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The great prizes of life do not fall to the most brilliant, to the cleverest, to the shrewdest, to the most long headed or to the best educated, but to the most level headed men, to the men of soundest judgment. When a man is wanted for a responsible position his shrewdness is not considered so important as his sound judgment. Reliability is what is wanted. Can a man stand without being tripped, and, if he is thrown, can he land upon his feet? Can he be depended upon, relied upon under all circumstances, to do the right thing, the sensible thing? Has the man a level head? Has he good horse sense? Is he liable to fly off on a tangent or to "go off half cocked?" Is he "faddy?" Has he "wheels in his head?" Does he lose his temper easily or can he control himself? If he can keep a level head under all circumstances, if he cannot be thrown off his balance and is honest, he is the man wanted.—Success.

Russian Army Oddities.

Many, indeed, are the curious customs connected with the Russian army, says a writer in a London journal. For instance, none but giants are allowed in the Preobrashenski bodyguard regiment. To the Ismallowski regiment none but fair men are admitted, while a turned up nose is the qualifying adornment of the Pawlow guards. The Guards chasseurs, on the other hand, are composed exclusively of dark haired men. Then, too, the distinction between officers of the guards and those serving in line regiments is most marked, a guard lieutenant until recently taking precedence over a captain of the line. Furthermore the pay of infantry officers in line regiments is ludicrously small. What the infantry private's lot is can better be imagined than described.

Tar and Feathers In 1189.

In England the penalty of tar and feathers was introduced in 1189, when Richard I., before setting out for the Holy Land, ordained, in order to preserve the discipline of his fleet, that whosoever should be convicted of theft should first have his head shaved; that boiling pitch should then be poured upon it, and a cushion of feathers (de la plume d'oreiller) shaken over it. He was afterward to be put on shore at the first place the ship touched at, though, after a baptism of boiling pitch, the poor wretch would have little life left in him. In modern times the practice has found favor with the populace as a means of readily executing justice on an offender whom the law perhaps shows no anxiety to reach.—London Mail.

Hard to Please.

"The only perfectly beautiful woman," said a well known sculptor, "must have been a goddess. I never saw a perfectly beautiful woman in my life, nor even heard of the existence of one. As for Cleopatra, a learned Englishman has discovered in some ancient gossip written on papyrus that she had the foxy red hair and the freckled skin of all the Ptolemy family and was obliged to resort to hair dyes and cosmetics to keep up her reputation for looks. But perhaps the severest shock to the feelings is to learn that Mary, Queen of Scots, actually squinted, and that Mme. Du Barry wore a set of false teeth."

The Shrewmouse.

The smallest mammal in the British isle is the shrewmouse. This is not only the smallest British mammal, but, with the exception of one other of the same genus, the smallest in Europe. The harvest mouse is sometimes thought to be even smaller, but the length of its head and body is often two and one-half inches, while that of the lesser shrew is rarely more than two inches. The tail measures about one and one-third inches, and its teeth are so extremely small that a lens is required to detect them.

Deficient Ideas of Korea.

According to the Korean idiom, it is dishonoring to use "thou" or "he" of God. In speech Korean Christians are often heard to use "Ken yang ban" (that gentleman) in order to avoid the objectionable terms. Instead of saying "He (God) says" they say "That gentleman says." Then the Korean language does not possess the article and has not idiom to represent terms like "faith," "love," "grace," holiness," "justification," "truth" and "eternal life."—St. James' Gazette.

Courtesies of the Street.

A hansom cab driver had just picked up a fare and was driving furiously along a crowded street when the wheel of his cab just managed to graze a horse which a very thin youth was driving.

"Now, then, can't yer see me?" bawled out the latter angrily.

"No," was the reply; "yer whip's in front of yer."—London Tit-Bits.

How to Help the Dead Lady.

The following note of excuse was received by a New York city teacher one day:

Dear Teacher—Please excuse Emma for having been absent yesterday, as I had to take her with me to help an old lady who died and had no one to do her work.

All Settled.

"You're wasting a lot of time and money trying to capture that widow."

"Why? Don't you think she'll marry me?"

"Sure. She told me the night she met you that she was going to."

The Worm Turned.

"Do you shave yourself all the time?" asked the barber.

"No. I stop occasionally for meals," said Jimpian savagely.

Next to excellence is the appreciation of it.—Thackeray.

Tolstoi Was Unable to Answer.

Once in Moscow, near the Borovitchskaia gate, Count Tolstoi saw a persistent beggar, asking alms, who exclaimed, "A little penny, brother, in the name of Christ!"

A police officer approached. He was young, martial and wrapped in the regulation sheepskin. At sight of him the beggar fled, hobbling away in fright and haste.

"Is it possible," said Tolstoi to himself, "that people are forbidden to ask charity, in Christ's name—in a Christian land?"

"Brother," he said to the police, "can you read?"

"Yes," said the officer politely.

"Have you read the Bible?"

"Yes."

"And do you remember Christ's orders to feed the hungry?" And he cited the words. The policeman was evidently troubled. He turned to his questioner and asked:

"And you, sir—you can read?"

"Yes, brother."

"And have you read the police regulations?"

"Yes, brother."

"And do you remember that begging in the main streets is forbidden?"—Success.

Built In Blood.

The Winter palace of the czars was built in blood. Almost every stone of the walls and every square yard of the plaster lining them cost a life. Nicholas had given the order that the palace must be rebuilt in a year, and what was human life against the despot's will? Six thousand men were kept at work day and night, with the palace heated at 30 R. to dry the walls rapidly, while the temperature outside was often 30 degrees below zero R. The men could only work with ice packs on their heads, and, experiencing a daily change of 60 degrees, they died by the score every day. By the end of the year the death roll was some thousands, but the palace was finished. To understand the full meaning of this achievement it should be remembered that the Winter palace is as large as Buckingham palace, Kensington palace and the National gallery.—London Globe.

Luminous East Indian Plants.

Upward of sixty species of East Indian plants, mostly of the fern family, with a goodly sprinkling of grasses and creeping vines, are luminous, and it is said that the sides of the mountains in the vicinity of Cyree are nightly illuminated by the pale, white light which they emit. The root stock of a plant from the Ooraghum jungle, near Layki (supposed to be an orchid), possesses the peculiar properties of becoming luminous when wet, while when dry it is quite lusterless. One jointed plant, supposed to be a member of the rush or cane family, emits a fiery red light from its leaves, a pale white one from its stalk, while its flowers give out capricious flashes, like that of our "lightning bugs."

Chileans Wear Overcoats Indoors.

"In Sandiago, the Chilean capital, where I have been residing for some years, it is common to see people put on their overcoats when they enter a house and take them off upon going into the street," said a visitor to the capital.

"The cause of this is that the atmosphere on the outside is warmer than within the residences. The Chileans do not heat their domiciles to any extent, and they are constructed of such thick walls that they are a good deal on the order of refrigerators."—Washington Post.

Horses In Battle.

Arabian horses show remarkable courage in battle. It is said that when a horse of his breed finds himself wounded and knows instinctively that he will not be able to carry his rider much longer he quickly retires, bearing his master to a place of safety while he has yet sufficient strength. But if, on the other hand, the rider is wounded and falls to the ground, the faithful animal remains beside him, unmindful of danger, neighing until assistance is brought.

The Sagacious Statesman.

"Are you sure you know all about that subject you are going to make a speech on?"

"No," answered the sagacious statesman. "I have put in my time collecting epigrams and anecdotes. The surest way to make an uninteresting speech is to make a thorough study of your subject."—Washington Star.

He Was Immune.

"I suspect," said the fair maid who had talked for fifteen consecutive minutes without permitting him to get a word in edgeways, "you are tired of hearing me talk."

"Not at all," replied the gallant young man. "I get shaved at a barber's and am used to that sort of thing."—Chicago News.

An Empty Title.

Little Willie—I say, pa, what is an empty title? Pa—An empty title, my son, is your mother's way of referring to me as the head of the house when there are visitors present.—Glasgow Times.

Well Trained.

First Little Girl—My father is an officer. What does yours do? Second Little Girl—Whatever mamma tells him.—London Fun.

The Bill.

Knicker—Didn't the doctor build you up? Bocker—Yes, but he seems to think he built a bank.—Harper's Bazar.

There are no greater wretches in the world than many of those whom people in general take to be happy.—Seneca.

DON'T RECOGNIZE DEFEAT.

Prove Your Manhood by Battling on Bravely After Reverses.

After 12,000 of Napoleon's soldiers had been overwhelmed by the advance of 75,000 Austrian troops he addressed them thus: "I am displeased with you. You have evinced neither discipline nor valor. You have allowed yourselves to be driven from positions where a handful of resolute men might have arrested an army. You are no longer French soldiers. Chief of staff, cause it to be written on their standards, 'They are no longer of the army of Italy.'"

In tears the battered veterans replied: "We have been misrepresented. The soldiers of the enemy were three to one. Try us once more. Place us in the post of danger and see if we do not belong to the army of Italy." In the next battle they were placed in the van, and they made good their pledge by rolling back the great Austrian army.

He is a pretty poor sort of man who loses courage and fears to face the world just because he has made a mistake or a slip somewhere, because his business has failed, because his property has been swept away by some general disaster or because of other trouble impossible for him to avert.

This is the test of your manhood. How much is there left in you after you have lost everything outside of yourself? If you lie down now, throw up your hands and acknowledge yourself worsted there is not much in you. But if with heart undaunted and face turned forward you refuse to give up or to lose faith in yourself, if you scorn to beat a retreat, you will show that the man left in you is bigger than your loss, greater than your cross and larger than any defeat.

"I know no such unquestionable badge and ensign of a sovereign mind," said Emerson, "as that tenacity of purpose which, through all changes of companions or parties or fortunes, changes never, bates no jot of heart or hope, but wearies out opposition and arrives at its port."

It is men like Ulysses S. Grant, who, whether in the conflict of opposing armies on the battlefield or in the wear and tear of civic strife, fighting against reverses, battling for a competence for his loved ones, even while the hand of death lay chill upon him, "bates no jot of heart or hope," that wring victory from the most forbidding circumstances. It is men like Napoleon, who refuse to recognize defeat, who declare that "impossible" is not in their vocabularies, that accomplish things.—Success.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

It is well to take time in thinking before making accusations.

A woman who can use her eyes with effect is a dangerous rival.

Women take fright easily over a lover's compliments to another of the fair sex.

There is a species of treason in carrying water on both shoulders in a love affair.

In every man there is a disposition to do the grand where women are concerned.

It hurts a woman's pride to have another woman share with her a man's attention.

When one man sneers at another it is fair to presume jealousy is at the bottom of it.

When a man regards himself as irresistible it is time to do some quiet thinking and self abnegation.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Correggio and His Life.

Little is known of Correggio, which would argue that he was of a retiring disposition. He was born in the little town of Correggio, twenty-four miles from Parma. In the latter city he was educated, but in his seventeenth year an outbreak of the plague drove his family to Mantua. By 1514 he was back in Parma. For some years he worked here and painted many famous pictures. It may have been because of grief over the death of his young wife, but at the age of thirty-six, indifferent to fame and fortune, he retired to the little town where he was born. All that is known regarding his death is the date, March 5, 1534.—Charles H. Caffin in St. Nicholas.

Play Games.

Games help to form character to a wonderful extent, and I do not know any means by which you can so quickly arrive at an estimate of human character, of individuality, of personality, as you can by watching people at games or engaged in any sport that calls for endurance, patience, celerity of mind and body. The school with a good record for games is almost always in the front rank of scholarship. —Dr. Warre.

Former Experience Painful.

The young woman had just said no.

"Have you ever been rejected before, Mr. Huddleston?" she asked sympathizingly and almost tenderly.

"Once," he said, a spasm of pain contorting his features at the recollection, "by a life insurance company. I tell you it hurt—that time."—Chicago Tribune.

Help Others.

Help others and bless yourself. Drive the cloud from the brow of a friend in distress, and you open the windows for an effulgence of light upon your own heart.—Detroit Free Press.

His Experience.

His Friend—Money talks. The Promoter—Yes, but sometimes it's mighty hard to get it to listen.—New York Press.

To tell a man with a cold in his head that colds always attack the weakest spot is adding insult to injury.

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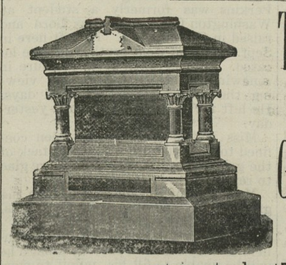
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