

A Thanksgiving Dinner that Never was Served.*

It was Thanksgiving day, and from grand-children to great-grandchildren, all were chatting and laughing, with face to face to the fire; for outside 'twas gloomy and bitterly cold, and snow clouds were gathering, fold upon fold.

The soft firelight played, through the wide folding door, on a long table, bright with a shining glare of silver and plate, and a breath of good cheer gave token that dinner would shortly appear.

What a sweet, subtle sense of something to come, a joy still untasted, a future still dumb, a hope all expectant, yet calmly reserved, attends on a Thanksgiving dinner unserved!

How the hope gathers strength as the slow moments fly! And the hungry ones, faint for the sweet by-and-by, greet the dishes that enter, and the great horde of sweets that hover to rest near the still empty seats!

It chanced at the meeting a queer little pet was present, and made all the children forget how impatient they were, whilst his odd little wiles kept all quite delighted and brimming with smiles.

It was Uncle Will's monkey, — an old sailor's gift, — named Jock, who to-day was permitted to drift when and where he desired; and, too late, it was plain such distinction had turned Jock's weak little brain.

For at length, as though tired of such lavish attention, and wishing some fun of his own small invention, Jock sprang from the circle still drawn to the grate, and mounted a cornice, to plot, and to wait.

So hardly the turkey steamed high on his platter, when a puff and a shriek! and a quick "What's the matter?"

A stamping, a running, and shouts of dismay, told the house was on fire! on a Thanksgiving day!

The rest of the townfolks, surprised at their feasts, and still grasping their forks, came by hundreds at least, to add to confusion, and get in the way of the engines, that soon began to play.

Far out in the garden, but huddled quite safe, sat a queer little shuddering, shivering wail, with his hips sadly burned, and his hair singed in patches — Sir Jocko it was — after playing with matches!

For 'twas only a match, by his sly touch ignited, that had spoiled a Thanksgiving, and balefully lighted a town to the sight of a house turned to tinder! and its Thanksgiving dinner reduce to a cinder!

Let us turn from the scene, for what pen can portray the dark disappointments of that fateful day! Though our memory lingers, with sadness unswerving, round that Thanksgiving dinner that never was served.

France Wants a New Game.

A prize of 5,000 francs has been offered for a new game suitable for the students of French schools. France has no national game, and wants one sadly. M. Pasturel probably recommends inoculation as a charming diversion. M. de Lesseps will doubtless suggest the digging of canals. Gen. Boulanger's voice will perhaps be raised in favour of the building of barricades. Some people have supposed that duelling was the national game of France. It appears, however, that there is lacking that spice of danger which renders English football and American baseball so attractive. Those English and American games are not deemed suitable to the climate of France, although attempts are now being made to introduce them. The French public is coming to the conclusion that some popular outdoor sport for boys is necessary to build up their physical systems. The youths of that nation are singularly deficient in healthful open-air amusements. The climate and the temperament of the race may offer insurmountable obstacles to the introduction of any athletic sport of northern countries. The experiment with football, baseball, and cricket, however, is well worth trying, and may lead to important results.

Who are the Lucky Ones?

After all, what is luck? She is the hand maiden of every man at one time or another. She is ever by one's side, ready to give a helping hand. The blind do not see her; the timid or irresolute decline to take her outstretched hand. The unlucky man is the man who forgets to strike when the iron is hot. The lucky man is the one who takes advantage of proffered fortune. Circumstances, it is to be confessed, throw more of such proffers in the way of one than another. But if one will follow the footsteps of the lucky men of the world it will be found that at the points where they seized fortune at the flood there are tracks which show there were many faltering and hesitating ones near by, any one of whom had within his reach the same opportunities as the fortunate one had.

One Thing Was Certain.

"Long" John Wentworth was once running for office, and heard that his political opponents were asserting that if elected he would soon get his hand into the city treasury. "Maybe I will, and maybe I won't," he sardonically replied, when he heard of the charge. "But I'll tell you one thing; nobody else will get his hand in; I'll sit on the chest."

THE PEOPLE'S KITCHEN.

Food Furnished at Cost for the Working People of Switzerland.

During my recent vacation I had an opportunity of visiting one of the "Cuisines Populaires" that are coming to be a peculiar feature of some industrial centers in Switzerland. In 1877, while a socialist congress was in session at Chaux-le-Fonds, near Neuchâtel, one of the speakers said: "All the arguments in the world will not have as much effect on the working man as a good plate of hot soup." These seeds were sown on good ground, for a month later the first popular kitchen was opened, and similar institutions are now to be found in other parts of Switzerland. The aim of these kitchens is to supply working people with good wholesome food at cost price. They are not charitable institutions in any sense of the word, nor do they depend on contributions from the rich, nor on subsidies from the state, in order to keep them going. They are joint stock concerns, but in order to interest the largest number of persons possible in their success the value of the shares is fixed at a minimum sum.

The one I visited has a capital of 10,000 francs, 7,000 francs of which has been paid in, and the shares are held by very nearly 7,000 persons. It owns the building it occupies, which, though by no means palatial, is amply sufficient for the purpose. On the ground floor there are two dining rooms, large enough to accommodate from 600 to 650 persons, a smaller one for women, a waiting room and an office. The establishment is run on a strictly cash basis, but instead of paying with money customers settle by means of checks, which can be purchased in any quantities and it is no unusual for workmen to purchase these checks in sufficient quantities to last them a month. The kitchens are all located in the basement, where is also the "cantine," a branch of the institution into which I shall say more presently. The bill of fare and the prices are the same in all the dining rooms. Three meals are served up in close succession, and as no one is allowed to remain at table after he has finished his repast the institution is able to feed about 1,800 people daily.

Between meal hours food can be had by any who want it, but no wine is ever served except when accompanied with food. The prices charged are as follows: Soup, one quart 3 cents; half quart, 2 cents; meat, boiled or roast, or a fish of a pound if the latter, a trifle more if the former, 5 cents; a ration of vegetables, 2 cents; wine, 2 cents a glass, 3 cents per half pint or 12 cents for a litre; a ration of bread, 1 cent. So you see a person can have a square meal, composed of bread, meat, vegetables and a glass of wine (and I may add that this latter article is of a good quality and sold pure), for 12 cents. The institution not only supplies its customers with meals, but also sells them cooked food to carry away with them. This branch of the bureau is conducted at the cantine, where prices for bread and meat are the same as in the dining rooms, but the portions are one-tenth larger, and two portions of vegetables sold for 3 cents.

Cuisines populaires also furnish the public schools of the town with soup gratuitously and with bread at cost price. The managing committee are supplied with a certain number of checks that they can give away as they please, and all the food left over at the end of each day is distributed to the poor. The cuisine is managed by a board of directors who form three committees, charged respectively with looking after the wine, food and furniture. The employees are few in number; a stewardess, who receives a salary of 1,300 francs a year; a female cashier and cook, each of whom are paid 65 francs a month, and some girls to wait on table, who are paid 25 francs monthly. In addition to their wages all the employees are fed, of course, and those who are only employed a few hours each day can gain the rest of their time in factories.

Made Blind Through Vanity.

About a year ago one of the most lovely girls in the State lived at 40 Orange avenue, in Evansville. A pair of large liquid blue eyes set off a face that would put any picture to shame, and her form was simply perfect. The young lady was highly educated, and possessed all the qualities that go to make up a society belle. Her parents are well-to-do, and she has wanted for nothing since she was old enough to prattle. But she had one fault, and that fault has proved her undoing. It is called vanity. She fairly worshipped her own eyes, and did everything in her power to make them more beautiful than they were. She used numerous drugs before she found what she wanted. This last drug made her eyes sparkle like diamonds, and she used it to such an extent that her right eye began to shrivel. This brought her to her senses, and the family physician was called in. But he came too late, and informed the poor girl that she must lose one of her eyes sure, and probably both. The right eye was taken out some time ago, and she has lost all sight in the left, and will be blind for life.

The New Fashion in Dogs.

One of the encouraging turns in the vagaries of fashion is to be noted in the report that the style in dogs has discarded that canine Albino poodle, and the even more idiotic monstrosity, the pug, and that henceforth the correct thing in dogs will be the collie and the fox terrier. The new styles of dogs are among the finest specimens of the high qualities of valor, affection, fidelity and intelligence. The fox terrier is handsome, useful, plucky and generally indicates his good sense by objecting most strenuously to being carried about in the arms of his mistress. As to the Scotch collie, he is as nearly human in intelligence as it is possible for an animal to be, and is superior to the average of mankind in some important moral qualities. The new turn of fashion for dogs will give the votaries of style an opportunity to become acquainted with intellectual caninity, if the associations to which these high class dogs are to be subjected do not prove too debilitating to their minds.

My Toothache

Is an exclamation heard every hour in the day. Toothache is the most common ailment of young and old, and in the aggregate inflicts more suffering than perhaps any other single complaint. A one minute cure is just what every person desires to possess. Nerviline — nerve pain cure — acts almost instantly in relieving the agony, and as a sample bottle affords a quantity sufficient for 100 applications 10 cents fills the bill. Polson's Nerviline is the only positive remedy for toothache and all nerve pains. Sold by all dealers in medicines.

PEARLS OF TRUTH.

None are less eager to learn than they who know nothing.

Prosperity is no test of character, it is adversity that finds us out.

Immodest words admit of no defence. For want of decency is want of sense.

To-morrow is not elastic enough in which to press the neglected duties of to-day.

To persons who have taken a prejudice, every word is misunderstood, every look offends.

We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing, while others judge us by what we have done.

False friends are like our shadows, keeping close to us while we walk in the sunshine, but leaving us the instant we walk in the shade.

Have the courage to be ignorant of a great number of things, in order to avoid the calamity of being ignorant of everything.

Punctuality is one of the modes by which we testify our personal respect for those whom we are called upon to meet in the business of life.

It is far better to have a few acquaintances and among them many friends, than to have many acquaintances and have scarcely one upon whom you can rely.

The best outfit for a successful, happy life is a good knowledge and faithful practice of Bible teaching. Integrity to truth is far better than any amount of smartness.

If you are under darkness of soul, first go to God with it; and then go to some experienced saint of your acquaintance. It is good sometimes to light your candle at a neighbour's fire.

Floods and Droughts.

In the present condition of the Mississippi valley, floods and droughts seriously afflict the interests of man. There, as in all other civilized countries, the great seats of population tend to gather on the river-banks. The alluvial lands are in all cases singularly fertile; and the streams themselves afford natural ways of transportation, the value of which does not seem to become lessened by the great extension of railway systems. In the present condition of these valleys, the fitness of these streams for navigation is progressively diminishing, for both in times of flood and in periods of drought they are unsuited to the uses of commerce. Moreover, in the flood periods, the streams are a very serious menace to all the towns which are gathered along the river-banks. As yet, we have only seen the beginning of these evils; for notwithstanding the extensive settlements in the Mississippi valleys more than half their original forest covering remains. When, with the rapid increase of population, these river-basins become as thoroughly subjected to the uses of man as are those of Europe, we have yet greater ills to apprehend.

Will Not Leave Us.

It having been rumored that Mr. W. H. Riddell, the able and popular Secretary of the Ontario Mutual Life, had accepted a similar position in Toronto, we are authorized to say that the position of Secretary of the Manufacturers' Life Assurance Company and Manager of its Head Office, was offered to him, but for reasons not necessary to state here, he refused at present to become an applicant, notwithstanding the fact that the salary would be very handsome and that other very tempting inducements were held out to him. While we would be pleased to announce his preference we but voice the unanimous feelings of our citizens when we say his departure from Waterloo would be sincerely regretted, not only by the Company he has so long and efficiently served, but by a host of friends and acquaintances to whom he has endeared himself during a residence of seven years in their midst, by his genial and obliging disposition and other qualities which go to make up the successful business man and worthy citizen. — [Waterloo Chronicle, Nov. 1st.

Chausier dried a man in a kiln and there resulted only twelve pounds of solid matter.

California.

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A Good Light is indispensable to the comfort of a family during the long winter evenings. Poor coal oil in a house is next thing to bad bread. Housekeepers who cannot have gas should use "Carbon Safety Oil." Sold by dealers everywhere.

It is proposed to build a three-foot-wide cinder path between New York and New Haven for bicycles.

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