

AMERICAN FABLES.
A Modern Esop Tells Three Tales, Each One With a Moral.

THE FLY AND THE STATESMAN.
Once upon a Time, as a Statesman was writing out a great speech on the Tariff Question, a Fly began Buzzing about his head and face in a Most Annoying Manner, and this was kept up so long that the Statesman finally lost his patience and indulged in some Forebtle Language.

"Ah! but who would Believe that a Great Man like you would be put out by a Little Insect like me!" sneered the fly.

"It's your smallness that so Provokes me," replied the Statesman. "If you were an Ox or a Horse I would suffer no Ridicule by losing my Temper and Driving you Away. Let me give way and Fight a Fly and everybody would laugh at me."

MORAL: Ward Strikers can safely In-sult and Malign Congressional Nominees.

THE PARROT AND THE OWL.

The question having arisen: "Why do We Eat?" the Parrot Challenged the Owl to a Discussion and left the Decision to the Serpent. The Parrot went back several thousand years to Prove that Adam Ate and was obliged to Eat, and that all Men who came after him had been Obligated to eat, and used up the best part of two hours in drawing comparisons, Making Deductions and Clinging his Points. When he finally sat down wet with Perspiration, but Flattered by his own Arguments, the Serpent asked the Owl to begin.

"Gentlemen," said the Bird, as he slowly arose, "I have only a word to say. It is my opinion that we Eat because we were Built that way."

The Serpent promptly Decided that the Owl had the best of it, and when the Parrot raised a howl over it the Fox chuckled him under the wing and said:

"Blab is a good thing, but Brevity and Common Sense most always hit a Jury."

MORAL: If some Lawyers were Dumb they would Double their Patronage.

THE NAIL AND THE HAMMER.

A Nail which was About to be Driven into a Board complained to the Hammer:

"Ah! but have you no Feelings? Behold how straight and smooth and handsome I am, and then think of the Fate to which you would consign me!"

"My friend," replied the Hammer, as he made ready to Drive, "as a Nail lying about loose you will be kicked Aside by all, and in a short time Rust would deprive you of your Strength and Beauty. As a Nail helping to hold this Board to the House you have a Mission and are Depended on."

MORAL: An Idle Man is of No Account, even to Himself.—Detroit Free Press.

Brought In a New Conundrum.

"I have got a conundrum," said the visitor, timidly sitting down on the corner of a chair, "that I think is new. Why is a man who lays out a new subdivision like pickles?"

"Because he e-c-cumbers the ground!" hazarded the real-estate editor.

"No, that isn't the right answer."

"Because," suggested the exchange editor, "it makes him sour if he doesn't ketchup with the —"

"No, no; that isn't it either. Give it up? Because he makes lots of acres. See? Acres—achers. Spoils the teeth, you know. Makes acres into lots —"

And then they rose up as one man and threw him out of the window.—Chicago Tribune.

An Indiscreet Merchant.

"I understand that you wish to employ a traveling salesman, sir," said a young man to a merchant.

"Yes; I would employ any one who suited me."

"I would like to have a trial, sir."

"What is your nationality?"

"Both my parents were born in Ireland, but I don't see what that can have to do with the matter."

"You don't? Let me assure you that it is very important. I couldn't think of employing a salesman who belongs to the self-tick race. Ha—ha! ha—ha?" and the old man chuckled himself in the ribs and laughed all the way to the asylum where he was taken inside of three hours.—Merchant Traveler.

It Appealed to His Taste.

"My husband," said she, "never seems to appreciate the presents I make him, like dressing gowns, slippers, foot rests, monogram handkerchiefs, and other nice articles."

"May be he doesn't believe in the principle of making gifts," consolingly remarked a friend.

"Oh, yes, he does," was the earnest reply; "now when his brother-in-law gave him a basket of demijohns, full of old stuff, he never got over talking about that—it seemed to appeal directly to his taste."—Chicago Globe.

A Very Fair Tin Wedding.

First Chappie—What d'ye think of the wedding, old man?

Second Chappie—Aw—very fair for a tin wedding.

First Chappie—Tin wedding? Why, what do you refer to?

Second Chappie—The groom's motive in marrying—haw! haw!—America.

—It is very indiscreet and troublesome ambition which cares so much about fame; about what the world says of us; to be always looking in the faces of others for approval; to be always anxious about the effects of what we do or say; to be always shouting, to hear the echo of our own voices.—Longfellow.

Mirrors were old-fashioned in the time of Moses, and deemed by him of sufficient importance to be placed in the Ark. Job also mentions them and calls them looking-glasses—a term which is applied to them throughout the sacred text—yet it seems clear that they were made not of glass, but of metal, as were all mirrors for many centuries subsequently. Brass is spoken of as one of the metals of which they were made, but it is more likely that the best kind were composed of silver or some other white metal capable of receiving a high polish. Pliny, speaking of the extravagance of the Roman ladies, mentions that their mirrors were of silver, adding, somewhat sarcastically, that often only a thin surface of the precious metal was used, a statement which is borne out by discoveries made during recent excavations. These ancient mirrors were of small size, and of various and curious shapes. Pliny is also responsible for the statement that mirrors were sometimes formed out of rubies, and mentions one made from an emerald, wherein Nero used to watch the fights in the amphitheatre.

The credit of first making glass mirrors can not with accuracy be given to any one in particular. The Sidonians are reported to have invented glass, but even if they attempted—as it is said they did—to manufacture mirrors from it, its inferior quality would not have given so high a reflective power as some of the better kinds of metals; and at whatever period they were first made it was not until the thirteenth century that they became generally known, and much later before they entirely displaced the metal ones. At first molten lead was poured over the lead to form a reflecting surface, but that method was soon exchanged for a piece of white metal foil fixed at the back, and in the latter part of the fifteenth century an amalgam similar to that now used was substituted. With improvements in the manufacture of glass came corresponding improvements in mirrors. They were made larger, and with a truer surface, and have now reached a state approaching perfection.—Notes and Queries.

Queer Military Discipline.

"The name of Harry Oakes," says the London World, "is not yet forgotten in the army—a bluff, straight-spoken soldier, who some twenty years ago commanded the Twelfth Lancers. This is how he dealt with the point now so much at issue. A young officer complained that while in plain clothes a certain soldier had not saluted him. The soldier's excuse was that he had not recognized the officer. 'I'll take care you can't make that excuse in future,' quoth Colonel Oakes. 'Mr. —, you will walk up and down the barracks-square in plain clothes until Private — is satisfied that he will know you again.' The private gave the officer a benefit of about half an hour, and all he conceded then was his ability to recognize the former in the suit he then wore. 'If you are not satisfied,' said the Colonel, 'you will appear in the square for ten minutes in each civilian suit you own, and whenever you get a new suit you will do the same, and let Private — know.' The young officer never complained again of not getting what he considered his proper due in the matter of salutes."

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Nothing keeps a man from being rich like thinking he has enough; nothing from knowledge and wisdom like thinking he has both.—Lancet.

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Times go by turns, and chances change by them. From foul to fair, from better hap to worse. —Southey.

"Had Been Worried 18 Years." It should have read "married," but the proof-reader observed that it amounted to about the same thing, and so did not draw his blue pencil through the error. Unfortunately there was considerable truth in his observation. Thousands of husbands are constantly worried almost to despair by the ill health that afflicts their wives, and Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets will bring you out all right. Small, sugar-coated, easy to take. Of druggists.

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