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The Doctor's Dilemma By Hesba Stretton

CHAPTER XIII. In one sense time seemed to be standing still with me after my home return, so like were the days that followed the one to the other. But in another sense those days fled with awful swiftness, for they were hurrying us both, my mother and me, to a great goal which would soon, far too soon, lie between us. Every afternoon Julia came to spend an hour or two with my mother; but her arrival was always formally announced, and it was an understood thing that I should immediately quit the room, to avoid meeting her. There was an etiquette in her resentment which I was bound to observe. I had not taken up any of my old patients again, for it was determined that everybody should feel that my residence at home was only temporary. But about ten days after my return the following note was brought to me, directed in full to Dr. Martin Dobree: "A lady from England, who is only a visitor in Guernsey, will be much obliged by Dr. Martin Dobree calling upon her at Rose Villa, Vauvert Road. She is suffering from a slight indisposition; and knowing Dr. Senior by name and reputation, she would greatly appreciate his assistance in the skill of Dr. Senior's friend."

"It seems years to me. All life has changed for me. I had no idea then of my mother's illness. 'Nor I,' she said, sighing deeply. 'If I had known it,' I continued, 'all this might not have happened. Surely the troubles I shall have to bear must plead with you for me.' 'Yes, Martin,' she answered; 'yes, I am very sorry for you.' She came forward and offered me her hand but without looking into my face. I saw that she had been crying, for her eyes were red. In a tone formal politeness she asked me if I would not sit down. I considered it best to remain standing, as an intimation that I should not trouble her with my presence for long. I had no time to lose, lest Kate Drey should come in, and it was a very difficult subject to approach. 'We were talking of you to-day,' she said at length, in a hurried and thick voice. 'Aunt is in great sorrow about you. It preys upon her day and night that you will be dreadfully alone when she is gone, and—' 'Martin,' she wished to know before she dies that the girl in Sark will become your wife."

TURKEY AND PARTRIDGE NESTS.

Owner of the Turkey Found Them Hiding on a Nest of Eggs. A peculiar and unprecipitated friendship has been found to exist between a turkey and a partridge near Monticello, N. Y. Heron Cooney, who resides on the shores of Silver lake, has a small flock of turkeys of which he is justly proud. The queen of the flock is an especially fine specimen, and has always proved a perfect domestic model, but for a week past she has been acting strangely, leaving home in the morning and not returning until late in the afternoon. Affairs grew gradually worse until finally she reached the summit when she did not return home at night. Mr. Cooney, noticing the absence of his prize turkey, organized a searching party composed of himself and Patrick Callery, and started out to search the woods. The search had progressed for some time when they discovered the missing turkey and by its side was a large partridge. The two were covering a large nest and seemed perfectly contented. They were scared off, and thirteen partridge eggs and nearly as many turkey eggs were found in the nest. If the partnership between the turkey and partridge continues to be agreeable, Mr. Cooney intends doing an extensive business in partridge and turkey raising next year.

R-V. JOSEPH W. CROSS.

Earliest Living Graduate of Harvard University. Rev. Joseph Warren Cross, the earliest living graduate of Harvard College, has just celebrated the ninety-third anniversary of his birth in his comfortable home in Worcester, Mass. Mr. Cross was graduated from Harvard with the class of 1828. He was born at Bridgewater, Mass., in 1808, and was prepared for college by Rev. Pitt Clark at Newton. Soon after his graduation he was married to his first wife, Mary J. Danforth, who died in 1830. At that time Mr. Cross was principal of Chatham Academy. The young Harvard man studied for the ministry in the divinity school of his own university, and also at the Andover Seminary, and was called to the pastorate of the First Congregational Church of West Boylston, Mass., in 1840. Thereafter he lived for nearly fifty years in one house. He was a member of the State constitution convention in 1853 and of the legislature in 1873. Although approaching his centennial, Mr. Cross is active, clear-headed and intensely interested in the affairs of the world at large and of the old university of which he is a graduate.

Thread Used in Surgery.

The modern surgeon employs in his work dozens of different kinds of thread for sewing up cuts and wounds. Among them are kangaroo tendons, horsehair, silk and very fine silver wire. Many of these threads are made to hold for a certain number of days and then naturally break away. The short, tough tendons taken from the kangaroo, which are used for sewing severe wounds, will hold for about four weeks before they break away. Silk thread will remain much longer, sometimes six months, while the fine silver wire is practically indestructible. With the entire outfit a surgeon is able to select a thread that will last as long as the wound takes to heal and will then disappear completely. To accommodate this assortment of threads special varieties of needles are required. Besides the needle craned in different segments of a circle, surgeons use needles shaped like spears, javelins and bayonet points. Some are as long as bodkins, in a point like a miniature knife blade. Others have the sharpened end triangular.

"Phthologyrrh" Spells "Turner."

He walked up to the hotel register and signed his name with a flourish. "E. K. Phthologyrrh," exclaimed the clerk, who knew him well, "are they hunting for you or what? Where do you get that outlandish name?" "Get back, my boy, get back! You're slow," replied Turner, alitly, as he lit a cigar; "that's my same old name written in plain English and pronounced as usual just 'Turner.' Look at it. Of course I do it just to get them all guessing. They wonder what nation I am from; what my name is. I can now hear people talk about me all round. It is, as I said before, English spelling. 'Phthologyrrh' is the sound of 'r' in 'phthalis'; 'olo' is the sound of 'u' in 'Colonel'; 'gn' is the sound of 'n' in 'gnat'; 'yrrh' is the sound of 'er' in 'myrrh'. Now, if that doesn't spell 'Turner' what does it spell?"

Hens Not Feeling Well.

Twelve eggs sold by a Brooklyn dairyman had among them five that were decayed. The purchaser returned them, saying, "I did not buy any fresh, but I bought five." "These," said the purchaser, "must have been laid when the hens were not feeling well." When a woman meets another woman down town, she always screams out in an excited way: "Well, what on earth are you doing down town?"

ORIGIN OF AMERICAN ARMY.

Articles of War Adopted by the Continental Congress in 1775. In the month of June, 1775, the Continental Congress, in session at Philadelphia, passed three important resolutions, writes General Francis V. Greene in Scribner's. The first adopted and took over as a continental army the force of New England troops which, under the lead of Massachusetts, had assembled at Boston soon after the battles of Lexington and Concord; the second and appointed George Washington general and commander in chief of all the continental forces, raised or to be raised, for the defense of American liberty; the third adopted "rules and regulations for the government of the army"—the articles of war, which, modified and amended from time to time, still govern the army and form the basis of the military law. This was the origin of the American army. In the intervening 126 years nearly 5,000,000 men have worn its uniform; it has conducted with success five great wars, covering a period of seventeen years, and numerous minor campaigns against hostile Indians and Filipino insurgents; it has been the chief instrument in restoring order and inaugurating civil government after the war with Mexico, the Civil War, and the war with Spain; in its ranks have come eleven of the twenty-four Presidents of the United States, and many hundreds of men occupying the highest civil offices, Governors of States, Senators and Representatives in Congress, Cabinet ministers, ambassadors and judges of the most important courts. For a people who have never sought war and have only resorted to it when reluctantly forced to do so, the army has filled a large place in our history.

FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS

A Song for School. Some boys, when they come into school (And some girls, too) I grieve to be obliged to say That this is what they do: They wiggle, And jiggle; They hang their heads, And giggle; They twiddle, And tiddle; They bounce and bounce And flitter. Whatever thoughts their minds may fill, They've no idea of keeping still.

Why Not the Milk, Too. Little Preston's mother, who was very fond of singing "God Save the Queen," was horrified one day to hear the little fellow shouting: "God save the milk! God save the milk!" and took him to task about it. "Well, mamma," said Preston, "you are always singing 'God Save the Queen,' and if He doesn't save the milk first there won't be any cream."

Thought It Was a Mouse. May, aged 3, was watching her mother knead some dough, which squeaked as the air bubbles were pressed out. "Mamma," queried the little observer, "shall I hit your bread with the pouter?" "What for, dear?" asked her mother. "'Cause," replied May, "I hear a mouse squealing in it."

One on Papa. Willie (aged 5)—Papa, didn't you tell me that if I took care of my pennies my dollars would take care of themselves? Papa—Yes, my son. Willie—Then why didn't your dollars take care of themselves the other day when you lost your pocketbook?

WHICH IS THE OLDEST CITY? Tucson, Ariz., Claims the Honor Over St. Augustine and Santa Fe. Referring to the dispute as to whether St. Augustine in Florida or Santa Fe in New Mexico is the oldest city within the confines of the United States, the Albuquerque Citizen brings a new claimant into the field in the following paragraph: "Now come a Mr. Hillsinger, who gives the date of settlement of Tucson, Ariz., as 1555, some half a century earlier than the founding of Santa Fe or St. Augustine. He bases his claim upon authentic documents, including a parchment discovered among the records of the old mission of San Xavier, dated 1552, when the settlement was ordered to be established, and attached to which is an account of the founding of Tucson, written in the hand of Marcus de Niza, who explored Arizona."

The Reward. Laura and Bessie Mason were spending a week at Grandma Strong's. Grandma was a sprightly old lady, and although so aged, she did her own work; and almost the last thing Laura Mason said when her daughters left her was, "Now, girls, I hope you won't be a care to your grandma! I'm sure if you try you can help her in many ways."

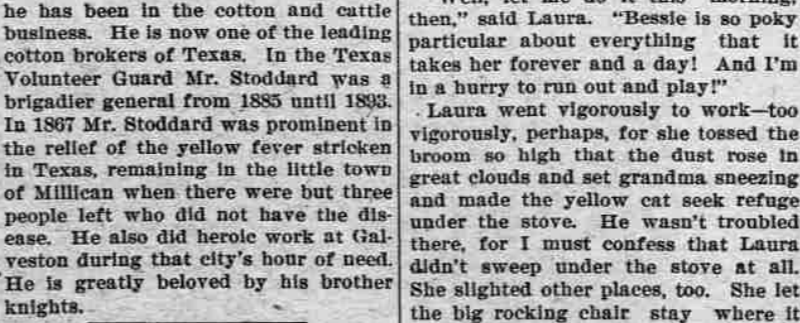
FOUND AN ORIGINAL IDEA. Critical Hearer Gave Credit to a Pious-sounding Preacher. Rev. Dr. B.—was what is commonly termed "a popular preacher," not, however, by drawing on his own stores, but by the knack which he possessed of appropriating the thoughts and languages of the great divines who had gone before him to his own use, and by a skillful splicing and dovetailing of passages so as to make a whole. Fortunately for him those who composed his audience were not deeply skilled in pulpit lore, and with such he passed for a wonder of erudition. It happened, however, that the doctor was detected in his literary larcenies. One Sunday a grave old gentleman seated himself close to the pulpit and listened with profound attention. The doctor had scarcely finished his third sentence before the old gentleman said loud enough to be heard by those near him: "That's Sherlock."

African Railway. The Uganda Railway is now open to within ninety-five miles of Victoria Nyanza.

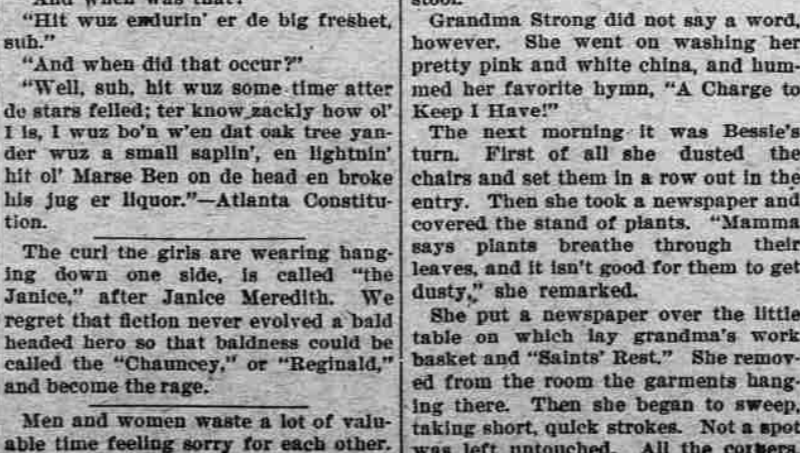
Men and women waste a lot of valuable time feeling sorry for each other.



REV. CROSS.



HENRY BATES STODDARD.



E. K. PHTHOLOGYRRH.