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DUTCH MASTERPIECES

"LEARN ONE THING EVERY DAY"



No. 5. "THE CHRISTENING." BY JAN STEEN.
Copyright, 1913, by The Associated Newspaper School, Inc.

IT WAS Jan Steen's mission to paint human life in a spirit of toleration, emphasized by keen satire. "He keeps on friendly terms with the devil even while painting the cloven hoof." His father was a brewer in Leyden, where Jan was born in 1626. When he was 18 he went to Haarlem, where he studied under Jan van Goyen and married his daughter. When he was 41 he went into the brewery business at Delft, but failed, and his pictures were seized and sold because of a debt of four dollars he owed to an apothecary. He returned to Leyden and opened a tavern. He died at Leyden at the age of 53.

The earliest biographers of Jan Steen represent him as a sort of Falstaff among artists, leading a rollicking, drunken life. More recent effort has been made to show that he led a sober, industrious life, that he was a sort of Hogart, who painted to inculcate moral lessons. But his pictures seem to bear out the former judgment. Jan's impish humor is shown in many ways—in his life and art. The following story is characteristic:

"The stern old pastor of Leyden sat near him by the hearth, and delivered a lengthy discourse concerning his jovial life, unchristian conduct, his love of drinking, his disorderly domestic affairs, his obdurate safety, and Jan listened quietly for two hours, and betrayed not the slightest impatience at the lengthy sermon. Only once he broke in with the words: 'Yes Dominie, that light is far better; yes, Dominie, I beg of you to draw your stool a little nearer the fire so that the flame may cast its red gleam over your whole face and leave the rest of the figure in shade.'"

"The Dominie stood up wrathful and departed. But Jan seized his palette and painted the stern of man just as in that sermon on vice he had unconsciously furnished a model. The picture is excellent. In his art Jan satirized even his very excellent wife.

"As I think, his wife reproached him far too often about drinking too much, for in the picture which represents the bean-feast, where Jan and his family are sitting at table we see his wife with a large jar of wine in her hand and eyes beaming like a Baccante's. I am convinced, however, that the good lad never indulged in too much wine only the rogue wanted us to believe that it was his wife, and not he, who was too fond of drinking. That is why he laughs so joyously out of the picture."

There isn't any question about Jan Steen's greatness as a painter nor his versatility. He painted chemists in their laboratories, doctors at the bedside of their patients, card parties, marriage feasts, even religious subjects. He had a special gift for painting children. While his work was full of humor it is characterized by a remarkable intellectual quality. For a joyous re-creator he appears to have been very industrious, for nearly 90 of his works have been listed in catalogues.

Every day a different human interest story will appear in The Times. You can get a beautiful large reproduction of this picture with five others, equally attractive, 7 by 9 1/2 inches in size, with the week's "Mentor." In "The Mentor" a well known authority covers the subject of the pictures and stories of the week. Readers of The Time and "The Mentor" will know Art, Literature, History, Science, and Travel, and own exquisite picture on sale at The Times office. Price ten cents. Write today to The Times for booklet explaining The Associated Newspaper School plan.

DIVORCE AND PUBLICITY.

By Dr. Frank Crane.

MRS. SCOTT, in England, had been found guilty of contempt of court by the Court of Appeals for having circulated among her friends some of the report of the case heard "in camera," in which she had been charged with infidelity, but vindicated.

She appealed to the highest court, which consists of the House of Lords. Here the Lord Chancellor rendered judgment reversing the decision of the Court of Appeals, and made this significant statement:

"Every court of justice in the land is open to every subject of the King, and a court has no power to sit otherwise than with open doors."

This raises the question as to the advisability of publishing the proceedings in divorce cases. There can be no doubt that such news matter in a newspaper is prurient and unpleasant, and that its effect upon the reading public is, to a degree, harmful. It is a common thing to hear expressions of condemnation regarding newspapers for lending their columns to such offensive matter.

But there is another side to the case. It is this: That the real punishment which the social sinners dread is not the penalty adjudged by the court, but the publicity caused by the public press. He does not mind so much paying his fine and alimony, particularly if he is rich, and it is the affairs of the rich that the reporters are fondest of exploiting and readers are most eager to follow.

After all, ours is a government by public opinion. Say what we will, it is the printed word and not the judge before whom all tremble who value their reputations. The powerful of fender with his skilled lawyers is not alarmed at the prospect of a legal trial; it is the terrible newspaper that gives him that gone feeling.

Supreme Court Justice Ford says: "Severance of the marriage tie concerns the well-being of society as deeply as criminal prosecutions, and secrecy is as objectionable in the one case as in the other. Publicity in judicial proceedings should be preserved as far as practicable."

Justice Greenbaum: "For my part I should like to see every divorce action tried in open court."

Justice Guy: "In my judgment everything which occurs in court should be open to public hearing. The fact that an action for divorce is pending should be given the widest publicity to prevent fraud and injury to those who are innocent. I do not think, however, that the loathsome details—more humiliating generally to the innocent than guilty—should be published. This, however, is more properly within the wise discretion of publishers of newspapers than within the control of courts."

To the credit of metropolitan journals, with few exceptions, it must be said that, disgusting as are the bare facts in the case that are printed, the facts unprinted, the facts they suppress from a sense of public decency, are far more appalling.

Those who condemn newspapers, therefore, for their own accounts of domestic scandal, should think twice and reflect that it is the very medicine of publicity that most restrains divorce. It is bitter medicine, but effective.

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WITH THE TOAST AND THE TEA

GOOD EVENING

No fault of others can justify our fall. Others may, indeed often do, place us in the terrible alternative of being heroes or brutes, angels or demons. But when it is so a man must face the alternative. . . . As his trial is more severe, so must he be more brave. As his difficulties increase, so must he be more staunch.

GOOD COUNSEL

Little children, always be kind to everything you see. Do not kick the table's legs, don't beat unoffending eggs.

Do not mischievously try to poke things in a needle's eye; Nor guilty by such a fault As to pinch the table salt.

Do not pull a tea pot's nose. Don't ask bread what time it rose. Little pitchers' ears don't tweek Nor smack the apple's rosy cheek.

But remember it is right To all things to be polite; Let the Fay scales have their weigh, Wish the calendar good day.

Close the clock upon its face, Return the arm-chair's fond embrace, Greet the sieve in merry strain, Ask the window how's its pane?

If you learn to show such traits To your dumb inani-mates, Forward your playmates then you'll find You've an amiable mind.

An eastern doctor declares that 82 per cent of women are knockneed. Like most other folks, doctors pay no much attention to the knocking going on.

"Seek and ye shall find," but not necessarily the political office desired.

Every dog has his day, and every rooster takes the morning for his very own.

Cheap people are always looking for something cheaper than themselves.

When I think of the towel, the old-fashioned towel, that used to hang up by the printing-house door, I think that nobody in these days of shoddy can hammer iron to wear as it wore. The tramp who abused it, the devil who used it, the make-up and foreman, the editor (poor man), each rubbed some grime off while they put a heap on. In, over and under, 'twas blacker than 'bunder, 'twas harder than poverty 'ougher than sin; from the roller unspended, it was never bended, and it flapped on the wall like a banner of tin. It grew thicker and rougher, and harder and tougher, and lally put on an inkier hue, until one windy morning, without any warning, it fell to the floor and was broken in two.—Burdette.

DAILY RIDDLES.

Questions.

1. What girl would make anyone's eye grow larger?
2. What becomes shorter when it's added to?
3. What does every girl look for and hope she won't find?
4. How did the butcher's boy feel when he dropped the calf's heart?
5. Behold to clutch and leave a certain rough surfaced instrument.

Answers.

1. Belle Adonna.
2. Short.
3. A hole in her stocking.
4. Downhearted.
5. Grasp, rasp.

SONGS OF FLYTIME.

To Fly the Flies.

To fly the flies around, boys, We can't refuse, we shan't refuse; For flies will e'er abound, boys, Where there is boozie, so fair is boozie.

For thick as stars that spangle Yon azure skies, the thirsty guys Will come, with legs a-tangle. Those boozie guys, the busy flies, So swat 'em all for fair, boys. The plague forestall, or in the fall There'll be a million there, boys, So swat 'em all, O swat 'em all!

The fly's a terror holy, And hard to beat; tho' seeming neat. It is his object solely To clean his feet upon our meat; And wildly spread diseases All up and down around the town, Wherever Satan pleases; Then belt 'em down, O welt 'em down.

So swat 'em all for fair boys, In parlor, hall and stable stall; And hit 'em fair and square, boys, So swat 'em all, O swat 'em all!

When flies annoy you sadly, Don't fuss and swear; don't rip and tear; But get your swatter gladly, And take good care to swat your share.

There's joy in this, so try it, And exercise, as I surmise, You'll have, you can't deny it, In swatting flies, in potting flies, So swat 'em all for fair, boys, Both short and tall, get up and man!

The flies; and never spare, boys, So swat 'em all, O SWAT 'em all! —Thomas Moore Knott.

HOW TO TELL FRESH EGGS.

It is claimed that a freshly laid egg placed in a bucket of water will sink to the bottom; one day old will sink nearly to the bottom; two days old about half way up; three days old will float quite to the top; four days old will just touch the top; five and six days old will rise a little above the top, rising a little each day as it grows older.