



Knowledge Is Power

By FREEMAN TILDEN.

III.

Harold Hussey had a watery blue eye, tapering fingers, manicured nails and a slight lisp. It was said that Mrs. Hussey had been disappointed because Harold, her only child, was not a girl. At all events, she had since done all that she could to rectify nature's unfortunate mistake. The only additional shame she could possibly have saddled upon the nineteen-year-old youth would have been to make him wear earrings.

He called his mother "mommy," and she usually referred to him as "my angel." She withheld from Harold the only possibility by which he might have gained some good repute from the rest of his fellows—she wouldn't let him learn to play ragtime on the piano.

You can't keep a scheme like that quiet in a place like Brookfield. It came to Caleb's ears that Harold Hussey was going to be used against him at the Hastings' surprise party, and Mr. Coppins nearly exploded with subdued laughter.

He knew that Harold's knowledge was practically confined to one subject. Now, Mr. Coppins knew nothing about music. But he got to work under his kerosene lamp. He absorbed everything in the "Pan-Continental" that looked as if it might have the taint of harmony. He delved for dates and nourished himself on names.

He arrived at the Hastings' home with a glint of vulpine shrewdness in his eyes. He was not perturbed by the surreptitious whispering that went on around him. He picked out the best chair in the crowded room, and threw himself into the preliminary course of ice cream, sandwiches and cake. Once in a while he cast a withering glance at Harold Hussey, who had been placed opposite to him, and Harold never chinked upon a mouthful of frosted cake. Mrs. Hussey backed her pride and hope upon his past and spoke soothing words to him.

Mr. Coppins deliberately put away his dishes and drew himself into a dignified attitude of scholastic reflection. Suddenly he remarked:

"I tell you, folks, it's only when a man really begins to learn something that he realizes how much there is to learn. Now, friends, there was a time when I felt pretty sure I knew everything. But I didn't—not then!"

"I suppose you do now," retorted an untaught guest, out of his heart of writhing hate.

"Oh, no," replied Caleb complacently, "not everything. But little by little I'm accumulating a fund of knowledge. Knowledge, I know, is not what you want, it makes a man feel like a real man. It's the little facts that count. How many of you here could tell me, for instance, the length, in English measure, of a Swedish mile? You ought to know, folks. It's important to know those things. How many of you could tell me what language the ancient Egyptians spoke, or who deciphered the first cuneiform inscriptions dug from the great desert near the Nile? You ought to know. Everybody ought to know. Those things are important. Now, you," concluded Caleb, pointing at the untaught young man who had opened the subject, "suppose you ask me some question—any question. Go ahead—make it a hard one!"

The untaught young man glowered at the enemy and swallowed hard. He took four reefs in his forehead, and the veins stood out on his temples in an effort to think of a poser. Finally he gasped and lay back in his chair, helpless. He couldn't think of a question to save his life!

Mr. Coppins laughed softly and stroked his chin.

"Anybody else?" he said saily.

"Wait a minute!" cried the untaught.



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"That's what my book sayth," blipped Harold. "Besides, I know that Wagner died in an old palace on the Grand Canal in Venice."

Calkins turned swiftly upon Caleb. "The boy's got you," he laughed. "Give up; you're stung, Caleb!"

"Nonsense!" said Caleb. "I'll bet you one hundred dollars the boy's right," cried the grocer. "Put up or shut up!"

Mr. Calkins evidently had little idea that Caleb would put up. He paled visibly when Mr. Coppins replied confidently:

"I'll go you!"

"I haven't got that much cash with me," stammered the grocer. "But here are witnesses. I say Harold is right."

"I really hate to take your money," replied Caleb coolly. "It doesn't seem fair, honestly, but you can't blame me. One hundred dollars, I'm your man."

Really, you mustn't bet money," interrupted Mrs. Hastings, thinking of the dignity of her position as hostess, but secretly hoping that it would be disregarded.

"Let 'em go ahead!" cried the men. "This has been coming to Caleb for a long time."

"I can prove it by my book," averred Harold. "I'll go right home and get it this minute."

"Books talk," returned Caleb. "I'll be back in half a jiffy. Then you'll hand me a check for that hundred, Calkins!"

Ten awful minutes of suspense passed over the heads of the company. Calkins perspired in a corner and accepted the congratulations of the crowd with a clammy and uncertain hand.

There was a shuffling of feet outside. In another moment Caleb Coppins entered with a large volume bound in limp leather. He opened it and laid it on the table. Then he pressed his finger on a certain spot and threw back his head laughingly. As many as could gather round the evidence regarded the fatal words and groaned. In his corner Mr. Calkins shivered. It was plain:

WAGNER, Richard, German composer, born at Leipsic, 1813; died at Baireuth, 1883.

Another scraping of feet outside, and Mrs. Hussey entered with Harold. Harold also had a book. Mr. Coppins glanced at his antagonist's evidence, and his eyebrows lifted somewhat. Harold also had a volume of the "Pan-Continental Encyclopedic Dictionary!"

Then Caleb smiled. All the better—the same volume to tell the same story.

Mr. Coppins saw Mr. Calkins pounce wolfishly upon Harold's book and whip the pages over. Presently the search ended, and young Hussey pointed to a passage which Mr. Calkins eagerly read. Then the grocer strode toward Caleb with a countenance which somehow made the bibliophile wonder if he had forgotten anything. With a bold front, however, he turned upon Mr. Calkins and asked confidently:

"Is there any other question you'd like to ask me?"

There was a tense moment of hush in the room. A glint of wicked glee that sparkled from Calkin's eyes brought a pale spot under each of Caleb's ears. Then he heard these words:

"Yes, Caleb, there are two questions I'd like to ask you. One of them is: Have you seen this?"

He plucked down before Caleb, Harold's volume of the "Pan-Continental" and glided his finger to a pink slip of paper under "Wagner, Richard," for "died at Baireuth," read "died at Venice, Italy."

Defeated, stricken dumb, Mr. Coppins did not even attempt a reply. After a moment of dead silence the triumphant voice of Mr. Calkins went on:

"Yes, Caleb, and here's the second question—have you that hundred in your jeans?"

(The End.)

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Woman's Sphere

Consistency is one of the fundamental qualities of discipline, and from my own experience I have found it to be most important. It should always be accompanied by kindness. More mothers have trouble with their children because of their own inconsistency than for any other one reason.

Johnnie comes home from school and asks, "Mother, may I go over to Billy Baker's to play?" and Mother, knowing that Billy's influence is not good, refuses. Johnny displays more or less temper, but Mother is firm, and Johnnie stays at home. A few days later, however, Johnnie makes the same request, and Mother, who is entertaining a caller, lets him go for a little while. This is a case of inconsistency, and, in order to save one scene, Mother is laying a good foundation for many more. The probability is that had she replied, "Mother has told you before," the matter would have ended there, or even if he had cried a little and "made a scene," the son would have had a valuable lesson and learned that Mother meant what she said. His love for the moment might have been shaken, but eventually Johnnie would have been a happier boy and his love and respect for his mother would have been greater.

The value of consistency cannot be overestimated. The tiniest baby should be dealt with kindly but firmly. A mother can develop the teasing habit in her child while he is still in his cradle if she lacks this quality of consistency. At one time when her baby cries she does not pick him up, for she says, "It is not good for him and he is forming bad habits." But the next day, if she is nervous and unwilling to endure his noise, she yields "just for once." The result is that she gives in to her child more or less through his later childhood.

Again, with an older child, the mother will partially concede, a sort of compromise, and the child is keen enough to know that he has gained his point, and each time he will seek to gain a little more, until the mother realizes when it is too late that her problem is great and her word really has very little weight.

My advice is: Be considerate in your requirements of a child, and then be consistent in seeing that these requirements are carried out. Irritable, nagging mothers and unattractive, nervous children would be almost unknown if the former could realize the importance of kindness and consistency. Lack of sympathy and strained relations between parents and their older children often spring from habitual inconsistency.

Perhaps the most important thing of all is this: When you make a legitimate request you must know within yourself that you expect it to be carried out. Then if you are disobeyed you must calmly, but definitely and emphatically, see to it that your request is complied with. This method cannot be practiced to-day and neglected to-morrow, but must be consistently followed.

The future happiness, character and well-being of your little one depend entirely upon firm, wise and consistent guidance. It is these fundamental qualities of mother-discipline that train the strong-willed little sons and

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have contained honey or syrup; or a little brown sugar. At a cost of only a few cents a gallon a wholesome supply of vinegar can thus be had by any housewife.

Be sure to spade up the garden this fall or plough it up. Turn under fallen leaves, if possible. The disturbance is bad for cut worms and other insects, so they will be less troublesome next year. The fallen leaves will rot and add humus to the soil.

Soda should be thoroughly dissolved in the washing water before the clothes are put in. Never allow it to lie about on the clothes, as this sometimes causes iron-mould. Soda should never be added to the water in which woollen things are being washed, as it causes them to shrink.

Place squash on shelves in a dry room near the furnace or in a warm attic room. They must not be in a damp or frosty place. They will stand a great deal of heat and dry air, but a little moisture. If you want squash or pumpkins to keep well, handle them carefully so they are not bruised.

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The most interesting and instructive of all imaginable journeys would be taken by anybody who should follow the line of no latitude around the world.

As good a place as any to start would be the Galapagos Islands, 600 miles due west of the coast of Ecuador, to which they belong. This little group (the equator runs through it) is the home of giant land-turtles, which have been known to attain a weight of more than 800 pounds. The islands are peaks of extinct volcanoes emerging above the surface of the sea, and each one has its own peculiar species of huge tortoise, though all are doubtless derived from a single ancestral stock that anciently inhabited the mainland of Ecuador.

Across South America.

Do you know what the name Ecuador means? It is Spanish for equator. Never thought of that, did you?

Now for a trip eastward across South America, following the equatorial line, which takes you through northern Ecuador, southern Colombia and northern Brazil. It is a wonderful pilgrimage, mostly through trackless forests intersected by numerous rivers, on the banks of which dwell tribes of extremely naked savages. Practically, the only clothing they wear is done for ceremonial occasions, and consists chiefly of the brilliant plumage of tropical birds, or metallic-hued wing-covers of certain beetles and necklaces of monkeys' teeth.

One of these tribes preserves the heads of its enemies taken in battle by removing the skull and drying the fleshy envelope thereof over a slow fire. Hot pebbles are put inside, and, as a result, the head is so reduced by shrinkage as to be no bigger than that of a small doll, though the features are perfectly preserved in miniature.

Cannibalism is certainly not uncommon among these tribes, some of which are formidable by reason of the poisoned arrows they use, the points being dipped in a preparation made from the seeds of a plant that yields strychnine. The arrows are discharged with exceedingly accurate marksmanship from blow guns, which are red tubes six feet long, the projectile wrapped with silk cotton to make it fit the bore.

It was in this region, by the way, that rubber was first seen in use by early travellers, who found it employed by the savages for the making of syringes.

The equator departs from South America directly through the mouth of the Amazon river, in which lies an island as big as Denmark. Crossing the Atlantic ocean, it strikes French Equatorial Africa before passing on through the Belgian Congo.

Equatorial Africa.

All of Equatorial Africa is the home of the blackest of black people—cannibals mostly, when opportunity serves. There dwell tribes of the vanishing pygmies. Also, in the western part of that belt, our nearest living relatives on the earth, the gorillas and the chimpanzees.

Furling your journey eastward you pass not far from the mighty Congo catract called Stanley Falls (after the famous explorer, and about 425 miles further on (having left the Belgian Congo behind), you find yourself on the western shore of one of the world's greatest sheets of fresh water. It is the Victoria Nyanza (the latter word means "lake"), which is the principal source of the Nile.

The equator runs through the lake, and so you must hire a staunch craft to carry you across, for it is a voyage of 150 miles. A veritable fresh-water sea is the Victoria Nyanza, comparable in size to our own Lake Superior.

Arrived on its eastern shore, you will have 125 miles further to go before striking the western slopes of Mount Kenya. Would you enjoy the sensation of travelling through snow on the equatorial line? If so, you may get it right there—supposing that you are a good climber. For Mount Kenya is the second highest mountain in all Africa: perched directly on the equator, its topmost peaks, covered with everlasting snows, reach an elevation of nearly three and a half miles.

When you leave the east coast of Africa, you strike across the Indian Ocean, following the equator, which cuts Sumatra and Borneo in halves. It is in the forests of those great islands that our somewhat less near relatives, the orange-outangs, reside. All of the Malay archipelago (which properly includes the Philippines) might be described as a partly submerged continent, and no great amount of geologic uplift would be required to convert it into a single land mass nearly as big as Australia.

When you are sure that you are above your job, it is not strange that it should now and then slip from under you.

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