

HOW BYRON BECAME A GENIUS

Hiding Himself of Burdensome Grossness, His Intellect was Set Free.

(Jefferson's "Real Lord Byron.")

While he was still at Cambridge, already a successful author and approaching his twentieth year, he resolved to rid himself of his "burdensome and disgusting grossness." He began the regimen of starvation, Epsom salts and hot baths, which he maintained for the rest of his life, and which, while it brought him to striking and unusual physical beauty and elegance, brought him also to such spiritual and intellectual straits as outrages against nature always entail. He systematically sustained life on biscuits and soda-water, and when hunger grew too intense to be bearable, he indulged in feasts of potatoes, fish, rice and vinegar, which gave him agonies of indigestion. He was nearly always suffering from actual pangs of hunger, and drank laudanum and sometimes chewed tobacco to still these pangs.

The effect on his system was as apparent at first in his sensations as in his appearance. Relieved of the burden of his superfluous flesh, he could walk with apparent ease and security. The body that had oppressed him was no longer unwieldy and unmanageable. Obeying his will, it filled him with delight. And what is even more noteworthy than all the other results of the regimen taken together, is that this discipline of starvation and drastic depletives quickened his brain to such a degree that the man of intellect for the first time knew himself to be something far higher than a man of mere intellect. The goods and whips of the regimen had affected the nervous system, so that he had become a man of genius. He had gone to drugs and starvation at the instigation of personal vanity. Henceforth he persisted in using them for the sake of the delights of that highest life to which they had raised him, and from which he soon snuggled and quickly without their assistance.

Seville Ladies.

(Chas. D. Warner in The Century.)

We spent a good deal of the waiting time in scrutinizing the packed seats for beautiful women, and I am sorry to say, with hardly a reward adequate to our anxiety. I am not sure how much the beauty of the women of Seville is traditional. They have good points. Graceful figures are not uncommon, and fine teeth; and dark, liquid, large eyes, which they use perpetually in attitudes destructive to peace and security. And the fan, the most deadly weapon of coquetry, gives the coup de grace to those whom the eyes have wounded. But the Seville women have usually sallow, pasty, dead complexion. Perhaps the beauty of the skin is destroyed by cosmetics, for there was not a lady at the bull-fight who was not highly rouged and powdered. This gave an artificiality to their appearance en masse. Beauty of figure was very rare, and still rarer was that animation, that stamp of individual character, loveliness in the play of expression, and sprightliness, that charm in any assembly of American women. No, the handsome women in the ring were not numerous enough to make any impression on the general mass, and yet the total effect, with the blonde lace, the artificial color, the rich toilet and the agitation of fans was charming.

Mozart's Superstition.

(Cincinnati Enquirer.)

Mozart, the wonderful, who produced so much in so short a time, was taken with a queer presentiment in the last months of his young life. A stranger called on him, requesting him to write a grand requiem, not wishing it for a month. He paid Mozart 100 guineas and left. Mozart began his work, and shortly afterward the horror seized him that this stranger had bribed him to write his own requiem. He did not quite finish it before the stranger called, thinking in this way to set his delusion at rest, and that the stranger would countermand the order.

The stranger called according to appointment. Mozart told him the requiem was unfinished, and that it would take more time. "Very well," said the stranger, "if it requires more work you should have more money," and paid another 100 guineas. Mozart sent his servant to follow the stranger to find out who he was, but the servant soon lost him in the crowd. Mozart was not sure his delusion was correct, and went feverishly and furiously to work to finish the requiem. He finished it in a few days before the second month was out, but when the stranger called poor Mozart was dead.

Oyster Bed Protection.

(Chicago Times.)

The commission which has been investigating the rapid depletion of the Maryland oyster beds will report to the next legislature a plan conceding all the shallow waters to the tongmen, giving them a really greater area than they now have, but dividing the deep water into ten districts, which may be dredged alternately, with intervening districts of smaller extent, on which there shall be no dredging for an indefinite time. It is thought that the prohibited strips will be permanent breeding grounds, from which the tide will carry spats to the neighboring grounds for their recuperation.

A Little Girl's Idea.

(Milwaukee Sentinel.)

"No," said mamma, "We can have no idea of what God is; He is beyond our comprehension." "Mamma," replied little Edith, "I think I know what God is like; He must be like a big 'op, only p'aps not quite so gwand."

Don't Get in the Habit.

(Arkansas Traveler.)

"Excuse me," said a polite citizen to a colored man. "I didn't kick you on purpose."

"No, sah, kicked me on de shin, sah. 'Seize yer dis time, but don't git in de habit ob it, sah."

Chicago Herald: It is a great misfortune to a poor man to be born with the tastes of "ten thousand a year."

Compound for sins they are inclined to, By damning those they have no mind to.

Smoking in Mexico.

(Cor. Indianapolis Journal.)

While waiting for coffee, and afterwards during pauses in the conversation, the gentlemen of the family—and not infrequently the ladies also—settle gracefully back in their chairs and enjoy a cigarette or two. I learned a lesson at my very first dinner in Mexico. It was at a hotel table, and a stranger Mexican seated beside me, who happened to finish his dinner first, innocently lighted his cigar for the usual table smoke, which I, in the depth of my ignorance, regarded as a personal insult, and indignantly left the table. Since that day I have become "learned in the ways of the Egyptians," and can not only tolerate the national custom with equanimity, but (be not horrified, O fastidious friends!) occasionally take a dinner cigarette myself! When one is in Rome it is as well to do as the Romans do.

These tiny Mexican cigarettes, rolled up in corn-husks or tissue paper, are not at all like the strong smelling things we have in the United States. These are not much larger than straws, the husk is sweet to the taste, and they have a delicate fragrance which is very pleasant. In Mexico everybody smokes at all times and in all places—at the theatre, in the ball room, everywhere. In making formal calls or more extended visits politeness demands an immediate and frequent exchange of cigarettes and "light"—with many courteous words, as "after you, senora" (referring to the match)—precisely as our ancestors were wont to proffer and accept the civilities of the snuff-box. Every Mexican lady's pocket is supplied with match-box and cigarette-holder of more or less elegance, and the dainty fingers of many a fair young senorita are discolored like polished bronze at the tips from much cigarette rolling.

Catching Ostriches in the Desert.

(Cor. San Francisco Bulletin.)

A striking difference exists between the corralled and farmed ostriches and those running over the African deserts, inasmuch as the latter never fight. Dr. Sketcheley hunted for nine months in the desert. The birds have to be hunted scientifically. Certain facts are known, one being that the birds will always run in a semi-circle. First they will run with the wind that they may use their wings to help them. After they get what the sailors would call "a head wind," they go around the other way. They must be run down. One horse cannot "wind" them. The great trouble is to keep them in sight. They will run forty miles on a stretch. If they ever get a breathing spell they will get away. The hunter starts out with a fresh horse. A bushman boy rides another and leads one.

As soon as it is seen which way the bird will run, the boy takes his cue and drives to where he thinks the hunter will need the fresh horse. In the meantime the ostrich singled out for the chase and the hunter, are speeding along like the wind, the latter straining every nerve to keep in sight of the bird, and the bird making its most prodigious strides for freedom. A great deal now depends on the bushman boy's judgment, in having the fresh horse at the right place that no time may be wasted. It is seldom that the boy makes a mistake. The hunter leaps on the fresh horse and gains on the bird, which, growing tired, goes more and more awkwardly. The hunter has only, when he catches it, to rap it on the head with his hunting whip and the chase is over. There are really only two kinds of ostriches, the North African and South African birds. The males are black and the females drab. All are of one color, drab, until after they are two years old.

Arizona's Wild Camels.

(Tombstone Epitaph.)

The camels now running wild in Arizona were bought by the United States government in Asia Minor. There were seventy-six camels in the first "colony." They were first employed in packing between Fort Tejon and Albuquerque, in some instances carrying 100 gallons of water to the animal and going nine days without themselves. Tiring of the camels, the government condemned them, and they were sold at Beneficia to two Frenchmen, who took them to Reese river, where they were used in packing salt to Virginia City. Afterward the animals were brought back to Arizona, and for some time were engaged in packing ore from Silver King to Yuma; but through some cause or other the Frenchmen became disgusted, there being no market for camels just then, and turned the camels loose upon the desert near Maricopa wells, and to-day they and their descendants are roaming through the Gila valley, increasing and multiplying and getting fat upon the succulent sagebrush and greasewood with which the country abounds.

No Work, No Eat, No Wife.

(Arkansas Traveler.)

A Chinaman, who had married a white woman, applied to the police judge the other day for a divorce. "Don't like the white woman," he said, by means of an interpreter. "What objections have you to her?" the judge asked. "Heaps." "What has she done?" "Nothing, and that's why I don't want her. Want wife to work. No work, no wife. No work, no eat. You may have her."

The judge refused the generous offer, and the discontented Celestial carried his complaint to a higher court.

Decapitated Insects.

(San Francisco Chronicle.)

S. B. Canestrini has been experimenting upon the effects of decapitation upon insects. Butterflies were able to use their wings eighteen days after they had lost their heads. Crickets leaped on the thirtieth day after they had been beheaded and the praying-mantis showed signs of life on the fourteenth day after the head had been separated from the body. He gives still more singular observations, tending to show that the head in insects cannot be subject to the same perpetual strain as the head in mammals in guiding the motions of the body.

PRIMITIVE CONTENT.

Quiet Lives of the Maryland Dunkers. Who Outlive the "Three Score and Ten."

(Cincinnati Enquirer.)

In these old German Maryland towns where the Dunkers, the Mennonites, the Franciscans and other sects abound and have their little meeting-houses here and there, one catches glimpses of many a pretty face under a black hood, many a shapely girl who would be the adornment of some more busy community. But they have that virtue of contentment which is so rare in most Americans, and therefore it was very reposeful to me, seeking October rest, to find a class that was not disturbed by a stranger—that went on sweeping the middle of the street with their brooms, or trimming the yellow flowers in the gardens, or tying up the grape vines. They live long, do not disturb other people, and their old towns, made of painted red brick or of limestone, or of puncheon logs well plastered, seem to wear the air of old Germany. You see the men coming along the road in a kind of dark buttoned shirts, with stiff, broad-brimmed hats and amiable countenances. You see the magnificent corn fields, with their high shocks standing like men at arms, and down between the girls and men are husking, and the yellow corn seems like gold that they are hoarding in their old homes.

I observed that the Dunker churches were kept in a more worldly trim than formerly, and that the recent tombstones of their members were smart and large. The barns in this country are generally built of stone, sometimes of brick, and they have not been rebuilt, as in Pennsylvania, so that they have a somewhat more shaggy appearance. In nearly every house is a Dutch oven, looking like a little baby-house with a big white pudding under it.

Said I to the driver: "How is it that from these mountains we do not see enough farm-houses to correspond with the improved land?" "Because," said he, "they had a tradition in old days that the house must be built by a spring, consequently the houses are all down in the hollows. At the present day they are building their houses more upon the hills, and boring wells for water."

I found this to be true as we went along. The centre of each little farm settlement was a spring-house, and you could see the red earthenware milk-pails stuck on the white paling to dry. Such turkeys I never saw for beauty of color. They would often be nearly milk white, and then again this milk would be splashed as if a gold piece had been dropped in it; and sometimes the bird appeared to have walked off with the palette of the painter, through which it had stuck its neck, so that it was just gorgeous. The pea-fowls and the pea-hens were sitting on the fences and bemoaning the loss of their fellows.

The pigs were delightfully following every nut they could, in order to present a good figure at hog-killing time. The sheep seemed full of white fleece, and seldom stopped to baa, so desirous were they of getting that last bit of grass, which the frost had already struck. As the winter showed its teeth the cows, too, though they were in herds, never stopped to look at the passing traveler, but went chewing in the grass as if tomorrow there might not be a sweet end left. The pigeons were down in the barnyards among the little sucking pigs that had come forth on the brink of November.

As we crossed the Catocin creek and stopped to water we borrowed a man's tub, for we had no bucket. Said he to me: "My mother is in there dreadful sick," indicating a quiet little house. "What is the matter with her?" "Old age." "How old is she?" "Eighty-six."

"Why, she ought to be sick at that age." Said he: "My grandfather died the other day, past one hundred, and every thing sound about him. My mother wouldn't have been sick this way but for a paralysis that struck her some time ago."

When I told this to the driver he seemed to think it a very natural matter to live to be ninety years old.

Harriet Martineau's Home.

Miss Susan B. Anthony recently visited in England the former home of Harriet Martineau, which now is occupied by a Quaker family. "I chatted with these Friends," she says, "in the drawing-room where Emerson, Garrison, Charlotte Bronte, and many of the other great sons of earth had come to honor Harriet Martineau in the days gone by. I sat at the table in her library where she had penned so many noble thoughts, looked into the chamber where she slept, suffered, and died, and out at the beautiful landscape she enjoyed in those last sad days. In the kitchen the same range, dresser, table, and chairs stand there as she left them, and her favorite black and yellow spotted cat, now 16 years old, still keeps faithful watch on the threshold."

Matured Beforehand.

(Chicago Herald.)

"You think that many of the bright things you hear," said Mr. Emory Storrs, as he looked out from his window in the Leland, "are the scintillations of genius which will not endure. In a few cases this is so. But let me tell you that in a majority of instances I have found that these smart things are pretty well matured before they are turned loose. The average after-dinner talker or colloquist is like the professional highwayman. He never goes out unarmed."

May be He Misses Her Host.

(Exchange.)

"I hear allus noticed," observes Annet Tabitha, "that the boy who lets his mother bring in all the kindlin' wood and build the kitchen fire is the mourner that bellers loudest at her funeral." And then she added thoughtfully: "Mebbe as not it is because he misses her the most."

At a recent reunion in Richmond the bill of fare was printed on Confederate \$10 bills.

FOREIGN TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

The Chilean Congress has convened.

Admiral Sir Sidney Colpays is dead, aged 79.

The Queen leaves England for Germany the 7th of April.

The Havana Savings Bank has decided to go into liquidation.

Gladstone is suffering from catarrh, and is confined to his room.

The Mexican Central Railroad, 1,124 miles in length, was completed last week.

Two boys have died, and fifteen persons are ill, in Glasgow, from eating canned meat.

Another bill has passed the parliament of Queensland restricting Chinese immigration.

Peach buds throughout Ontario are completely destroyed by the recent severe weather.

A schooner was wrecked recently at Wick, England, and six persons were drowned.

It is rumored that serious news has been received regarding the French advance on Bacninh.

Mary Anderson, the actress, will visit Rome before beginning her tour of the provinces.

A land subsidy of 12,000 acres per mile will be given to the Winnipeg and Hudson Bay Railroad.

George Augustus Sala has arranged a lecturing tour for next autumn in the United States.

Orders have been given to a detachment of marines at Chatham to proceed immediately to London.

The Mexican government demands a reduction of the tariff on the Mexican and Vera Cruz Railroad.

Five sunstrokes were reported among the British troops at Suakem last week. The heat is increasing.

The English authorities offer a reward of \$1,000 for the detection of the authors of the dynamite outrages.

General Gordon advises the appointment of Zobeir Pasha to succeed himself as Governor of the Sudan.

Advices are received of a great financial panic at Peking, in which many native merchants and banks have failed.

The boiler of the steamer Kotsan, from Hong Kong to Macao, exploded, killing eight Europeans and nine natives.

The police are watching the movements of eighty-three persons in France suspected of belonging to the dynamiters.

The Russian government has invited England to join in constructing a canal from the Sea of Aral to the Indian frontier.

Admiral Carr Glyn, heir to the Barony of Wolverton, made legate of her estate by Miss Neilson, the actress, is dead.

Four railway companies have offered \$1,000 reward for the arrest of the authors of the late dynamite outrages in London.

Sir Henry Brande, ex-Speaker of the House of Commons, has been elevated to the peerage, with the title of Lord Hampden.

It is said that Montenegro is making preparations for a campaign in Albania. Six thousand men are concentrated on the frontier.

A telegram from Hong Kong states that one of General Minot's columns was attacked, a few days ago, ten miles from Bacninh.

Ghazi Pasha, Turkish Minister of War, has forbidden, under severe penalties, the enlistment of Albanians for service against El Mahdi.

The Great Western line steamer Dorset, from Swansea for New York, put into Queenstown for repairs, her bow having been damaged by a collision.

The yacht Atlanta has arrived at Havana, with Jay Gould and family on board. The yacht remains there some time and then visits other parts of Cuba.

A dynamite plot has been discovered at Pesth, Hungary. The police have seized several packages of explosives forwarded by Anarchists through the parcel post.

German police have been ordered by the government to make a strict search of the baggage and passengers arriving by steamers at German ports for dynamite.

Weston finished his 5,000-mile tramp last week. He was escorted from Crocyden to the Victoria coast palace by mounted constables amid great cheering.

During last month a disorder occurred at Little Pope, West Africa. The German corvette Sophie landed a force, which chastised the natives and restored order.

Major Lopez Mantalbo was killed recently near Edinburgh in a duel with the editor of the *Cronica*, published at Matamoros. A political controversy was the cause.

From a statement made by the City Auditor it appears that the defalcations of officials in the service of the corporation amount to \$25,000. All have absconded.

Orders have been cable by the government in New York to inquire into the antecedents of persons sailing from New York and Boston for English ports since February.

The people of Tokar Kissed General Graham's hand as he entered the town, and there was great rejoicing. The enemy acknowledged that 1,500 of their number were killed.

The Chinese legation at Berlin have engaged a crew, officers and men from the German merchant service, to take to Canton the new Chinese corvette Nanthin, built at Kiel.

The snow storm caused much damage in eastern Canada. Many houses along the St. Lawrence are almost buried in snow. The occupants made their exit through attic windows.

Waddington, French Ambassador at London, has been summoned to Paris to confer with Premier Ferry, in regard to Sir Evelyn Baring's scheme for financial reform in Egypt.

United States Minister Wallace recently wished to see the Grand Vizier at Constantinople. The latter was busy, and declined to receive him. Wallace insisted, and was received.

Seventeen of the crew of the Spanish bark Trinidad have landed at Liverpool. They abandoned this vessel waterlogged. The captain and remainder of the crew refused to leave the vessel.

In the House of Lords, Earl Granville said reports of the immediate withdrawal of British troops from the Sudan were absolutely untrue. The statement was received with loud cheers.

El Progreso, published at Madrid and the organ of Senor Moortos, has been confiscated and the type seized, on account of violent and persistent attacks upon Alfonso and the government.

James Stephens, a well known Fenian, expresses the opinion that Irishmen in America will render it impossible for any cabinet to yield to England's demand in regard to dynamite agitators.

A hot contested battle was fought near Teikiat. One thousand rebels were killed. The British loss was 28 killed and 148 wounded. They captured four guns, two howitzers and one machine gun.

The London *Times* says: We understand that orders have been sent to General Graham to retreat forthwith from Tokar, and to arrange for the immediate retreat of the troops to England from Egypt.

Immigrants, ill clad and in a state of starvation, have been arriving at Montreal lately. They are a pitiable sight, wandering through the street with scarcely clothing enough to cover their nakedness.

DOMESTIC TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

Hillsboro, Ill., is overrun with tramps. The verdict on Salmi Moore was accidental drowning.

A New York firm has been detected circulating bogus divorces.

Marshall T. Knox, late State Treasurer of East Nashville, Tenn., is dead.

The foundation of the new produce exchange was laid in New York recently.

The Rock Island road is going to reduce its passenger rate to three cents a mile.

Nineteen miners lost their lives by suffocation in a shaft at Leisenberg, Pa., last week.

On May 15th, Frank Ashton, of Rockford, Ill., will start for San Francisco on his bicycle.

Two thousand cigarmakers employed by Stratton & Storms, of New York, are on a strike.

White's shoe factory at Holbrook, Mass., burned recently, throwing 300 hands out of employment.

B. B. Warner, ex-Mayor of Massillon, O., dropped dead in his office from an apoplectic stroke.

Ben Butler says he could get in Massachusetts 10,000 men to sign a petition to have him hanged.

A Philadelphia firm was fined \$100 for publishing an advertisement similar to a postage stamp.

While in transit from Youngstown, O., to Pittsburgh, Pa., \$1,500 was abstracted from a \$2,000 package.

Burglars blew open the safe in the post-office at Rich Hill, Mo. They secured \$1,000 in cash and stamps.

A number of the levees have given away on the line of the Mississippi river and plantations are flooded.

Prentiss Teller, money clerk of the Pacific Express Company at St. Louis, has absconded with \$75,000.

It is estimated that at the present rate of progress the Panama canal can be opened in five or six years.

Large tin deposits have been discovered in Harner Park, Dakota, that can be operated at about \$40 a ton.

The steamship Sidonian had sixty-six cattle washed overboard on the voyage from Boston to Queenstown.

Utica, N. Y., had a \$450,000 fire last week. Twelve business houses were consumed. Insurance one-half.

Mr. and Mrs. Tiestery and Mr. and Mrs. Arnold, expert counterfeiters, were arrested recently at Smithfield, Ill.

President Cable, of the Rock Island Road, says the stock is so distributed that Vanderbilt cannot secure control.

The wire bridge spanning the Kisaminet river at Apollo, Pa., fell. Two men crossing at the time were drowned.

Twenty-five thousand people attended the ball given by the Boston policemen, and pickpockets reaped a rich harvest.

In attempting to board a moving train at Wilmington, Del., recently, J. T. Bethune, the manager of Blind Tom, was killed.

The mail between Mexico and the United States is suspended indefinitely, owing to a dispute over the carriers' bill of \$162.

Twenty-four buildings were destroyed by fire at Goodwater, Ala., recently, involving a loss of \$100,000; small insurance.

Public buildings are to be erected at Carson City, Nev., and Pueblo, Col., at a cost of \$1,000,000 and \$200,000 respectively.

Two masked men murdered John E. Wells, aged 65, in the presence of his wife. They demanded money and were refused.

The *Utica Herald* estimates that the new capitol building at Albany, N. Y., will cost \$25,000,000 before it is completed.

Frank Tenney has been arrested on complaint of Anthony Comstock, for reprinting a book entitled "Memoirs of George IV."

A German syndicate of Chicago is to colonize 30,000 acres of land in Dakota, purchased from the Northern Pacific Railroad.

At Bird's Point, Mo., eighteen houses were demolished by a storm, and all of New Madrid, Mo., is reported to be inundated.

A fire at the Calumet Iron and Steel Company's works at Ironside, South Chicago, caused a loss of some \$40,000; fully insured.

Rev. C. B. Crane, minister of a church in Boston, omitted the regular service and in one hour raised the amount of its debt \$55,000.

J. W. Bremer, of New Comerstown, O., killed his son, aged 21, who was defending his mother from a drunken attack of his father.

Yan Phoo Lee, a Chinese student, who was compelled by his government to leave Yale last year, has returned to resume his studies.

Edwin Brothas fatally shot one William Nichols, at Hazelton, Pa., for the alleged seduction of Brothas' niece, a girl of 18 years.

The deaths among the Marquis of De-mone's sheep in the Little Missouri country is believed to be the result of poison by enemies.

Edward Dellinger, cashier for G. A. Bennett & Co., New York bankers, has been speculating with their money to the amount of \$20,000.

Chicago is to have a new opera house at the corner of Washington and State streets. The building is to be nine stories high and cost \$600,000.

Dr. Bliss says that the brief letter which President Garfield wrote to his mother was the only piece of continuous writing he did during his sickness.

In the Criminal Court at St. Louis, Frank Brady was convicted of murder in the second degree and sentenced to fifty years in the penitentiary.

An Italian bootblack of New York city has saved in the past three years from his earnings over \$485. He sends money monthly to his mother in Rome.

The Shakers of South Union, Louisiana—one of the thirteen Shaker communities in the United States—own 20,000 acres in one of the best parts of Louisiana.

The House Committee will report favorably upon a bill giving telegraph operators who served during the war the same right of homestead entry as enlisted men.

It is estimated that the United States Senate is the wealthiest deliberative body in the world, the seventy-six members of that body representing \$180,000,000.

Teller, the absconding clerk of the Pacific Express Company, is also charged with adultery with Mrs. Fiske, whose husband applies for a divorce on those grounds.

A resolution has passed the Senate asking for a foundry with a steam hammer and proper machinery for the manufacture by the government of artillery of the largest caliber.

A bill was introduced in the Senate recently by Cockrill to authorize the appointment of a commission to visit the principal countries of Central and South America, with a view of extending American trade with those countries.