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BY WILLIAM L. ADAMS.

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The Oregon Argus.

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Courtship and Matrimony.

COURTSHIP.

Fairest of earth! if thou wilt hear my vow,
Lo! at thy feet I swear to love thee ever!
And by this kiss upon thy radiant brow,
Promise affection which no time shall sever;
And love, which e'er shall burn as bright as now,
To be extinguished—never, dearest—never!
Wilt thou that naughty, fluttering heart resign?
Catherine! my own sweet Kate! wilt thou be mine?

Thou shalt have pearls to deck thy raven hair—
Thou shalt have all this world of ours can bring;
And we will live in solitude, nor care
For aught save each other. We will fling
Away all sorrow—Eden shall be there:
And thou shalt be my queen, and I thy king!
Still coy and still reluctant? Sweetheart, say,
When shall we monarchs be? and when the day?

MATRIMONY.

Now, Mrs. Pringle, once for all, I say,
I will not such extravagance allow!
Bills upon bills, and larger every day,
Enough to drive a man to drink, I vow!
Bonnets, gloves, frippery, and trash—nay, stay,
Tears, Mrs. Pringle, will not gull me now.
I say I won't allow ten pounds a week;
I can't afford it, madam—do not speak!

In wedding you, I thought I had a treasure;
I find myself most miserably mistaken!
You rise at ten, then spend the day in pleasure;
In fact, my confidence is slightly shaken.
Ha! what's that uproar? This, madam, is my leisure;
Sufficient noise the slumbering dead to waken!
I seek retirement, and find—a riot;
Confound these children, but I'll make them quiet!

ALEXIS ST. MARTIN—A PHYSIOLOGICAL CURIOSITY.—Many of our readers will remember a series of experiments, published by Dr. Beaumont, of the United States Army, about twenty years ago, on the physiology of digestion, in which he was aided materially by a person named Alexis St. Martin, a Canadian *voyageur*. This man had been wounded, it will be remembered, by the accidental discharge of a gun loaded with buckshot, one of which, entering the lung from behind, traversed it and emerged at the stomach, leaving an opening which could never be united again, and through which Dr. Beaumont was enabled to witness the whole process of digestion, and to make the series of experiments with which his name is honorably connected.

This opening made by the bullet was about three fourths of an inch in diameter, and the stomach was torn by the lead in such a manner that healing by natural or artificial process was impossible.

Dr. Beaumont tried to effect a cure by keeping St. Martin without food for two days, but without the desired effect. The gastric juice secreted by the mucous membrane of the stomach would not allow the reunion of the torn walls of that organ.—The consequence has been natural—a fistula or opening from the stomach—so that if St. Martin does not keep a compress to the aperture in drinking water or swallowing anything else, the whole contents of the stomach will pass out through that opening. Through this opening comes out a small part of the stomach, that is, the inner coat, which shows its different appearances—thick or swollen when under the work of digestion, and thinner when the digestion is over.

In 1855, St. Martin was in New York city on his way to Europe, under the auspices of Dr. Bunting, of Montreal, to enable the savans of the Old World to witness the experiments. Mr. St. Martin was then a little over fifty years of age, of a spare frame, but apparently capable of considerable endurance. He was in excellent bodily health, and had much vivacity of manner. His early life was spent upon the frontiers, and since leaving the employ of Dr. Beaumont he married and has resided at Montreal. The opening in the stomach has had no injurious effect upon his health, nor has it prevented him from pursuing active and severe labors. Indeed, it is possible that his daily knowledge of the effect of food upon the stomach may have prevented him from abusing this important organ for the gratification of momentary taste. He is a man of simple tastes in his diet, and, it is said, drinks no ardent spirits.

While in New York, several experiments were performed with Mr. St. Martin in presence of some of the most eminent physicians of the city. The first was that of introducing the thermometer into the stomach through the opening, from which its temperature was ascertained to be 101 deg. Fahrenheit. Dr. Bunting next introduced into the stomach the gum elastic catheter, and extracted nearly an ounce and a half of gastric juice. The third experiment consisted in causing the patient to drink two tumblers of water, which was immediately afterward poured out through the orifice into a basin held by Dr. Bunting. In regard to the time consumed in the digestion of various foods, Dr. B. observed that the carrot would consume between five and six hours, while rare roast beef would thoroughly digest in an hour and a half. Melted butter would not digest at all, but float about in the stomach. Lobster was comparatively easy of digestion. Upon the application of the gastric juice to a piece of purple tissue paper, the color at once faded. The patient's health had been uniformly excellent, having, since his recovery from the first effects of the wound, supported a large family by his daily labor.

Dr. Beaumont ascertained the difference between natural and artificial digestion by a very simple and beautiful experiment.—He took from the empty stomach, at an early hour in the morning, two ounces of gastric juice, which he divided into two equal parts, and placed in separate vials, in each of which he placed a given quantity of roast beef. The one was placed in a sand bath at 99 degrees, and the other in the open air at 39 degrees. He likewise put the same quantity of meat into a like portion of clear water, and intermixed a similar portion with gastric juice, previously extracted, of the temperature of the air. The meat in the fresh gastric juice, placed in the warm bath, proceeded toward digestion as if contained in the stomach, and was finally wholly digested by the addition of a further quantity of gastric juice.—That contained in the water was simply macerated, and that in the gastric juice having a low temperature was effected but slightly.

The series of experiments instituted by Dr. Beaumont to ascertain the time required to digest the various articles of food, are familiar to medical and scientific men.—Boiled rice was found to require only one hour to digest, and pork five hours, these two being the extremes. These experiments, also, as a general rule, confirmed the opinion previously entertained, that farinaceous vegetables are more easily digested than succulent and wild game, and the meat of full-grown animals than those which are young.

Another very important law of digestion developed, was, that fluids, like soups and broths, require to have their nutritious particles converted into a solid substance before they can be acted upon by the gastric juice; the consequence is, that all such aliments are less adapted for weak stomachs than more solid food. Occasionally St. Martin's temper, although usually placid, became violently ruffled. The effect upon the digestive process was instantaneous and decided. Digestion proceeded, but instead of the formation of healthy chyme, the stomach contained a thin, gruel-like substance, much tinged with bile, which, under the ordinary circumstances, is not to be found within it.

The case of St. Martin is altogether a peculiar one, the like, singularly enough, not being found on record. It is at the same time one of marked interest, not only on account of what has already been contributed by it to our knowledge of digestion, but what we may hereafter reasonably expect from it.

It is worthy of remark that St. Martin's life has been a regular one, and that, consequently, the experiments made in advanced years are as valuable as those prosecuted in his youth.

☞ The whole number of Indians in Oregon and Washington Territories, as shown by the official reports, is 39,712.—Of this number 21,712 are in Washington Territory. The tribes east of the Cascade Mountains number 12,000 persons; the tribes west of the Cascade Mountains 9,712. The Spokanes, who recently defeated Col. Steptoe and his command, are east of the Cascade Mountains, and number 1,100.—The Nez Perces, also east, number 3,300. The bands on the Columbia river 1000.—The twelve other tribes east of the Cascade Mountains range from 450 to 700 persons. The fourteen tribes west of the Cascade Mountains range from 100 to 1,700, the most numerous being the Snoqualmie and allied tribes.

☞ The classics all tell strange and wonderful tales of the "solid men" of Rome, which put to shame the millionaires of our times. When Cæsar was killed on the Ides of March, Anthony owed $1,600,000, which he paid before the Kalends of April, out of the public money, and squandered (according to Adams) $28,000,000. Cæsar himself, before he set out for Spain, was in debt to the extent of $10,000,000. Lentulus possessed $15,000,000. Claudius, a freedman, saved $12,000,000. Augustus obtained from the testamentary dispositions of his friends (some people will leave their fortunes to their sovereigns) no less than $160,000,000. Tiberius left at his death the enormous sum of $108,000,000, which Caligula is said to have squandered in a single year. Vespasian estimated at his accession that the money which the maintenance of the commonwealth required was $1,800,000,000.

☞ The Vicksburg Whig proposes a new plan for the suppression of duelling, which, if it obtains, will now, hereafter, and forever, put an end to the burning of gunpowder between gentlemen at ten paces.—The arrangement proposes that when a difficulty occurs between two gentlemen, the matter shall be referred to a court of honor, who shall settle it or decide whether it is necessary to fight or not. In case of the court deciding in favor of a fight, the parties to be compelled to fire till one is killed, and then the other to be arrested and hung for murder.

English Views on the Cuban Question.

All this time, if we really wish to stop the slave trade, and are ready to sacrifice our national jealousies to that object, we have already hinted at a most effectual course. The United States are, unfortunately, not above allowing the irregular use of their flag in the slave trade between Africa and Cuba. But they stand rather too high in the scale of nations as well as in their own esteem to permit a slave trade in their own ports. *Cuba once annexed*, the whole trade comes to an end, and not a port will remain open where the slaver can land his wretched cargo. Spain has long since forfeited all absolute claim to our interposition in her behalf. Indeed, by this time, we presume she would rather not be assisted by us, be the cause good or bad.—Are we then prepared, to make this sacrifice of national feeling for the sake of that philanthropy which we are always preaching to the world at the point of the bayonet and the mouth of the cannon?—We ask no reply; we only suggest that if England chooses to regard the slave trade as the greatest of human crimes, and its extinction an object worth fleets, quarrels, and wars, then she may some day be called on to prove her sincerity by acquiescing in the only means to this end, however disagreeable. We only wish that Spain could be warned in time; but warning is not for Spain. Had she listened to warning, she might still have stood in the first class of nations. But, as far as Spain is concerned, we must bow to Lord Palmerston's authority. She only regards force. Unfortunately, with all our cruisers, we have not the same leverage upon her as that in the hands of our American cousins. We may vainly attempt to watch her ports and scrutinize her traffic; once they step in, they will wipe out not only the slave trade, but Cuba itself, from the list of Spanish iniquities.—*London Times, July* 14.

The Spanish race in America seems to be in the same wretched plight as the Turks in Europe: their rule is drawing to a close. The United States' eagle will fasten his talons in Cuba whenever the opportunity occurs, and would have done so long ere this if Great Britain had not protested. The Mexican Republic is fast going to the dogs, and will be speedily absorbed in the monster Republic; for another cause of war has arisen which Jonathan will speedily turn to a practical purpose. It will be a real blessing to the cause of humanity and of progress to rescue one of the fairest portions of the globe from such weak and unscrupulous hands.—The Mexicans, it is well known, hate the Americans intensely, and the northern provinces of Mexico are entertaining the notion of separating from the parent State, and founding a distinct Republic; but they may spare themselves the trouble, for it is more than probable that the authorities at Washington will have a voice in the affair.—*European Times, July* 17.

AN OCEAN TRIP IN A BALLOON.—J. Steiner, of Harrisburg, Pa., proposes to cross the Atlantic in a balloon 100 feet in diameter. He says in a letter to the Telegraph: "I am satisfied in my own mind that with such an apparatus I could cross the Atlantic in 75 hours, and the whole cost would not be more than $20,000. The balloon, net work, and valve would weigh about 2,000 pounds, and the boat and rigging 3 tons and a half—this will leave about 3 tons ascending power, for provisions, passengers, and ballast. It would require three good ocean navigators, and one astronomer, besides myself. I would suggest New York as the starting point, and am certain I would strike within 200 miles of any given distance in Europe. I would suggest May as the time for making the experiment, and would make the attempt in 1859, if I could get the government or others to assist me.

☞ A correspondent of the Cincinnati Gazette, writing from Hunterdon county, N. J., tells the following story: "There is a goose in my neighborhood that has seen the frosts of 83 winters, owned by one Mr. Schomp. This goose, famous for its great age, has been kept by the Schomp family ever since the Revolutionary war. When the news came to Redington township, Hunterdon county, that the war was ended, and that they were a free people, they collected to have a general drinking jollification. There being some cause for a general rush into the yard, where there were four geese, three of these were killed, and the one that escaped is that which I now speak of. Two years ago she laid four eggs, which she hatched. The young family are living and doing well. I was informed by Mr. Schomp, who has owned the goose for the last fifty years, of these facts."

FRAZER RIVER EAST.—The excitement in reference to Frazer river gold mines extended all over the Eastern States and Europe at last dates. The subject had been debated in the English Parliament, in connection with the establishment of a new government for the British Possessions on the Pacific coast of America.

☞ According to the United States census of 1850, there were employed, in all the States and Territories, 719,497 males and 225,512 females in the manufacturing and mechanic arts, with an aggregate capital of $527,000,000; annual value of raw materials, $554,000,000; annual product of manufactures, $1,013,000,000.

A LITERAL RUNAWAY MATCH.—A capital story is told by a Texas paper of a runaway match that came off in that State.—It seems that a couple had resolved to get married, notwithstanding the opposition of the parents and relatives of every degree, and securing the co-operation of a friendly clergyman, they all three mounted their horses and set out for a friend's mansion several miles distant, where the rites could be solemnized without interference. They had not gone far, however, before their flight was discovered, and then there was as much mounting, and racing, and chasing as occurred on the occasion of "Young Lochinvar's" celebrated elopement with the Netherly maiden. The lovers and their faithful pastor soon heard the noise of approaching pursuers and gave their horses the spur. But alas! their pursuers were better mounted and gained fast upon them. It was evident that they would soon be captured, when a felicitous inspiration of the maiden came to their aid. "Can't you marry us as we run?" she shouted to the clergyman. The idea "took," and the pastor at once commenced the ritual. All parties "covered themselves with glory," and just as the bride's father clutched her bridle-rein, the clergyman pronounced them man and wife. When the old gentleman first learned what had been done, he was inclined to be furious; but being a gallant old fellow, and admiring a dashing action, he soon concluded to forgive the runaways, in consideration of the handsome and novel manner in which they triumphed over him.

THE SPIRIT OF '76.—When the news of the fall of Ticonderoga reached Exeter, John Langdon, who was the speaker of the Provincial Legislature of New Hampshire, then in session, seeing the public credit exhausted, and his compatriots discouraged, rose and said:—"I have a thousand dollars in hard money; I will pledge my plate for three thousand more; I have seventy hogsheads of Toba rum, which will be sold for the most it will bring. These are at the service of the State. If we succeed in defending our firesides and homes, I may be remunerated; if we do not, then the property will be of no value to me. Our friend Stark, who so nobly maintained the honor of our State at Bunker Hill, may safely be entrusted with the honor of the enterprise, and we will check the progress of Burgoyne." It is well known that from this noble offer sprang the gallant little army of Stark's that covered itself with glory at Bennington. These were the deeds that make our history venerable, and consecrate the Revolution.

THE TOAD AT HIS REPAST.—Few of our readers most probably have ever observed the toad at his repast. It is performed with electric rapidity, and with more than telegraphic precision. The tongue is doubled back upon itself, and is tipped with a glutinous secretion. The moment the beetle comes within range, the tongue is shot forth with unerring aim, and quick as lightning the captive is withdrawn. They are invaluable in a garden. Mr. Jesse, in his gleanings, complains of gardeners destroying them, of savagely cutting them in two with their spades. We hope not. Horticulturists of such "gross ignorance" ought themselves to be extirpated. The beauty and vigor of our flower-borders we have long ascribed, in a measure, to a select family of toads, which we tenderly protect, and some of which have now reached a patriarchal age. Mr. Jesse mentions that Mr. Knight, the eminent nurseryman, keeps a large number of toads in his stoves, for the purpose of destroying the woodlice that infest his plants, and that they do not seem at all affected by the heat, even when it reaches 130 degrees. We are surprised at this latter statement, which does not agree with our observation. We have observed that the toad in very hot weather seeks shelter under foliage, or buries himself amongst the soft mould. In the evening he emerges from his concealment, and no doubt then employs his protrusile tongue. Mr. Buckland mentions a curious use of toads. They are employed as insect-traps. A brigade of marauding toads are conducted into the garden in the evening.—They make a famous supper, but in the morning their entomological employer, by a gentle squeeze, compels them to disgorge their evening meal, "and in this way many curious and rare specimens of rare and minute nocturnal insects have been obtained." "There is just now," says Mr. Buckland, "a plague of ants in many of the London houses, which defy extermination. I strongly recommend those who are troubled with these plagues to try whether a toad or two won't help them." Most certainly. They clean melon frames of these insects, and why should they not perform the same friendly office in the drawing-rooms of London citizens? Nothing but ignorant prejudice can prevent the adopting of the excellent suggestion. And yet the prejudice exists, and they are a loathed species.—Toads, time immemorial, have been persecuted by schoolboys, and you cannot wander through a village on a summer day without seeing defunct and flattened specimens of these unoffending creatures. Innocent of literature, it would be tracing the cruelty of the urchins to too high a source to ascribe it to the "ugly and venomous" toad of Shakspeare, or the yet more odious imagery of Milton. And yet, from the erroneous natural history of the two great national poets, the idea may have originated, and thus been handed down from one race of schoolboys to another.

While toads are not truly venomous, and lack the specific apparatus for producing venom which really venomous reptiles are endowed with, there is an irritant secretion in the glands of their skin which is more or less injurious. When a dog seizes a toad, this glandular fluid is squirted out, and his tongue and lips are burned, as with a strong acid.

The metamorphosis which frogs and toads undergo is complete and remarkable. In their tadpole condition the respiration is performed by gills, and is aquatic. In their adult state their gills are converted into true lungs, and can breathe atmospheric air alone. The spawn of frogs and toads is very distinguishable. The spawn of the former is found distributed through the whole mass of jelly, while that of the latter is soon arranged in long strings, and generally in double rows.—*Blackwood.*

JEWS AND THE SAVIOR.—The London Record says: It has become a fashionable practice with *modern* Judaism to disown, and that in the strongest terms, all feeling of hostility to the Christian religion. A letter recently appeared in one of the daily papers, in which the writer, a Jew, protests against the common belief that Jews must necessarily be opponents of Christianity.—He maintains that, so far from this being the case, the Jews are enjoined by their most venerated authorities highly to reverence the work of Jesus Christ, who was one of the greatest agents employed by God in preparing the way for the coming of the true Messiah!

ADVICE TO CONSUMPTIVE PEOPLE.—Dr. Hall, of the 'Journal of Health,' says to his "consumptive friends:" "You want air, not physic, you want pure air, not medicated air; you want nutrition, such as plenty of meat and bread will give, and they alone; physic has no nutriment; gaspings for air cannot cure you; monkey capers in a gymnasium cannot cure you; and stimulants cannot cure you. If you want to get well, go in for *beef and out door air*, and do not be deluded into the grave by advertisements and bulliarene certificates."

☞ Michigan is the first State to inaugurate an Agricultural College. As yet it has accommodations for only hundred students. At the commencement of the present term there were but twenty-eight vacancies, while ninety-three applicants appeared and were examined.

☞ The New York Tribune intimates that John Van Buren will probably be the Democratic candidate for Governor, in that State, at the next election.

☞ The Charleston (S. C.) News denounces John Mitchell for his impertinence and annoyance in attempting to constitute himself a leader of Southern opinion.

☞ In Kansas, a short time ago, Miss Irene Baker, a girl of seventeen, married a man of seventy-five from admiration of one of his political speeches. Thus is a common saying verified—"politics makes strange bed-fellows."

☞ We have nothing to enjoy till we have something to impart.

☞ There are some pretty but unhappily very selfish women, who don't understand the laws of the road with regard to handsome faces. Nature and custom would, no doubt, agree in conceding to all males the right of at least two distinct looks at every comely female countenance, without any female infraction of the rules of courtesy or the sentiment of respect. The first look is necessary to define the person of the individual one meets so as to avoid in passing. Any unusual attraction discovered in a first glance is a sufficient apology for the second—not a ptolonged and impertinent stare, but an appreciating homage of the eyes, such as a stranger may inoffensively yield to a passing image. It is astonishing how morbidly sensitive some beauties are to the slightest demonstration of this kind. When a lady walks the streets she leaves her indignation countenance at home; she knows well enough that the street is a picture gallery, where pretty faces framed in pretty bonnets are meant to be seen, and everybody has a right to see them.

☞ Mr. Everett relates an anecdote of the British General Clinton, in the revolutionary war, who, while living at the Battery in New York, was accustomed to take a nap every warm day in the summer-house in the garden attached to his residence. He was observed by a Yankee, who reported through spies, to Washington, that Clinton could easily be captured. Hamilton came into the room while Washington was consulting with the messenger relative to it, and said to the Commander in-chief: "Do not listen for a moment to the suggestion, for if Clinton be captured, the British Ministry will send a capable man to take his place. Clinton is just the man we want."

☞ 'Will my darling Edwin grant his Angelina a boon?'

'Is there anything on earth her Edwin would not do for his sweet pet? Name the boon, oh! dearest, name it!'

'Then, love, as we dine by ourselves to-morrow, let us, oh! let us have roast pork, with plenty of sage and onions!'

INCREASED ANNUAL BRITISH EMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES.—The annual report of the British Emigration Commissioners, just published, states the total emigration from the United Kingdom for the past year to have been 212,875, showing a moderate increase on the two preceding years, but still a falling off of 126,649 from the average of the four years from 1851 to 1854. The number of emigrants who returned from the United States during the year, was 15,448, of whom 11,154 arrived in the last half of the year, during the progress of the commercial crisis. Last year the remittances from the United States by previous Irish emigrants, to enable their friends to join them, amounted to only £593,165, while the average of the preceding ten years was about a million sterling.

SINGULAR CAUSE OF DEATH.—The awful death of Madame Palesikoff, one of the most charming amongst all the bevy of charming Russian ladies, who sometimes gladden the winters of Paris, has created a terrible shock in the circles she embellished. The unhappy lady left Paris but a short time ago on a summer tour to Germany.—While stepping from the door of the opera house, at Berlin, to gain her carriage, she let fall one of her bracelets close to the pavement. Stooping to pick it up, she noticed at the time, laughingly, "that one of the horses belonging to a carriage standing at hand, had dropped his head so close to her face that he had touched her, and left a moist kiss upon her cheek." In a few days the unfortunate lady was taken ill with that most horrible disease, glanders, and in a few days more breathed her last, in spite of the attendance of the first physicians in Berlin, and every resource to be obtained by wealth or by ceaseless vigilance of friends.

☞ Gen. William Walker has written a letter to the Mobile Register, animadverting upon the course pursued by the Government towards him. He declares that the Federal officers, not content with taking from him his rights and the property he held in Nicaragua, have attempted to deprive him of his honor also. He adds, that he regards himself as "an humble instrument in the hands of a Higher Power," and says he scorns the counsel of those who advise submission to wrong. Accounts from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia state that the feeling in those States in favor of Walker is increasing.—A correspondent of the Louisville Journal, writing from Dalton, Ga., says that Nicaragua bonds have been taken up by Southern planters to the amount of $775,000.

☞ Rarey's career in England has unexpectedly been stopped. He had cleared some $75,000 to $100,000 by his horse-taming secret, when suddenly Routledge, the London cheap publisher, got hold of a pamphlet published by the horse-tamer in America, and printed it. It contains in a small compass all the arts of horse-taming, and the subscribers, who had bound themselves not to divulge the secret under a penalty of $2,500, became furious, and Mr. Rarey had to release them from their pledge in a letter to the Times. In this letter he states that the pamphlet in question is one which he published in Ohio some years since, when his system was not perfect, and that more will be learned from his practical lessons in one hour than from the book in a lifetime.

GOLD PRODUCTION FOR 1857.—The production of gold in Australia for the past year is set down by the best English authorities at one hundred millions of dollars. The production in other countries is estimated as follows:—California, $56,000,000; Russia and Siberia, $20,000,000; other parts of the world, $15,000,000.—Total, $200,000,000.

We thus have two hundred millions as the gold crop of 1857, and the actual amount is likely to be rather more than the estimated aggregate. At this rate, two thousand millions of gold will be thrown into the monetary circulation of the world during the next ten years.

☞ A Dahlgren gun which has been on trial at Castle Island, Boston harbor, burst on the 1532d fire. There had been consumed in the proof of this gun about 15,400 pounds of powder, and the aggregate weight of shot and shells fired amounts to 115,000 pounds. When the piece burst, a large fragment, weighing near 800 pounds, was thrown to a great hight in the air, and fell about 300 feet in the rear.

A COOL CASE.—A newly-arrived John Chinaman in Shasta, California, purchased some ice recently, and finding it very wet, laid it out to dry in the sun. On going to look for it again, he found that it had disappeared, and forthwith accused the whole Chinese neighborhood of larceny. A general row was the consequence.

☞ Every art is best taught by example: good deeds are productive of good friends.