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"The Fitness of Things"

Those who are fond of the writings of the "Fiber of the English Novel" may recognize our title as the point of departure as well as the goal of the moral system of philosopher Square. Whatever was 'fit' was decided by Square to be right, and whatever was 'unfit' was wrong.

Now we do not profess to be a disciple of philosopher Square, nor indeed of any other philosopher in particular; but we do believe that there is, after all some importance to be attached to fitness, and that it is unsafe and unwise to ignore it.

We do not propose to write an essay, however; but simply to present, and to review some curious examples of unfitness which have come under our notice.

Some time ago we were in church during the session of a Sunday School. It was a strange place to us, and, as is our wont, we looked quietly around us, if perchance we might find something worth noticing. On the unpainted pine table at the foot of the unpainted pine pulpit, we saw two paperboxes. One of these boxes was conspicuously labelled, '1 doz. Paregoric' the other '1 doz. Syrup of Squills.'

We looked around at the Sunday School children, and found them apparently quite healthy. It was very warm weather in midsummer; and nobody seemed to be troubled with a cough or a cold; and we could not conceive the use of the miniature apothecary's shop on the table. The contents of the boxes were unknown to us. Presently one of the teachers came up to the table, removed the top from one of the boxes, and took out—what?—a vial! No. Well, you would never guess; so we will relieve your curiosity! He took out some Sunday School tickets.

In a conspicuous place in another part of the church sat another box, also made of paper and covered with a close fitting top. This box was labelled 'pomade philcome.' We wish we could tell the reader what 'pomade philcome' is; but we can't. It is perhaps a technical term belonging to some branch of science which we have never studied—so much the worse for us. We were afraid to ask anybody at the church what 'pomade philcome' was, for we did not know that such a question would be well received. But we waited till everybody else had left the church, and then we examined the box at our leisure. The top had a hole in it, evidently cut with a knife on purpose. The hole was similar in size and shape to those which we commonly see in collection boxes. We opened the box, i. e. took the top off, and in it we found exactly what we expected to find—nothing. But we did not mean to let all this examination go for nothing. We determined that those boxes should furnish us with a subject for an article on 'the fitness of things.'

Our next example we will take from the New York Tribune. Here it is: "We get an exceedingly disheartening story from Saratoga. It struck the Rev. Mr. Boardman that it would be a good thing to hold a prayer meeting at the gate of a race course, and invoked the valuable aid of the Young Men's Christian Association to help him. The day came and the hour; but alas! there was no meeting! The young Christians were not to be found at the gate. A frightful rumor announced that they had gone inside, attracted by the worldly vanity of a hurdle race. So poor Mr. Boardman was compelled to give up his meeting, or to hold it somewhere else. We cannot honestly say that we are sorry. There is a place proper for everything, and we are decidedly of opinion that a race course is

no place for a prayer meeting; nor can we conceive of much good coming of supplication there."

We will say here that we think the Tribune is right in not being sorry. Mr. Boardman ought to study the Square philosophy.

A Northern paper (whose general conduct indicates the sound Christian views of the editor) in discussing the subject of the social status of the negro says:

"In our judgement, a reputable colored man is neither better nor worse than a reputable man of any other race or class."

Now, it is exceedingly difficult to determine what is a 'reputable' man. The dictionaries will not help us here; for the question, whether a man is reputable or not, is often affected by a vast variety of considerations altogether independent of his moral character.

From certain sentences uttered by Dr. Hague, in his sermon in Dr. Fuller's Church on a Sunday morning during the session of the Southern Baptist Convention in Baltimore, we have reason to believe that the Doctor regarded Mr. Abraham Lincoln as an exceedingly reputable man—a man of unusually pure and lovely character; indeed, as rather saintly than otherwise. Dr. Hague's audience on that occasion did not generally agree in this view; and many of them regarded Dr. H. as a gross violator of philosopher Square's principle of the 'fitness of things,' when he praised Mr. Lincoln from that pulpit.

It is well known that many Northern preachers and people regard Mr. Lincoln as a saint. Elder A. B. Earle, without being questioned on the subject, told the present writer, that he (Elder E.) thought Mr. Lincoln was 'a very good man.'

On the other hand we learn that his former law partner insists that Mr. Lincoln was an infidel; and a very distinguished man, who practised at the same bar, thinks that he was a very low, vulgar, obscene, unscrupulous, unprincipled, unscrupulous, unscrupulous trickster. Was Mr. Lincoln a 'reputable' man? Well, 'it depends on where you stand.'

Was Andrew Jackson a 'reputable' man? James Parton, after a years study of the evidence on both sides of this question, discovered that General Jackson was a patriotic traitor; a great General ignorant of war; an erudite ignoramus; an unstatesmanlike statesman; a candid dissembler; a law abiding rebel; a disobedient disciplinarian; a Democratic despot; an urbane savage; an atrocious saint.

Now, be it understood, that we are not taking sides on the question of the real character of these Presidents. We do not express any opinion. We are not called upon here to say what we think of either of them. We merely cite the cases to show how difficult it is to define the word 'reputable.'

Again, The Southern people would generally take the ground, that in their proper places, the great mass of the negroes would be 'reputable' enough; so that the whole question turns upon the other question: 'What is their proper place?' We think that a turkey buzzard is reputable enough as a scavenger; and this bird is protected by the laws of South Carolina. Numbers of them may be seen walking fearlessly about the butcher's stalls in the market in Charleston. But we don't want to put these birds into cages, and hang them up in our parlors, nor in our piazzas, as we do the mocking bird and the canary; and we don't want to associate with people who insist upon our treating the buzzards as we do the canaries; nor with those who cage the buzzards and keep them in their parlors.

We do not intend any disrespect to the negro; we are not comparing him

to a buzzard, but we are merely illustrating the position that there is something in the fitness of things.—We may be blamed for the opinion, but somehow we can't help thinking that the buzzard as a songster, would be a failure! But we do not protest that we are not opposed to buzzards—we like them. We don't oppose sugar as such; but we don't like it on our oysters, nor our eggs.

The only reason we can give for this, is, that sugar in oysters, or on eggs, violates our sense of 'the fitness of things.'

The Silver Currency Question at the Treasury.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—The principal question at issue here outside of the strong financial problem, is whether or not it would be well to issue silver in the place of fractional currency. The Secretary of the Treasury is disposed to do it; but when he makes up his mind to go ahead he is confronted by the laws of supply and demand; because silver demontized in Europe can be monetized here and in Asia or nowhere. At present, as near as may be, the value of pure silver is eighteen ounces to one ounce of gold, and in order to retire it to any use other than currency, the premium on gold would have to go about 120. The Secretary appears to have some doubt whether, if he were to issue silver in the place of fractional currency as a legal tender under the present law to sums amounting to five dollars, it would stay in circulation. It people heard it that would make no difference, because there is plenty; and whether they would like silver better than the fractional currency or not is something to be tested. He does not believe that gold will go to 120; does not see how it can under any circumstances, except war, which is not in view. It will take about six weeks to give the country all the silver it wants, and it would not be surprising if at any time the printing of fractional currency would be stopped, and a strong, over-flowing issue of silver take its place. The Secretary of the Treasury stands doubting in every respect that touches a new thing in relation to the currency, because of the conflicting elements at work at the capital. He cannot tell whether he is to act under the Resumption Act or not, or whether some new fledged concern of important proportions may not come forward to thwart every plan laid under the Resumption Act; but he is seriously inclined to issue silver in place of fractional currency, and he honestly believes that silver will stay in circulation.—He has about \$12,000,000 worth to start on, and enough coin to keep the demand supplied. If he starts, he means to coin silver pieces of a dollar and less as fast as they are wanted, and very little gold coin in the comparison of the number of pieces.

HOT WORK AHEAD.—The Charleston News and Courier says: "There is hot work ahead and plenty of it. The thieves are not going to yield the control of the State without a desperate resistance; and nothing at this time encourages them more than any sign of discord in the Democratic ranks. The main point to which the honest people should address their efforts just now is to secure a wise and truly representative Democratic Convention."

A HAPPY ANSWER.—That was a shrewd girl, and not devoid of sense either; who remarked, when other girls are making fun of her short skirts and affected to be much shocked at the exhibition thereof at a party: "If you'd only pull your dresses about your necks, where they ought to be, they'd be as short as mine!" She was not troubled any more.

Too Much Moses.

We copy from the New York Tribune, of February 17th, the following: "The State of South Carolina is too much blessed with Mosses. The Moses family, though it may not have entirely overwhelmed the State, seems to have very thoroughly inundated its politics. There have been no bad and ridiculous goings-on in that much governed State since the colored legislator brought his intellect and the white philanthropist his carpetbag to bear on reconstruction, that the head of a Moses has not been bobbing around on the surface of. You couldn't fire into any kind of a ring where thieving was going on without bringing down a Moses. The family appears to have absorbed pretty much everything it could lay hold of. Its tentacles have dropped on everything that had a dollar or a chance for a dollar in it. You couldn't strike suddenly with a club the keyhole of a treasury safe anywhere in the State without breaking two or three fingers of some members of the Moses family. Along at the first of the South Carolina business, when they had one of the Moses family for Governor, we mistook him for the lot. It is not unlikely that under this misapprehension we credited or debited him with ridiculousness and wickedness that should have been divided up and apportioned among the rest of the family. It did seem queer, too, that one man should exhibit so much versatility in stupidities and deviltries, but we thought he might be a skipjack sort of creature, who, being just as fit for one office as another, was holding pretty much all of them, and improving the time. We have since learned that there are several Mosses; how many we do not know, but enough, enough. And the whole family, so far as we can judge from their several political careers, are of the direct line. Direct, if not from the Moses of the Deliverance, at least from the Moses of Sinai, who broke the tables of the law.—'These fellows have broken pretty much all the commandments. What they haven't broken they have treated as the fellow did the grass he was hired to mow. "Well," said he, when asked if he had finished mowing, "I've cut down the most on't, and the rest I've beat and banged so't won't live."'

The South Carolina House of Representatives impeached one of these Mosses on Tuesday. This one is a Judge of the Circuit Court, and is described as the brother of Chief Justice Mosses and the uncle of ex-Governor Mosses. Look ye now, respectable connections are uncommonly handy things to have in the house.— See this now: they impeach the Circuit Judge for "applying trust funds to his own use;" or some such thing; that, we believe, is the way it is defined in the dispatch—"convey," the wise it call—and the Circuit Judge says, "Why, I'm the brother of the Chief Justice and the uncle of the ex-Governor." When they catch the ex-Governor in a "conveyance" he says, "Why, I'm the son of the Chief Justice and the nephew of the Circuit Judge." And so it goes. Well, they are a nice lot, these Mosses. They are rescuing a race down there, we presume. They seem to be leaders, lawgivers and deliverers—stand-and-deliverers. They may make some mistake in the matter of leading and lawgiving, but in the business of despoiling the Egyptians they more than filled the bill. We do not know that the existence of the Moses family concerns anybody outside the State of South Carolina. We have been interested somewhat in observing its ramifications as successive exposures of political and personal rascality developed them. We are not quite sure we have got the family together yet. But there seems to be enough of them on hand and classified to make a procession, and so we offer the gratuitous suggestion that the Mosses, so far as heard from, be marshaled, corralled and led up into some convenient Pishah to stay. The rescued race ought to be able to make the rest of the journey alone.

The New Apportionment

The Senate bill to provide for a new apportionment of the Representatives was finally passed to a third reading by a vote of 64 to 14. The following table will show the changes made by the bill:

Counties.	Representa- tion at pre- sent.	New Ap- portion- ment.
Abbeville.....5	5	5
Aiken.....4	4	4
Anderson.....3	3	4
Barnwell.....4	4	5
Beaufort.....7	6	6
Charleston.....18	17	17
Chester.....3	3	3
Chesterfield.....2	2	2
Clarendon.....2	2	2
Colleton.....5	5	5
Darlington.....4	4	4
Edgefield.....5	5	5
Fairfield.....3	3	3
Georgetown.....3	2	2
Greenville.....4	4	4
Horry.....2	2	2
Kershaw.....3	3	3
Lancaster.....2	2	2
Laurens.....4	3	3
Lexington.....2	2	2
Marion.....4	4	4
Marlboro.....2	2	2
Newberry.....3	3	3
Oconee.....2	2	2
Orangeburg.....5	5	5
Pickens.....1	2	2
Richland.....4	5	5
Spartanburg.....4	4	4
Sumter.....4	4	4
Union.....3	3	3
Williamsburg.....2	3	3
York.....4	4	4

The Counties of Anderson, Barnwell, Richland and Pickens gain one member each, and those of Beaufort, Charleston, Georgetown and Laurens lose one each.

DESCENDED FROM A HIGH STATION, "D. D. S." the Charlotte correspondent of the Raleigh News, thus writes up a female in this city.— Many, indeed the majority of our citizens, will know of whom he speaks "Standing in front of the central hotel yesterday I saw a woman pass by seemingly to be nonchalant of the surroundings. "That woman," said a gentleman near by, "was at one time, one of the most perfect ladies that ever appeared in Southern society." I asked him how that was, for her uncouth appearance represented everything to the contrary. He answered she was a South Carolinian by birth, was a Miss F——, before she was married, and one of the leading belles of the circle she moved in. Just before the war she married a gentleman of excellent family and of high standing in social and literary circles. It is a needless drag, he continued—but the match was an unhappy one. Her husband entered the war as a Colonel and is well known in the history of North Carolina's soldiers. He fell mortally wounded in Virginia. To think sixteen years ago this person moved in the best society of North and South Carolina, and to day she walks the streets a washerwoman."—Charlotte Observer.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 28.—After seven hours' debate Mr. Wiltz moved the adoption of the majority report of the committee appointed to investigate Klogg, with a recommendation that articles of impeachment be prepared. This was adopted by a vote of 61 yeas to 45 nays. The House and lobbies were thronged with spectators during the debate of the vote.

CHEAP LIVING IN NEW YORK.—Rents are down, clothing is down, the necessities of life are gradually decreasing in charge, and a man can live in New York comfortably on an income he received before the war. In no matter has the reduction of prices been so marked as in rents, especially of houses that formerly rented for \$2,000 a year or more.—New York Express.

The old style minuet is likely to become a fashionable dance.

Baltimore's New University.

Among the most notable schemes of benevolence of recent times was that of the late John S. Hopkins, one of Baltimore's merchant princes, who, two years since, made a bequest of \$3,500,000 for the founding of a university in the Monumental City, to be named in honor of the giver. To be sure the bequest, though large, was not so great as to place the proposed institution at once on an equality with the older universities of the country in point of resources; but it was nevertheless sufficient for a broad and enduring foundation; and Mr. Hopkins did not encumber the project with unreasonable conditions, but instead left the plan of the University almost entirely in the hands of the trustees, whom he himself wisely selected from Baltimore's representative business men of acknowledged intelligence and practical culture.— During the time that has intervened since the bequest was made, those gentlemen have spared no efforts to render the University all that its founder intended it should be, as well as what all lovers of learning could reasonably hope for. The bequest included Mr. Hopkins's country estate at Clinton, just outside of Baltimore City, embracing three hundred and thirty acres of land, delightfully situated, and this was selected as the site of the proposed University. The advice and counsel of the most prominent educators in the country was obtained by the Trustees, and a year ago Prof. D. C. Gilman, a gentleman of rare culture and executive talent, who had been President of the University of California, and had previously held a Professorship in Yale College, of which institution he is a graduate, was chosen President of the prospective University. Professor Gilman accepted the position, and at once began making preparations for entering upon his new work, passing the summer and autumn of last year in Europe for the purpose of studying the latest educational methods, and then returning to arrange for a formal announcement of the plan and scope of the embryo College.

The inaugural ceremonies, which took place in Baltimore last Tuesday, were marked by the presence of a large number of distinguished representatives in the country. President Elliot, of Harvard University, delivered the opening address, thereby creating a grateful and fitting association between the oldest and youngest of American institutions of learning. President Gilman, in his address, set forth the plans of the Trustees so far as they have been definitely determined. No particular model is to be followed in building up the institution. On the contrary, it is proposed to supply, in the Hopkins University, so far as possible, whatever valuable and desirable features the educational system of the country has thus far failed to secure. President Gilman finds all the conditions ripe for the University, the public schools and institutions of Baltimore relieving it of collegiate work, while its location, convenient to North and South alike, is regarded as most happy. At first the department of philosophy will be established, with chairs of language, mathematics, history and science, next the medical department, next the law and constitution, and then, perhaps, theology. President Gilman lays great stress on the backwardness of medical science in this country, and the need of high mathematical engineering and architectural instruction; but at the same time the University will teach only principles, not methods. Arrangements have been made for courses of lectures by the ablest professors in other colleges without disturbing their present relations, and the best talent obtainable will be secured for the various professorships of the institution. If the foreshadowings of the inaugural address are carried into effect, the University will be in reality a normal school for professors and scientific investigators.—News & Courier

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