

An Old Time Schoolmaster. A notable schoolmaster in Pennsylvania had been a teacher in his youth, with a taste for books, and had finally settled down as teacher of the village school.

He never punished boy or girl. He succeeded in keeping his pupils interested in their work. There was perfect order in his school and apparently no discipline. He was known to be an abolitionist who had frequently concealed runaway negroes in the garret of his school. Sometimes denounced by village politicians as a fanatic, he was ordinarily laughed at as an eccentric schoolmaster.

But his boys never challenged his authority. They learned a little Latin and Greek and a good deal about duty, honor and justice.

The old man's eyes used to blaze beneath his wig when he spoke of the need of courage, honest men in public life. Two of his boys never forgot his burning words. One was a general in the civil war and a political leader of commanding influence. The other was conspicuous for integrity at a period of low public morality.

Thackeray once said that it was better for a boy to have the middle place in the form and a good thrashing now and then than to be the cock of the school. His idea was that conceit ought to be knocked out of boys. But brutality is not good training. It hardens the heart and paralyzes sensibility.—Youth's Companion.

Ignorance About Beef. The business of a retail butcher will make the biggest list of a man of anything on earth. Do you know that? asked Thomas Tracy, the Union market butcher.

"The man could not say that he knew it, and Mr. Tracy explained his statement, saying: 'Well, you see a retail butcher cannot carry a very large stock, but he must please all his customers. A man comes in and wants a steak fresh as possible, from beef not more than 24 hours killed.'

"The butcher says all right and cuts the steak from a 48-hour beef. Then a fellow comes along and wants a 36-hour steak. He gets one from the same beef, and so it goes, even down to the old Englishman who wants one a week or two weeks old that has become mellow. That is cut from a part of the quarter that has been brained in handling, or if it has not it is so tripe at all to bruise it a little."

"But do not these people catch on to the fact that they have been humbugged?"

"Not a bit of it. Why, nine people out of ten don't know a raw steak from a piece of roast."—St. Louis Republic.

America's National Dish. Marion Harland once upon a time in the course of a foreign journey chanced to be dining upon the cosmopolitan taste of the American who would eat haggis in Scotland, roast beef in England, bologna in Italy, macaroni in Italy and frogs' legs in France. "And what," said a famous traveler who overheard the monologue, "is the national dish of the United States?" Mrs. Terhune always laughs, but ruefully, when she repeats this anecdote. "I thought," she says, "of telling him turkey. But they cook that better in France than in America. I thought of mince pie, but that is English as well as Yankee. At length I replied, with an assumption of ease and pride that I was far from feeling, 'Baked beans and buckwheat cakes. I was well aware that my interlocutor had experienced both those dishes, and I was not surprised that his sole comment should be, 'Faucy' in an involuntary tone of shocked surprise."—Philadelphia Press.

The Great Napoleon in a Passion. I never saw Bonaparte in such a wrath as when he learned his brother Lucien had married at Senlis the widow of Jonberthon, a Paris broker. He ordered me to send for the notary and tell him to bring his register. When the notary arrived, I took him to St. Cloud at 9 in the morning. Here is word for word the dialogue between the first consul and the notary: "Was it you, sir, who registered my brother's marriage?" "Yes, citizen first consul."

"Were you unaware, then, that he was my brother?" "No, citizen first consul." "Did you not know that my consent was necessary to the validity of the act?" "I do not think so. Your brother has long been of age. He has filled high posts. He has been a minister and ambassador. He has no father. He is free to marry."

"But he has a mother whose consent was necessary?" "No, he is of age and a widower." "But I am a sovereign, and as such my consent was necessary." "You are a sovereign only for 10 years, and your family is not bound to you."

"Show me the marriage register?" "Here it is." The first consul read it and in shutting the book was very near tearing the page. "I shall annul it." "That will be difficult, for it is carefully drawn up." "Do off with you." The notary retired without having for a moment lost his composure.—Chaplain's "Memories of Napoleon."

A Word For the Cat. At this season, when the family departs from town, a word must be spoken in behalf of the house cat, too often left behind to lead a vagrant and precarious existence. Already on the back Bay, where "early closing" is the rule, the cats have become conspicuous by the absence of their owners. A few less felines in the world are not objected to, but that suffering and slow starvation should attend their taking off is a shame to humanity. Unless the devoted house cat can be provided with a summer home, it should be mercifully put out of existence in a way the animal society understands how to do perfectly.—Boston Herald.

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