

Misused Proverbs.

"People like to be deceived." How often we hear this! Perhaps they do, but what kind of people are they? They must be peculiar, since they are never the people we meet. Everybody will bear witness that his or her acquaintances hate to be and are angry at being deceived. They that are fond of deception are plainly those unknown, abstract folk, who are sure to be punished for the sins we commit, and whom we love to regard metaphorically as the victims of vaguely-related justice.

The trite aphorism in its truth or falsehood is of small consequence. Its mischief is in its instigation to deceive. Most of us have sufficient tendency in that direction without any verbal stimulant or honeyed sophistry. The phrase is a trick put upon us wherewith to trick our fellows. It is a cunning device to mollify our consciences, doing wrong. Not merely this, it prompts as a benevolent warning that is manifestly a meanness on our part; and we are so willing to appear duped when we are not—our faults being in question—that we appeal to maxims to prove the unprovable. If the conscience man, a timely proverb is hunted up to draw out the sting. The sting may stick; but the prescription is paraded, and the cure is inferred. "A little learning is a dangerous thing." Thousands echo this without remembering or knowing that it is a line of Pope, probably made with no other intent than to fit the corresponding rhyme of the couplet. It has become an aphorism, a proverb, because it has a taking air and sounds well—reason enough for the currency of half our popular sayings. A little learning may be dangerous, but it is far better than no learning, which is ignorance. The corollary is, that ignorance is comparatively free from peril, which is ten times as false as the original proposition.

The greatest fallacy of this and many maxims is in the necessary inference that is drawn. Their greatest meanness lies in their completeness, and in the fact that they are generally accepted as complete. Any half-truth, or partial falsehood, if felicitously expressed and aptly repeated, has fivefold the weight in controversy or conversation than a whole truth awkwardly worded has. He who could make the proverbs of a nation would possess more influence than he who should write its history or frame its laws. They have defined the wit of one and the wisdom of many. They are often the fallacy of one and the inability to detect it of the multitude.

Proverbs depend not for popularity upon wisdom, but upon the art of putting them. The farther they are removed from obvious truth, if they are adroitly couched, the more likely they are to be accepted. A piece of ill-nature is prone to preserve itself, and render them appetizing to the public palate. We like to repeat what we know is false when the falsehood is glossed by the embalming epigram, the consciousness that the thing has been said before freeing us from accountability for its promulgation.

Handily a maxims proverb exists in our own or any other language that may not be taken to pieces before its atom of truth, if any, can be found. The proverbs of the French and Spanish are the wittiest and the falsest; those of the Germans and Scandinavians the dullest and the truest. No current saying, but is contradicted by another—two of a trade never agree; "Birds of a feather flock together;" "In a multitude of counselors there is safety;" "Too many cooks spoil the broth;" and so on through every variety of affirmation and denial, of inconsistency and contradiction.

All sorts of sustenance for all sorts of conduct, every kind of encouragement for every virtue and every vice, may be gathered from proverbs. Entirely devoid of argument, they are regarded and quoted as arguments; deficient of logic, they accomplish what logic cannot. Properly considered, they are helps to language, ornaments to conversation, delicate punctures for pretense, of inestimable value to society. But considered, as they usually are, as strengtheners of position, excusers of conduct, palliators of offenses, they are inestimably pernicious. They teach the same lesson and the same truth which the declaration does—that a stoutly-maintained lie is infinitely better than a poorly defended truth.—Appleton's Journal.

How to Compute Interest.

The following method of computing interest is going the rounds, and may be found a convenient method: Four per cent.—Multiply the principal by the number of days, separate the right hand figure from the product and divide by nine. Five per cent.—Multiply by number of days and divide by seventy-two. Six per cent.—Multiply by number of days, separate right hand figure and divide by six. Eight per cent.—Multiply by number of days and divide by forty. Nine per cent.—Multiply by number of days, separate right hand figure and divide by four. Ten per cent.—Multiply by number of days and divide by thirty-six. Twelve per cent.—Multiply by number of days, separate right hand figure and divide by three. Fifteen per cent.—Multiply by number of days and divide by twenty-four. Eighteen per cent.—Multiply by number of days, separate right hand figure and divide by two. Twenty per cent.—Multiply by number of days and divide by eighteen.

They have got John Chinaman in Australia and don't know what to do with him. John is a standing condemnation with the San Francisco dignitaries. They have tried cheating, mobbing, shooting, and various other innocent little expedients, with about as much effect as pop-guns have upon an army of locusts. No body has suggested an application of kindness. It would be a novel expedient, to be sure, but it might pay to try the effect of a powerful dose.—Book Island Union.

WEEKLY LIST OF PATENT LITIGATION IN PACIFIC COAST STATES. Reported officiously by C. W. M. SMITH, Patent Lawyer, 415 Montgomery Street, San Francisco. Splittoon Mat.—John Lee, S. F. Cal. Mash Attenuator.—William Paddon, S. F. Cal. Apparatus for Aging Liqueurs.—Jean B. Buzi, Oakland, Cal. Hanging or Portable Fountains.—Frank C. Shafter, S. F. Cal.

"The New Boy."

BY M. QUAD.

He made his appearance at one of the Union schools the other morning, and, arriving ahead of time, he prevented any feeling of loneliness from seizing him by locking three boys and riding the gate of his hinges. He went in with the crowd when the bell rang, and, finding no empty seat, he perched himself on the wood-box. When the children repeated the "Lord's Prayer" in concert the new boy "kept time" with his heel, and when they came to sing he argued that variety was the spice of song, and attempted to sing one of his own—one about a gentleman named Daniel Tucker, who dreamed that he was dead, and so forth. The teacher warned him to keep still, and he replied that he would not come to that school if his musical qualifications were to be overlooked. When school finally opened the teacher secured his name and began asking him questions in order to find out how he would be graded.

"Can you spell?" she asked. "What kind of spelling?" he cautiously replied. "Spell 'house,' if you please." "Frame or brick house?" he asked. "Any kind of a house." "With a mortgage on it?" "You may spell 'man' if you will," she said, giving him a severe look. "Man?" "I don't care much about spelling 'man' this morning, but I will this afternoon. I've spelled it with my eyes shut." "Do you know your alphabet?" she asked, changing the subject. "Never had any!" was the prompt reply. "Do you know anything about reading?" "I read like lightning!" he answered. She handed him a reader and said: "Let me hear you read." "Read right out loud!" "Yes." "I'm afraid it would disturb the children," he whispered. "Go on and let me hear you read." He looked carefully at the page, scowled at the words, and read: "If I was a lame boy and didn't get any peanuts in my stockings Christmas, dum my eyes! but I'd make things jump around that house next morning!"

He handed the book back and the teacher asked: "Richard, how many are three and three?" "Three and three what?" he inquired. "Anything." "It's a good deal according to what it is," he replied as he settled back. "Know that three and three cats don't make a dog?" "Did you ever study geography, Richard?" "Yes, mam." "What is geography?" "It's the world round or flat?" "Hills and hollows!" he replied. "Richard, can you write?" "Write what?" "Can you write your name?" "I could, I suppose; but I've got my name without writing it." "Who do you write a letter?" "To no one." "To any one." "Yes, I could, if I had money to pay the postage." "Well, Richard," she said, in despair, "you'll have to go into the lower room if you want to come to school here."

"I'd rather stay here." "But you can't." "I'll bet you this knife again ten cents I can." She took him by the arm to remove him, but he laid his hand on her shoulder and said in a warning voice: "Don't get me mad, now, or I'll let myself loose." She called the principal down, and as he approached the boy he commanded: "Boy, what are you doing here?" "Getting education," replied Richard. "You go right down stairs now!" continued the principal. "Well, don't sass me, for I was never here before!" replied Richard, slowly moving his legs as if he meant to get down.

The principal took him by the collar and jerked him around, got kicked on the shin and bitten in the wrist, and finally landed the young student in the walk. "Now you go home!" he shouted as he tried to recover his breath. "Am I educated?" inquired Richard. "You seem to be." "Gimme a diploma, then." "You clear out or I'll have you arrested." "Hain't I a scholar in this school no more?" "No, sir." "Who owns this school-house?" demanded the boy. "No matter—you clear out." "Will you come out in the yard where you can't hang to anything?" asked the boy. "Begone, I say!" "Don't draw no derringer on me!" warned the boy as he backed off, "nor don't think you can scare me with any of your bowie-knives!"

The principal walked in and shut the door, and after the new boy had stood there long enough to show that he wasn't afraid he turned and walked off, growling to himself. "I'll get the foreman of No. 6 to pound that feller afore he's a week older!" Hearth and Home.

This Raleigh N. C., News reports that Rev. Dr. Pritchard, of that city, referred in his Thanksgiving sermon to a conversation held some years ago between Dr. Thomas E. Skinner, formerly of Raleigh now of Georgia, and an anti-missionary. Dr. Skinner, he said, was soliciting aid for foreign missions, and applied to this gentleman, who promptly repulsed him with the reply: "I don't believe in foreign missions, and I won't give any money except to home missions. I want what'll give to benefit my neighbors."

"Well," replied Dr. Skinner, "whom do you regard as your neighbors?" "Why, those around me," replied the brother. "Do you mean those whose land joins yours?" inquired Dr. Skinner. "Yes," said Dr. Skinner, "How much land do you own?" "About 500 acres." "How far down do you own?" inquired Dr. Skinner. "Why, I never thought of it before, but I suppose I own half way through."

The Ordinance Department at the Centennial.

AMERICAN GENIUS. MOODY & SANKEY.

The mechanical arts pertaining to the science of war assigned by law to the special province of the Ordnance Department will be amply illustrated by the contribution to be made by it. In each of the three departments of the Ordnance Department, not only will the ultimate perfection reached in this country be shown, but there will also be exhibited, as far as available materials will permit, specimens illustrating the successive stages of development through which such materials have passed in arriving at their present respective stages of efficiency. This, in particular, will be observed in respect to the arming and equipping of the individual soldier—the various stages from the early days of the republic to the present time being typified by lay figures of soldiers in their correct uniforms, arms, and equipments. With the assistance of the Quartermaster's Department these figures will be prepared so as to show the individual soldier about the following era, viz: Revolutionary (1776 to 1800), War of 1812 (1812 to 1825), Mexican (1825 to 1850), present period 1875. As complimentary to the exhibit of the individual soldier of the present period, there will be shown as complete a set of gun-making machinery as is available at the available duplicate machines at the national armory at Springfield will permit. The machinery will comprise among it the various machines which enabled the United States national armories to become the first to produce arms interchangeable in their parts, a feature since deemed to great economic advantage by all nations advanced in mechanical skill, not only for the construction of firearms, but also in the manufacture of the numerous labor-saving machines, the introduction of which has given so marked an impulse to the progress of civilization during the past few decades. All the machines will be supplied with tools and fixtures for performing the principal operations in the manufacture of the modern Springfield rifle, and will be provided with different sets of fixtures, to be changed from day to day, so that the individual components created upon can be used many times in successive stages of the work. They will be run by men from the National Armory, who will be selected for their mechanical skill and their ability to explain their machines to passers-by, and will, in consideration, during the past few decades. All the machines will be supplied with tools and fixtures for performing the principal operations in the manufacture of the modern Springfield rifle, and will be provided with different sets of fixtures, to be changed from day to day, so that the individual components created upon can be used many times in successive stages of the work. They will be run by men from the National Armory, who will be selected for their mechanical skill and their ability to explain their machines to passers-by, and will, in consideration, during the past few decades. 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