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THE TALE-BEARER.
A Parson's Observations on the Effect of False Statements.
In many communities, lesser and greater, there may still be found the tale-bearer who, as in Solomon's days, separates chief friends; frequently a woman, not unfrequently a man. And the pestilence that walks in darkness is not so mischievous or so hateful. Well one remembers, as a child, the lowered voice, not without a nasal intonation, the unmistakable busybody air, the unforgetting formula, "Now you must not mention it for your life; but she said that you were a vulgar, ugly thing." Many, indeed, are the things so said which recur to the unwilling memory. But there are matters which it is degrading to recall, even to gibbet them. I wish heartily I could forget a great deal which comes back to me as I write this line. John Stuart Mill said that one marked difference between the educated and the uneducated class is that the latter will readily tell a falsehood; the former will not. It is sad that one's experience appears sometimes to testify that the deplorable tendency has its place in some individuals of either class.

Let a rule be here laid down which ought never under any circumstances be departed from. Never listen to one who proposes to tell you something a friend has said to your prejudice, you pledging yourself never to speak to your friend on the matter. Here you have come across the basest and most cowardly of all backbiters and mischief-makers, likewise the vulgar. Your course here is plain. Say to the cowardly tale-bearer: "I warn you that if you say one word I shall go straight and tell my friend that you told me this story and ask if it is true." Dr. Chalmers' mother always put a bit of spiteful tattle with words to this effect. It was pleasing to see how the mischief-maker hastened to back out of the story. And the mischief-maker did not come back to Mrs. Chalmers a second time, unless a greater fool than common.

A little organization has gone on smoothly for years, its members trusting one another and working harmoniously together. But in an evil hour the mischief-maker is admitted to that small society. Soon there is suspicion and drawing off; possibly the whole thing blows up. No doubt each ought to have cut the mischief-maker short, but not all had wisdom and firmness to do so. You remember, I doubt not, how the mischief-maker once offered, "from a sense of duty," to relate to you circumstances which tended to make you doubt your best friend. He "wished to caution you." You cut him short, finally. But what, if that whisper had got hold of you? Of course, you would have asked your friend about it, and things would have been cleared up. But some folks dread a scene and avoid it. And such leave a painful impression. The repetition of them ends in alienation.

One has known human beings much perplexed to know why, after being made a great deal too much of in certain places, they were suddenly dropped. A modest man would say, "Because I made a bad impression; I disappointed people. Years after, it came out that it all came of the skillful misrepresentations and innuendoes of a clever and (in the main) good man. But he could not bear to see your promotion. The frantic tenacity with which some men keep hold of some trumping privilege is even exceeded by their frantic terror lest any neighbor should get hold of it, too.

When falsehoods are systematically told by a man (not designed to keep a neighbor back or down) his purpose generally is to make himself of consequence. He is influential; holding strings in his hand; playing off one against another. Privately tell A that B abused him; privately tell B that A abused him. If they be vulgar souls, they will listen to you. And no doubt you are a sneaking tale-bearer; yet you have a certain influence which possibly you could get in no other way.

When falsehoods are systematically told by a woman, if old, she is spiteful. She wants to give pain and make mischief. If middle-aged, things are not so bad. Her main desire is to be talking about herself. She is always the heroine of her fibs. And she would talk of herself forever. She would rather tell evil of herself than tell nothing.—[A. K. H. B., in Longman's Magazine.]

Sort of a Family Resemblance.
Ex-Postmaster General Frank Hatton has a fourteen-year-old son who resembles his distinguished father in many particulars.
"Pa," said he the other day, "I've made up my mind where I would like to go to college."
"Aha," replied his father, "and where is it, my boy?"
"To Vassar," said the precocious child.
"Humph!" ejaculated the proud father; "darned if I wouldn't like to go there myself!"
Mrs. Tabor, the first wife of Colorado's millionaire, has probably more money at command now than her former husband. She is set down for \$2,000,000.

Items of Interest.
The department of state has published a work on the hulling and polishing of rice in foreign countries.
In Maine it is estimated that there are 12,000 colonies of bees, and the annual honey crop is worth about \$40,000.
Cattlemen in Indian Territory are getting off the reservations as rapidly as possible, and will all be out before cold weather.

In the States of Ohio and Illinois a loss is reported in the number of hogs and sheep returned for taxation, while the number of cattle exhibits a gain.
The exports of cattle from Montreal to Great Britain since the opening of navigation to the middle of July has been over 19,000 head, an increase of 5,000 since last year.
We hear next to nothing of the sorghum industry this season. If there ever was any sorghum industry in this country, aside from the sale of seed-crushers and evaporators, it appears to be in a bad way.

In Arizona and northern Mexico experiments are being made with the castor-bean for the manufacture of oil. The estimates give 1,500 plants to the acre, which produce 600 pounds of beans worth \$150.
A car of full-blooded Hereford stock, owned by the Cosgrove Live Stock Company, of Le Sueur, Minn., was burned September 23. The stock was valued at \$6,000. Two men who were in the car jumped off and were badly injured.

The ship Ranmoer, which arrived in Liverpool recently, had on board 7,000 carcasses of frozen mutton brought from South America. This is the second consignment to one firm in Liverpool. Some carcasses of beef were also received.
At some chemical laboratories crucibles of nickel have been adopted in the place of the silver ones generally used for melting caustic alkalis. They have the advantage of not being of being cheaper, but of being capable of resisting a higher temperature than the silver.

It is an exploded theory that one ring grows upon a tree every year. The Agricultural Department at Washington finds that trees of six years show twelve rings; of twelve, twenty-one; of five, eleven; and of twenty-four, twenty; the trees being, respectively, locust, hickory, crab-apple, and oak.
The difference in hardness in strawberries, says E. B. Underhill, depends more upon the position of their blossoms than anything else. If blossoms look up, they will be killed at the surface of the water and the twenty-four, twenty; the trees being, respectively, locust, hickory, crab-apple, and oak.

Prof. A. Landmark, chief director of the Norwegian fisheries, finds that under favorable conditions a salmon may sometimes jump sixteen feet perpendicularly, and that when the fish's leap is a foot or two short of the height of the waterfall, it often succeeds in completing the ascent by a dexterous use of the tail.
The American Angler tells of a gentleman who witnessed the murder of twenty baby trout by mosquitoes near Denver. As soon as the trout rose to the surface of the water and exposed the tip of its head, a mosquito would dart upon it, drive its sting into the brain of the fish, and proceed to gorge itself with the life-blood.

M. Fordoz gives a very simple and useful method for detecting lead in the lining of culinary utensils. The vessel, being carefully cleaned to remove grease, a drop of nitric acid is applied to any part, and a gentle heat is used to dry the spot. A drop of solution of iodide of potassium is applied to the spot; and, if lead be present, a yellow iodide of lead is formed.
Nectar in the flowers is controlled largely by electricity in the atmosphere. When storms are frequent, the general report is that the blossoms contain no nectar. Cyclones, tornadoes, hail-storms, thunder, and lightning are largely the cause of a poor honey crop. The past two seasons were surprising examples of too much electricity in the atmosphere, with a corresponding lack of honey.

Through an examination on a charge of violating the United States internal revenue laws at Syracuse, a defendant under oath stated that he manufactured raspberry wine after the following formula: "Sixteen gallons of water, forty-eight pounds of sugar, one pound of tartaric acid, and some aniline, well stirred up in an ordinary wash boiler; add a small quantity of violet root and a pint of alcohol, and the raspberry wine is completed."
President Thorpe stated at the recent meeting of the American florists that he estimates that 24,000,000 cut-roses were sold last year, and about 125,000 carnation flowers. These were raised under 600 acres, in the aggregate, of glass; but his estimates are too conjectural to be very accurate. The amount paid for imported Dutch bulbs, chiefly tulips and hyacinths, amounted to about \$200,000. The business has grown four-fold in ten years, and catalogues have increased five-fold.

Ignorance Bliss.
A careful housewife upon entering her kitchen said to the colored cook: "Great goodness, Jane, you must be more careful. You are not clean enough in your cooking."
"Lady," replied the cook, as she took up a piece of beef that had fallen on the floor, "I sees dat yer's gwine ter act foolish wid me. Ain't yer got nothin' ter do 'cept ter fool roum' out heah?"
"It's my business to come out here occasionally."
"All right den, hab it yer own way, but I wanter say one thing. Ef yer wanter ter 'joy yesse' at de table, an' eat wid er comin' appetite yer'd better stay outen dis kitchen. Yas," she added, as she wiped a dish with a dirty rag, "yer'd better not nose roum' heah, fur cookin' is er bus'ness wid me an' when er pusson is 'gaged in business, foolishness is awul troublesome."—[Arkansas Traveler.]

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