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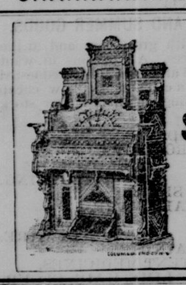

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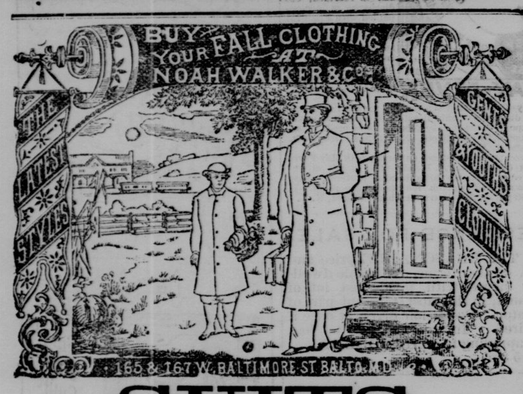

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The Parting Hour.

There's something in the "parting hour"
Will chill the warmest heart—
Yet kindred, comrades, lovers, friends
Are fated all to part;
But this I've seen—and many a pang
Has pressed it on his mind—
The one who goes is happier
Than those he leaves behind.

No matter what the journey be,
Adventurous, dangerous, far,
To the wild deep or bleak frontier,
To solitude or war—
Still something cheers the heart,
In all of human kind,
And they who go are happier
Than those they leave behind.

The bride goes to the bridegroom's home
With doubtings and with tears,
But does not hope her rainbow spread
Across her cloudy tears!

Have you a friend—a comrade—
An old old and valued friend?
Be sure your time of sweet concourse
At length will have an end!
And when you part, as part you will,
Oh, take it not unkind,
If he who goes is happier
Than you he leaves behind!

God wills it so—and so it is;
The pilgrims on the way,
Though weak and worn, more cheerful are
Than all the rest who stay.
And when at last, poor man, subdued,
Lies down to death resigned,
May he not still be happier far
Than those he leaves behind?

GOING DOWN HILL.

"That looks bad," exclaimed Farmer White with an expressive shake of the head as he passed a neglected and broken down fence in one of his daily walks.

"Bad enough," was the reply of his companion.

"Neighbor Thompson appears to be running down the hill very fast. I can remember when everthing about his place was trim and tidy." "He always appeared to be a steady, industrious man," rejoined the second speaker. "I have a pair of shoes on my feet at this moment of his make, and they have done me good service."

"I have generally employed him for myself and family," was the reply, "and I must confess he is a good workman; but nevertheless, I believe that I will step into Jack Smith's this morning and order a pair of boots of which I stand in need. I always make it a rule never to patronize those who appear to be running behind hand. There is generally some risk in helping those who won't help themselves."

"Very true; and as my wife desired me to look at a pair of shoes this morning I will follow your example and call on Smith. He is no favorite of mine, however, an idle, quarrelsome fellow."

"And yet he seems to be getting along in the world," answered the farmer, "and I have an errand at the butchers. I will not detain you."

At the butcher's they met the neighbor who was the subject of their previous conversation. He certainly presented rather a shabby appearance, and his choice of meat here was the observation of Farmer White. Passing remarks, the poor shoemaker took his departure and the butcher opened his book account with an anxious air, saying as he charged the bit of meat: "I believe it is time neighbor Thompson and I came to a settment. Short accounts make long friends."

"No time to lose, I should say," replied the farmer.

"Indeed! have you heard any trouble, neighbor White?"

"No, I have heard nothing, but a man has the use of his eyes, you know, and I never trust any one who is evidently going down hill."

"Quite right; and I will send up my bill this evening. I have delayed on account of sickness the poor man has had in his family all winter. I suppose he must have run behind a little, but still I must take care of number one."

"Speaking of Thompson, are you?" observed a bystander, who appeared to take an interest in the conversation. "Going down hill, is he! I must look out for myself then. He owes me quite a sum for leather. I did intend to give him another month's credit, but on the whole I guess the money will be safer in my pocket."

Here the worthies separated, each with his mind filled with affairs of neighbor Thompson, the probability that he was going down hill, and the best way to give him a push.

In another part of the village similar scenes were passing.

"I declare," exclaimed Mrs. Bennett, the dressmaker, to her favorite assistant, as she hastily withdrew her head from the window, whence she had been gazing on the passersby, "if there is not Mrs. Thompson, the shoemaker's wife, coming up the steps with a parcel in her hand. She wants me to do her work, but I think it would be a venture. Every one says they are running down hill and it is a chance if I ever get my pay."

"She has always paid us promptly," was the reply.

"True; but that was in the days of her prosperity. I cannot afford to run any risk."

The entrance of Mrs. Thompson prevented any further conversation.

She was evidently surprised at the refusal of Mrs. Bennett to do any work for her; but as great pressure was plead as an excuse, there was nothing to be said, and she soon took her leave.

Another application proved equally unsuccessful.* It was strange how busy the village dressmakers had become.

On the way home, the poor shoemaker's wife met the teacher of a small school in the neighborhood, where two of her children attended.

"Ah! Mrs. Thompson, I am glad to see you," was the salutation. "I was about calling at your house. Would it be convenient to settle our account this afternoon?"

"Our account!" was the surprised reply. "Sure the term has not expired."

"Only half of it, but my present rule is to collect money at any time. It is a plan which many teachers have adopted of late."

"I was not aware that there had been any change in your rules, and I have made arrrangements to meet your bill at the usual time. I fear that it will not be in my power to do so sooner."

The countenance of the teacher showed great disappointment, and as he passed on in another direction he muttered to himself:

"Just as I expected. I shall never see a cent. Everybody says they are going down hill. I must get rid of the children some way. Perhaps I may get a pair of shoes or two in payment of the half quarter, if I manage it right; but it will never do to go on in this way."

A little discomposed by her interview with the teacher, Mrs. Thompson stepped into a neighboring grocery to purchase some trifling articles for family use.

"I have a little account against you, and would it be convenient for Mr. Thompson to settle it this evening?" as he produced the desired article.

"Is it his usual time for settling?" was again the surprised question.

"Well, not exactly; but money is very tight just now, and I am anxious to get all that is due me. In future I intend to keep short accounts. There is the bill, if you would like to look at it. I will call around this evening. It is but a small affair."

"Thirty dollars is no small sum to us just now," said Mrs. Thompson, as she pursued her way towards home musingly. It seems strange that all these payments must be met just now while we are struggling to recover from the heavy expense of the winter. I cannot understand it."

Her perplexity was increased by finding her husband with two bills in his hand and a countenance expressive of anxiety and concern.

"Look, Mary," he said as she entered, "here are two unexpected calls for money—one from the doctor, and the other from the dealer in leather, of whom I purchased my last stock. They are both very urgent for immediate payment, although they have always been willing to wait a few months until I could make arrangements to meet their claims. But misfortune never come singly and if a man gets a little behind hand, trouble seems to pour in on him.

"Just so," replied the wife; "the neighbors think we are going down hill, and every one is ready to give us a push. Here are two more bills for you, one from the grocer and one from the teacher."

Reply was prevented by a knock at the door, and the appearance of a lad presented a neatly folded paper, and disappeared.

"The butcher's bill, as true as I live!" exclaimed the astonished shoemaker. "What is to be done, Mary? So much money to be paid out, and very little coming in, for some of my best customers have left me, although my work has given satisfaction. If I could only have as much employment as usual, and the usual credit allowed me, I could satisfy these claims, but to meet them now is impossible, and the acknowledgment of my inability would send us further on the downward path."

"We must do our best and trust in Providence," was the consoling remark of his wife, as a second knock at the door aroused the fear that another claimant was about to appear.

But the benevolent countenance of Uncle Joshua, a rare but very welcome visitor, presented itself. Seating himself in the comfortable chair which Mary hastened to hand him, he said in his eccentric but friendly manner:

"Well, good folks, I understand the world does not go on with you as well as formerly. What is the trouble?"

"There need be no trouble," was the reply, "if men would not try to add to the afflictions which the Almighty sees to be necessary for us. The winter was a trying one. We met with sickness and misfortune, which we endeavor to bear with patience. All would now go well if those around us were not determined to push us in the downward path.

"And there lies the difficulty, friend Thompson. This is a selfish world. Everybody, or at least a large majority, care only for Number One. If they see a poor neighbor going down hill, their very first thought is whether it will affect their own interests, and provided they can secure themselves, they care not how soon he goes to the bottom. The only way is to keep up appearances. Show signs of being behind hand and all will not be well with you."

"Very true, Uncle Joshua, but how is this to be done? Bills which I did not expect to be called upon to meet for the next three months are pouring in on me. My best customers are leaving me for a more fortunate rival. In short, I am on the brink of ruin, and but a miracle will save me!"

"A miracle which is very easily wrought, then, I imagine, my good friend. What is the amount of your debts, which now press so heavily upon you, and how soon in the coming course of events could you discharge them?"

"They do not exceed one hundred dollars," replied the shoemaker; "and with my usual run of work, I could make it all right in three or four months."

"We will say six," was the answer. "I will advance you one hundred and fifty dollars. Pay every cent you owe and make some slight addition or improvement in your shop or house, and put everything around the grounds in its usual neat order. Try this plan for a few weeks and we will see what effect it has on our worthy neighbors. No, no, never mind thanking me, I am only trying an experiment on human nature. I know you of old and have no doubt that my money is safe in your hands."

Weeks passed. The advice of Uncle Joshua had been strictly followed, and the change in the shoemaker's prospects was wonderful; he was now spoken of as one of the most thriving men in the village, and many marvelous stories were told to account for the sudden alteration of his affairs.

It was generally agreed that a distant relative had bequeathed to him a legacy, which had entirely relieved him of his pecuniary difficulties. The polite butcher selected the best piece of meat for his inspection as he entered, and was totally indifferent as to the time of payment. The teacher accompanied the children home to tea, and spoke in high terms of their improvement, pronouncing them among the best scholars. The dressmaker very suddenly found herself free from the great press of work, and in a friendly note expressed her desire to oblige Mrs. Thompson in any way in her power.

"Just as I expected," exclaimed Uncle Joshua, rubbing his hands exultingly, as the grateful shoemaker called upon him at the expiration of six months, with the money which had been loaned in the hour of need. "They are always ready to push a man up hill when he seems to be ascending, and just as ready to push him down, if they find his face turned that way. In the future, friend Thompson let everything wear an air of prosperity, and you will be so sure trosper."

Wedding Etiquette.

Harper's Bazar, an acknowledged authority in such matters, says: We have received a number of letters from our correspondents asking whether the groom pays for the wedding cards. This question we have answered so often in the negative that we think it well to explain the philosophy on the etiquette of weddings, which is remotely founded on the early savage history of mankind, and which bears fruit in our later and more complexed civilization, still reminding us of the past. In early and in savage days the man sought his bride heroically, and carried her off by force. The Tartar still does this, and the idea only was improved in patriarchal days by the purchase of the bride by the labor of the husband, or by his wealth in flocks and herds. Always, therefore, the idea has been cherished that the bride is something carefully guarded, and the groom is looked upon as a sort of friendly enemy, who comes to take away the much prized object from her loving and jealous family. Thus the long-cherished theory bears fruit in the English ceremonial, where the only carriage furnished by the groom is the one in which he drives the bride away to the spending of the honeymoon. Up to that time he had no right to proprietorship. Even this is not allowed in America amongst fashionable people, the bride's father sending them in his own carriage on the first stage of their journey. It is not etiquette for the groom to furnish anything for his own wedding but the ring and a bouquet for the bride, presents for the brides-maids and the best man, and some to the ushers. He pays the clergyman.

He should not pay for the cards, the carriages, the entertainment, or anything connected with the wedding. This is decided in the high court of etiquette. That is the province of the family of the bride. If they are not able to do this there should be no wedding and no cards. It is better for a portionless bride to go to the altar in a traveling dress, and send out no sort of invitations or wedding cards, than to allow the groom to pay for them. This is not to the disparagement of the rights of the groom. It is simply a proper and universal etiquette. At the altar the groom, if he is a millionaire, makes his wife his equal by saying: "With all my worldly goods I thee endow;" but until he has uttered these words she has no claim on his purse for clothes, or cards, or household furnishing, or anything but those articles which come under the head of such gifts as it is a lover's province to give.

A very precise, old-time aristocrat of New Yotk broke her daughter's engagement to a gentlemen because he brought her a dress from Paris. She said that if he did not know enough not to give her daughter clothes while she was under her roof he should not have her.

This is an exaggerated feeling, but the principle is a sound one. The position of a woman is so delicate, and the relations of engaged people so uncertain, that it would bring about an awkwardness if the gentleman were to pay for the shoes, the gowns or the cards of his betrothed.

Guide to Horsemanship.

The following is the introduction to Rev. S. T. Gardner's little volume entitled "The Horseman's Pocket Book:"

1. You must master yourself, if you would become master of your horse. Do not get into a passion. This will frighten the animal and make your task more difficult.

2. Speak in a low tone of voice. Disregarding this rule will have the same retarding effect as disregarding the former. You will find, all things else being equal, that those teamsters and driver's who speak barely loud enough to be heard have the best command of their teams.

3. Have courage to undertake the breaking of your own horse, for it is not likely you will find in another all the virtues necessary to the task. To gain knowledge is to gain confidence; so when you shall have made the directions of this little book of yours, you can hardly be doubtful of success.

4. Persevere in your efforts until you succeed. Possibly the horse may hold out longer than you at first supposed, though it is likely he will submit sooner than you anticipated; but go in to conquer, and make no calculation as to the time he may hold out, and you are sure of success. There may be no apparent improvement up to the moment of complete submission.

6. Remember always not to trust your horse too far. One submission is not a cure. You must not trust him until you know his evil habit is broken and destroyed. It may show your skill to trust your horse very soon and very far, but it does not exhibit your prudence.

6. Be kind to the animal in all your efforts. Nowhere is kindness more appreciated and more beneficial than by the instictive horse. He delights to obey a kind master. We seldom use a whip, and it may be our own fault that a single recommendation is given in these pages for a sharp application, but even then it is recommended but for a short time.

7. Do not presume that you can break up a bad habit in a horse, or even think that you can properly break a colt, until you have read carefully this entire book and are prepared to apply its instructions. Make it, therefore, a book of study, and always carry it in your pocket when there is a possibility for its need.

Portending Change.

It would seem that the country has reached a point at which radical change is demanded, and on the eve of a Presidential election such change may be looked for with hope, if not with certainty. There is a dissolving and purifying process at work which promises as a prime result the overthrow of the old and effete party, during whose existence the seething corruptions which have recently burst forth were engendered, and everything indicates the substitution of active and practical reform, under a new dispensation, now almost in view. If we are not wholly in error, that new dispensation will be proclaimed next week at Chicago.

And it cannot come too soon. It is impossible to open a newspaper without seeing the announcement of "another failure," or another "suicide," the result of the disjointed financial condition of the country. Banks have closed their doors, stocks have tumbled, men who a few months ago were millionaires are bankrupts, fraud and peculation are almost daily unearthed in the different branches of the Federal Departments, and a general shrinkage of values and stagnation of business are everywhere manifested. All this portends change. Perhaps there is no section of the land in which the results of this disturbance are less severely felt than in our own, and for the reason that our community is one which lives within itself and draws its support from its own immediate possessions, which are almost entirely seggregated from outside and especially speculative operations. Here in our teeming valley we have everything we need, and it is our own. Nature has been exceptionally bountiful in providing this favored locality with everything conducive to prosperity, and whilst other sections are rent and racked by the prevailing excitements, we are reaping and storing the most abundant harvest ever gathered. Even the storms have been moderate in their ravages and the worst results are but a prolongation of the work and cost of harvesting, which are trifling as compared with the adversities of others. Yet nowhere will the portending change be more welcome than with us.—Hagerstown Mail.

Nonsense.

The onion peeled in the kitchen.
The organ peeled by note
And the bell peeled in the steeple,
When the sexton peeled his coat.
The latest sweet thing in cradles—
The new baby.

It is the feeblest mustache, as well as the sickliest child, that gets the most fondling.

Poisoning from Tin Cans.

The frequently-reported cases of poisoning from eating canned fruits, meats and vegetables have attracted the attention of medical men and excited in the minds of the people a prejudice against these goods which is by no means altogether unwarranted. Dr. J. G. Johnson, of Brooklyn, recently read a paper before the Medico-Legal Society of New York in which he throws much light upon this subject and gives information which will be valuable alike to canners and consumers.

He states that in his practice he had six cases of corrosive poisoning from the eating of canned tomatoes. In one of the cases, where a whole family was poisoned, it was satisfactorily shown that the tomatoes were not spoiled, or taken from what is technicall known in the language of the trade as a "swell" can, a term given it when the decomposition of the contents forms a gas, which causes the the head of the can to bulge out. These "swells," the doctor says, are bought up by unscrupulous dealers, and "reprocessed;" that is, a second hole is punched in the can, allowing the gas to escape and the heads to assume their concave form again. But the cans thus treated betray themselves by showing two solder holes instead of one, a sign which, the doctor states, the cans in question were free from. Besides, even if the tomatoes had been fermented or spoiled, the cooking would have remedied that far enough to render them harmless. Inquiry

The remedy for this trouble, Dr. Johnson thinks, is for manufacturers to leave off the thin plate of tin which covers the sheet-iron and to substitute for solder a hard cement, insoluble in the acids of fruits and vegetables. Tin is poisonous when taken into the system. It has an irritant, caustic and astringent action, and in extreme doses convulsions and sometimes paralysis occur. Like most other minerals it may, when constantly taken in small doses, be retained until serious symptoms appear, and while the use of a single can of vegetables containing a considerable quantity would not be followed by fatal results the constant use of food strongly impregnated with this metal would in time be likely to produce serious consequences.

The magnitude of the canning business and the extent to which people consume the goods so put up make this question one of paramount importance. It may be that the danger is over-estimated by Dr. Johnson, but the number of cases of poisoning alleged to have been thus caused is sufficient to create alarm. If the public becomes impressed with a doubt of the healthfulness of canned goods, their popularity will be greatly lessened and as it declines the prosperity of those engaged in the business will be impaired. It seems to us that the best and wisest thing for the manufacturers to do is to provide themselves at once with cans so made as to preclude any possibility of the generation of poisonous substances.

The Cost of Running a Train.

As the passenger sits at a car window and sees the mile posts whirl past, he seldom stops to reflect what it has cost the company to pull the train a mile. A party of gentlemen, some of them experienced business men, sat in the lobby of the Kennard House yesterday, when the question as to the cost of running an ordinary heavy passenger train was raised. Several of them made estimates, but every one of them was far below the amount. The average cost of running a passenger train of from six to ten coaches is from $1 to $1.25 a mile. This may seem large at first, but when the several items are taken into account one will suspect, after all, that the estimate is too small. One of the principal items is the running of the locomotive. It has been the study of master mechanics to reduce the cost of running an engine, and each claims to be a little closer in his calculations than the other. The average cost during January of running engines on the Bee Line, for example, was 15.77 cents per mile. Freight engines run at a cost per mile of 17.73 cents. Passenger engines cost less, viz.. 17.24 cents per mile; while switch engines, which are credited with so much mileage per day, regardless of the distances run, are run at so low a cost as to reduce the average to 15.77 cents per mile. The engines run 34.63 miles to a ton of coal, and 16.38 miles to a pint of oil.

Added to the expense of motive power is the outlay for wear and tear of cars; it is estimated that it costs three cents a mile to keep a sleeping car running, and the wages of train hands, etc. The expense from the item of wear and tear is increased by an increase of the speed of a train. The special trains on the Lake Shore, running at a speed of about forty miles an hour, and the fast mail, at about thirty-seven miles, are the most expensive trains on that line. An other little item or railway operation is the expense of starting and stopping a train, which an experienced railroad man said could not be effected at a less expense than from eighteen to twenty-five cents at each stop.—Cleveland Herald.

Now is the time for dysentery, dyarrhoea and the many diseases of the stomach. Never leave home without a bottle Pueblo Pain-Curer. 1

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