

Gestures of Great Orators.

A writer of the San Francisco *Bulletin* takes his position that gestures to be effective must conform not only to the matter of the speech, but to the nature of the orator. He illustrates his position by the following reminiscences:

Thirty years ago, when a student at Amherst College, I remember going over with several of my classmates to Northampton, where Daniel Webster and Rufus Choate were the opposing lawyers in the great Oliver Smith will case.

I shall never forget the impression made by the great contrast between the manner and gesticulation of those two distinguished pleaders in their closing argument.

Webster's gestures, as well as his words, were comparatively few, but weighty, massive, the very embodiment of dignity and conscious strength.

Most of the time during his half-hour argument, he stood perfectly motionless, his body slightly bent forward and his hands behind his back.

Choate spoke for nearly two hours in a manner the very counterpart of Webster's, and yet equally appropriate to the speaker's individuality.

He was all alert, every vein swelled to fullness, every muscle at its utmost tension.

He advanced toward the jury and retreated. He rose on tiptoe, and several times in his excitement seemed to spring up entirely off his feet.

He ran his long nervous fingers through his dark curls, and anon shook them in the air above his head with so swift a motion that they seemed to run into each other like the spokes on a spinning-wheel.

The day was hot, and when he had concluded he sank into the arms of attendants in a state of perfect exhaustion, and was borne out into the lobby like a corpse.

The excitement in the court room was intense, but Webster's calm, stern logic carried the day over Choate's brilliant and fiery rhetoric. The verdict was for Webster and the will.

One word concerning the gesticulation of Charles Sumner.

He was always dignified and self-possessed, and, in his movements, as well as words, always conveyed the idea of deliberation and scholarly culture rather than of that spontaneous warmth and impulsive feeling which is most apt to stir emotion in a hearer.

But he had one gesture which he used not often, but always once or twice in his great speeches, one which never failed to send the blood thrilling to my temples; and I noticed that it had a similar effect on many others.

He raised his hand higher and higher with appropriate gesticulation, while building a climax, and when he came to cap it, he rose on tiptoe and thrust his hand up into the air with great force and with a look of exultant triumph. It was magnificent. It fitted the subject and the man.—*Ex.*

Our Enemies Within.

Beyond all doubt, the worst of our enemies are those we carry about in our hearts. Adam fell in Paradise, Lucifer in heaven, while Lot continued righteous among the people of Sodom. Indifference to little sins and mistakes the self-flattering voice of the heart, ever ready to sing its lullaby the moment conscience is aroused, the subtle question of the serpent, "Hath God indeed said?"

These are unquestionably the adversaries we have most to fear. There never was a fire but it began to smoke. I beseech Thee, therefore my dear master, to give me a sensitive conscience, that I may take alarm even at small sins. O, it is not merely great transgressions which bring a man to ruin. Little and imperceptible ones are, perhaps, even more deadly; according to the beautiful figure of Tauler, who says, "The stag when attacked, tosses from him the great

dog, and dashes them to pieces upon the trees, but the little ones seize him from below, and tear open his body."—*Ex.*

"There lives in the Republic of Salvador at present a venerable gentleman named Miguel Solis, who is 180 years of age. There is no doubt at all about it. He signed a document relating to the building of a convent in 1722, being then 23 years old. When Dr. Hernandez called on him he was at work in his garden. He takes one strong, nourishing meal each day, except on the 1st and 15th of each month, when he eats nothing, but drinks as much water as he can."

The above we have clipped from a daily paper, and though the statement may seem hard to believe, we are, nevertheless, disposed to the opinion that it is truthful. Instances are not unknown of persons living to an equal age, and taking into account this man's habits of life, we are strongly impressed with the probability of his great age. Thomas Parr lived to be 152 years old, and might have lived many years additional were it not that he was carried to the king's court at London, as a curiosity, and there feasted to death. This man Miguel Solis, preserves his life by rare abstinence, as well as good judgment. In the first place he possesses a very strong constitution, as is evidenced by the fact that he can get sufficient nourishment out of one meal a day, and more particularly, that two days in the month he can fast entirely. Then the infrequent eating, and the eating of abundant food, tends to the development of great digestive power, while at the same time the causes of obstruction are avoided. Fasting twice a month still further allows the system to free itself from any obstructions that may exist, and carry on its operations efficiently. And let it be known, the great majority of men die from obstructions in the system, these obstructions often the result of too frequent feeding or too hearty food. Abstinence, and the drinking of an abundance of water, are excellent means of preservation. The editor of this journal at one time suffered severely with dyspepsia, and in the attempt to relieve himself, ate but once a day, a good hearty meal in the morning at breakfast, as this man does, and recovered good health by the operation.

Those persons who feel that they must eat three or four times a day, on their hardest campaigns, and the healthiest and strongest men to-day are those who eat infrequently, but have good, wholesome, hearty food when they do eat. We may properly remark also, that lean persons are much longer lived as a rule than fleshy persons, flesh too often being a serious obstruction to vital operations.—*Laws of Health.*

Filial Love.

There is not on earth a more lovely sight, than the unwearied care and attention of children to their parents.—Where filial love is found in the heart, we will answer for all other virtues. No young man or woman will ever turn out basely, who has parents respected and beloved. A child, affectionate and dutiful, will never bring the gray hairs of its parents with sorrow to the grave.

It is seldom the case that a dutiful son is found in the ranks of vice, among the wretched and degraded. Filial love will keep men from sin and crime. There never will come a time, while your parents live, when you will not be under obligations to them. The older they grow, the more need there will be for your assiduous care attention to their wants. The venerable brow and frosty hair speak loudly to the love and compassion of the child. If sickness infirmity make them at times fretful, bear with them patiently, not forgetting that time ere long may bring you to need the same care and attention. Filial love will never go unrewarded.

—Joseph Cook expects to spend the next year in Europe, and the "Boston Monday Lectures" will have to be delegated to some one else.

Origin of Fractional Currency.

The old saying, "Necessity is the mother of invention," was never more strikingly illustrated than by the origin of the fractional currency. The Washington *Star* thus tells how Gen. Spinner came to invent it:

The appearance of this currency, which at first was always spoken of as "postal currency," was due to the premium on specie.

In 1862 small change became very scarce. Gold being up and taking with it silver, these coins disappeared from circulation.

It was more than a day's search to find a five-cent silver piece or any other small denomination of that coin.

People could not find change for small transactions.

In buying a dinner in the market, change had to be taken in beets, cabbages, potatoes and what not.

General Spinner was then Treasurer of the United States. He was constantly appealed to from all quarters to do something to supply the demand for small change.

He had no law under which he could act, but after buying a half-dollar's worth of apples several times and receiving for his half dollar in change more or less different kinds of produce, he began to cast around for a substitute for small change.

In his dilemma he bethought him of the postage stamp. He sent down to the post-office department and purchased a quantity of stamps.

He then ordered up a package of paper upon which government securities were printed.

He cut the paper into various sizes. On the pieces he pasted stamps to represent different amounts.

He thus initiated a substitute for fractional silver. This was not, however, a government transaction in any sense. It could not be.

General Spinner distributed his improvised currency among the clerks of the department. They took it readily, and the trade-folks more readily.

The idea spread; the postage stamps, either detached or pasted upon a piece of paper, became the medium of small exchange.

It was dubbed "postal currency." From this General Spinner got his idea of the fractional currency which became so popular.

The fac-simile of postage stamps was put on each piece of currency, and for a long time it was known as "postal currency."

The introduction of postal stamps as money entailed considerable loss to those who handled them.

In a short time they became so worn and disfigured that they would not take a letter on its way, and were therefore worthless.—*Ex.*

One by One.

One by one earth's wrongs are smitten,
One by one its errors fall;
One by one are carved and written
Truth's great triumphs over all.
One by one the dreary places
Glow with glee and gush with light;
One by one God's finger traces
Moons and stars upon the night.

One by one are rent and riven
All the links of hell's hot gyves;
One by one the chords of Heaven
Gently, strongly clasp our lives.
One by one earth's bitter weanings
Leave us nearer to the skies;
One by one life's higher meanings
Break like sunlight on our eyes.

O the weary months of sorrow!
O the long and solemn years!
Of the yearning for the morrow
That should give him joy for tears.
O the nestling heart's great anguish!
O the wasting of the frame—
And the love that could not languish,
And the spirit singed with flame!

Let it pass; the blessed throbbing
Of the purple heart of morn
Drew its pulses from the sobbing
Midnight, sitting in her scorn;
And the calm soul's higher thirstings,
And the light of truer eyes—
These are but the upward bursting
Of the seeds of sacrifice.

Therefore—though the iron shackle
Clasp and clench the writhing
spheres;
Though the red fires flame and crackle
Through the ghastly shuddering
years;
Though the green earth weep unshriven,
And thick and mildew blast the sun,
Still shall all, save man and heaven,
Pass and perish one by one.

—Richard Realf.

—As the error of a moment makes the sorrow of a life, so one good deed done, is the joy of a life.

MISCELLANEOUS.



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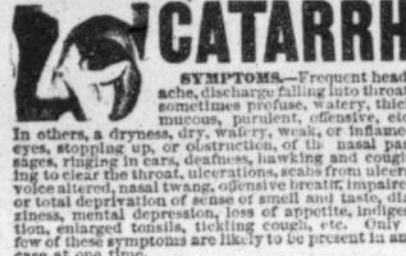
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