

"DESERVING POOR."

Dives and I on crowded street
As aged beggar chance to meet
Dives passed by with sterile frown
And said, to argue conscience down
"I treat all such with rule unswerving,
How can one know when they're deserving?"
"You're right," I cried, with nodding head
(I toll for Dives for his bread)
But since the mind is heaven born,
And earthly fetters hold in scorn,
I thought, "That wretch and many more
Starve through those words, 'Deserving poor.'"
And then, because I haply knew
How Dives rich and richer grew,
I sneered (in thought), "Such careful aims,
Such nice, discriminating quains,
Should be observed in rule unswerving
But by the rich who are deserving."
—George Horton in Century.

True Gentlemen.

When a working girl allows the faithful performance of her work to fall behind her devotion to dress she has used the first coupon on her ticket to destruction. The hand of Providence may interpose before the brakeman calls the last station, but nothing short of such intervention can save her. If you must come to this big city to earn your living seek first the companionship of Christian people. By Christian people I do not mean church members necessarily, but all such as have lofty standards and strive to live up to them. Earnest, clean hearted, pure lived people are the best Christian people and make the best comrades. Never be ashamed to stand for your principles.

If you have been brought up to say your prayers before retiring do not be turned from the practice by the laughter of fools. Be as brave as the little hero in "Tom Brown's Schooldays," who dared to stand by his colors in the face of a swarm of tormenting boys. Be courteous always; a gentleman can always be detected under shabby clothes, and a lady through the stress of ever so grewsome poverty by the well bred affability of their manners. The shop girl who cultivates a languid and indifferent style of deportment would never be a lady of the right stamp although you hung every hair of her head with diamonds.—Chicago Herald.

Nations Once Great.

From old writings many curious facts are obtained. Among other things it would seem that Korea, today more dead than alive, was at one time a formidable power, military and naval; that the Japanese at long intervals changed from peaceable neighbors into marauders and freebooters worthy of Sir Walter Raleigh, Frobisher and Drake; that Manipur, Assam, Burmah and Tonquin at various epochs were strong belligerent communities in the far east; that Cambodia and Cochin China were populous, rich and warlike civilizations, where now the tiger prowls and the serpent glides; that the island of Ceylon was the scene of brilliant and brave dynasties, which followed one another like the waves on the shore, and at times the Tartar nomads who live to the north, northeast and west of Asia were gathered into great armies and nations by unknown Amerindians and Zenghis Khans.—Philadelphia Times.

Reciting the Liturgy.

When Prince George of Wales took command of the gunboat Thrush he also took upon himself the usual duty of conducting the religious service on the vessel on Sunday mornings. Everything went on well apparently, but at the end of about four weeks some one suggested to the prince that he was not reciting the liturgy according to Cranmer, although the ship's company was highly flattered by his rendering. He had been reciting fervently and humbly, "We have done those things that we ought to have done, and have left undone those things which we ought not to have done," and the crew had been accepting his statement of the case and feeling good.—San Francisco Argonaut.

Simplify.

Simplify! That is the secret. Simplify in household service and elucidate the domestic problem. Simplify in food, and solve the servant problem. Simplify in weddings, and re-establish the old fashioned practice of marrying and giving in marriage. Simplify in what you eat, and banish dyspepsia. Simplify in protection, and abjure colds. Bang out your double windows, unclog your steam pipes, and go back to airy houses and open fireplaces, and bid farewell forever to contagious diseases.—Chicago Herald.

Blessings Easily Bestowed.

To read to the dear ones who are weak or ill, to the sufferers in hospitals and to aid those whose eyes are failing as the long shadows of life's afternoon cloud their brightness—these are blessings which we can easily bestow and by which we are ourselves enriched.—Harper's Bazar.

Ready for the Fray.

"I see you obey military orders," he said as he looked admiringly at her delicate cheek.
"What do you mean?" she asked, wondering.
"You keep your powder dry," he answered with sublime audacity.—Detroit Free Press.

Apple seeds are used in the manufacture of prussic acid. A Vermont farmer picks them from his cider press and sells them to a chemist. Out of 140 bushels of apples he gets about one bushel of seeds.

In the manufacture of agricultural implements, it is estimated that new machinery in the last fifteen or twenty years has displaced fully 50 per cent. of muscular labor formerly employed.

Paper properly treated with chemicals and then subjected to great pressure is being used for flooring material and for general use in building as a fire resisting substance.

A little girl whose attention was called to the fact that she had forgotten to say grace before beginning her meal shut her eyes meekly and said, "Excuse me, Amen."

JOHN JACOB ASTOR.

HOW THE HEAD OF A GREAT FAMILY SECURED HIS CAPITAL.

The Butcher Brother of the Great Fur Trader Gave the Pioneer of the West \$500 to Be Rid of a Poor Relative—A Princely Fortune Has Been Made Since.

Let me step back a hundred years and tell you about the Astors. I may tell you some things you did not know. When John Jacob Astor worked his way down the Rhine to the sea and shipped to England away from his slothful, lazy innkeeping father, he stopped in London and went to work for his brother, a successful manufacturer of flutes and pianos, and unless I am very much mistaken, junior partner in what is still the greatest piano-making house in England, though there are no Astors in it now.

John Jacob was on his way to America, and only went to England to stop awhile and learn English—a feat which he had not accomplished when he died. When he reached New York city, not very long after the close of the Revolutionary war, he had heard about the fur business and had determined to embark in it. It does not matter whether he peddled a little before that any more than it matters whether Jay Gould sold rat traps before he became a railroad operator.

In time John Jacob apprenticed himself to a fur dealer and learned all the tricks and secrets of the business. But in the meantime he had come to this city for the same reason he had gone to London—he had a brother here. This brother was Henry Astor, and in those days nobody questioned which would be the more successful of the two, for Henry was a mighty and a cunning man in business.

He was a butcher in the Bowery and lived above his store there. He had married a chubby, rosy German woman, of whom he used to boast, "She was der pootiest gal by der Bowery."

THE TWO BROTHERS.

Now the Bowery was no ordinary street, and Henry was no ordinary butcher. The Bowery was the southern termination of the old Boston post road, and down it came the bulk of the produce of the countryside which was eaten in and shipped from New York. Among other things all the cattle came into town on that road on the hoof to be sold to the butchers. Henry knew that and so did all the other butchers, but Henry put his knowledge to practical use. He drove out of town twice a week on market days and met the cattle on the road up in the country. There he bought the best of all the steers and cornered the market. It was he who thereafter set the prices and sold to the other butchers. His young brother, John Jacob, was just as instinct with the speculative spirit, but he had no money to buy with and so he used to borrow of Henry.

Henry did not like that. He distrusted his brother's shrewdness, or else he was close with his money. At any rate he loaned it to John Jacob unwillingly, and finally he met a request for a loan with a bluff "No." He said he would not be bothered any more, but this is what he would do. He would give John Jacob the sum of \$500 outright as a gift if John Jacob would sign a paper promising never to ask for the loan of another penny from that date forever. John Jacob jumped at the offer. He took the \$500, and perhaps that had more to do with the foundation of the great Astor fortune than any other sum he got in all his life.

THE SPLIT IN THE FAMILY.

I have heard that there are some Astors descended from Henry living up the Hudson river, and that the great and rich Astors have nothing to do with them. I do not know whether that is true or whether there are such Astors, but if it is true it is all right, for Henry unquestionably parted with the rest of the family deliberately and in cold blood when he paid that sum of money to John Jacob so as not to be bothered by his then poor relations any more.

John Jacob Astor prospered amazingly. He made millions when it was something that nobody else unconnected with royalty appeared able to do, except the Rothschilds in Europe. With those millions, made by putting the entire continent under a tax for his furs, he established not only a landed estate, but a family with a principle, with a fixed purpose.

He was of incalculable service in the development of New York, because he went to districts the city had not reached and built dwellings for persons of moderate means. He built them very well, to last as long as possible, and he rented them for a fair return, thus establishing a moderate system of rentals with all the landlords of the city.

In another generation an unfortunate split occurred, and the estate and the family have since then gone forward in two parts, much the larger part (nearly two-thirds, I believe), going to the descendants of the elder son, and the smaller part to the descendants of a second son. William Waldorf Astor now represents the bulk of the estate, and the little baby, John Jacob, is heir to the smaller part.—John Ralph in Providence Journal.

Asbestos Three Thousand Years Old.
Asbestos differs from nearly all other minerals in being fibrous and textile, dividing into fibers resembling in delicacy those of flax and silk, and can be spun and woven like any other textile fiber, giving a yarn or cloth entirely fireproof and acidproof. Although known in Egypt and elsewhere 3,000 years ago, the practical use of this material in considerable quantities has been delayed to the present age.—India Rubber World.

A Reflective Mind.

Professor Greatmind—Have you ever reflected on the mysterious wonders of electricity?
Sweet Girl—Indeed I have, and I don't say why my bangs come out of curling a thunderstorm.—Good News.

The Bambino.

In the old church of Ara Celia, near the top of the capitol steps, in the city of Rome, is a little treasury room where the sacred vestments are kept, and where, in a wonderful little repository, lies a wooden doll called the sacred bambino, representing the Holy Child Jesus. So strong is the superstition with regard to this child that in cases of illness it is sent for and taken in great state by some dignitary of the church to the bedside of sufferers who believe in its miraculous power to heal and bless. In this old church, around the altars, are the offerings of those who claim to have been healed of their infirmities by the miraculous power of this wonderful child.

Here are repetitions in wax of maimed limbs; pictures of people rescued from burning houses; of children who fell from windows, receiving no harm; of men drowning in swollen streams, saved by the sight of this little child appearing on the brink. Before the altar may always be seen a kneeling throng, for the hearts of a great many of the people have opened and taken in a love for and a faith in this wonderful little wooden doll. At times there have been rumors of the bambino having been stolen, or because of its displeasure at the sins of the people, having withdrawn itself from sight.—Harper's Bazar.

The Selection of Fruit.

Care should be exercised in the selection of fruit, as it is just as easy and as cheap to buy good fruit as the bad stock. Never buy a cat in the bag; or in other words, fruits or nuts that are placed in packages by the dealers, for the chances are against the purchaser receiving the same quality as is exposed to view. For instance, the wagon fruit peddler's profit is derived, not from the sale of short measures, but from the disposal of the bad and poor stock which he has. The peddler will search the wholesale market through for a damaged stock of grapes or bananas which he can purchase cheap. After an hour or two of mysterious work he has his wagon or handcart properly arranged for appearance on the public thoroughfares.

The first customers are almost sure to find themselves cheated after examining their purchases on their arrival at home. The good stock is held to attract the late trade. If you watch a peanut peddler just after he has located on a corner for business you will see him with a paper sack in hand picking out the discolored nuts, which will go to the first customers, and so it is with all hawksters. Pick your own goods and then you are sure not to be cheated.—Interview in St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Humor from the Isle of Man.

In the Isle of Man, as in Scotland, much of the humor depends upon odd turns of expression. "If ever I get to heaven pass'n' (parson), said an old parish clerk, "it'll be under your patronage." The notion here is funny enough, giving a vivid glimpse of the future state as depicted by a man who had seldom been outside his own parish. Or the humor may consist merely in the unexpected use of some particular word.

A queer old character who had been given a new muffler and kept it carefully wrapped up in paper instead of using it, replied to all remonstrances, "I'm not goin' far to make a hack of it at all." Upon another occasion he remarked to a visitor, who had been much benefited in health by a residence in the island, "You iss a much batter gentleman now till you wass when you came," with which may be compared the courtly minister's "who putteth her ladyship's trust in thee."—London Saturday Review.

The Neptune's Head.

Above a butcher's stall on the west side of prosaic Washington market stands a peculiar relic. It is a beautifully carved idyllic head of Neptune, and once upon a time it graced the prow of some long gone clipper. Covered with grime and festooned with cobwebs, it looks down from its perch with the same graven smile with which it once met tempest and calm alike. It is cut from a block of English oak, and the craftsman who fashioned it was a master hand, for it has the breadth of treatment and firmness of detail of an antique Grecian bust. Properly mounted it would make a most effective ornament for a mantelpiece or center table, and in the hands of a curiosity collector who knows his business would undoubtedly bring a stiff price.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

Value of Cold Sponging.

Acustom yourself to the use of sponging with cold water every morning on first getting out of bed. It should be followed by a good deal of rubbing with a wet towel. This has considerable effect in giving tone to the skin and maintaining a proper action in it, and thus proves a safeguard to the injurious influence of cold and sudden changes of temperature.

Sir Ashley Cooper, the celebrated English physician, said: "The methods by which I have preserved my own health are temperance, early rising and sponging the body with cold water immediately after getting out of bed, a practice which I have adopted for thirty years without ever having taken cold."—Newport Observer.

Health of the Survivors of the War.

While the health of some men has been improved by their military service during the war, even to the preservation of lives that would have been lost had the owners remained exclusively in civil life, the health of the average veteran has been deteriorated by his service, and that he suffers more from illness and has a somewhat less expectation of life than other men of his age. This conclusion, based as it is upon an examination of the census data for a small part of the country, is a provisional one only.—Dr. John S. Billings in Forum.

The usual gentle Emerson can be cynical sometimes. This sentence of his is bitter enough for Timon: "Most men and most women are merely one couple more."

Characteristics of Hungarian Women.

The Hungarian woman likes to eat well, takes naturally to swimming, dancing, gymnastics, and has not the least objection to being admired. Although not specially inclined to sentimental effusiveness, in one sense of the term, she may, in moments of love and passion, give a profoundly stirring expression to her emotions; she may clothe her sentiment in words of enrapturing naivete, drawn from the depths of the national temperament, if it does not find utterance in the all expressive "jai," whispered in the acme of ecstasy, accompanied by an ineffably blissful glance. This is true of the so called girls of the people no less than of women of the higher classes, for grace and beauty know no difference between high and low, and often bestow upon a poor, barefooted, short skirted peasant girl (with her face in a kerchief tied under the chin) the same enchanting form, the same magically attractive glance, as upon her more favored sister.—Wilhelm Singer in Harper's.

The Origin of a Famous Tree.

In the famous West Philadelphia Bartram Botanical gardens there flourishes an enormous Florida swamp cedar, the trunk of which is fully six feet in diameter. This tree was planted under very peculiar circumstances, well worthy of narration. One day, many years ago, the great Bartram was riding through the state of marshes and alligators, and the beast he bestrode was a very Rocinante. So, to accelerate his journey, he dismounted at a neighboring swamp and cut a switch, with which he belabored to good effect the lean and hungry steed. The switch did such good service upon this occasion that he preserved it, and upon his return to Philadelphia planted it in his garden, and the huge swamp cedar is the switch.

Women.

The common afflictions of women are sick headaches, indigestion and nervous troubles. They arise largely from stomach disorders. As Joy's Vegetable Sarsaparilla is the only bowel regulating preparation, you can see why it is more effective than any other Sarsaparilla in these troubles. It is daily relieving hundreds. The action is mild, direct and effective. We have scores of letters from grateful women.

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 - Sick headaches, Mrs. M. B. Price, 16 Prospect Place, S. E.
 - Sick headaches, Mrs. M. Fowler, 27 1/2 Ellis St., S. E.
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A Severe Law.

The English people look more closely to the genuineness of the staples than we do. In fact, they have a law under which they make seizures and destroy adulterated products that are not what they are represented to be. Under this statute thousands of pounds of tea have been burned because of their wholesale adulteration.

Tea, by the way, is one of the most notoriously adulterated articles of commerce. Not since the bright, shiny green teas artificially colored, but thousands of pounds of substitutes for tea leaves are used to swell the bulk of cheap teas; ash, sloe, and willow leaves being those most commonly used. Again, sweepings from tea warehouses are colored and sold as tea. Even exhausted tea leaves gathered from the tea-houses are kept, dried, and made over and find their way into the cheap teas.

The English government attempts to stamp this out by legislation; but no tea is too poor for it; and the result is that probably the poorest teas used by any nation are those consumed in America.

Beech's Tea is presented with the guaranty that it is uncolored and unadulterated; in fact the sun-cured tea leaf pure and simple. Its purity insures superior strength, about one third less of it being required for an infusion than of the artificial teas, and its fragrance and exquisite flavor is as once apparent. It will be a revelation to you. In order that its purity and quality may be guaranteed, it is sold only in pound packages bearing this trade-mark:

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