

A CLAIM TO HUMAN GRATITUDE.

Charlotte Corday, the sad-faced, tender-hearted peasant girl of Normandy made great history by one desperate act.

Sickened by the atrocities of the French revolution, and moved to desperation as Robespierre and Marat were leading the flower of France to the guillotine, she determined that she would put an end to Marat's bloody reign.

Marat had demanded two hundred thousand victims for the guillotine! He proposed to kill off the enemies of the Revolution to make it perpetual!

Horrible thought! No wonder that the blood of this patriotic peasant maid!

Gaining access to his closely guarded quarters by a subterfuge, she found him in his bath, even then inexorable and giving violent directions for further slaughter!

He asked her the names of the inimical deputies who had taken refuge in Caen. She told him, and he wrote them down. "That is well! Before a week is over they shall all be brought to the guillotine!"

At these words, Charlotte drew from her bosom the knife, and plunged it with supernatural force up to the hilt in the heart of Marat.

"Come to my dear friend, come to me," cried Marat, and expired under the blow.

In the Corcoran gallery at Washington is a famous painting of Charlotte, represented as behind the prison bars the day before her execution. It is a thrilling, sad picture, full of sorrow for her suffering country, and of unconquerable hate for her country's enemies.

What a lesson in this tragic story! Two hundred, nay, five hundred thousand people would Marat have sacrificed to his unholy passion of power!

Methods are quite as murderous and inexorable as men, and they number their victims by the millions.

FISHING TACKLE.

low and Where Rods, Hooks, Lines, Reels and Floats Are Made.

The grade of American fishing tackle advances steadily, and so does the cost in many cases, but there was little comment when a well-known politician, who used to angle for rainbows in his childhood with a bent pin, sugar cord and the branch of a tree, paid \$180 for a fishing rod the other day that a firm at Sixth and Market streets had made for him.

It was one of the best split bamboo poles that was ever made in this city.

Few people know the time and trouble it takes to make a good bamboo fishing-rod. The bamboo is imported in big cargoes from Calcutta, India. The wood has to be well-seasoned, and for two weeks the bamboo is dried by steam.

The rod is then split into six lengths and cut into three sections, and again dried for two weeks. The spliced pieces are glued together, and it stays in the glue for a month and is then wrapped with silk.

It is afterward jointed with ferrules. Then it goes through the varnishing process and receives four coats, each coat of varnish being given a week to dry.

The pole is afterward given a butt or handle of ash, celluloid or pearl, and at the end of about three months, and when the pole has gone through the hand of six workmen, it is finished. The rod must be pliant as a coach whip, bending from butt to tip.

Many poles are ruined in the process of manufacture. The price of split bamboo poles run from \$6 to \$60, but poles have been known to cost almost \$200 where the ferrules and mountings were silver.

The next best rod to the bamboo is made of lance-wood. This wood, which is very heavy, is brought from South America in spars. The rod maker has the spars sawed up. Lance-wood must have good seasoning, and frequently half of it is a dead loss.

When the rod has been trimmed and turned by machinery, it is sand-papered and cut into three or four sections and jointed; then it is ferruled, wrapped with silk or linen thread, and varnished three times. The lance-wood rods cost from four to ten dollars. The cheap rods are made of ash and other common woods, with three joints, brass ferrules, and can be bought as low as one dollar a dozen.

Almost all the hooks used in this country come from England, although a factory at New Haven, Conn., is turning out a big amount of hooks. But they can not compare with the English hooks. That the English hook is the best is due to the finely-tempered steel from which it is made.

SPEAKING IN PUBLIC.

Congressman Bourke Cockran's Suggestions to Young Men.

My advice to a young man desiring to become a successful speaker is never to talk unless you have something to say. Always be careful to acquire some information to contribute to the subject under discussion, and then say what you have to say in the fewest possible words.

If a young man follow this rule he may not be a great speaker, but he will become a good speaker and a useful one. I would advise listening to the best speakers, and better, a careful study of the speeches of great orators, such as Burke. As to training, the study and practice of elocution are certainly great advantages, as are also certain trained gestures. Always bear in mind that an audience is most interested when you appeal to its intelligence.

The great fault of public speaking nowadays is an attempt to be oratorical. Rhetoric and imagery are simply the ornaments of oratory—argument in its substance, a man has a clear, convincing argument to present, and presents it in an argumentative way, he is always pretty certain of challenging the attention of his audience.

Unless a young man has a cultivated mind he can not become a successful speaker. He may talk, but the real speaker must not use language merely for the sake of using it. Every unnecessary sentence is a blot upon his speech; it mars the effect and tries the patience of an audience.

The province of a speech is to impart information or ideas on a given subject, and lead an audience to agree with your conclusions, whether it be a jury or a mass meeting. Of course if you have no information to present, your speech will lack interest as well as substance. Never say anything for the mere sake of the sound. Of course it is advisable to express your thoughts in the most striking language you can command.

I would advise the cultivation of extemporaneous speaking as much as possible. If a man is natural and says what he feels without attempting to be one of the great orators of the world, he will always be an attractive speaker and a useful one. As to after dinner speaking, it is the most difficult of all unless you have some toast that involves some definite subject.

For my part I think the ordinary after-dinner speech is a poor imitation of the end man's part at the banquet. But when after-dinner speaking is part of a discussion of an important subject, then it may become very valuable. But of those made to amuse, I think the minstrel show the better of the two.

—W. Bourke Cockran, in Des Moines Register.

SLANG LANGUAGE. The Evolution of Coarse Tramp and Gypsy Vernacular.

Of late years literature and society have shown an unmistakable tendency to disinter from the unliturgical depths of the still current speech of the very lowest classes of the people many hundreds of words that are not to be found in the dictionaries. These words, or most of them, were formerly known as "cant," "flash," "peddlars," "Greek," "jargon," "gibberish," but are now included under the generic name of "slang."

WHICH WAS IT? MASON OR SHAKESPEARE?

The authorship of the dramatic productions attributed to the last of the above named is a subject which has long been a matter of dispute. The practical masses far less than the momentous questions how to read or preserve health, that essential of bodily and mental activity, business success and the "pursuit of happiness." We throw far more light on this latter subject than the most profound Shakespearean critic has ever thrown.

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Fannie L. Davenport Price, the actress, has been granted a divorce from her husband, Edwin H. Price.

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WOMEN'S MODESTY. Many women are prevented by feelings of delicacy from consulting a physician in those disorders arising from functional derangement of their peculiar system.

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