OTHER PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

Mind Your Own Business and You'll Be the Better Liked.

The person of even average moral sense has a general understanding of the fact that his neighbor's house, trees and material goods are objects toward which he should show respect by the simple process of letting alone. The right to alter the color of his house, to order the pruning of his trees, etc., are recognized to be matters solely under the control of their owner.

But in matters less material, yet more personal, there is a great lack of respect shown in our dealings with one another.

Persons who would resent being called discourteous, persons who in the main are kind of heart and even generous with their money, are often sadly wanting in their charitable judgment of their neighbors' opinions and a proper sense of their peculiarities.

Too commonly the fact is ignored that a man's opinions and convictions are his private personal matter, with which no one else has a right to meddle.

A man may hold with all the fervor of heart and strength of mind of which he is capable the principles of Protestantism, but that is no reason why he should assail the belief of his Catholic neighbor. Indeed, it is an excellent reason why he should not do so, but, instead, should extend the toleration supposed to be a part of his religion.

So in politics, the spending of money, in social life, in dress and education, each one should scrupulously avoid acting as censor of others who may differ from himself.

Least of all is one privileged while a guest to attack the opinions of the family whose hospitality he enjoys. When, for any reason, he can not acquiesce in the family regulation, let him depart, and not try to reform the family to his standard of propriety.

By calm personal arguments, or by the force of example, one may try to convince another that his way is the better, but a true courtesy requires that he shall not, unasked, present his opinions where to do so will wound and not alter in the slightest degree the course of his opponent.

Nor let any one flatter himself that because a man is loud of voice and blunt in speech, ever ready with cruel judgment of others, and free with advice on all matters, he will pleasantly accept such treatment from others, for he is quite as likely to resent interference with his affairs as the man of gentler speech and greater charity.

It is so easy to form the habit of meddlesomeness and to persuade one's self into the belief that one's mission is to be a "private investigator and public adviser," that one is apt to forget that in the regulation of one's own conduct life presents enough perplexing problems without trespassing upon the rights of others in a mistaken zeal to convert them to a better way.

In short, let no one be so intent upon the mote in the eye of his neighbor that he will forget the beam in his own.—*Daughters of America.*

HINTS WORTH HEEDING.

A Funny Old Jockey Explains How to Tell a Horse's Age.

A dozen different artifices are resorted to by horsemen and horse-sharpers to conceal the age of an animal after he has passed his tenth year. No buyer need be deceived, however, who will follow the rules herewith laid down. You want to buy a horse—an animal not over nine years of age. The report gets out some way, and you receive a postal card inviting you to call at a certain place. The would-be seller takes you for a greenhorn and is all ready for you. Your line of proceedings is as straight as a board. Ask to have the horse brought out into the alley, where you have the full light of day. Begin by looking at his feet, and after you have inspected them shake your head in a dubious way, as if you wouldn't give ten dollars for the beast.

Next hold the horse's head close to your face and jab your index finger at his eyes. If you jab hard enough you'll hit the eye-ball. Then pull his right ear down and blow into it. You may blow him off his feet, but it is not probable. Then punch him in the ribs, press on his spine, look very dubious and inquire:

"How old do you call him?"

"Eight last spring," the man will reply.

Then you will for the first time open the horse's mouth, take a lightning survey, and turn away with the remark:

"He'll never see twenty-five again."

"What!"

"It was very foolish in you to put up such a job on me."

"Job! Why, sir, you are sadly mistaken."

"Yes, I know; but I didn't want him just the same. He's got all the marks of a horse who has passed his twenty-fifth year. I want an old nag for grinding tan-bark, but I can't take one over sixteen years old."

"Say, mister, I see you know your gait, and it's no use to try to work you. He's fifteen or a month, and you can have him for $125."

You can make any excuse you wish to get away, but you have accomplished the great point in a horse transaction.

If you are selling an old horse the case will be different. When the would-be buyer makes his call keep him waiting for at least five minutes. Then, when he has stated his errand, you must dubiously observe:

"I did say I would sell him, as I want to get a big cart horse, but the wife and children take on so that it goes against the grain. We raised him, you know, and he's like one of the family."

"If you raised him you must know his exact age."

"Oh, certainly. Got his birthday down in an old diary. Billie is nine years and a month old."

The man looks at Billie's teeth and replies:

"Ten years old! Why, the beast is above twenty or I'm a liar!"

Now you want to lead the horse back into the stall and innocently remark to the visitor:

"You will excuse me, sir, but I am very busy this morning."

"But about the horse?"

"Oh, he wouldn't please you, sir. You'd always feel that you were cheated."

"Isn't he twenty?"

"Didn't I say I had his birthday in writing? Didn't I feed him milk with my own hands?"

"He has the teeth of an old horse."

"Very well, sir. No harm done, of course."

"I—I rather like his looks."

"So does every body. He's a horse to be proud of."

"Just what I want if I was only sure about his age."

"Excuse me, sir, but I must go in and soothe the children. They are crying for fear I'll sell Billie."

"Well, I'll take him at one hundred and fifty dollars. If you say he's only ten that settles it, for I know you to be a man who wouldn't lie nor deceive in a trade of any sort."—*Detroit Free Press.*

SELF-CONSCIOUS GIRLS.

Young Women Who Succeed in Making Themselves Very Disagreeable.

The self-conscious girl presents an interesting study for awhile, and till at last one grows so weary of her that even as a type she fails to please. But that does not affect her at all; indeed, she is so absorbed in herself that the absence of the interest of anybody else is something entirely unnoticed by her, and it never crosses her mental horizon but that all the world are as much absorbed in her affairs as she is herself. The way her gown fits and the reason that it fits, the peculiar choiceness of her gloves, and where she buys her boots, the charm of her hat, the *chic* or want of *chic* in her appearance, are all matters that she takes it as reasonable should be of general moment; she never forgets any one of them an instant, and is always able to congratulate herself upon them. If she hears you admire red hair, although her own braids be as black as night, she will tell you of the red threads in them that she treasures. If she hears you praise another woman's trick of speech, she casts about in her mind as to whether her own lisp is equally praiseworthy; if she sees for herself beauty in another's eyes, she straightway bethinks her of her own. It is not always vanity that possesses the self-conscious girl; it is not always an admiration of herself; sometimes, indeed, she is only too painfully aware of her ugliness, if she be ugly, and is so afraid that you will suspect her of ignorance of the fact that she is always putting it before you. For, nevertheless, she has always a desire that you shall admire her, and if you can not admire her looks, then you can admire her perspicacity in recognizing the character of those looks and her freedom in admitting it, and so she is perpetually *en evidence* for the admission. Although the self-conscious girl often succeeds in making herself very disagreeable when plain, she is absolutely unbearable when beautiful. No peacock ever preened and plumed as she does, or drew his stately tail behind him with more self-approbation than she extends to her least movement. She does not rise from a chair that she does not feel and make you feel the whole anatomy of her back, the precise crook of elbow and curve of wrist; she does not hand a teacup without a tacit apostrophe to her grace; she neither enters nor leaves a room without in a way forcing you to agree with herself as to how much better she does it than the last one did. There is no action of her life in which she loses remembrance of self, or suffers you to do so, and you wonder how it is that she can approach the throne of grace in her petitions, and if she is then beseeching the angels and ministers of grace to remark the angle of her bowed head, or to observe the elegant poise of her folded hands in prayer.—*Harper's Bazar.*

—"The fact is," said a tramp, "I have read so much about the troubles in the labor market, that I am heartily sick of the whole business, and I made up my mind long ago that I would never have anything to do with labor. As I am a man who never forsakes his principles, I can not work; but if you have a nice rare steak and a cup of hot coffee about the premises, I'll devote a few moments to their demolition."

—In Dublin—"See here, driver, I ordered a smart trap to take a drive in Phœnix Park, and you come around in rags not fit for a beggar!" Driver of jaunting car—"I knows it, yer honor, and I would like to wear fine clothes, but there's not a tailor in all Dublin that can take me measure, I'm that ticklish."—*American.*

—"Raillery," says a French writer of the gentler sex, "should fall on faults so light that the person to whom it is directed may also take part in the pleasantry. Delicate raillery is a mixture of praise and faultfinding."

CRAZES IN FURNITURE.

The Woods Most Extensively Employed at the Present Time.

There are many crazes in the furniture business in respect to the different woods and their imitations, which are extensively used. For many years walnut was a wood that held absolute predominance over all other woods for furniture. But while other woods have become very popular, and walnut is apparently on the decline, yet, really, walnut will always be a fashionable wood. The price will gradually increase, for the large demand is fast consuming the supply. In many States fifteen years ago the farms were inclosed with walnut rail fences, as the wood was not so valuable in those days. But in these States where walnut grows, the lumber that would have been formerly cast aside with the "culls" is to-day sold for high prices. Even the small limbs of walnut trees are now sawed up into material for rungs and posts of parlor chairs. The old snarled limbs and knots of the walnut trees are sought after with avidity by buyers through the country districts, who sell them to firms that manufacture them into ornaments for antique shelves, fancy hassocks and other similar furniture. Rail fences in these districts are now a rarity in the extreme. But, as to the variety of woods that are used in the manufacture of furniture, maple, ash, popular, gum and cherry comprise the list. What is known as quarter-oak is the latest craze. Quarter-oak is made by first sawing a log from end to end through the middle. Then each half is sawed from end to end through the middle, thus leaving four quarters. Each quarter has only three sides, one the bulge part of the log, and the other two sides being flat, and coming to a sharp edge. The boards are sawed off the sharp edge, and each sawing, therefore, throws off a board wider than the one before it. Sawing the quarters of the log in this manner the lumber is beautifully cross-grained. This cross-grained lumber is "worked" into the finest parlor furniture at present. The wood is susceptible of a very fine polish, and the cross-grain produces an effect, made by both nature and the saw, that is far superior to the art of the most experienced grainer. But one of the prominent features still in the furniture business is the staining of woods. There are tricks in all trades, and this is the greatest one in the furniture manufactories. A very simple preparation composed of coal oil and lampblack is rubbed into the highly polished surface of oak, and when it soaks into the pores of the wood, the wood then takes on a dark hue. The varnish is then applied, which gives a neat finish to the wood, and this is then a fair imitation of antique oak. The common gum is often stained to represent cherry. Cherry itself is very valuable, and is left in its own natural color, although it is sometimes stained to represent rosewood. Soft maple, poplar and gum are stained with preparations of burnt umber, crude oil and lampblack, to produce an imitation of mahogany. Ash has a very pretty grain that stands out prominently under color, and it can be stained to imitate red cherry. Sycamore is a wood largely used for bed posts, and it stains nicely in imitation of walnut.—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat.*

ALL ABOUT BREAD-FRUIT.

Its Useful Properties Outlined by an Expert in Spices.

"That is the bread-fruit," said Mr. William D. Bennett, the lecturer upon spices, to a reporter, who was examining a number of long glass jars containing curious plants and fruits of the tropics, preserved in alcohol. "I believe it is the only specimen of the kind in the United States. That jar which stands near to it contains a citron—the fruit kind used for candying, not the vegetable citron, which is grown here and looks likes a melon. The other fruits belong to the same class of tree. In the next jar are cloves in growing. The clove of commerce is a hard substance, while there you see them growing in bunches of pretty, pinkish-colored flowers. The seed forms on the top of the flower, which, when dried, hardens, and together they form the spice as it is most commonly seen. That next jar contains the fruit, leaves, stem and bark of the cinnamon tree. The bark forms the spice of commerce. It is also known as cassia, but as such would hardly find a ready sale. Few know the full value of this article of commerce, and a still less number know how it is grown. To pass through a cinnamon grove is one of the most delightful experiences any person can have. I heard Dean Stanley say that his walk through the cinnamon groves of Ceylon made him realize in the most forcible manner the delights pictured by David, as set forth in the Psalms."

"Can you tell me something definite about the bread-fruit?"

"The bread-fruit tree belongs to the tropical order *Artocarpaceæ*. It is a native of the islands of the Pacific Ocean and of the Indian Archipelago; grows to the height of fifty or sixty feet, has spreading branches and large, rough, pinnatifid leaves, often over a foot long. The male flowers are in catkins, the female flowers naked and arranged on a fleshy receptacle; the whole becoming as you see a subglobose, fleshy fruit about as large as a child's head. That specimen in the jar is ripe and has a yellowish skin of no great thickness. Beneath the skin is a perfectly white substance, somewhat resembling newly baked bread. It can be used as bread or made into a pudding. Sometimes it is sliced and dried before the application of heat, sometimes cooked in an oven. The Tahitians prepare it for use by beating it into a paste with water or the milk of the coconut, making it into balls or wrapped up in leaves and baking it in an oven.

"Before the breadfruit is ripe it is filled with a substance like milk, instead of bread. The leaves, if wounded, give out a milky juice. In fact, all parts of the plant have this peculiarity. This makes the tree resemble the cow tree of South America, the milk of which is used as a substitute for that of the cow, and is highly nutritious and pleasant. Another member of the same class of tree is the upas of Java, the milk of which forms a poison of the most deadly character. The bread-fruit tree not only supplies food, but cloth can be made from the inner bark, and the timber can be employed in boat-building and for dwellings. The male catkins can be used for tinder, and the viscid, milky juice as bird lime."—*N. Y. Mail and Express.*

FORMING A TREE-TOP.

A Simple Arrangement for Bringing the Limbs in Proper Position.

It is of the utmost importance that young trees start out with a well-formed top. They are to stand as monuments of the cultivator's work, perhaps for centuries after his hands have ceased to toil. They may be living green memorials of work well done, or unsightly objects of man's neglect and abuse. Their usefulness depends altogether upon this early training. Low, broad tops are especially desirable, and they very seldom attain them, unless trained with this object in view. Until young trees are finally placed in the orchard, the treatment and way of handling tends to draw the limbs up near the trunk, and unless this is counteracted, they assume an almost vertical growth, giving the tree a narrow and contracted appearance. Such trees are usually unfruitful, and not at all convenient for gathering the fruit. Close contact and rapid growth causes the limbs to grow up, and when removed they are tied in the smallest possible bundle and drawn together in a little knot at the top. Perhaps after remaining there for a week or two they are untied and buried for the winter, the tops being pressed together unnaturally for five or six months. After all this perversion some even claim that any after-training is unnecesary and injurious as they will naturally take that form best adapted to their location and condition. If the form had not been artificially molded, we could more readily allow nature to execute her own designs; but when nature's functions are usurped, we must carry on the work to completion; the contracted top must be brought back into natural shape, if we would have a thoroughly fruitful tree. In most cases the trees as we receive them from the nursery are so deformed in shape so far as the branches are concerned that the trunk is not at all protected by the narrow top, but is left exposed to wind and sun, which work such havoc in the alternating weather of our Northern winters. An arrangement may be made with but little trouble or expense for bringing the limbs into proper position. A frame may be made by driving four posts three feet apart at the ground and five at the top, their height corresponding to that of the tree. Cross strips can be cut from battin stuff or any odd pieces on hand. These should be nailed firmly to the posts; one row around will do, but two will add to the strength of the frame and make it a better protection for the young trees against young animals. Tarred rope or cord may be used for tying the limbs down to the cross pieces. Broad strips of cloth are best to attach to attach to the limbs, that the bark may not be impaired or the growth contracted. Let the limbs be drawn down gradually, a little at a time, through the growing season.—*W. D. Boynton, in Western Plowman.*

CASTING A HOROSCOPE.

How the Astrologers of Old Conducted Their Occult Calculations.

The general idea in casting a horoscope was that the first hour of each day was presided over by the heavenly body that belonged to that day, as set forth in the French names for the days of the week, viz.: The sun for Sunday, the moon for Monday, Mars for Mardi (Tuesday), Mercury for Mercredi (Wednesday), Jupiter for Jeudi (Thursday), Venus for Vendredi (Friday), and Saturn for Samedi (Saturday). The second hour of the day belonged to the second in this order, and so on, repeating these seven deities as often as was necessary until the birth-hour was reached.

If, therefore, we wish to cast the horoscope of a child born at nine a. m. on March 2, 1880, we observe first that the day was Tuesday, and that the sun rose on that day at 6:34. The first hour, then, 6:34 to 7:34, belongs to Mars; the second, 7:34 to 8:34, to Mercury; the third, 8:34 to 9:34, to Jove, and the child, being born under the influence of Jove, will necessarily have a jovial disposition.

A more extended and laborious casting of the horoscope consists in calculating backwards to find the exact position of the planets at the hour of birth, and what their relative influence might thus have been upon each other. The heavens being regularly divided into sections, if Saturn should be found in the house (section) of Jupiter, his saturnine influence would of course qualify the jovial influence of the lord of that house.—*Medical Classics.*

PENSION-CRAZED WOMEN.

Peculiar Persons Who Imagine They Have Claims on the Government.

Almost any day persons, a majority of whom are women, may be seen flocking to the clerk's office of the United States District Court to make oath to application for pensions. Some of the number are regular and periodical visitors, and have become known to the officials as pension cranks. "Their mania is pensions," said an official. "They present no evidence on which to frame an application to the Department at Washington, but are filled with the idea that the Government owes them pensions, and talk wildly on the subject. We soothe them with the assurance that their money will soon be forthcoming, and they go away quietly, only to return after the lapse of a week or two and renew their demands. Several of them have been coming here at intervals for years."

One of the women who is continually haunting the Federal offices with her appeals for a pension, is known as the "one-eyed bride." A court officer told how she got the appellation. Some years ago she was drawing a pension of $8 a month as the widow of a veteran of Company D of the famous Sixty-ninth Regiment, who was killed in the war. Complaint was made that she had got another husband, and she was hauled before Commissioner Shields on a charge of perjury. The man claimed to be her husband was brought into court. The clergyman who performed the marriage ceremony identified her as the bride, but was not sure about the man being the bridegroom.

He knew the woman because of her being minus an eye. She was discharged but the testimony was deemed sufficient for the annulling of her pension. Since then she has behaved as if she were demented, and is clamorous for a pension. One of Commissioner Shields' steady visitors is a black-robed woman of middle age and quasi respectability, whose stereotyped greeting is: "I want my money." "What money, madam?" says the Commissioner. "My pension money. You have got it and I want it. Here are my papers," and the visitor begins fumbling through an ancient reticule, from which are produced a doughnut, a piece of cheese and other articles, but no papers.

"You will have to apply at Washington, madam," soothingly replies the Commissioner. "Very well, but you will hear from me again," and he always does.

General Franz Sigel, the pension agent, who pays out $4,000,000 at the Canal-street agency, says that he is often worried by women, and men also, who have delusive claims for pensions. None of them are violent, and go away after receiving assurances that Congress is considering their claims. General Sigel says that there are 24,000 pensioners on the rolls, and that the number is increasing annually in the ratio, as compared with the decrease from deaths and other causes, of 175 to 100.

The bulk of the pensions are from $1 to $8 a month. Only two instances are known by the General of the voluntary surrender of pensions. One was the case of a colored woman, who gave up her pension because of the pesterings of agents and others for a share of her income. The other instance was that of an ex-soldier, who relinquished his pension so that the money might go toward paying the Nation's debt. Mrs. General Grant and Mrs. General Hancock are the two most distinguished widows on the roll. The former is paid $5,000 a year and the latter $2,500 a year.—*N. Y. Press.*

TWO COSTLY COFFINS.

Artistic Caskets of a Most Luxurious Description Awaiting Two Bostonians.

In Boston nothing is held to be too good for a genteel corpse. Two coffins, just now in process of construction by a local manufacturer—to be used some day by the granddaughter of Baron von Wurtemburg and her husband will not cost less than five thousand dollars apiece. They are made of mahogany, seven inches thick, carved in bold relief with the most elaborate designs. All of these are in some manner emblematic of death. On the panel a spider—itself symbolic of the grim destroyer—has caught the fly at last in a web so delicately executed that you fear to breathe upon it lest it blow away. In another place a Griffin's claw supports a human skull from a fracture from which a lizard is crawling. Still another panel shows an owl in the act of capturing a mouse, and so on, the intention being to express the idea that death comes soon or late to every living thing.

On the top of each coffin is carved a coat-of-arms, and every available inch of the interior is beautified by the cutting tools. Inside these superb caskets are swung two silken hammocks for the eventual reception of the Baron's granddaughter and her spouse. They are not dead yet, be it understood. Quite otherwise. But having no end of money, they wished to die regardless of expense. A $125,000 dollar mausoleum in a local cemetery will serve as a receptacle for the costly boxes.—*Boston Budget.*

—A Liberal Offer—Western man—"Yes, I'd like to buy a nice house in New York, but I have no ready cash. Will you exchange for Western land?" Real estate agent—"Y-e-s." Western man—"Glad to hear that. How much would you want for say an eight or nine-room house on Fifth avenue?" Real estate agent—"Well, if it is good land, three or four counties will be enough."—*The Cartoon.*

AN ANCIENT TRADE.

Old Testament References to Carpenters and Their Work.

Though the trade is not definitely mentioned in Scripture prior to the time of Noah, yet it is clear that carpentering work had been affected centuries before. Noah could not have constructed the Ark of gopher wood and made it so correct as to dimensions; he could not have joined the pieces together, he could not have formed a window and door such as would open and close without some knowledge of carpentering and some acquaintance with the tools of a carpenter. Moreover, the tools must have been in existence and in use prior to his time, which, of course suggests that carpentering must have been practiced in the patriarchal times. Amid all the changes which occur in the history of varied handicrafts, it is interesting to find that the same trade implements as are used to-day were in full use in the childhood of the world. The carpenter about to begin work selects a piece of timber which he calls a plank, or a slightly thinner piece which he he terms a board. Such are the phrases used concerning the Tabernacle and the Temple. God said, "Thou shall make boards for the Tabernacle of shittim wood, ten cubits shall be the length of a board and a cubit and a half shall be the breadth of one board." Then in the first Book of Kings we find Solomon built the walls of the Temple with "boards of cedar," and covered the floor with "planks of fir." In order to shape the plank or board, the carpenter uses a saw; and such a tool was known to and employed by the workers in the early times, for we read of the "hewed stones" being "sawed with saws" for the foundation of Solomon's Temple. To fashion the wood according to the needed purpose, the carpenter must have at hand his rule, his line, his plane and his compass. And so Isaiah the prophet says: "The carpenter stretcheth out his rule; he marketh it out with a line; he fitteth it with planes and he marketh it out with a compass." Very often the carpenter has to join various pieces of wood by what he terms a mortise and tenon; that is to say, the mortise is a hollow place or socket in one piece of timber, into which the tenon or projecting piece cut to exact measurement in the other piece, is intended to fit. But those are God-used terms. The Almighty, in giving the Israelites full directions for the construction of the Tabernacle, said: "Two tenons shall there be in the board, set in order one against another; thus thou shalt make for all the boards of the Tabernacle. And thou shalt make forty sockets of silver under the twenty boards, two sockets under one board for his two tenons and two sockets under another board for his two tenons."—*Builder and Wood Worker.*

THE WAY TO SUCCEED.

Views of E. T. Jeffery, General Manager of the Illinois Central Railroad.

Average ability, perseverance, honesty, candor and other characteristics of manliness are the mainsprings to success. A boy who has learned the alphabet has the whole world open before him. He has the key to all knowledge, and with experience will acquire wisdom to guide him in mature years in all his undertakings. Perseverance will lead him to climb the ladder of learning after having mastered the twenty-six letters of the alphabet. Honesty and candor and other manly attributes will win for him the respect and confidence of all with whom he may come in contact. The influence acquired through gaining the respect and confidence of others will give him strength and power in what is right and good. Without influence thus acquired over others, and used and exerted in the right, learning, experience, wisdom, wealth and social position are of small value. The plodding, painstaking, persevering honest man of common sense will accomplish more in this world, and is of more use in it than the erratic genius.

Speaking specifically of success in business as separate and distinct from all other successes, the causes are economy, thrift, close attention to details, thorough and comprehensive understanding and knowledge of the business engaged in, discrimination in selecting business associates, and the acquiring and holding of the confidence of the business community.

Failure in business, like failure in every thing else, springs from shiftlessness, inattention, luxurious habits, and a desire to make money too rapidly, and the taking of chances in consequence thereof; mistakes in the selection of business associates and the failure to acquire the confidence of those upon whom the business is dependent for support. The love of money-making leads many to assume large risks in order that they may acquire large gains. The risk of losing in such cases is usually greater than the chance of making money. Whenever the old, well established principles of conducting business are departed from, failure is more imminent than success. An habitual violation of the old-time maxims: "A penny saved is a penny earned;" "Buy when others must sell, and sell when others must buy;" "Purchase only that for what you can pay," and others similar in tone, leads to disaster.

A man might talk a week on the subject, and then not exhaust it.—*Chicago Journal.*

—The average yearly income of the working woman of Boston is $260.6[illegible], and her average expenses are reckoned at $261.30.