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How Girls are made Straight.

The Hindoo girls are graceful and exquisitely formed. From their earliest childhood they are accustomed to carry burdens on their heads. The water for family use is always brought by the girls in earthen jars, carefully poised in this way. The exercise is said to strengthen the muscles of the back, while the chest is thrown forward. No crooked backs are seen in Hindostan. Dr. H. Spry says that this exercise of carrying small vessels of water on the head might be advantageously introduced into boarding schools and private families, and that it might entirely supersede the present machinery of dumb bells, backboard, skipping ropes, etc. The young ladies ought to be taught to carry the jar as these Hindoo women do, without ever touching it with their hands. The same practice of carrying water leads precisely to the same results in the south of Italy as in India. A Neapolitan female peasant will carry on her head a vessel full of water to the very brim over a rough road and not spill a drop of it.

The Wrong Candle.

The eccentric Grand Duke Constantine, the late Czar's eldest brother, while residing in Warsaw, gave a splendid banquet to a number of Polish nobles, to each of whom, at the conclusion of the feast, an ordinary tallow candle was served on a plate. The Grand Duke, who had given orders that an imitation candle, admirably executed in marzipan, should be placed upon his plate, then rose and exclaimed: "Gentlemen, let us eat, to the honor of Russia, the favorite national comestible of my country. Look at me. This is the way to do it." So saying, he threw back his head, opened his mouth wide, and inserted the candle. As he closed his teeth, however, the expression of his countenance suffered an extraordinary change. One of the noblemen sitting in his immediate vicinity had contrived to substitute his own genuine tallow candle for the marzipan imitation set before the Grand Duke, who, not choosing to betray himself to his guests, found himself condemned to chew at least one copious mouthful of Russian tallow, as an example to all the victims of his jest. The dexterous appropriator of the marzipan candle, while devouring that toothsome article, baffled suspicion by the most hideous visual contortions, expressive of loathing and nausea.

The Earth's Crust.

Mr. Robert Ward, writing in the *Journal of Science*, considers that the assumption is a fallacy that all but the crust of the earth is a mass of fire. One of the results of the Challenger and other explorations of deep ocean, he says, is to determine that the deep water towards its bottom is freezing cold. Considering that the ocean covers nearly three-fourths of the entire globe, this fact does not support the theory of central heat accompanied by radiation. The coldest water, it is true usually sinks by its greater weight towards the bottom, and that, it may be said, accounts for its coldness; but on the theory of radiation the water of the ocean has been for long geological ages supported upon the thin crust of the earth, through which the central heat has been constantly escaping, and yet it is still of freezing coldness. Experience would say that the heat cannot have escaped through the water without warming it, because the capacity of water for heat is greater than that of any other substance. We can no more, he concludes, imagine such a radiation and consequent accumulation of heat in the ocean without the natural result of a great rise in the temperature, than we can believe in a kettle resting for hours on a hot fire without the usual result of boiling water.

The Fellow that Looked like Me.

Except an Irish landlord, says the *London World*, no member of the peerage is more to be pitied than Lord Airlie. For several years past he has been endeavoring to stop the career of a clever adventurer, who has pleased to adopt the name of his eldest son, Lord Ogilvy, and, under that designation, to run up debts, forge bills, and swindle people generally in all parts of the world. The number of applications which Lord Airlie received for "payment on my account" from traders, who thought they were trusting his son and heir, is simply incredible. These bills come in a perfect shower from all parts of the Continent, and the United States, and although public notices and warnings of all kinds have been launched at the head of the impostor, and once or twice he has actually been arrested, yet, after a short time, he is certain to be found at his old tricks again, and Poor Lord Airlie is obliged once more to explain to a phalanx of clamorous tradesmen that they have been duped and robbed. No real Lord was ever trusted half as much as this spurious one. His manners are said to be "distinguished," his personal appearance is attractive, and with the fair sex he has always been a great hit. Meanwhile the real Lord Ogilvy is always with his regiment, the Tenth Hussars, in India, with not half such a good time of it as his double.

The Czar of Cracow announces that the Nihilists had laid a plot to abduct the son of the resigning Czar, the heir apparent to the Russian Throne, but that owing to an indiscretion the plot failed. The intention was to hold the Prince as hostage for three weeks, and only to surrender him then on condition of a constitution being framed. Should no such concession have been promised the Prince would have been condemned to death by decree of the Nihilist Committee, and his head would have been sent to his parents.

Size of the United States.

The New York Herald publishes an interesting outline map of the United States on which the areas of the different European States are laid out, suggesting at once to the eye the relative size of this country and the countries of the old world lying west of Russia and Turkey. England is as large as New Brunswick, Scotland as Nova Scotia, Newfoundland as Ireland, France stretches from the northern boundary of Maine to the western boundary of Ohio, and to the southern boundary of Pennsylvania. Germany could be got into the space lying between the southern boundary of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, the Atlantic, the Ohio River the Mississippi River, and the northern boundary of Georgia, and South Carolina. Spain is equal in area to South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. Italy resembles Florida, both in size and shape. Austria would embrace Lake Michigan and the four States between the lakes and the Mississippi river—Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Florida. So that the area of the United States east of the Mississippi, or about three-eighths of the total area, is equal to the States of Europe, excluding Russia and Turkey.

The Way to Wealth.

The way to wealth, observes an old author, is open to all who are industrious and frugal, both with respect to their money and time; for time well employed is certain to bring money, as money well spent is certain of gaining more. Lay down a regular estimate of your time, and what you must do in each hour and particular day, and you will in one month acquire habits of punctuality that will be astonishing even to yourself, and which will gain for you a character of accuracy that cannot fail to raise your credit, the prize that all aim at but few obtain. A punctual man is sure to be respected, and he is almost sure of thriving and becoming rich, for punctuality comprehends industry and foresight, two of the most powerful instruments of procuring wealth. He that is known to pay punctually, and exact to the time he promises, may at any time and on any occasion raise all the money his friends can spare. This is sometimes of great use. After industry and frugality, nothing contributes more to the raising of a young man in the world than punctuality and justice in all his dealings; therefore never keep borrowed money an hour beyond the time you promised, lest a disappointment shut up your friend's purse for ever.

Beware of thinking all your own that you possess and live accordingly. It is a mistake that many people who have credit fall into. To prevent this, keep an exact account, for some time, both of your expenses and your income. If you take the pains at first to mention particulars, it will have its good effect—you will discover how wonderfully small, trifling expenses amount up to large sums, and will discern what might have been and may for the future be saved, without any great inconvenience. In short, if you desire it, the way to wealth is as plain as the way to market. It depends chiefly on two words—industry and frugality; that is, waste neither time nor money but make the best use of both. Without industry and frugality nothing will do and with them everything. He that gets all he can get honestly, and saves all he gets, necessary expenses excepted, will certainly become rich.

The Wealth of England.

A paper has just been laid before the Statistical Society in England by Mr. Giffin, in which the subjects of the wealth of England and of the recent accumulations of capital in the United Kingdom are considered carefully, and with results which have startled even those Englishmen who had thought themselves the most familiar with the financial history and condition of their country. Mr. Giffin finds, for example, in regard to the growth of capital in Great Britain, that in ten years between 1865 and 1875 the capital of the country was increased by the enormous sum of £2,400,000,000, or about twelve thousand million dollars. In 1865 the capital of the empire was £6,100,000,000. In 1875 it was £8,500,000,000. In other words England has been adding to her capitalized wealth or her national estate at the rate of £240,000,000 a year. And whereas the gross assessed income of Great Britain at the beginning of the century, when she was carrying on her great wars with Napoleon I., was but £115,000,000, and in 1855, at the time of the Crimean war was but £308,000,000, it had risen in 1865 to £396,000,000, and in 1875 rose to £571,000,000.

Chinese Babies.

The Chinese have many very strange superstitions, but none more so than that concerning the demoniacal possession of their babies. If an infant from the time of its birth has frequent spells of crying, and is of a very peevish disposition, the parents conclude at once that San Ku Lok Po, as the hobgoblin is called, has taken up its abode in the child, while the baby's true soul is wandering somewhere in space. They thereupon take dried banana skin, burn it to ashes, and mix it with water so as to make a sort of ink compound. The mother now dips her fore-finger into the ink and paints a cross on the baby's forehead, with the words, "I paint this cross to drive thee [the demon] away."

Another method of exorcism is to blacken the infant's face. Banana skin does not necessarily form an ingredient this time; any ink will do. The parents wait until the babe is in a sound slumber, when they take the ink and blacken its face

with their fingers—a brush would not be efficacious. In a short time the demon which has taken possession of the child returns, preparatory to its awakening—for the soul wanders from the body during sleep, and is free—and seeing the blackened face, exclaims, "Lawk-a-mercy! this can't be I," or words to that effect, and decamps precipitately. The true soul, which has been waiting for an opportunity, approaches the dormant body. Now is the time for the parents to wash off the ink with all speed; the soul recognizes its true casing, and the babe awakes in a natural state. Were bedtime it should not the ink have been washed off at the right moment, for then the true soul will, like the demon, fail to recognize the body, and sorrowfully leave it, and the little one dies in sleep. On account of the supposed possibility of such an occurrence, the parents seldom use this latter method, which is called the "face-blackening," but prefer to make the cross on the forehead. Both of these remarkable customs are peculiar to the lower-classes of Canton.

The Woman in the Railway Train.

"Oh, that the Maine Law could have passed fifty years ago!" We turned to find an old lady on a seat behind us, venturing her wish in the midst of an earnest discussion between a Maine Law Yankee and a red-nosed member of the bottle fraternity. "Yes," continued the old lady, "fifty years ago. A husband would not then have gone down to a drunkard's grave, my daughters married drunkards and lived lives of sorrow, or my boys have died in gaol or in the mad-house. Look at me," and with something of fire kindling up in her old eyes, she laid her bony hand upon the arm of the liquor-dealer, "and see a wreck of your accursed business. I was young, had enough of this world's goods, and my heart was full of happiness and hope. Oh, sir, how you have poured desolation into this old heart! I am often bitter, and do you wonder? Such as you robbed me of all my children, and at eighty years of age I am all alone—do you hear?—alone! And let me tell you, this hand never wronged the least of God's creatures. But you wronged me. You, sir, talk about the domicile, and say it is sacred! God forgive me, but I remember when my home was entered by the constables and cleared of all. I remember when the Bible my mother gave me was taken away for drink. I remember the time when my first-born was laid in my arms from a drunken husband's hands, and its little life-blood ran warm into my bosom from its wounds. Why, sir," and the old woman half raised in her seat, "in God's holy name, did you come into my house to rob and kill? Was that constitutional? I have one child living, in the asylum—a maniac. It's all the work of your hands. There is blood there—blood sir! Better, sir, have a millstone around your neck than to sell rum. The curse of the widow is upon you. It will follow you. The serpents you send out will all return to you and yours. Give me that bottle!" Involuntarily, as it almost seemed, the liquor-dealer handed the old lady the bottle which he held in his hand. She dashed it out of the carriage window, and slowly resumed her seat. The people who had crowded round while the trait was stopping, to hear the conversation, slowly and thoughtfully dispersed to their seats, and the liquor-dealer looked the very embodiment of humiliation and shame. With a deep sigh we turned away, our own faith made stronger by the Maine Law sermon we had listened to. Ah, how many in our land would have escaped the bitterness of life had rum been vanished in their day!—*American Paper.*

A BRONZE statue of the late Dr. Norman MacLeod is to be erected in front of the Barony Church, Glasgow.

The potato bug must hide his diminished head before the approach of the *Crisicris Asparagi*. This is his swell name. When he is at home in his shirt sleeves he allows folks to call him asparagus beetle. He is warranted to withstand the ravages of heat and cold, rain, frost and snow, and attends to business with unfailing regularity and on easy terms to large and small purchasers. He comes dressed in black, red and yellow, like a foreign prince or a circus clown, and fattens on Paris green and pizens of all kinds.

The Latest Statistics show 41,678,000 school children in the world, so far as the census takers were enabled to ascertain. These have about 1,000,000 teachers. First in proportion to population comes the United States, with 9,373,195 pupils and 271,144 teachers. Both here and in France the school children form one-fifth of the population. Prussia, with 4,007,776 pupils and 57,936 teachers, takes the third place. Next comes England and Wales, where, as in Prussia, school children are one-sixth of the population. Austria then files into line. In Japan there are 2,162,962 school children, but the total population is not known.

NOT only have extraordinary precautions been recently taken by the police for insuring the safety of Queen Victoria, but strong measures are adopted for guarding the sacred persons of members of the Legislature. A parliamentary agent of twenty years' standing, when the *Freiheit* question was being discussed, had an appointment with a member of the Government; but although well known to the police from his frequent attendance at Westminster Hall, he was not permitted to enter the lobby until his brief bag, which bore on it the name and address of his firm, had been opened and examined. He was further assured that members bags, unless carried by the members themselves, were searched.

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