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An Apology for Flirtation.

"Ah! women are fickle!" you tell me; Well, yes—if by fickle you mean a trifle less false than you are...

Nellie's New Year's Visit.

"Quarrelled with Frank!" exclaimed Mrs. Wentworth. "Quarrelled with Frank!" echoed the husband, in the same breath, and with no less amazement...



"I shall never see him again, I suppose," she said, that night, to her sister.

"He'll find you out yet," said Agnes. "Never! You've no idea how horribly I treated him. Now, I suppose he'll go hunting after a wealthy woman. Well, I don't care."

Huxley on Republicanism.

In his recent book on the Philosopher Hume, one of the series of "English Men of Letters," (Harper & Brothers), Professor Huxley gives expression incidentally to some of his own political views. As to the monarchy he says: "At the present day the danger to monarchy in Britain would appear to lie, not in increasing love for equality, for which, except as regards the law, Englishmen have never cared, but rather in an aversion to it, nor in any abstract democratic theories, upon which the mass of Englishmen pour the contempt with which they view theories in general; but in the constantly increasing tendency of monarchy to become slightly absurd; from the ever-widening discrepancy between modern political ideas and the theory of kingship. As Hume observes, even in his time people had left off making believe that a king was a different species of man from other men; and since his days more and more such make-beliefs have become impossible, until the maintenance of kingship in coming generations seems likely to depend entirely upon whether it is the general opinion, that a hereditary president of a virtuous republic will serve the general interest better than an elective one or not."

Form in the Trotter.

Form is of more importance than mere action. The car-horse is able to fold the knee, but you cannot train him to get over the ground rapidly or to last through a race of broken heats. He bends the knee but cannot reach and gather quickly, is overtopped with weight, and therefore falls in a struggle which is decided by speed and courage; and the cause of failure is lack of form. One of the best writers on the horse has furnished us with rules for the selection of a thoroughbred. We are advised to choose an animal with a deep and wide back and loin; with a chest "afford sufficient room for the heart and lungs," but not too wide, for "an open bosom is regarded as a sure sign of want of pace"; the back ribs should be long, or, as such a formation is generally called, "deep," so as not only to give protection to the contents of the belly, but to afford a strong attachment to the muscles which connect the chest to the hips; the ribs "must be set wide apart, and not huddled up together"; "for fast road work where the failure of the legs is generally the limit to the amount of work, a very obliquely and broad blade, well creased the weight upon them, and an overtopped horse—that is, one with a body too big for his legs—is a most worthless brute"; a projecting neck, moderately long and proportionately thin, wide jaws, and intelligent head, broad above the eyes, thin nostrils, which should open under exercise and show the red lining membrane; shoulders slightly rounded, and broad blades, well clothed with muscles; long thighs approaching almost to the proportions of the greyhound; necks full size and clean; and all the points proportion to one another. The authority from which we have condensed these points is "Stonehenge." The fastest trotter in the world to-day, Edwin Forrest, comes from the standard named by the English critic. He has none of the characteristics of the car-horse, and all of the points of the substantial thoroughbred. Mand S., the great four-year-old, also has the form of a thoroughbred. The prepotent blood in both is that of the running horse. Without form neither would have shown so much speed as to attract public attention. The trotting horse is in the pedigree of cash here, with the assistance of toe weights, simply given a new impulse to speed. They have influenced the motion, the folding of the knee and the action of the stifle, and thus enabled the two to startle the country with their deeds. If a sire of a cart-like form and excessive knee-action is so strongly prepotent as to stamp both his form and his action upon his progeny, you may keep breeding him from so until doomsday without getting a trotter, or more than average merit. Admit that he simply reproduces himself and allow no margin for improvement. Edwin Forrest, like Mand S., is wonderfully speedy as a trotter, because he has the speedy formation of the thoroughbred, without which formation he would be merely commonplace in spite of the trotting elements in his ancestral tree. Toe weights, with brains behind them, have in recent years played an important part in the development of the trotting horse. Take an animal in which the thoroughbred triumphs over the "Canuck" at the rate of seven to two, and put him in the hands of a Gilden who understands the use of toe weights, and he will make a trotter of his kind, not able merely to go the distance, but to do his miles in the quickest time. The horses which win the majority of hard-fought races in these days of progress, possess not only the form, but a large percentage of the blood of the English racer. —Turk, Field and Farm.

Scenes in Morocco.

On every side, as you travel through the country, you cannot help noticing the fertility of the land. Delicious fruits grow almost wild in great abundance—oranges, pomegranates, apricots, peaches, quinces, almonds, vines and fig trees. Wide fields of grain wave before your eyes, as surely they would not were it not that the soil barely needs to be turned over; for, through all the centuries since this coast was first cultivated, not one particle of improvement do the indolent people seem to have made in their clumsy methods. When a native farmer finds he can no longer sit in the sun and postpone his plowing, if he is to have any crop at all, he catches a donkey and a goat, or a cow and a mule, or any other creature (including his wife) that will pull, and harnesses them to a plow which would be a fine curiosity for one of our agricultural fairs, since it is simply a couple of wooden boards together so that the sharply pointed end of the main or handle piece, is dragged along a little under the soil. Yet we must not forget that much nearer home a like lack of progress is seen; for in parts of Mexico an almost exactly similar case for a plow has been used for three hundred years, and may perhaps be used for three hundred more. When the caravan reaches a town of considerable size, a stop is likely to be made for some days, in order to allow trading to be carried on. But business is not permitted to worry the travelers much, and between the entertainments of the village people and the recreation of the camp, the stranger will not lack for amusement. It is to this race, it is always to be remembered, that we owe the Arabian Nights' tales. Of these stories our translations contain only a selection, and as you sit and sip your coffee, tea or lemonade in some little cafe of whitewashed stone, you hear the old plots and familiar names, and many a sentimental scene of the kind, told by two who do nothing else. The tales form the treasure of a very numerous class of men and women throughout the East, who find a livelihood in reciting them to crowds never tired of listening. The public squares of all the towns abound with such men, whose recitations, full of gestures and suggestive looks, hold a circle of silent listeners spell-bound with the pleasing pictures their imaginations conjure. It is said that the physicians frequently recommend the story-tellers to their patients in order to soothe pain, to calm agitation, or to produce sleep; and, accustomed to talk to sick folk, they modulate their voices, soften their tones, and gently cease as sleep steals over the sufferer. Quite the opposite of this quiet and dreamy amusement, which takes the place of our theatres, are the shows of the snake-charmers, who everywhere collect pennies from admiring groups. They sit on the ground and handle the serpents in every way, allowing them to coil about their arms, necks and body, and dart long, forked tongues almost into their faces, while one of the group hammers a tambourine as though his life depended on it. I cannot conceive how this so-called music has anything to do with the wonderful control exercised over the snakes by the juggler; I should think they would grow cross, rather than be "charmed" by its incessant discords. —Ernest Ingersoll, in St. Nicholas.

"Going A-Fishing."

The man who invented the fishhook will some day have a monument. It will be a granite column, five hundred feet high, built by the boys alone. A boy might possibly get along with marbles, tops, stiles, balls and kites, yet he would feel that there was an aching void enough somewhere. A kite does well as long as it will outlast all other kites and the string doesn't break, and a pair of stiles are good property until after the first fall; but for real solid pleasure the fish-hook can never be beaten. A boy will always expect more and get less from it than anything else invented, but he never gets too discouraged to try again. The Smith boy was observed trying his luck yesterday in a pond on a vacant lot on Alfred street. As far back as last December his mother promised him half a day out of school as soon as the fish began to bite, and yesterday was the glorious day. Where there's water there ought to be fish, according to every boy's reckoning, and this youth "surrounded" that wee little pond-hole with its barrel of muddly water with just as much enthusiasm as a man would throw a line into Lake St. Clair. He had ham, sweetcake, potato, dried beef and boiled egg for bait, and when he had spit on his bait and cast in his hook all the 26th Greens ever born couldn't have convinced him that he would fall of at least one good bite. For two long hours he fished for sturgeon and pickerel and pike, changing the bait now and then and never forgetting to spit on it, and he finally admitted that it wasn't just the right sort of day to go fishing. If he had a little one to carry home his triumph would have been more complete, but yet his eyes were like diamonds as he met two boys on the corner and called out: "Say! I've stayed out of school a whole half-day and been a-fishing! I didn't catch any fish, 'cos they were all on their nests, but you ought to have seen the big frog which tumbled off a stone!" —Detroit Free Press.

Train the Boys for Business.

There is one element in the home instruction which boys receive prior to their advent into the business world to which too little attention has been given. We mean the cultivation of habits of punctuality, system, order and responsibility. In too many households boys from twelve to seventeen years are administered to too much by loving mothers or other female members of the family. Boys' lives through these years are the halcyon days of their existence. Up in the morning just in season for breakfast, nothing to do but start off early enough so as not to be late; looking upon an errand as taking so much time and memory away from enjoyment; little thought of personal appearance except when reminded by mother to "spruce up" a little; finding his wardrobe always where mother puts it—in fact, having nothing to do but enjoy himself. Thus his life goes on until school ends. Then he is ready for business. He goes into an office where everything, in system, order and precision. He is expected to keep things neat and orderly, sometimes kind files, file letters, do errands—in short, become a part of a nicely regulated machine, where everything moves in systematic grooves, and each one is responsible for the correctness in his department, and where, in place of ministers to his comfort, he finds task-masters, a more or less lenient, to be sure, and everything in marked contrast to his previous life. In many instances the change is too great. Errors become numerous, blunders, overlooked at first, go to be matters of serious moment; then patience is overtaxed, and the boy is told his services are no longer wanted. This is his first blow, and sometimes he never rallies from it. Then comes the surprise to the parents, who too often never know the real cause, nor where they have failed in the training of their children. What is wanted is every boy to have something special to do, to have some duty as a definite aim, to learn to watch for that hour to come, to be answerable for a certain portion of the routine of the household, to be trained to anticipate the time when he may enter the ranks of business, and to be fortified with habits of energy, accuracy and application, too often of more importance than superficial book learning. —Com. Bulletin.

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