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ROSE TO THE OCCASION.

A Polite Elephant and a Ready Witted Showman.

That everything should be in its own place is a matter not only of convenience, but of necessity for some people and some animals, as the following examples from John Augustus O'Shea's "Leaves From the Life of a Special Correspondent" go to prove. Certain orders of intellect run smoothly in accustomed grooves, but have no ability to meet any unusual occasion. The author describes a visit to a traveling menagerie.

The showman was repeating his lesson like a schoolboy. He was enlarging on the peculiarities of the ostrich of Africa, upon the uncanny form of which the visitors were supposed to be gazing.

"But, my friend," I remarked in an undertone to that functionary, "that is not the ostrich of Africa; that is the pelican of Australia."

"They're always playing jokes on me!" exclaimed the showman plaintively. "How can a cove tell which is which if they goes on a-changing of the cages when his back is turned?"

In the other instance of the value of order it was the animal which was not equal to the emergency. The showman rose superior to such slight vicissitudes of fortune.

In the illness of the regular showman a substitute was furnished with a piece of paper setting forth the elephant's tricks.

"The behemoth will now walk around the ring on three legs!" shouted the showman.

Behemoth did as ordered, and the audience applauded.

"The behemoth will now stand on his hind legs!" The elephant performing his tasks faithfully.

At last a mistake was made in the order. Throwing his whip on the ground, the showman announced that the behemoth would now lift the whip with his trunk. Nothing of the kind happened. The elephant began moving around the ring backward. A negro attendant whispered to the showman:

"That's his next number!"

The showman was equal to the occasion and said:

"Ladies and gentlemen, my favorite is not backing out of his engagement, but he is more polite than I and wishes to make his farewell before he goes. So polished are his manners that he retires as he might at court and presently will follow with the whip."

The Appeal to the Record.
Little Tommy returned sore and trembling from the torture room.

"Doesn't your papa ever thrash you?" he asked his chum, who is the son of a cabinet minister.

"I should say not!" replied the other loftily. "Every time he threatens to cane me I read him an extract from his great peace at any price speech, in which he said:

"These barbarians are like wayward children, but have we on that account the right to take away their heaven sent privilege to do as they please? Let us treat them as we would our own wayward children—plead with them, beseech them, but never coerce them with either gun or rod."

"That's a good deal to remember," remarked Tommy.

"Yes, but now he's got so used to it that he drops the cane as soon as I start."—London Answers.

Love the Greater Wisdom.
Wisdom always betrays the love in it. Love, just another warmer, closer name for wisdom, is selfishness absolute. It is the law and the sweetness of the one organism which the universe is.

The eternal strange forces, love and selfishness, faith and godliness, have been submerged—may, hidden—from human consciousness in the swish and swash of sentimentalism and hypocrisy. They stand, none the less, eternal, complete, the foundation, the one necessity, of the world, the home and character.

They are the inner fact of man waiting to enmesh him of the chance of completeness.

Where they are not recognized and made at home in the character man finds his life shredded to scraps and rags.—Practical Ideals.

Dodged.
During a lecture on history in a Baltimore educational institution the instructor had given a lengthy disquisition on the character of George Washington, incidentally touching upon his work as the organizer of the Revolution.

"Now," asked the instructor, "if George Washington were alive to-day what practical part do you think he would play in present day politics, judging from the past?"

A prolonged silence on the part of the pupils followed this. Finally, however, one lad saw a way out.

"Sir," he queried, "wouldn't he be too old?"—Lippincott's.

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CASTE IN INDIA.

A Social Pall That is an Impossible Barrier to Progress.

First of all caste is a question of birth, and there is no entry except by birth. A worker in a coal mine may become a part owner thereof, and his daughter may marry a peer and his grandson become a peer in England. I can personally introduce the reader to dozens of still uneducated clerks, stenographers, mill hands, newsboys, and their wives, widows, sisters and daughters, whose millions seat them at the dinner tables of the Brahman class in America. But no millions will enable the low caste Hindu to marry into a Brahman family or even to touch the hand or throw his shadow on the food of a Brahman in India.

If a man is excommunicated by his caste fellows in India no one of the caste will eat with him, accept water from his hands or marry him. His own wife will not touch him or speak with him. He is dead to his family. The barber even will not shave him or cut his hair or his toe nails.

There is no legislation, no police, no trial in the courts, no adjustment of land revenue or land tenure, no meeting of municipal or district councils, no appointment to office, small or great; no handling of any community in time of plague or famine, no hygienic precautions or sanitary arrangements, into which does not enter this question of caste to complicate, to make difficult and perhaps to foil, the most reasonable and necessary work of the administrator. A Brahman clerk has been known to distribute legal documents by throwing them down at the end of the village street in which live his low caste brethren. Letter carriers have been known to refuse to enter the houses of or to permit themselves to come into personal contact with those of lower status than themselves.

If one could picture to oneself social snobbery lifted into a fanatical religious faith it would be a pale description of the iron subdivisions of caste in India, but even then simple as compared with the meticulous intricacies of this social pall. Here is no patriotism and can be none in a country thus divided against itself.—Price Collier in Scribner's.

Escaped His Notice.

In the early days of the Hayes administration, when Mr. Everts was secretary of state, the members of the cabinet were discussing matters in an informal way one morning when the president mentioned that he had made a few appointments without consulting his official family, the appointees being personal friends. All the places filled happened to fall within the state de-

partment. Secretary Everts turned to John Sherman and said, with a twinkle in his eye, "I have often heard and read about the western reserve of Ohio, but I must confess that I have never seen any of it."

A Common Color.

The elder Dumas once was wearing the ribbon of a certain order, having recently been made a commandant, and an envious friend remarked upon it. "My dear fellow," he said, "that cordon is a wretched color! One would think it was your woolen vest that was showing!" "Oh, no, my dear D'E., replied Dumas with a smile. "You're mistaken. It's not a bad color; it is exactly the shade of the sour grapes in the fable."

Public Offices For Sale.

In England in the time of George II. if you wanted a place under the government you could buy one. The sum of £500 would get you a comfortable berth in the victualing office, for instance, where the perquisites, pickings and bribes for contracts made the service worth having. Members of parliament, who had the privilege of franking letters, sometimes sold the right for £300 a year.—London Telegraph.

Plants That Hate Each Other.

Fancy two plants being so unfriendly that the mere neighborhood of one is death to the other! Yet that is the case with two well known British plants. These are the thistle and the rape. If the field is infested with thistles, which come up year after year and ruin the crops, all you have to do is to sow it with rape. The thistle will be absolutely annihilated.—London Standard.

Nothing Omitted.

"Waiter," called a diner at a local club, "come here at once. Here's a hook and eye in this salad!"

"Yessah, yessah," said the waiter, grinning broadly. "Dat's a part of de dressin', seh!"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Cattish.

First Sweet Thing—Oh, he's awfully gone upon her, dear, I assure you—thinks she's the most beautiful creature in existence, I should imagine. He's been praising her beauty to me for the last ten minutes, enlarging upon her eyes, her complexion, her mouth—

Second Sweet Thing—Oh, I don't think he could possibly do that, darling.—London Tit-Bits.

"Philip," she said, toying with a button of his coat, "if I say yes will you promise to deposit your money in papa's bank?"

"But, dearest, I haven't any money to deposit," said the truthful young man.

"You will have, goosie, if I marry you." With her golden head resting on his manly chest Philip promised.—Chicago Tribune.

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