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—THE PRACTICAL—

Watchmaker, Jeweler, and Optician.

XMAS is nearly here and I will say a few words in plain talk. There are towns where people have to put up with being compelled to buy in one store, but you ought not. You have a broad field before you. I am here to protect you from all this experience and you ought to appreciate and patronize me as well as others by purchasing your Xmas and Wedding Gifts from me, and that would be to your own benefit. Keep competition in existence and you will draw the benefit.

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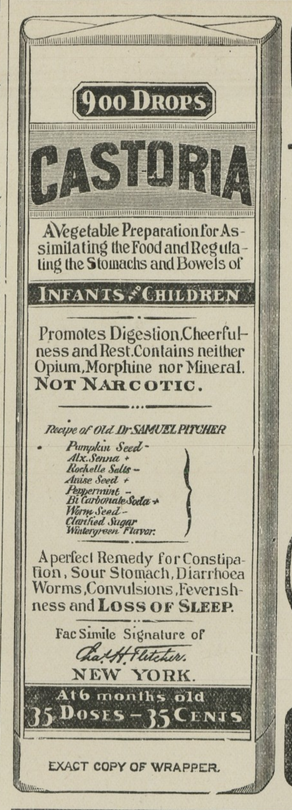

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ALPINE GUIDES.

The Trouble They Sometimes Have With Reckless Climbers.

The Alpine guide frequently risks his health, strength, even his life, for persons who may have been themselves the cause of the peril encountered. The qualities of a first class guide, says the author of "Adventures on the Roof of the World," include not only skill in climbing, but the ability to form sound conclusions in moments of danger. A certain climber tells an anecdote which bears on the importance of the guide's powers of judgment.

A member of the Alpine club was ascending a peak in company with an Oberland guide. Part of their course lay over a snow field which sank gradually on one side, sharply ended by a precipice on the other. The two were walking along not far from the edge of this precipice when the Englishman, thinking that an easier path might be made by going still nearer the edge, diverged a little from his companion's track. To his surprise, the guide immediately caught hold of him and pulled him back with more vigor than ceremony, well nigh throwing him down in the operation. Wrathful and not disinclined to return the compliment, the Englishman remonstrated. The guide's only answer was to point to a small crack, apparently like scores of other cracks in the neve, which ran for some distance parallel to the edge of the precipice.

The traveler was not satisfied, but he was too wise a man to argue while a desired summit was still some distance above him. On the descent when the scene of the morning's incident was reached the guide pointed to the crack, which had grown perceptibly wider.

"This marks," he said, "the place where the true snow field ends. I feel certain that the ice from here to the edge is nothing but an unsupported cornice hanging over the tremendous precipice below. It might possibly have borne your weight, though I don't think it would." Thereupon he struck the neve on the farther side of the ice sharply with his ax. A huge mass immediately broke away and went roaring down the cliff.

The traveler was full of amazement and admiration and thought how there, on an easy mountain and in smiling weather, he had been very near to making himself into an avalanche.

SYMPATHY.

Sympathy is food to a starving heart.

Sympathy is two hearts pulling at one load.

Sympathy is the staff on which trouble leans.

Sympathy is the cream that rises on the milk of human kindness.

Sympathy in sorrow's hour is like the gentle rain to drooping flowers.

Sympathy is the least the rich may give, the most the poor can offer.

Sympathy is the blossom grown from the costly bulb called personal suffering.

Sympathy is a well toned instrument that readily responds to notes of weal or woe.

Sympathy is the most powerful human magnet for attracting and holding friendship.

Sympathy is perfect forgetfulness of oneself in true feeling for the unhappiness of others.

Sympathy is love's healing balm spread by pity's tender hand on sorrow's heart wound.

Artificial Beauty In Rome.

Personal artifice is at least as old as the Roman empire, for, speaking of the artificial beauty of a coquette, Martiol says: "Gollu, you are but a composition of falsehood. While you were living at Rome your boir was growing on the banks of the Rhine. At night when you lay aside your silken robes you lay aside your teeth also. Two-thirds of your person are locked up in boxes for the night. The eyebrows with which you make such insinuating motions are the work of your slaves. Thus no man can say, 'I love you,' for you are not what he loves, and no one loves what you are."

A Lord Sold Into Slavery.

Charles Reade found the hero of his novel, "The Wandering Heir," in the person of Lord Altham of Ireland, who was sold as a "redemptioner" at Philadelphia in 1728 and who served for twelve years in effect as a slave to one or more masters in Lancaster county, Pa. The young nobleman was recognized by two Irishmen who came by accident to the house where he lived, and Admiral Vernon afterward took him back to Ireland. Reade laid the scene of Lord Altham's servitude in northern Delaware, but it is pretty well established that this was an error.

The Saving Light.

We boast our light; but, if we look not wisely on the sun itself, it smites us into darkness. The light which we have gained was given us not to be ever staring on, but by it to discover onward things now remote from all knowledge.—Milton.

When a Kick Helps.

When one lacks the courage boldly to advance along the perilous course his intelligence counsels, he is lucky if he can and will goad some one into kicking him along it past the point where retreat is impossible.—Success.

Love.

George—Are you quite sure that you really love me? Bessie—Oh, yes; certain of it. I never knew any one that could make me so furiously angry at times!—Exchange.

Even Then.

Think twice before you speak, and even then nine times out of ten the world won't lose anything if you keep still.—Somerville Journal.

A TALE OF BONANZA DAYS.

How a Chance Remark of James Flood Ruined His Gardener.

In the old days of excitement when mining stocks were on the jump and men became millionaires over one day's dabbling an incident occurred at the country residence of James C. Flood in Menlo when a fairly well to do farmer found himself without a home in the short period of one week. The man's name was Hank, and, being a first class gardener, he readily found employment about the residence of the wealthy owners of mansions. In this way he was employed at the Flood residence. Hank was loitering about the garden one Saturday evening as the proprietor, in company with a visitor, was looking over the stock.

Mr. Flood, who had just stepped out of the hog corral, casually remarked to his friend that he would be willing to make a bet that "Con would go up to 300 before Christmas." Hank construed "Con" to mean Consolidated Virginia, and, taking the tip which he thought would make him a millionaire, he disposed of his holdings of 250 acres of fine land, his stock and, in brief, everything he had on earth except his wife and four bright little Hanks. The proceeds he invested in Consolidated Virginia stock, which was then selling at $75 a share.

Christmas came, but instead of "Con" going up to $300 it fell to $25. The man was a pauper. In lamenting his loss he incidentally mentioned to a friend of Flood how he lost his all. Flood, who was generous to a fault, sent for Hank and had him repeat his story. When he learned of his chance remark about "Con going up to 300 before Christmas" he fairly shook with laughter and explained what it meant.

It was in reference to the gift of a young sow, made a present to him by Con O'Connor, who in the fun of the thing had called the pig Con. The bet alluded to the sow's increasing in weight to 300 pounds before Christmas and not to Con Virginia.

Having enjoyed the joke and after joshing Hank, the noble hearted Flood bought back the ranch for Hank and recompensed him for all his losses. The originality of the joke and the knowledge of the penalty paid by an eavesdropper were Flood's reward.—San Francisco Call.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

Too many people have a habit of going with their bristles up.

It is seldom one hears an interesting lie, though the people surely get enough practice.

The first question asked in every home by every member of the family returning from an absence on the streets is "Where's mother?"

There are two complaints which can usually be made of every woman: She has too much patience with her sons and not enough with their father.

Talk about a man fussing about the family bills! You should hear a countrywoman who makes butter talk to her folks when they dip into her cream.

It is a good thing to keep at least one building in the course of erection in a small town. It gives the people a place to go and find fault on a Sunday, outside of the regular churchgoing.—Atchison Globe.

Debits and Credits.

"Yes," said Mrs. Millionaire proudly, "we married our daughter very well, I think. We gave her a dowry of $2,000,000, and you have no idea how many noblemen there were after her. She's now a countess."

"Yes, I read it all in the papers," returned Mrs. Cheerful smilingly. "We didn't give our daughter any dowry at all, and she is very happily married to a successful young business man."

"No dowry?"

"None. It wasn't necessary. In the matrimonial market, you know, it depends on the girl whether she is accepted as a debit or a credit."

After the full meaning of this had percolated through the intellect of Mrs. Millionaire a coldness seemed to arise and make itself felt.—New York Press.

The Bird Sentinel.

I was interested one Sunday in watching the movements of birds. Crumbling a biscuit, I threw it out, sat down on the piazza and awaited results, writes a contributor to the Boston Record.

It was not long after the birds came and helped themselves before a cat appeared. Then a warning note was sounded by a bird, evidently on guard on the top of the piazza, where he could survey the whole scene. At his warning every bird disappeared and remained in hiding until a reassuring note was heard from the little sentry posted on the piazza roof.

A Little In Doubt.

A district visitor once went to see an old Scotchwoman who was dying. Noticing that her talk was all about herself and the minister, he said:

"Well, really, Jeannie, I believe you think there will be nobody in heaven but yourself and the minister."

"Ah, weel," said the old woman, "an' I'm no' sae sure aboot the minister!"—London Telegraph.

Not In His Line.

"He seems disgusted with life."

"I should think he would."

"Why?"

"He's an undertaker."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Mind Reading.

Fibbins—I suppose you think I'm a jackass? Burt—I say, you want to stop selling dry goods and go into the clairvoyant business.—Boston Transcript.

You will never be trusted if you do more to gain an enemy than to serve a friend.—Bulwer.

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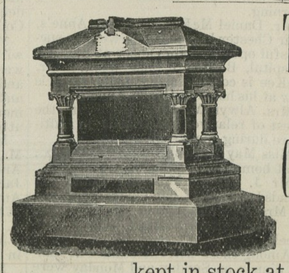

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Respectfully,

J. D. BACCHUS,

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