver was deranged; if a pain came in the lower chest the lungs were affected and consumption was near; it is now known that a pain in the back indicates diseased kidneys, while troubles in the lower chest arise from a disordered liver and not impacted lungs. A severe pain in the head was once thought to come from some partial derangement of the brain; it is now known that troubles in other parts of the body and away from the head, cause headaches and that only by removing the cause can the pain be cured. It is a matter of

PRIVATE HISTORY that General Washington was bled to death. His last illness was slight, and caused principally by weariness. A physician was called who bled him copiously and he died. Another patient became no better. Another doctor was called, who again took away a large amount of the vital fluid. Thus in succession four physicians drew away the life of a great man who was intended to crown the most arduous and who prematurely died—murdered by malpractice—bled to death. That was the age of medical bloodletting!

The speaker then graphically described another period which came upon the people, in which they assigned the origin of all diseases to the stomach, and after showing the falsity of this theory, and that the kidneys and liver were the causes of disease, and that many people are suffering from kidney and liver troubles to-day who do not know it, but who should know it and attend to them at once, continued:

Let us look at this matter a little more closely. The human body is the most perfect and yet the most delicate of all created things. It is capable of the greatest resiliency and it is liable to the greatest disorders. The slightest causes sometimes seem to throw its delicate machinery out of order while the most simple and common sense care restores and keeps them in perfect condition. When it is remembered that the amount of happiness or misery we are to have in this world is dependent upon the perfect body, is it strange that simple precautions and care are not exercised? This is one of the most vital questions of life. People may avoid it for the present, but there is certain to come a time in every one's experience when it must be faced.

And here pardon me for relating a little personal experience. In the year 1850 I found myself losing both in strength and health. I could assign no cause. I felt that my life was being consumed, and I called to my two prominent physicians. After treating me for some time they declared I was suffering from Bright's disease of the kidneys, and that they could do nothing more for me. At that time I was so weak I could not raise my head from the pillow and I

PAINTED REPEATEDLY. My heart beat so rapidly it was with difficulty I could sleep. My joints were aching, my stomach, while the most intense pains in my back and bowels caused me to long for death as a relief. It was at this critical juncture that a physical friend, who I felt and know, but I most firmly believe was an inspired man, caused me to send for the leaves of a plant I had once known in medical practice. After great difficulty I at last secured them, and began their use in the form of tea. I noticed a lessening of the pain at once; began to mend rapidly; in five weeks I was able to be about and in two months I became perfectly well and have so continued to this day. It was only natural that such a result should have caused me to investigate the matter thoroughly. I carefully examined fields in medicine never before explored. I sought the cause of physical order and disorder, happiness and pain, and I found the kidneys and liver to be the governors, whose motions regulate the entire system."

After describing at length the offices of the kidneys and liver, and their important part in life, the doctor went on to say:

"Having found this great truth, I saw clearly the cause of my recovery. The simple vegetable leaf I had used was a food and restorer to my well-nigh exhausted kidneys and liver. It had done such a good work when their life was nearly gone and by its most simple and powerful influence had purified, strengthened and restored them, and saved me from death. Realizing the great benefit which a knowledge of this truth would give to the world I began in a modest way to treat those afflicted, and in every case I found the same

HAPPY RESULTS which I had experienced. Not only this but many, who were not cured by any physical trouble, but who, at my suggestion, began the use of the remedy which had saved my life, found their health steadily improving and their strength continually increasing. So universal, where used, was this truth, that I determined the entire world should share in its results, and I therefore placed the formula for its preparation in the hands of Mr. H. H. Warner, of Rochester, N. Y., a gentleman whom I had cured of a severe kidney disease, and who, by reason of his personal worth, high standing and liberality in endowing the Astronomical Observatory and other public enterprises, has become known and popular to the entire country. This gentleman at once began the manufacture of the remedy on a most extensive scale, and to-day, Warner's Safe Kidney and Liver Cure, the pure remedy that saved my life, is known and used in all parts of the continent.

"I am aware a prejudice exists toward proprietary medicines, and that such prejudice is too often well founded, but the value of a proprietary medicine is no less because it is a proprietary medicine. A just and reasonable prejudice toward quack doctors, but in that the prejudice should extend towards all that try to do their duty? Because Warner's Safe Kidney and Liver Cure saved my life before it became a proprietary medicine, is it reasonable to suppose that it will not cure others and keep still more from sickness now that it is *per se* such a thoroughly scientific and reliable remedy? The doctor then paid some high compliments to American science, and closed his lecture as follows:

"How to restore the health when broken from disease must ever be the man's highest study. That one of the greatest revelations of the present day has been made in ascertaining and liver, all scientists now admit, and I can permit to make, and which I have described and most reliable friend to those who suffer and long for happiness, as well as to those who desire to keep the joys they now possess."