

INSENSIBILITY TO PAIN.

A Power That Plays an Important Part in the Alleviation of Suffering.

Every one knows that the best nurses are the calmest nurses, and the calmest nurses are very seldom indeed the nurses who really suffer most at the sight of their patients' suffering. One of the great advantages which the patients themselves feel in entering a hospital is that their sufferings do not come back reflected from the faces of those around them; that the sympathy they excite is only a mild sympathy, and not one which heightens their own pain. And it is equally true of insensibility to very different kinds of suffering—moral and spiritual suffering—that a certain measure of insensibility, as well as sensibility, to it is the first condition of the power to do good. The teacher or priest who wants to lead a penitent to a truer and higher view of his life must not be insensible to the keenness of his anguish and the bitterness of his shame; but, at the same time, he must not enter into it so deeply as to be unnerved by it, and to be haunted by it in all his daily duties. If he is, he will be quite incompetent for his spiritual work, and will be an inefficient, not an efficient, guide in spiritual things. No discerning man, however deep his own shame and remorse, would give guidance to one who was likely to suffer almost as much as himself, out of sympathy with him—some very near relative perhaps might. Such a guide would be a bad guide, and a bad guide just because his sensibility would be too vivid, and his judgment would be thereby perverted. It is the same even with sufferings that are not moral, and where the sufferers do not require guidance. It is quite a mistake for those who live with such sufferers to reproach themselves, as they often do, with their own insensibility. We may be absolutely certain that those who wish to feel more than they do, really feel quite as much as they ought, quite as much as the purpose of God intends that they should. There is an unworthy pride in great sensibility which is not consistent with either true humility or true usefulness. Hardly a sufferer exists who is not the better instead of the worse for seeing that those around him are not utterly overwhelmed by his suffering—that so far as he can go out of himself at all he may get a little relief by entering into the less overcrowded lives around him, and tasting indirectly another's enjoyments. We ought to be grateful not only for being able to enter into the sufferings of others, but for not being allowed to enter into them too keenly. The self-reproach which one so often hears uttered, that the sufferings of others do not reflect themselves vividly enough in the hearts of the bystanders, is an ungrateful self-reproach for a limitation for which we have great reason to be thankful. Not only would a suffering that reflected itself adequately in other hearts be fatal to the work of the world, but it would be fatal, too, to the best and almost the only alleviation of that suffering itself admits. A really patient and humble-minded man will be quite as thankful for his insensibility as for his sensibility, and will recognize that it is to the former, at least, as much as to the latter that his power to alleviate suffering is due.—*London Spectator.*

WRITING FAMOUS POEMS.

Something of Interest to Remember When You Read the Verses.

Gray's immortal "Elegy" occupied him for seven years. Bryant wrote "Thanatopsis" in the shade of a grand old forest—a fitting spot for such a theme. Cowper wrote one of the drollest and quaintest English ballads, "John Gilpin's Ride," when he was under one of those terrible fits of depression so common to him. The noted poem, "The Fall of Niagara," was written by J. G. C. Brainard, the editor of a small paper in Connecticut, in fifteen minutes. He wrote it under pressure in response to a call for "more copy." "After the Ball," the little poem which has made the name of Nora Perry known in the world of letters, was jotted down on the back of an old letter, with no idea of the popularity it was to achieve in the pages of a noted magazine. Thomas Moore, while writing "Lalla Rookh," spent so many months in reading up Greek and Persian works that he became an accomplished Oriental scholar, and people found it difficult to believe that his scenes were not penned on the spot, instead of in a retired dwelling in Derbyshire. Poe first thought of "The Bells" when walking the streets of Baltimore on a winter's night. He rang the bell of a lawyer's house (a stranger to him), walked into the gentleman's library, shut himself up and the next morning presented the lawyer with a copy of his celebrated poem. The "Old Oak Bucket" was first suggested to the author, Samuel Woodworth, in a bar-room. A friend with whom he was drinking said that when they were boys the old oak bucket that hung in his father's well was good enough for them to drink from. Woodworth immediately went home and wrote the famous poem. "Old Grimes," that familiar "little felicity in verse," which caught the popular fancy as far back as 1825, was a sudden inspiration of the late Judge Albert G. Green, of Providence, R. I., who found the first verse in a collection of old English ballads, and, enjoying its humor, built up the remainder of the poem in the same conceit.—*Literary.*

An incident is related in a London paper of a Welsh preacher who started on the cars to fulfill an engagement. When the conductor came for his ticket he had forgotten to bring it, and had also forgotten his money. What was worse, he had forgotten where he was going. It was found impossible to suggest to him any station that seemed to be the right one, and he had to telegraph home to have his friends look into his diary and send him word where he was going. Word came and he was started on his right.

THE TEXAN TARANTULA.

An Object of Terror to All Save Its Deadly Enemy, the Wasp.

Appropos to a brief reference to the insect reported to be the deadly enemy of the huge spider called the tarantula, Dr. Horn, Philadelphia's distinguished entomologist, sends us the following: "In the not too fertile parts of the region from Texas to California lives a large spider known to the inhabitants as the tarantula and to naturalists as mygalid. Its body is two inches or more in length, clothed with rusty-brown hair, the legs long, and when extended covering an oval of four or five inches. As may be imagined, the mygalid is not a handsome insect, and, while it is looked upon with terror by most people, no one cares to handle it unless quite certain it is dead.

"In place of the web which usually forms the house of spiders the mygalid excavates a burrow in the loose soil, from which it wanders in search of its prey, consisting principally of members of the grasshopper family or crickets. The jaws are large and powerful, armed with long, stout fangs, with which they can pierce and kill their prey. One full meal will at times supply their needs for several weeks. In fact, during the moulting period they remain torpid and take no food.

"During its growth the mygalid makes an unknown number of moults, that is, it sheds its outer coat when that has become uncomfortably close-fitting, in the same manner as the common crab of our coast. At these times members lost from the body by accidents are partially replaced; if a leg is lost the first moulting produces a perfectly formed but short leg, subsequent moults increasing the size of the leg.

"While the mygalid is a dread to most forms of insect life, there is one of which it in turn stands in mortal terror. Abundant in the same regions is a large wasp, with bluish-green body and golden-red wings. The body is about two inches long, the spread of wings nearly an inch greater. These wasps (pepils formosa) fly unceasingly about in search of food for themselves until they discover a 'tarantula,' when a more definite course of action is assumed. The flight of the wasp is now in circles around its prey, gradually approaching it, the mygalid, meanwhile in terror, showing flight, standing semi-erect on the two hinder pair of legs. A favorable opportunity presenting, the wasp stings the spider and renews the circle of flight, repeating the act until the spider becomes completely paralyzed. When the wasp is assured of the helplessness of the spider it seizes him and drags him to a previously prepared nest. The eggs of the wasp are then deposited and the spider covered up. The eggs soon hatch, the spider is gradually eaten, and a new wasp appears to repeat the actions of its parent.

"By the sting of the wasp the spider is not killed, simply paralyzed, so that during the time it is being fed upon it retains vitality, furnishing living food to the newly-hatched larva, which, by a curious instinct, feed first on those parts of the spider not essential to the maintaining of the little vitality remaining.

"Our common mud-wasp, chalcidion, has similar habits. Its nests, made of elastic mud, are familiar to most people, as they are found abundantly in sheltered places about barns and other outbuildings. These, when opened, will be found filled with spiders, in the helpless condition already mentioned, among them larvae and some partly-grown spiders."—*Philadelphia Ledger.*

Age of Laying Hens.

It is wrong to think out the old hens and depend on young pullets every year, as there is a temptation to breed from the pullets before they are fully matured, thereby weakening the stock if persisted in. When a hen is laying well she can be depended upon for another season's service. There is no necessity for disposing of her only to fill her place with a younger bird. It is a mistake to suppose that a hen is inferior after she is two or three years of age. She will lay until seven or eight years old, and it will be time to sell her when she shows signs of failing. There is a lot of time raising the pullets to fill the places of the hens. It requires about ten months before the pullets of the large breeds will come in, from the time they are hatched, but the hen only loses three months, and if a certain date is used for a starting point, with a record kept of all the eggs laid, for two years, it will be found that the hen will lay more than the pullet. The hen produces stronger chicks than the pullet, which is a very important point when broilers for market are an object, and her eggs are heavier and more uniform in size. A hen is not old at four years of age.—*Farm and Fireside.*

A gentleman in Brussels has shown unusual enthusiasm for the game of whist. In the course of a game his partner trumped the trick which he had already won by deep calculation and skill. Instead of swearing, as a gentleman would ordinarily have done in such circumstances a few times, he gave his unlucky partner twenty steps in the ribs with a long knife and left him dead.

A canary belonging to a family of Midland Park, N. J., becomes greatly excited when the six-year-old son comes into the room, and beats itself against the cage until released, when it flies on top of his head, jumps upon his finger, singing lustily, and then, for a rest, settles upon his shoulder. After its frolic, and a piece of apple or celery leaf from its little benefactor, it goes back to its cage.

A copy of the Bartholdi Liberty Statue, the funds for which were raised by subscription in the United States, is to be set up on the point of the Ile des Cygnes (Swan's Island), in the Seine, opposite Meudon and Sevres, about five miles from Paris. They have begun to lay the foundations for the pedestal, and expect to have the monument completed before the expiration of a year. The work is a reproduction of that on Bedloe's Island, the height of the figure being twelve meters (about forty feet) while that of the gigantic original is 151 feet.

THE ARIZONA KICKER.

Many Phases of Editorial Life in the Wild and Woolly West.

NEARING THE LIMIT.—We have been repeatedly asked why we did not open on the G. & S. railroad for its slow time, miserable old cars, rough road, high rates and generally incompetent service. It is because we have been expecting an annual pass from the road. We applied for it three months ago, but have heard nothing as yet. We are nearing the limit. If that pass is not here inside of a fortnight we shall sound our bugle in a manner to make the officials of the road wish they had never been born.

NOT OUR NIGHT.—Major Rathbone made a personal assault on us last Tuesday as we were about to enter the Big Elephant saloon to interview the Prosecuting Attorney in regard to the Keller affair. We presume it was because the Kicker of last week referred to the Major as a liar and an absconder. We presume it was, although he made no explanation. A minute before he seized us we felt like fighting. A minute afterwards we were on the run. There are times when we can fight to the death, and other times when we can outrun our coyote in the glorious West. The Major happened to get us on our off night, or he would otherwise have been reduced to pulp. There is a good deal of winking and chucking around town, but we don't see anything to laugh at. If we didn't have our off-wholes we'd be a veritable terror to the whole district. It's lucky for Arizona that we were born that way.

ONLY OUR WAY.—We understand that Colonel Colfax feels aggrieved because we referred to him last week as a dead-beat man who ought to be given a dose of White Cap medicine. The Colonel should not be so thin skinned. It's only our way of keeping track of the leaders of society.

A FALSE ALARM.—A Chicago Times correspondent dropped in on us the other day for a brief visit, and after showing him our Washington hand-penned, six varieties of job type and two whole bundles of print paper, we took him out for a survey of the town. The news had gone abroad that he was a Chicago detective, and it was laughable to note the effect upon our leading citizens. A dozen or more broke for the sage-brush, without stopping for clean shirts, and so many others cut off their whiskers or donned false ones that we walked the whole length of Apache avenue without meeting a man we could recognize at first glance. While there is nothing mean about us, this is a feature we are going to work about twice a month on this town. It will keep the boys unsettled and anxious, and may be the means of converting some of them from the error of their ways. It's an awful good feeling to feel that you are the only man in a town of 3,000 people whose liver don't kick the breath out of him every time a stranger comes along and takes a second look at the bridge of your nose.

WE COME DOWN.—We stated our belief last week that our contemporary, which is eternally bragging about its increase of circulation, did not print 150 copies weekly. We were honest in what we said. The old, bristle-backed hyena who claims to be editor and publisher sent for us yesterday to examine his books and figure up his circulation. We made the astounding discovery that he has a bona fide circulation of 167 copies. When we are right we stick to the limbs at all hazards. When we are wrong we let go and come down. We were wrong in this case. We come down. The *Hawling Coyote and Weekly Wash* will please accept our humble apology.

A BASE FABRICATION.—A correspondent of the editor *Harold* announces that the editor and proprietor of this paper recently won \$2,000 at a game of poker in a well-known saloon and that they play the best hand of any man in the Territory. The article was sent out with the design of injuring us. In order not to seem a stranger here we occasionally drop in on the boys and play poker, and in order not to appear to be a tenderfoot we have occasionally raked in a few dollars, but no one must charge us with being a gambler. As to the \$2,000 business, the most nervy man in town wouldn't bet over \$1.50 if he held four aces or a straight flush.

DON'T FORGET IT.—In addition to the grocery in our front room, which is rapidly securing the cream of trade, we have established a tin shop in the rear of the shanty and propose to do all sorts of repairing. Later on we may add a harness shop and other needed enterprises. If we build in the spring, as we now figure on, we shall put in a marble shop and furnish grave-stones cheaper than they have ever heard of in Arizona. We may also add a grist-mill. James Gordon Bonnet, Henry Watterson and Amos Rives may have time to junket around the country and show off their clothes, but we haven't. We are always at home. The Chicago Times may ridicule our grocery in connection with the Kicker, but there are no flies on us. Six bars for a quarter, and a horn comb thrown in. "Give us a call before purchasing elsewhere."

Some of the good women of Hartford, Conn., have organized a dress-making and arithmetic school for young women who want to learn a trade, and also how to take care of their accounts and the like. Commercial arithmetic will be taught, and a skillful instructor will give thirteen lessons of two hours each in dressmaking.

SEEDS.—We have a lot of seeds of all kinds, and will certify for the purity of the seed. We have a lot of seeds of all kinds, and will certify for the purity of the seed. We have a lot of seeds of all kinds, and will certify for the purity of the seed.

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That sets the naked branches quivering, is not felt a quarter of the way that it is felt on the warm bed, nor all the covering that can be piled on his warm bed, nor all the covering that can be piled on his warm bed.

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