

Greetings.

The two girls carried themselves well, which means that they walked straight and easily, without being so shy that they seemed made of wood, or holding their heads so high as to look haughty. But as the elder put her dainty foot on the stairs, the greeting that passed between them was "Hallo, Sid!" from her, and "Hallo, Tude!" from her friend. It was just what two lounging young men might have said, or two stable boys, for that matter. It would have been out of the way from them, but it sounded odd from a pair of well-bred girls. There was nothing else coarse or fast in their manner.

It is a trifle, but you might as well leave off going to school and learning manners at once, if you despise trifles. They make all the difference between nice things and common ones. You ought to know better, and you do know enough to prefer sweet, lively gentle people to those who are rough and careless. Girls fall into the free and easy ways of their brothers because they are easy; and one habit leads to another, till it is no longer sweet and quiet company we find in them, but the rapid ways and short speech of young gentlemen in flouinces. The ways of boys are pleasant enough in their place, but there was meant to be a difference between them and girls, for the sake of giving us a variety, I suppose. And if girls try to be like boys, where will we get our sweethearts, please? You can't sweeten with allspice and cloves.

Of course, when you meet a friend you see every day, you don't want to say, "How do you do?" as formally as to a person you see less often; but wouldn't it sound just as pleasant to pass with a "Well, Sidney," and "Well, Gertie," as to "Hallo" like teamsters? If you want to be a little more precise, "Good morning" has a kindly sound when you think that it means one is wishing good to you that day. It is a little prayer of good will for everybody we say it to, and each one needs it in this trying world. We don't need to ask people whom we see often "How do you do?" because we know pretty well without asking; but when friends have been away from us awhile it sounds indifferent to throw them a good morning, without caring to ask if they are better or worse in feelings or body since they left us. "How do you do?" doesn't mean to ask merely if one is sick or in health; but it wishes to know if all is well with him. All the forms of politeness have the friendliest meaning; and if we can only feel all that they express, we shall find ourselves the politest people in the world without any more trouble.—*Shirley Dare.*

The Silence of the Heart.

Sometimes I dream that in some minister storied
In olden thyme, along whose sculptured walls,
Adown from painted windows rainbow-gloried,
The broken sunshine falls,
I sing a song in strains that never falter,
A tender passionate song of Him who trod
Gethsemane for us till off the altar
I lift a soul to God.
I have no voice to render back the giver;
The songs I sing in dreamland never come
To waking hours; forever and forever
My longing lips are dumb.
But he who gives the nightingale her dower
Of raptured, sorrowing songs,
And the wild winds harp the magic power
That to its chords belongs,
And to the sighing pines, the floating river,
In His great chorus part,
Draweth unto His worshipping forever
The silence of the heart.

"Sing them over again to me,
Beautiful words of life,
Let me more of their beauty see,
Beautiful words of life,
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life."

Maria Malibran.

Maria Malibran had a great aptitude for learning languages, and spoke four with equal facility. Lamartine complimented her on this. "Yes," she said, "it is very convenient. I am thus enabled to dress up my thoughts in my own way. If a word does not come to me in my own language, I take it from another. I borrow a sleeve from English, a collar from German, and a body from Spanish." "Thus making, Madame, a charming harlequin's suit." "Yes," she replied quickly, "but there is never any mask." Some one else present was lauding a poet, as poor in ideas as he was rich in form. "Do not talk to me about his talent," she said. "He makes a vapor bath out of a drop of water!" Panegyric and enthusiasm naturally played a great part in the conversation: she frequently cut them short with something like impatience, especially if anybody made the mistake of exalting her at the expense of another artist. Her admiration for Mlle. Sontag was unbounded. "Oh, if I had her voice!" she said one day. "Her voice! her voice!" observed one of the company. "Yes, she has no doubt a very pleasing voice but no soul." "No soul?" replied Malibran, quickly. "Say, rather, no sorrow! She has been too happy. That is her misfortune. I have one superiority over her—the superiority of suffering. Only let her have real cause for tears, and you will see what accents will issue from the voice which you contemptuously characterize as pleasing." A year later, Sontag, after a great misfortune, appeared for the first time in the tragic part of Donna Anna. She achieved a triumph. "Did I not tell you so?" exclaimed Malibran. One last trait to paint the mixture of modesty and confidence in herself which distinguished her. I met her one day in the Rue Taitebout, and we stopped for a moment, to talk to each other. A carriage passed, and out of the window was eagerly thrust the head of a little girl, who sent her a thousand kisses. "Who is that little girl?" I inquired. "That little girl, that little girl is some one who will eclipse us all, it is my little sister, Pauline." The little sister became Madame Viardot.—*M. Ernest Legouve.*

The Sun Overhead.

Let us set ourselves with our loins girt to the road. Never mind how hard it may be to climb. The slope of the valley of trouble is ever upward. Never mind how dark the shadow of death which stretches athwart it is. If there were no sun there would be no shadow; presently the sun will be right overhead, and there will be no shadow then. Never mind how black it may look ahead or how frowning the rocks. From between their narrowest gorge you may see, if you will, the guide whom God has sent you, and that Angel of Hope will light up all the darkness, and will only fade away when she is lost in the seven-fold brightness of that upper land, whereof our "God himself is Sun and Moon"—the true Canaan, to whose everlasting mountains the steep way of life has climbed at last through valleys of trouble and weeping, and of the shadow of death.—*Rev. Alexander McLaren.*

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Literary Notices.

THE NEW SECRETARY OF WAR.—It may occasion some surprise that a civilian should have been nominated as Secretary of War instead of a military man, but a reference to President Garfield's sentiment upon this subject, is heretofore expressed (see "Chips from the White House," pages 448 and 449,) show that in the appointment of Mr. Lincoln he has followed his settled convictions. He says:—"The Secretary of War is a civil officer; one of the constitutional advisers of the President; his civil executive to direct and control military affairs, and conduct army administrations for the President." "This was clearly understood in our early history, and it is worthy of note that our most eminent Secretaries of War, have been civilians," etc., etc.

CHIPS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE.—If this handsome volume of 500 pages have been brought together some of the most important utterances of our twenty presidents, carefully selected from speeches and addresses, public documents and private correspondence, and touching upon a large variety of subjects. Some of them occupy several pages, while others are in the form of aphorisms, and show the power which most of our presidents have had of putting things graphically and to the point. Thus, John Adams says: "Genius is oftener an instrument of divine vengeance than a guardian angel;" "Wise statesmen, like able artists of every kind, study nature, and their works are perfect in proportion as they conform to her laws" Jefferson, "An honest heart being the first blessing, a knowing head is the second;" Madison, "Justice is the end of government;" "The union of the States is strengthened by every occasion which puts it to the test;" Jackson, "There are no necessary evils in government. Its evils exist only in abuses;" "No man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent."

The contents chronologically arranged, the names of the different presidents following each other in consecutive order from Washington to Garfield. Each chapter is prefaced by a brief synopsis of the life and services of its subject, and most of the extracts are dated, with brief explanations of the circumstances under which they were written. The work, in fact, is a handbook from which the reader may learn more of the real characters of the men who form the subject of its contents than from any other single volume of which we have knowledge.

*Chips from the White House, or Selections from the Speeches, Conversations, Diaries, Letters and other writings, of all the Presidents of the United States. Compiled by Jeremiah Chaplin. Boston, D. Lothrop & Co. Price \$1.50.

In the North American Review for April is a noteworthy article by Judge A. W. Tourgee, in which the professed reformers of the civil service are put on the defensive and their schemes of reform pronounced to be incompatible with American ideas of self-government, and on divers other grounds inadmissible and impracticable. The same number of the Review contains, under the fanciful title, "The Thing that Might Be," a profound philosophical study of the laws and conditions of human progress, by the Rev. Mark Pattison, Rector of Lincoln College, Oxford. The third article is a strong defense of the Roman Catholic side of the controversy about religion in Public Schools, from the pen of Bishop Mcquaid, of Rochester. The great problem of the governmental control of monopolies is discussed with reference to railway management by the Hon. George Ticknor Curtis, who contends that when a railway company is incorporated by any State it agrees to this much and no more; that its property shall be subject to such legislative control as the act of incorporation embraces, to the exercise of the taxing and police powers of the State, and to the power of eminent domain. Mr. Desire Charney, the author of the series of papers on the ruined cities of Central America, has for more than two months been pursuing his researches in regions remote from all avenues of communication with the civilized world, and consequently neither the present number of the Review nor the one last proceeding it contains any contribution from him. In the May number, however, will be published another of his very instructive papers.

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