

Cruel.

There are very few of us who have not a dread or dislike for some person or something, which we cannot explain. We cannot reason about it; we know that it is unreasonable; but the feeling exists nevertheless. We ought, therefore, to be considerate and lenient toward similar illogical aversions in others, who cannot understand why they feel as they do. Too many persons, however, are apt to forget their own weaknesses when they see the failings of other people.

The following tragic story, told by *London Society*, narrates the sad consequences that once resulted from what was at the worst only a thoughtless and even a loving—but none the less real—violation of the laws of true courtesy. Forcing a person to face one's pet aversion is not likely in most cases to cause death, but to do so needlessly, is cruel.

The Prince and Princess de Radziwill adopted their little orphan niece, Countess Agnes Lanckoronska, and had her educated with their children in their castle. A large saloon, dark, magnificent, and panelled with oak, divided the suite of apartments occupied by Agnes and her cousins from those of Prince Radziwill and his wife. It was necessary to pass through it to go from one end of the chateau to the other, unless one went by the garden, a roundabout way.

For this saloon, Agnes, then aged five, manifested an unaccountable aversion, and such was her disinclination to pass through it, that if forced to do so, she fell into convulsions. When questioned as to the cause of her fright, she gave as her reason the terror with which a large picture of the Cumaean Sibyl, by Titan, inspired her.

This picture hung over one of the lofty doors, had a massive gilt frame, and as it represented nothing likely to terrify a child, the Prince treated his niece's abhorrence as babyish caprice, and insisted on her passing through the room like everyone else, but always with the same result.

The more sympathizing Princess at last interceded for the little girl; and as her husband did not choose to have the most valuable picture of his collection located in a lumber-room, he allowed Agnes to pass outside, through the court, or by a terrace in the garden.

A little sedan was got for her use in which she was carried in wet weather, and for twelve years she went round, winter or summer, at least three times a day.

When Agnes had completed her seventeenth year, she favored one of her suitors, was Prince Wisniewski. To do honor to her betrothal, her aunt and uncle invited fifty or sixty of the neighboring nobility, with their children. After the banquet, the young people, to amuse themselves, proposed a diversion.

Agnes was placed at the head, and had to lead the merry procession through different rooms. Some of her friends bantered her on her dislike for the saloon, which they declared the finest in the house and best suited for their games, and she, unwilling to disappoint them, consented to lead them thither.

At the door she stopped, turned pale and seemed almost fainting, then refusing to enter. Her lover, with tender words, pulled the doors to and held them fast.

A weak, despairing voice from within cried, "I am dying; save, oh, save me!" and was answered by a peal of merry, mocking laughter from without.

Chinese Telegraph Lines.

The most recent link in the long chain of telegraph lines which is spreading with such rapidity over China is the land line from Shanghai to Canton. A line from Peking to Tientsin was opened a few months ago, and the capital of China was connected directly with London. Now the capital of southern China is joined with the metropolis in the north; and as Canton was put in communication by telegraph with the frontier of Tonquin at the outbreak of the present political troubles in the latter district, the telegraph now stretches in an unbroken line from Peking in the north to the most southern boundary of the Chinese empire, and a message either from London or Peking might reach the headquarters of the Chinese forces on the Tonquin frontier in a few hours. Four years ago the only telegraph line in China was one about six miles in length, stretching from Shanghai to the sea, and erected to inform the mercantile community of the arrival of vessels off the mouth of the river. The next important line constructed by the Chinese Government will probably be one uniting Peking with the great northern lines across Siberia at Kiachta. This will have to cross the whole of Mongolia, and will give the capital of China a third alternative telegraph route to Europe, a matter to which some political importance is believed to be attached in China. As already pointed out in *Nature*, this extraordinary development is due solely to political considerations.

Candy to Cover Crime.

"A good wife is Heaven's greatest gift to man, and the rarest gem the earth holds," remarked Mr. Jarphly the other morning. "She is his joy, his inspiration, and his very soul. Through her he learns to reach the pure and true, and her loving hand leads him softly over the rough places. She is—"

"Jeremiah," said Mrs. Jarphly, solemnly, "Jeremiah, what wickedness have you been up to now! There's no use of waiting or whipping 'round the stump, for I'll hear of it soon enough. Say it right out, Jeremiah!"

MURDER AND SUICIDE.

Escaping Death at the Hands of her Mother who Killed her Brother and Herself.

The letters left by Mrs. Carrie Winslow, the maniac agent in the tragedy in Newport, Ky., recently, show that she had planned the murder of her children. Daisy Winslow, the bright little daughter, fought desperately for her life and saved it. She exhibits the most vivid recollection of the terrible ordeal through which she passed. She tells her story with dramatic effect. She says:

"Mamma wouldn't let us go to Sunday School, and wouldn't allow the servant to make the beds, but made them herself. After all had gone to church mamma took me and Walter upstairs to her room. Then she sent me down stairs to get a paper. When I came back I knocked at the door, for it was locked, and I said: 'Mamma, let me in.' She said: 'Wait a minute, darling, and I will let you in.' After a while she let me in, and I saw Walter with the cord around his neck, and I screamed and said: 'Oh, mamma, you have killed Walter.' Then mamma hit me three times with a base ball bat and knocked me down on my knees and made me blind [meaning that she was dazed.] I fell over, and when mamma thought I was dead she kissed me three times, and said, 'Good by, Daisy,' I said, 'Good by, mamma.' Mamma knew when I said that that I wasn't dead, and she took a razor and cut me in the throat. I caught her hands, and she cut my hands with the razor. I fell over and pretended to be dead, when she kissed me again. She knelt beside me, cut her own throat, and her head fell on mine. I jumped up and tried to get out, when a policeman kicked the door in."

SOUTH AFRICA.

German High-handedness which will Probably require Explanation.

Advices from Camerouns state that two German men-of-war have arrived at the mouth of the river, and on December 20th the steamers Fan and Dualla towed launches containing 300 armed men up the river to Hickory. Reaching that point the German troops opened fire upon the natives, who returned it. The Germans landed and fired the houses of the chiefs at Fostown, seized Woermann's factory, and threatened to kill sub-agent Pontanics if any of the inhabitants of Fostown were killed. On hearing of the seizure of Pontanics the boats attacked Fostown, the natives returning the fire until the Germans landed. Many of the latter were killed, and the Germans were obliged to retire, but being reinforced they again charged, and drove the natives from the town, Chief Calabar Joss being killed. The natives beheaded Pontanics and carried his head through the town on a pole. The Germans fired the town and retired. Hamilton's English factory was destroyed by a shell, and the agent injured. Another factory was damaged and the agent compelled to take refuge upon a hulk in the river. Next day the Germans occupied Cameroun, and the German vessels then completed the destruction of Hickory. The Baptist mission which was erected at Great Cove was destroyed, and many women and children killed. The number of natives killed is unknown, as all were carried into the bush. The natives now trade only with the English. The action of the Germans in making an attack without declaring war, and in searching British ships in neutral territory, is considered a flagrant violation of international laws.

SUBSCRIPTION BOOKS.

Must They Be Paid For—The Law on this Subject.

It is desirable that parties who sign orders for books sold for subscription should know that they cannot afterwards cancel their orders, or in any way evade the payments to which they have agreed. A knowledge of this fact will save a great deal of useless law expenses and unprofitable worry. The Courts, high and low, Division and Supreme, have decided these cases so many times and so uniformly against the subscriber, that it is time to cease "kicking against the pricks." What is more, it is not only compulsory by law but also by the rules of fair dealing that such should be the case. Publishers receive from their canvassers certain orders signed by individuals who are supposed to know their own minds, and to be able to pay for what they order. Upon the strength of these names they pay commissions to the agents and order a certain number of books to be printed. When they have gone to all the possible expense and present the article, it would not be fair that the purchaser should be allowed to escape responsibility for his act, and so the Courts have decided time and again. We are led to make these remarks from noticing that during this winter there have been a number of subscription book cases before Canadian Courts, and the Judges have held in every case that the written or printed contract was binding on the subscriber, and any verbal agreement or promises made by agents did not affect it. This also refers to books published in parts, which can be delivered as specified in the written contract, either a few parts at once, or all the numbers at one delivery. Some of the most expensive and valuable books we have are published in parts, as there are few firms on this continent who are financially able to bring out a work entailing an outlay of \$300,000 or \$400,000 before getting any immediate return on their investment.

It is impossible for a thoroughly selfish person to be also a strictly just one. He may fancy that he is; but he is too much absorbed with his own interests, and too indifferent to those of others, to be able to see what justice demands, or gain any adequate idea of its claims.

HORSES.

How to Manage. CHAS. E. PAGE

We occasionally observe an instance wherein an intelligent stable-keeper buys a seedy, pot-bellied horse, perhaps, of a farmer, who has been in the habit of keeping hay in the creature's crib all the time, the horse munching away, eating or nibbling constantly whenever he can work up an appetite, or, as in some cases, gormandizing as if he was an animated hay-cutter and nothing else. The man puts him into his stable, feeds him little and regularly—hay morning and night, and in amount only what he will eat up clean with a sharp appetite; or, if of the insatiable-appetite type, limiting him to a rational quantity, giving him light feed three times a day (grain only at noon), but giving him regular exercise or work every day. The result of this treatment is a complete transformation, which I need not describe in detail; but, from a hide-bound, lazy, and almost useless piece of horse flesh, he produces a tough, hard, clean roadster of great value.

Sometimes this same transformation is secured without any great degree of intelligence on the part of the owner, but is rather a streak of good luck. Buying an overfed and underworked dyspeptic horse, because he is "cheap," feeding him well, but giving him an abundance of work, because he has the work for him to do the necessary conditions are established, and the horse begins to thrive and acquire condition, to the entire surprise of the owner perhaps.

This could never have been accomplished upon any system of feeding alone; muscles do not grow except as they are used; nor is it possible to fatten some horses so as to give the semblance of condition, which so often deceives the novice, who, buying a sleek, handsome horse, finds, upon putting him to use, that his fat melts off and out of the degenerated carcass; and he, not knowing the cause, does not know how to prevent the decline, or to build the creature up anew.

CONDITION IN HORSES.

"Condition has much to do with the question of ability to undergo severe labor in inclement weather without undue hazard," says a writer in the *National Live Stock Journal*. "Condition is a state of the body not acquired in a day, as all experienced horsemen know. Without this trotting or the running horse is well understood to possess no hardiness; in other words no power of endurance under hard pushing, and at the same time a vital stamina that will enable the possessor to ward off disease, though hard pressed and over-heated. An attempt often made by the novice to put a horse in condition for hard labor by suddenly increasing his feed, is inevitably followed by failure. Only a system of prudent, steady feeding, daily, vigorous exercise of the muscles being practiced at the same time, will ensure success. If this be omitted, the animal will perspire freely with even moderate exertion. His heart will be found to increase the frequency of its motions, thumping against the ribs more or less violently. This can easily be detected by placing the ear over the region of the heart, or in fact, over any part of the chest in proximity to the heart. Suddenly feeding the horse to put him in flesh fixes a tendency to this Steady muscular exertion builds against this tendency, and effectually removes it, if the practice be thoroughly carried out. Do not mistake by supposing that these evil results of quick fattening, called 'softness,' will only follow fast work. A severe pull—even a single effort, if severe—will cause as vigorous spasmodic efforts of the heart as though the animal had been hard driven under the lash."

This palpitation and sweating, easily and quickly, are indications of weakness, though the horse may be very spirited and "strong-going" one. This is especially true of a class of horses termed "pullers" when they are not given much work, as in the case cited further on. There are few trotting horses but suffer more or less during portions of the year from this disease, viz: degeneration of the muscular system—of the entire organism, in fact. This fully accounts for so many fine horses "going lame" suddenly. The cause may be truly enough said to be a sprain; but why the sprain? Simply because the muscles and tendons instead of being tough, clean, and sound, are degenerated from lack of sufficient use. Instead of keeping his muscular system firm and sound, his appearance of condition is maintained by feed alone; and when taken out for a little speeding, he strains himself a little, snap go a few strands of a muscle, and he has to be hauled off and "doctored" at a great loss to his owner.

Is Belgium to Become a Republic?

A Belgian Baron who has a European reputation at once as a light and serious Paris journalist, and as a political economist of the free trade school, assures me that there will soon be a republic in Belgium. "Don't think he said, 'that in this case the wish is father to the thought. I am not a Republican.'"

"On what have you to go," I asked, "in saying there may soon be a republic at Brussels?" "On many circumstances; but, most of all, on the great success of *Le National* from the time it commenced to abuse the King and Queen. It called him M. von Cobourg and her he Cobourgeoise—a heavy pun, which did better under the circumstances than a light one. Before it struck upon this course it vegetated in obscurity, and never had an issue exceeding 500. It now has 60,000 subscribers, which, in a little state where primary instruction is backward, is enormous. The attacks on royalty are done with great talent by a Belgian named Willaert. The Government does not dare prosecute him.

The romantic mountains of Switzerland are proving death-traps to villages.

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