

UNDER THE H'ARTHSTANE.

"Brother, you bear your sorrow... With patience that passeth praise... The loss of worldly possessions... Just at your later days... How do you bear it?"

"Why Don't They Propose?" That is the problem which is agitating large numbers of young women. "I don't know," replied one pretty girl to whom I propounded the conundrum.

Characteristic Even in Her Dreams. A lady who is known to be an extremist in many of her views gravely told the following dream over the coffee table the other morning to the great amusement of her husband and some friends.

Do Women or Fashions Change? In an apothecary's window in New York is a heap of the vinaigrettes that were in use four or more years ago. They are of cut glass, from twelve to fourteen inches long, an inch thick, and of the weight of a policeman's night stick.

Old Cities of Europe Changing. Said a woman returned from a trip abroad, which was by no means her first: "I have discovered that the historic monotony of even European life can change. When I first saw Ghent, ten or a dozen years ago, it was a picturesque walled city; now I find that much of its wall has gone into its fine quays. So with Bruges, which all guide books used to delight to remind you had not had a house built within its limits for an extraordinary length of time—a hundred and fifty years at least. I was there recently to discover some marked changes—some almost modern houses and others altered in a manner which has done away with a degree of their delicious antiquity."

Unflammable Dresses and Woodwork. If the landress would add to her preparation of starch a solution of the phosphate of ammonia (about four ounces to the quart of water) before dipping curtains, underclothing and dresses therein, and drying them, she will render them unflammable. If in opera houses or theaters the curtains, gies, and even the woodwork are impregnated with this phosphate of ammonia they will be proof against catching fire; they will only char when flame is applied to them.

Woden, from whom we have the name Wednesday, was a prince of high standing among the Saxons. His image was prayed for victory. On the third day after each succeeding sun worship the old Saxons spent hours invoking the blessings of Woden.

SOFT SOAP AND HARD.

The Elegance of a Bowery Fakir Is Potent with an East Side Audience. A street fakir of the finest type stood at the corner of the Bowery and a cross street, and addressed the attentive throng with all the rhetorical flourish of a United States senator.

"I was once a poor boy," said he, "with only two cents in my pocket, and I found myself here in this great city without a home and without a friend. May the fates preserve you from any such hardships as I saw, dear gentlemen! Barefooted, hungry, sleeping on the cold ground under the unsympathetic stars, eating the crumbs thrown to me from the tables of the rich, I was indeed a blighted being. I did my best to get employment, but there was no room for me, and I began to contemplate suicide. That was cowardly of me, gentlemen, I admit, but I had been made a coward by my privations. I was not myself, and my suicidal purpose was the mad despair of a half insane youth. Yes, I was determined to commit suicide, and was starting in search of a secluded dock where I could plunge into the cruel river without the danger of being rescued, when a piece of good fortune befel me which changed the whole course of my life. As I was passing along the Bowery my attention was attracted by the voice of a gentleman who stood on the corner just above where I am standing now. He had a small black bag with him, very similar to the one I am carrying, and in this bag were small cakes of soap, which the gentleman was offering for sale at twenty-five cents a cake.

"Now, I did not much stand in need of soap at just that moment, notwithstanding the very thorough bath I was about to give myself, and I should not have stopped to listen to that gentleman had I not perceived that he was offering a very remarkable inducement to the public to buy his wares. Will you believe it, gentlemen, in many of the packages of soap contained in that bag were wrapped greenbacks ranging from the one to the five dollar denomination! I was seized with an immense longing to try my luck in that soap lottery. Providence was watching me at that moment. The soap vender looked down and saw my sad face and tattered garments.

"There is a lad," said he, "whom I should like to help. He will be permitted to draw a cake of soap from this bag without charge, and we shall see what his fortune will be." "I drew, gentlemen, as I was directed, and, joy of joys! there was a five dollar bill in my cake of soap. A year later I had \$1,000 in the bank, and now I am proud to say life is a perpetual delight. So much do I feel my indebtedness toward the gentleman who saved me that I, too, have taken up the philanthropic work of distributing bank bills among the needy. And I always make it a practice to precede my sales by allowing some poor, ragged boy in my audience to draw a cake of soap from the bag free of charge.

"All there is a most unhappy face. My boy, select a cake of soap from the bag. It will cost you nothing!" The poor, miserable lad thus impudently did as he was directed, and as the crowd watched him unfold the paper wrapper it was seen that a five dollar bill was inside. "You see," exclaimed the fakir, unwrapping several of the cakes to display the money within, and then throwing them back into the bag, "you can scarcely help drawing a prize." Instantly there was a rush in the soap business. As fast as the fakir could make change coins fluttered into his hands. The excitement continued for a number of minutes, and then some one in the crowd began to complain that no prizes were turning up. It was then that the fakir discovered a policeman approaching, and hastily shutting his bag he hurried down the cross street, and turning sharply to the right after going a short distance, disappeared, and in a few minutes was joined by the ragged boy who had been allowed to draw the five dollar prize. His profits on the soap must have been fully \$10.—New York Sun.

An Expert Opinion. The New York State Meter inspector's deputy was asked this question the other day: "Could a gas company make meters record more than was necessary to be consumed by tenants by putting on an increased pressure through the pipes?" The inspector replied: "Of course, an increased pressure will make more gas go through the meters than is necessary for the lights. The companies have to put on a lot of pressure about 6 o'clock in the evening when everybody is lighting up. That is what makes the gas jump and flare so. All the gas coming through the pipes is not burned, and that is where the patent governors and regulators step in.

But the consumer can regulate that just as well without a governor by turning the gas partially off at his meter until he gets a stream just about adequate to the number of lights he uses. It makes the light steady, and saves about 30 to 35 per cent. of gas to the consumer. I have done it for many years, and found it to work just about as well as a patent governor."

Just Think Over It. Who has not at some period of his existence puzzled his brain over this query: If a goose weighs ten pounds and half its own weight, what is the weight of the goose? Many persons have undoubtedly been tempted to answer fifteen pounds at once, when the correct answer, of course, is twenty pounds, as they discover after giving the problem a little thought.—New York Tribune.

The largest county in the United States is Yavapai county, A. T., which has an area of almost 30,000 square miles. Nine states of the Union are each smaller than this one county. It is larger than the whole of West Virginia, and almost as large as South Carolina.



How to Clean Furniture. Rub with cotton waste dipped in boiled linseed oil; then rub clean and dry with a soft flannel cloth.

How to Mend Rubber Overshoes. Rub the patch and shoe thoroughly with sharp sand paper. Smear both with liquid rubber five times, every time letting them dry. Do this once more, and before they dry apply the patch with pressure, and the shoe is mended. If liquid rubber is not obtainable dissolve small pieces of pure rubber (not vulcanized) in warm spirits of turpentine to the consistency of sirup.

How to Make Coffee. There are numberless recipes for making a good cup of coffee, but perhaps the most delicious product of the bean can be obtained in this way: Take of freshly ground Java and Mocha, in equal parts, one ounce; pour over it sufficient cold water to thoroughly saturate the coffee; then add the white of one egg—together with the shell—and mix well together. This paste is now put into the coffee pot, and boiling water (about one quart) poured upon it. The pot is then placed over the fire, where it is allowed to boil for about half a minute, after which it is allowed to rest for five minutes. The coffee is then ready. It is clear as crystal, and the addition of a spoonful of thick cream, instead of hot milk, with sugar to the taste, makes a cup of coffee fit for the gods.

How to Prevent Cramps in the Legs. A great many persons suffer from cramps in the muscles of the leg at night time. Sometimes the pains are so severe that the leg is affected for several days afterward. A very simple preventive of this unpleasantness is to raise that part of the bed where the feet lie, so that they will rest a little higher than the head. That is all. Try it, you who are subject to nightly cramps.

How to Preserve Your Hat. Many men believe that brushing a hat wears it out and quickly destroys the nap. This is a fallacy. The dust and dirt and grease are primarily responsible for hats quickly becoming shabby. Never put on your hat without brushing it with a soft brush (whisk brooms injure it), and when you lay it aside take care also that no dust remains upon it. Attend to these simple rules and your hats will last twice as long and look respectable even when they are nearly worn out.

How to Measure the Height of a Pole. Measure the shadow it casts on level ground. Then place a staff upright in the ground, measure its length above ground and the length of its shadow. Then form the proportion: As the shadow of the staff is to its height, so is the shadow of the pole or other perpendicular object to its height.

How to Destroy Bed Bugs. Rub the joints of the bedsteads with equal parts of spirits of turpentine and kerosene oil. Where the insects are numerous the cracks of the subbase in the rooms should be treated in the same way.

How to Preserve Eggs. To each pint of water add two pints of fresh slaked lime and one pint of common salt and mix well. Fill a barrel half full with this fluid and put your eggs down in it any time after and before January. They will keep two years.

How It Feels to Drop 3,000 Feet. One of the parachute jumpers compares the sensation to that of being upset in a river. They shoot down 200 feet before they realize they are loose from the balloon. Thereafter the remainder of the descent is easy. It does not jar until the ground is struck. In fact there is less jarring to the system than if one jumped off a six foot fence.

How to Disguise the Taste of Medicine. A strong solution of extract of licorice destroys the disagreeable taste of aloes. Peppermint water disguises the nauseous taste of Epsom salts. Milk is a good abater of the bitter taste of Peruvian bark, and cloves that of senna. Castor oil cannot be tasted if beaten and thoroughly mixed with the white of an egg. Another method of covering the nauseous taste of castor or cod liver oil is to put a tablespoonful of strained orange juice in a wine glass, pour the oil into the center of the juice, then squeeze a few drops of lemon juice upon the oil and rub some of the juice on the edge of the glass.

How to Clean Feathers. Make a lather of soap and hot water and pearl ash and wash the feathers, squeezing them gently in it when lukewarm. Rinse in cold water, shaking well before, but not too near the fire. Curl by drawing each fiber over the blunt edge of a fruit knife.

How to Make Sun Cholesterol. This excellent mixture is made of tincture of capsicum, two ounces; tincture of camphor, two ounces; tincture of opium, two ounces; tincture of rhubarb, two ounces; tincture of peppermint, two ounces. The dose is a teaspoonful in water after each evacuation of the bowels.

How the Chinese Preserve Grapes. They cut a circular piece out of a ripe pumpkin or gourd, making an aperture large enough to admit the hand. The interior is cleaned out, the ripe grapes placed inside and the cover replaced and pressed in firmly. The pumpkins are then put in a cool place, and the grapes retain their freshness for a long time. Careful selection of the pumpkin is requisite, the common field pumpkin, however, being well adapted for the purpose.

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