

The Herald and News.

EVERY THURSDAY AT NEWBERRY, S. C.

[Hon. Edward J. Phelps, in Scribners.]

Not a less prominent feature in much that is called journalism, is the habitual and wanton defamation of personal character. Libellous abuse, especially of political opponents, or of any individual who has in any way provoked the hostility of the manager, is so common and constant as to attract comparatively little attention. Many a journalist would laugh at the suggestion that he should refrain from the publication of a malicious and defamatory story concerning the candidate he seeks to defeat, merely for the reason that the story is falsehood. He would probably reply, in the slang of the trade, that "it is a good enough Morgan until after the election." There is no law of libel in this country, except in theory. Practically, it has no force. The newspapers are strong enough to make it virtually powerless. The peculiar kind of legal talent that is always available when anything especially base is to be defended, is quite able to make the remedy of the plaintiff much worse than the injury complained of, and no man resorts to it twice.

But these are offenses against the individual chiefly, except so far as they tend to delude the popular taste, and blunt the sense of what is due to private rights. A more serious mischief to the public is to be found in the unclean and repulsive sensational narratives with which so many columns of papers of this class are filled; the criminal, obscene, and demoralizing incidents, which, had enough when merely reported as part of the news of the day, are spun out, elaborated, and repeated with an infinite variety of disgusting and unwholesome detail; the lives and conduct of the criminal, the vicious, and the profligate; the most unsavory of the contests in courts of justice, amplified and adorned; all that panders to the morbid and depraved taste.

That this material sells freely is true. There is no merchandise so profitable as garbage. Publishers would not print it if a certain large class of readers did not demand it. No one becomes a purveyor of garbage for the mere pleasure of handling it.

The Pastor Astonished.

[N. E. Farmer.] Harriet Beecher Stowe's son, the Rev. Charles E. Stowe, of Hartford, Conn., met with an experience recently, which completely nonplused him. One evening quite recently he dined with Mrs. J. W. Boardman, proprietress of the Hotel Woodruff. Visiting Mrs. Boardman is a cute little niece, about five years of age. She is a regular chatterbox, and makes many bright remarks during a day. Fearing lest the child would astonish the preacher by some outlandish saying, her aunt warned her to keep mum during the dinner.

The admonition was listened to with awe, and at the table the little one scarcely dared look at Mr. Stowe, not wishing to commit a supposed sin. While the servant was absent from the room the little girl noticed there was no butter on her small pink dish.

She didn't mind holding her tongue but to eat bread without butter—that would never do. She took a survey of the table, and lo and behold, the butter dish was directly in front of the preacher. Wistfully she gazed at both for a few seconds. Never in her brief existence did she appear so pensive. Then gathering all her courage and clearing her throat, she said: "Dear pastor, won't you please, for Christ's sake, pass the butter?"

The Rev. Mr. Stowe never received such a shock. He leaned over in his chair to pick up his napkin which, of course, had not fallen, Mrs. Boardman must at that moment arrange a window curtain, and the other guests were suddenly troubled with a friendly cough, and little Mable was self-satisfied in that she had done the proper paper.

Now's the Time.

Never put off till to-morrow that which needs doing to-day. If you do you may find to your sorrow, too late, that you've trifled away the golden opportunity of a lifetime. If those who complain of weakness and debility, have hacking cough and pain in the side or chest, poor appetite, broken sleep and other symptoms of a general decay of vitality, would promptly procure Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and take it as directed, they might throw off the disease which threatens them, and soon regain a hold on the health they are surely losing. Consumption may be averted, if prompt measures are taken, by the use of this standard remedy. Let those who have reason to feel that their general vitality is running on a low tide, do something for themselves at once, for delays are dangerous. "Golden Medical Discovery" is warranted to benefit or cure in all cases of disease for which it is recommended, or money paid for it refunded.

The Car's Iron Hand.

Dr. Hermann Dalton, who had charge of the German Lutheran Church, in St. Petersburg, for the past thirty-one years, but who is now travelling in the United States for the purpose of seeing the country, told the members of Concordia Church, corner Twentieth and G streets, Philadelphia, on Sunday night, how the Lutherans of Russia were opposed by the Russian Government.

Dr. Dalton is a robust, stalwart German. His face, says the Press, wears the ruddy color of his race, and his hair is iron gray. During his life he visited nearly every part of the globe. He was introduced by the pastor, Rev. John Mueller, who has also been engaged in church work in Russia, and his address was delivered in German. The people of the United States in the enjoyment of religious liberty could not realize, he said, to what extent religious oppression prevailed in Russia.

He then referred briefly to the annexation of the Baltic provinces to Russia. These provinces originally belonged to Germany, and when they became part of Russia in 1710, Peter the Great, who favored emigration, pledged his imperial word that the inhabitants would be allowed to continue in their original faith.

This promise was now being broken. The Greek Catholic Church is the recognized Church of the country, and according to law everybody born in Russia must be a member of that Church. There are 80,000 Protestants in St. Petersburg and about 4,000,000 in the entire Russian Empire. A Protestant minister, however, cannot baptize the offspring of a marriage between a Protestant and a follower of the Greek Church, nor can he seek to convert a Russian under a penalty of suffering exile in Siberia.

In illustrating this point Dr. Dalton referred to several touching experiences.

The daughter of a prominent citizen had sought him and told him that she desired to become acquainted with the doctrines of his church. He had given her some books. She read them and returned to him again, when she expressed a desire to become a member of his church.

He told her that it was impossible and asked if such was done she would be placed in a convent until she retracted, and he would be would be banished. She seemed deeply disappointed and very much pained and he had advised her to leave the country and go where she would be free to worship as she desired.

This she agreed to do. She had an aged father seventy years old, however, and when she told him her intention he had thrown himself at her knees and begged her not to leave her in his old age. She did not go, but the trouble so preyed upon her mind that she finally became a raving maniac. Dr. Dalton also told of a prince who had come to him to go to a dying brother, declaring that the Greek religion would do very well to sing liturgies by, but that it failed to furnish spiritual comfort.

Dangerous Playthings.

Little boys are usually full of mischief and love adventure and daring, but the following story, told by a highly respected citizen, and true, to the Athens (Ga.) Chronicle, however it may look to the reader, is the record of the biggest piece of daring we know of.

A little boy was very fond of rambling around in the woods in Southern Georgia, and every time he went out he would capture a rattlesnake and bring him home alive. "How do you catch them Johnnie?" said the mother. "Yes so," said the boy, and he showed her the operation. He would take a large candy jar and place the open mouth of the jar in front of the rattler. Then he would firmly fix his gaze on the snake and hold him spell bound. He would then punch the snake's tail with a long stick and shove him along until he had him secure in the bottle.

In this manner he captured thirty rattlers and placed them around the shelves in the kitchen. This curious collection remained there for some time. One morning the mother missed the snakes and also the boy. She looked around the house and found them nowhere. Finally she heard laughter in the front yard. She went out and beheld a fantastic spectacle. The young kid, was dancing around the front yard, while the thirty snakes were twisting around flowers and bushes, and had converted the flower yard into a regular snake-don.

The New South.

[Fayetteville Observer.] One of the most valuable lessons which the impoverishment consequent upon the war has taught the Southern people has been that they had the ability to work, and with the realization of this ability the willingness to labor has come—slowly, it is true, but it has come. To speak plainly, so far as the towns are concerned, the thinning out of their negro population would amount to getting rid of an unmitigated nuisance. With the exception of a few old servants of "ante bellum" skill and experience, who are mostly too old and feeble to do as they are still willing to do, our town household "help" is shiftless, idle and unreliable.

The Length of a Dream!

The question of how long a dream lasts has been agitating German scientific circles of late. Of course it is impossible for even science to give a definite answer to the question, and in all probability dreams vary in point of duration as they vary in force and vividness. It seems fairly certain, however, that most dreams are only of momentary duration. In proof of this Dr. Scholz, who has given much attention to the subject, tells the following story from his experience: "After excessive bodily fatigue and a day of mental strain, of a not disagreeable kind, I betook myself to bed after I had wound up my watch and placed it on the night-table. Then I lay down beside a burning lamp. Soon I found myself on the high sea on board a well-known ship. I was again young, and stood on the lookout. I heard the roar of the water, and golden clouds floated round me. How long I stood I did not know, but it seemed a very long time. Then I awoke. I was in the country, and my long dead parents came to greet me; they took me to church, where the loud organ sounded. I delighted, but at the same time wondered to see my wife and children there. The priest mounted the pulpit and preached, but I could not understand what he said for the sound of the organ, which continued to play. I took my son by the hand and with him ascended the church tower; but again the scene was changed. Instead of being near my son, I stood near an early-known but long dead officer! I ought to explain that I was an army surgeon during the manoeuvres. I was wondering why the major should look so young, when quite close in my ears an unexpected cannon sounded. Terrified, I was hurrying off, when I woke up and noticed that the supposed cannon-shot had its cause in the opening of the bedroom door through some one entering. It was as if I had lived through an eternity in my dream, but when I looked at my watch I saw that since I had fallen asleep not more than one minute had elapsed—a much shorter time than it takes to relate the occurrence."

Origin of the Term "Chestnut."

A correspondent writes to ask the origin of the term "chestnut" as applied to old jests. Various explanations have been given as to the origin of this word; the most plausible one is given by Mr. Joseph Jefferson, who, to quote his own words, says, "There is a melodrama but little known to the present generation, written by William Dillon, called 'The Broken Sword.' There were two characters in it, one a Captain Xavier, and the other the comedy part of Pablo. The captain is a sort of Baron Munchausen, and, in telling of his exploits, says, 'I entered the woods of Coloway, when suddenly from the boughs of a cork-tree'—Pablo interrupts him with the words, 'A chestnut, captain, a chestnut.' 'Bah!' replies the captain, 'Bobby, I say a cork-tree!' 'A chestnut!' reiterates Pablo. 'I should know as well as you, having heard you tell the tale these twenty-seven times.' 'William Warren, who had often played the part of Pablo, was at a stag-dinner a few years ago, when one of the gentlemen present told a story of doubtful age and originality. 'A chestnut,' murmured Mr. Warren, quoting from the play. 'I have heard you tell these twenty-seven times.' The application of the lines pleased the rest of the table, and when the party broke up each helped to spread the story and Mr. Warren's commentary. 'And this,' Mr. Jefferson adds, 'I really believe to be the origin of the word 'chestnut.'"

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PLANTIC COAST LINE

Table with columns for destinations (Wilmington, N. C., Goldsboro, etc.), dates, and times for various train services.