

THE CURE FOR GOSSIP.—What is the cure for gossip? Simply culture. There is a great deal of gossip that has no malignity in it. Good natured people talk about their neighbors because they have nothing else to talk about, and for no other reason. As we write there comes to us the picture of a family of young ladies. We have seen them at home, we have met them in galleries of art, we have caught glimpses of them going from a book store, or a library with a fresh volume in their hands. When we meet them they are full of what they have seen and read. They are brimming with questions. One topic of conversation is dropped only to give place to another, in which they are interested. We have left them, after a delightful hour, stimulated and refreshed; and during the whole hour not a neighbor's garment was soiled by so much as a touch. They had something to talk about. They knew something and wanted to know more. They could listen as well as they could talk. To speak freely of a neighbor's doings and belongings would have seemed an impertinence to them, and of course, an impropriety. They had no temptation to gossip, because the doings of their neighbors formed a subject much less interesting than those which grew out of their knowledge and their culture.

And this tells the whole story. The confirmed gossip is always either malicious or ignorant. The one variety needs a change of heart and the other a change of nature. Gossip is always a personal confession either of malice or imbecility, and the young should not only shun it, but by the most thorough culture relieve themselves from all temptation to indulge in it. It is a low, frivolous, and too often a dirty pastime. There are country neighborhoods where it rages like a pest. Churches are split in pieces by it. By its neighbors are made enemies for life. In many persons it degenerates into a chronic disease which is practically incurable. Let the young cure it while they may.—[Dr Holland.

MORAL COURAGE IN DAILY LIFE.—These maxims, under the head of moral courage, are pasted on the office door of a New York merchant:

Have the courage to discharge a debt while you have the money in your pocket.

Have the courage to do without what you do not need, however much your eyes may covet it.

Have the courage to speak to a friend in a seedy coat, even though you are in company with a rich one, and richly attired.

Have the courage to speak your mind when it is necessary to do so, and hold your tongue when it is prudent that you should do so.

Have the courage to own that you are poor, and thus disarm poverty of its sting.

Have the courage to tell a man why you refuse to credit him.

Have the courage to tell a man why you will not lend him money.

Have the courage to cut the most agreeable acquaintance you have when you are convinced that he lacks principle; a friend should bear with a friend's infirmities but not with his vices.

Have courage to show respect for honesty, in whatever guise it appears, and your contempt for dishonesty and duplicity, by whomsoever exhibited.

Have the courage to wear your old clothes until you can pay for new ones.

Have the courage to prefer comfort and prosperity to fashion in all things.

Have the courage to acknowledge your ignorance, rather than to seek for knowledge under false pretenses.

Have the courage in providing an entertainment for friends, not to exceed your means.

Have the courage to insure the property in your possession, and thereby pay your debts in full.

BELKNAP AND LORD BACON.—The nearest precedent to Belknap's case in form is probably that of Francis Bacon, Lord Verulam, Viscount St. Albans, and Lord Chancellor of England, which corresponds to the mingled offices of Vice-President, Chief Justice of Equity, Cabinet Minister, Chief Private Counsellor of the Sovereign. To kill the Chancellor is treason, as to kill the Queen. Lord Bacon was the greatest of political intellects, the friend of Elizabeth and James I, a reputed author of Shakespeare, and patron of Ben. Johnson, rich, learned and noble. He had the greatest office in the land, had beaten Sir Edward Coke in rivalry, received rich presents and legacies, and married rich. Yet, giving way to voluptuous improvidence in the year 1621, he took bribes direct, to the number of 21 cases, in one £400 and another £700. Public excitement ran so high that Bacon's health failed like Belknap's spirit, and even King James was alarmed and insisted that he would plead guilty, which he did as follows: "I do plainly and ingenuously confess that I am guilty of corruption and renounce all defence. * * * I beseech your lordship to be merciful to a broken reed."

He was sentenced to pay a fine of £40,000 and go to jail, both of which penalties were remitted, but he never recovered standing again, although it was an age of presents and bribes. Bacon became so poor that he was refused beer by a nobleman near his obscure lodgings, and yet he protested that, though guilty, he was the most honest Chancellor England had known.—Guth.

As there were heroes before Agamemnon who sank into obscurity because there was no Homer to celebrate their praises, so there are other women besides Helen of Troy who must pass into record as the cause of war between powerful armies. We learn from a native African, who has come from the West Coast to lecture in this city, that a conflict which is still in progress, has been raging there for years over a lovely woman. The struggle is between two of the great tribes, the Mebbos and Garreboes. A Mebbo married a young bride, but her beauty captivated the Prince of Mebbo, who coveted her, seized her, and added her to the list of his wives. The Mebbo husband, unable to get her back, turned against his prince, left his tribe, went over to the Garreboes, and stirred them up to take revenge for his blighted love. The Garreboes were touched by his tale, sprang to arms, fell upon the Mebbos, and for nearly seven years the war over the African Helen, whom we may call Mrs. Mebbo, has been raging. It will be observed that this incident resembles that in the Iliad, in some respects, and differs from it in others. The Trojan war lasted ten years, and the Garrebo war for Mrs. Mebbo, will have lasted as long in three years more. When it is ended, Mrs. Mebbo ought to come over to this country as a lecturer.—N. Y. Sun.

The hardest working student of the age works at a time when most are asleep. M. Litte, the lexicographer, goes to bed about the hour when M. Thiers, the early rising statesman, gets up. M. Litte flourishes upon night work. He is very little the junior of M. Thiers, being seventy-four, and is quite as healthy, possibly quite as happy, and most certainly quite as wise, so far as book-learning is concerned, as the ex-President. At 28 Litte was a polyglot. He could have told a woman "I love thee" in ten languages, yet did not say this in one, but took care of his old grandmother while she lived. Afterwards he married a portionless girl. He was an entire stranger to politics. He carried a gun during the revolution of 1830, and he wrote articles during that of 1848, and he is a member of the present National Assembly, but never speaks; he prefers to be silent in twelve languages. If all the letters in his dictionary (every word of which he wrote) were put in a row, they would stretch nearly fifty miles, and this is only a portion of his works.

A proposition to abolish Lent will probably be regarded by many, even of those who do not observe the fast very strictly, as a startling one; but that is the proposition which is to be made in the Reformed Episcopal Church. At a conference held in Philadelphia, a few days since, by clergymen of that denomination, it was decided to recommend the policy of abandoning the observance to the General Standing Committee, on the ground that the indulgence in worldly pleasures before and after Lent, is increased by way of compensation for enforced abstinence during the season of fasting, and upon the further ground that uniform moderation of life is the church's great need, and that this may be better secured without Lenten observances than with them.

California will build her first iron furnace this summer, making the second one west of the Rocky Mountains. Oregon has the honor of putting up the first one on the coast. The California furnace will be built near Clipper Gap, on the line of the C. P. R., where a fine quality of magnetic ore is found in great abundance. Limestone is also found in the immediate vicinity.

Prominent and wealthy families in Springfield, Mass., have introduced the sensible custom at funerals, of dismissing friends after the service, having the burial privately at the convenience of the family. This dispenses with the large and unnecessary expenses of carriages, and might well be adopted elsewhere.

Mr. Vick says in his *Floral Guide* that ten drops of carbolic acid, to be obtained from any of our druggists, put in a pint of water, and poured on the earth in flower pots, will destroy all earth worms, which do so much damage to the plants. A trial will satisfy all of its beneficial effects.

[For the Willamette Farmer.]
LOVELY E. E. T.
Full oft I've read of maidens fair,
With pearly teeth and anubra hair,
Whose charms were so alluring
That poets made those charms enduring.

Yet in my soul's deep mirror shines
A maid, the subject of these lines,
Who every other can surpass
In grace of truth and loveliness.

The roses hide their heads in shame
At the mere mention of her name,
While fairest violets must own
That by her beauty they're outshone.

God's bow, that bends above the earth,
Could scarcely lend a tint, well worth,
To aid in grace and fascination,
This loveliest one of all creation.

To call her good, would not express
Her virtue and her worthiness,
For vices take a sudden flight—
To shun her look, seek endless night.

Oh, Lord! depending on Thy love,
May she be taught to look above,
That, in the straight and narrow way,
Her soul may never go astray.

The Dalles, Or., April 17, 1876.
A Lady on Tobacco.
ED. FARMER: Enough, and perhaps too much, has already been said on this subject, but as one who signs himself "Justice" thinks some of the ladies might write something about it, I will here give my opinion in regard to tobacco. Of course we never have taken a deal of interest in it, there being few of our own sex whom I hope would be guilty of using the filthy weed, nor does any of our family, but should they choose to do so, I suppose I should be like any other good and indulgent wife, think so long as they earned it they had a right to use it. I once thought tea and coffee very essentially conducive to health, as also in cases of debility or any derangement it was necessary to use some powerful tonic to excite mental action or revive vital energy, but by sad experience I have found out the contrary. Now, tobacco, I think, is like tea, coffee, wines, and liquors, a slow but sure destroyer of both mental and physical powers: therefore my advice would be to abandon these at once. It will be a remarkable improvement for the benefit of the rising generation, for if we are thus to continue to become slaves to frivolity of fashion in all its various forms and manners, I consider it no more wicked to commit suicide at once, for it is all the same, only the former is a more mild and slower manner. Mrs. E. P.
East Portland, Or.

A Word More.
ED. FARMER: Many of your correspondents have been trying our mental faculties with Nott's problems on the tobacco question, and now comes one, signing himself "Justice," asking us some simple questions, which I will endeavor to answer. First, he wants to know how much money a tobacco user would have at the end of ten years if he would lay by fifteen dollars a month, instead of spending that amount for tobacco. To this I would say, if the average man of Oregon would put that amount of money away every month, he would starve to death long before the ten years expired, and would have nothing. Next, he wants to know if we can prove that using tobacco is not a filthy practice. Let him first prove that it is a filthy practice, and he will hear from us. Next, he wants to know why some of the women don't write on this subject. That is simply because some of the women have more sense than to meddle with other people's business. He then winds up his piece by saying that the practice is wearing on the muscle of your wife, draining on your own health, and preparing the stomach for whiskey. Let him prove this, and I will quit the use of the weed and put the money I spend for tobacco at compound interest, and let him have the amount at the end of ten years. Yoncalla, Or. Y. N.

THE LAMBING SEASON.—J. J. Mechi writes as follows to the Agricultural Gazette, London: Lambs, newly born, are like infants, and require immediately food and warmth. How important is an assistance by cow's milk in the absence of an immediate supply by the ewe. A teaspoonful of castor oil saves many a lamb, by relieving the bowels of their first adhesive contents. I learned this from an experienced retired medical man, who treated his lambs as he would the infants. My spare sheds afford comfortable quarters for a few days to the ewes and their lambs. The first fortnight of a lamb's existence and treatment has a most material influence on its future development, especially if it is to be sold as fine fat mutton when one year old. How many calves are lost when raised by hand by giving them cold food. The warmth of mother's milk would prevent scouring and death.

During the past five years forty-two women have been murdered by men in New York city. Not one of the murderers has been hanged, and only six were sentenced to imprisonment for life; twelve were given sentences of seven years and under in State prison; two were sent to the Penitentiary for ten and thirteen years respectively, and two received sentence, one nine, and the other thirteen months. Seven of the wife murderers committed suicide; the rest escaped punishment.

A child's bed should slope a little from the head to the foot, so that the head may be a little higher than the feet—but never bend the neck to get the head on a pillow. This makes the child round shouldered, cramps the veins and arteries, and interferes with the free circulation of the blood. Even when the child is several years old the pillow should be thin, and made of hair, not feathers.

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Portland, April 20th

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243 ACRES, four miles southeast of Salem, on the rail-road, with Mill Creek running through it. This is the choicest farming land in Marion county, with fine springs, good soil, and a fine view of the coast, but landings all along the river, commencing four miles north of Salem—all choice grain land—the largest and most suitable body of land to be found in the Willamette valley to be purchased by a colony. To be sold from \$15 to \$25 per acre. This land will all be immediately surveyed, and can be sold in larger or smaller parcels, to suit purchasers. It can be subdivided to the best possible advantage, and I can offer any person or persons, or colony of persons, desiring to purchase homes in the best part of the Willamette valley, near the city of Salem and within reach of the best social advantages, as well as most favorably located with respect to markets, greater advantages, on more favorable terms, than they can ever expect to realize again.
Salem, Nov. 9, 1875.
THOMAS CROSS.

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GEO. K. SHELL,
Attorney at Law,
SALVEM, OREGON.
Office near the Old Court-House.

Plummer Fruit-Dryer.
As a proof of what I have herebefore stated to the people of Oregon, I give below a letter from the Plummer Fruit-Drying Co. of East Portland. After the close of business of 1875, fully endorsing it, they are now in the process of preparing a new and improved machine, and as a proof to substantiate what they say, they now contemplate putting up another dryer, of the same capacity of the one they now have, which will increase their capacity to dry five hundred bushels of apples per hour. Having now located here in Portland for the purpose of supplying the demand for Fruit Dryers in Oregon and Washington Territory, I can supply these dryers at a cost of from \$200 to \$400, according to capacity. Warranted to dry from 5 to 10 bushels of apples per hour, at a small cost for labor and fuel. These machines being so cheap and simple in construction, they cannot fail to supersede all other known machines. I would also say to the fruit growers, that I have invented a Machine (and am now waiting for a patent), that will cut and spread the fruit on the trays with a very small amount of labor. I also have invented a Peach Sifter that is on an entirely new principle, paring soft as well as hard; does its work well, with great speed, and slices and pits the fruit ready for drying in the most desirable manner, and at a great saving in quantity of fruit.
W. S. PLUMMER, Patentee.
Portland, Oregon.

FRUIT DRYER TESTIMONIALS.
EAST PORTLAND, Jan. 4th, 1876.
MR. W. S. PLUMMER: Dear Sir, As I have time when all are much interested in Fruit Drying, we think that in justice to you and for the information of the public it is but right and proper that we should give all the facts in relation to the dryer after having operated you dryer during this season. We feel warranted in saying that for the amount of money invested we still believe as we did from the start that your dryer is the best dryer yet introduced into this country. The capacity of the dryer we find to be about 8 (eight) bushels per hour. The dried fruit we claim to be as good as any, though perhaps not as much bleached as the "Alden's" Fruit, and we are satisfied that we can produce Dried Fruit at less expense than the "Alden's". The stockholders of our Company manifested their confidence in the Plummer Fruit-Dryer at our meeting last Saturday by a unanimous vote to increase the capital stock \$12,000 (twelve thousand dollars) for the purpose of adding one more dryer to the present one, and making other improvements for next season. We will further say that we believe that by an improvement made by the patentee in the Heater and Fan that there will be an increase of capacity and a saving of fuel.
J. S. NEWELL, Secretary & Superintendent.

EAST PORTLAND, Feb. 18, 1875.
MR. PLUMMER: Dear Sir, I have been watching both the Alden and your Fruit Dryer this season so as to determine which was the best machine for drying fruit. I visited the Alden Dryer at Oregon City, and examined the fruit dried on that machine, and I also examined several lots of fruit dried on your Machine at East Portland, and my opinion is that your dryer is far the best machine for drying fruit. The reasons are these: Your Machine dries them without burning or cracking, while I noticed that a great deal of the fruit dried on the Alden Machine was bursted open, and after a fruit is bursted in drying it is worthless for market as a fruit. Therefore I can recommend your Machine for drying fruit, or anything else.
Yours truly,
H. W. PRETTYMAN,
Proprietor of Railroad Nursery.

PORTLAND, Jan. 10, 1876.
MR. W. S. PLUMMER: Dear Sir, The dryer purchased by us from you for the purpose of drying our Onions, has now been in operation two months and does good work. All those that have tried the product pronounce it the very best quality.
Yours truly,
STEELE & CO.

CENTENNIAL
1776. 1876.
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