

# The Democrat.

## TABLE CONVERSATION.

That there should be some conversation at mealtime is apparent, for otherwise we should be simply a certain number of animals feeding. It is also evident that the table conversation should not be heavy or of the sort that requires much mental application. To study during meal time or soon after is not advisable, it being very difficult for the majority of people to apply the mind with any profitable results, directly after eating hearty food, and the same principle applies to the conversation. People in warmer climates than ours, sleep or rest after a repast and as they are not renowned, as a class, for any great mental or physical efforts, we may consider them as living "according to nature," and may follow their example so far as mental labor and the simultaneous assimilation of food are concerned.

But to return to the subject of conversation. At the family meeting around the table there should be pleasant and agreeable features incident to the coming together. Everyone has something to relate of the events of the morning, if it is the noonday meal, or something anticipatory of the coming day if it is breakfast which calls them. This social practice keeps all interested in the events of the day, the doings of mutual friends and other more or less important subjects. The meal time should not be the occasion for one to decry some person or social event which may be pleasing to others. Gossip as it is in the usually accepted sense of the term, should not obtain at the family table, neither should innuendoes, or little tempory "flings" at absent people be allowed. For the best enjoyment and use of the food, the mind should be distracted from business and attracted to pleasant things. Isn't there a good opportunity for the pleasing conversationalist?

Eating, at its best, is not an attractive performance to the onlooker, but it should be made as dainty a habit and as unobtrusive as possible. One cannot talk well with even the most delectable of dainties in one's mouth, therefore the eating and the talking must be alternate, or the one or the other will suffer. There is the "happy medium" in this as in other cases, a light conversation (or talk, the term which some like better) running along between courses, or after the first and loudest calls of appetite have been satisfied, and these little stops in the eating tend toward the more healthful digestion of the food.

The conversation at the table, if there are children present, should be especially guarded and directed into the best channels. It should be on subjects in which they may share to a certain extent, or at least, in which they may be interested. Nothing will so help a child to acquire a good behavior at the table, as the self respect which he develops when he finds that the older people account him of some worth, and take pains to interest him in important questions. His dignity will not allow him to misbehave when he is allowed to associate and converse with maturer people, provided he is firmly governed and not spoiled by indulgence.

It's funny, Tanner re-rated Senator Manderson's pension and allowed him a back grab of six or seven thousand dollars. This was four or five months ago. The matter was discussed all over the country. Secretary Noble said nothing about it, nor raised any question against it. By and by Tanner's tongue rattled so much that Harrison had to remove him. The sentiment of the country is so clearly against this re-rating business that Noble comes in at this late day and declares Manderson's re-rating illegal. This is done to let Manderson down easy. He was afraid to draw his money in the face of public sentiment. It's funny.

In thirty-one words how many "that's" may be grammatically inserted? Answer: Fourteen. He said that that that that man said was that that that man said was that that that man should not say. That re-minds us of the following "says" and "said's": Mr. B., did you say or did you not say what I said? Because C. said you said you never did say what I said you said. Now, if you did say that you did not say what I said you said, then what did you say?

It is among the unexplained and inexplicable mysteries of politics that the manufacturers of New England, including Gov. Ames and other great protection lights and great purseholders of the republican party, have at last discovered that "it is a condition and not a theory" which confronts them. They made the Republican convention at Massachusetts, the other day, demand "a thorough and equitable revision of the tariff" so as to adapt it to "changed business conditions."

Senator Allison predicts that Iowa will next month give a majority of twelve thousand for the Republican ticket, but the Republican press of the state doesn't claim half that figure, and the Democratic anticipations discount it still more heavily.

Tanner, though out of office nominally, still draws the salary of Pension Commissioner. Fortunately that is all that he can draw at present out of the treasury.

In all public schools of Germany the teachers are men. In this country by far the largest proportion of teachers are women, and they make the best tutors.

Chauncey M. Depew, who is in training for the next Republican nomination for President, is said to have an income from legal and railroad associations of over \$125,000 a year.

Three thousand three hundred miles of main line track, according to the "Railroad Age" have been put down within the last nine months.

Directly and indirectly the United States railroads give, it is said, employment to about one eighth of the total population of the country.

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HERMANN HOFF.

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CLOTHING, FURNISHING GOODS AND BOOTS AND SHOES GENERALLY.

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THEN CALL ON HIM.

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