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(Manchester Cor. of the Revolution.)

THE CLAIMS OF WOMEN.

"The Claims of Women" was the title of the lecture given by Lady Amberley at Stroud last week under the auspices of the Stroud Institute. There was a large attendance, including a majority of ladies. Mr. J. E. Dorington, one of the conservative candidates for the borough, presided, and said in his introductory remarks that he had come to the meeting with the hope of learning something of the subject. Lady Amberley was accompanied on to the platform by Lord Amberley, and was very enthusiastically received. The lecture was written, and the reading of it occupied an hour and a half. It was delivered with unfaltering fluency to the end. Lady Amberley said her object was to call attention to the claims of women to equal political, social and industrial advantages to those enjoyed by men. She first begged the indulgence of her hearers in that she was wholly unaccustomed to public speaking, and then told them that the intensity of her convictions had caused her to come forward, saying to those who regarded such conduct as unwomanly, that feeling without action was little better than a millstone flung about the neck.—Her great earnestness on the question had led her to overcome the natural scruples of a woman to appear upon a public platform. Lady Amberley went on to say that she should appeal more especially to women, for if the battle was to be won, it must be fought by them. They must be raised from their indifference, and then the opposition of men would cease. She admitted that logical arguments had been comparatively powerless to induce men to recognize the equality of the sexes, and said that her appeal on woman's behalf would be rather to the feeling than the intellect, expressing a hope that she might be able to do something to hasten the time when woman should have full scope to employ all her faculties and energies, and when, in the eyes of the law, she would be equal with man. Lady Amberley pointed to their indifference as one chief reason for the present inferior position of women, and said that when once they were aroused to a just sense of their own true position in the world their claims would be allowed, and they would not be long in securing their rights. With regard to men's interested motives, general dislike of change and fear of the competition certainly enter into their objections to the equality of the sexes, but do not exhaust their reasons against it. We find many men who say that they dread the disappearance of the gentle, loving, yielding woman, and who seem to expect the whole of womankind to be turned into infamous monsters. Mr. Mill might be a magician of the dark age to judge by the terror often expressed of the effects of his wand. But have none of us known women who have, from their youth up, been educated with their brothers, nurtured in the feelings of complete equality; others who have taken part publicly in the affairs of the day, and even preached in churches, none the less true women for such training and such services.

Lady Amberley then adverted to some of the objections raised by women themselves. It was too often said by women: "I should be no better off if I had my own property, or a vote—or what do women want with colleges—or why cannot we be content and quiet in our homes." Or again: "I should hate to be a doctor, or a lawyer; women are not fit for it, they had better look after their husbands and their children. But people who argue in this way fail to perceive that in doing so they are only asserting their own happiness, or their own comfort, and are entirely forgetting the thousands, I might say millions, of women who are alone in the world, and who have neither parents, nor home, nor friends, nor fortune of their own, and who are driven to seek these for themselves, or die. Have these happy mistresses of comfortable homes ever spared a few moments from their bliss to cast their eyes on a report of the Governesses' Benevolent Institution? Home is well where there is one, but what becomes of the work of the 15,000 governesses who have no money wherewith to get that home? It is to attain that end, to possess either for themselves, or for young brothers, or aged parents, that loved home, that so many seek employment in the world. The remuneration given to women who enter this career, nearly the only one open to them—is a salary varying from £20 to £100 per annum. The smallness of the pay comes from the market being overstocked—often, indeed, with inefficient workers. But where can they get a good education? What else can they turn their energies to? How can they get bread? The fact that 15,000 women are driven to seek work for themselves is argument enough that by opening more professions, more educational advantages to them, we shall not be guilty—if guilty it is—of alluring them away from their homes to the temptations of the outer world.

She drew a parallel between the arguments now used against giving political power to women and those advanced in ancient times against giving it to mechanics and merchants, and, in more modern times, to the working-men of the country; and she then met the views of those who supposed the granting to women of their due rights would turn them into unfeminine and unnatural creatures. If there were any grounds for such fears she would sympathize with the alarmists, but she could point to many instances where the very opposite result had taken place. She declared that those who had talked and feared thus seemed utterly to disregard the fact that two millions of the six millions of the women over twenty years of age in Great Britain, who were engaged in independent industry, had neither husbands nor children nor fortunes. She specially pointed to the hardships imposed by law on married women in not protecting their fortunes.

Lady Amberly quoted the testimony of De Tocqueville as to the superiority of women in the United States, where they fill offices closed against them in England, and she related the case of Miss Pechy at the University of Edinburg, as one of peculiar hardship. One of the advantages I hope for, she said, in the admission of women to political power is, that their sympathies being strong, they will bring their interest and energy to bear on many injustices of social life. Towards improvement in female education Lady Amberley considered there was much to do. The same means of university training should be open alike to both sexes, and many of the existing endowments should, on the readjustment of their funds, be shared by girls. The Queen was cited as the model of an Englishwoman, the beauty of whose domestic life had not been in the least impaired by the great responsibilities of her public life. After advocating woman's suffrage and noticing the progress which that question had made since its introduction by Mr. Mill in the House of Commons in 1867, Lady Amberley, in concluding, observed:

I will briefly sum up the measures which we conceive to be required in order to secure that equal justice which is all that we demand. We desire, first, that there should be a great improvement in the education of girls, and a restoration to them of those endowments originally intended for the sexes, but which in some instances have been appropriated exclusively to boys. Secondly, as a natural sequence to the first requirement, that equal facilities should be granted to women for the attainment of the highest education and of university degrees, in order that their special faculties may not be consigned to compulsory idleness, but may be turned to the benefit of society. Thirdly, that all professions should be open to them, and especially that no new act, medical or otherwise, should actually exclude them as they are excluded now. Fourthly, that married women should no longer be debarred from the separate ownership of property, in order that the poor may enjoy that protection which the rich purchase for themselves by the cumbrous arrangements of marriage settlements.—Fifthly, that a widow should be recognized by law as the only natural guardian of her children. Sixthly, that the franchise should be extended to woman as a means of power and protection in all matters affected by legislative action. Seventhly, that political and social interest and work should be open equally to them, so that if there be talent or aptitude in any of them the state may not be the loser, both by the exclusion of those qualities they share with men and of those characteristic of themselves. Eighthly, that public opinion should sanction every occupation for women which in itself is good and suited to their strength. Ninthly, that there should be no legal subordination in marriage. Tenthly, that the same wages should be given for the same work. But I hear some of you ask, "All this being granted, *cui bono?*" I answer you simply: we hope and trust to try if an infusion of justice and more occupation, of new vigor and new life, of warmer sympathies and larger hopes into women's lives will not alleviate some of the sufferings of this struggling life. If it alleviates but little it is well; if it have the effect I anticipate it will do more; at all events, let us hope. And sad will be the day when we become sceptical of individual and social progress.

TIME AND ETERNITY.—What folly is it, that with such care about the body which is dying, the world which is perishable before our eyes, time which is perishable before our eyes, time which is perpetually disappearing, we should so little care about that eternal state in which we are to live forever when this dream is over! When we shall have existed ten thousand years in another world, where will be all the cares and fears and enjoyments of this? In what light shall we then look upon the things which now transport us with joy, or overwhelming us with grief?

☞ An advertisement was sent to the Cleveland *Herald*, in which occur the words, "The Christian's Dream: No Cross, No Crown." The blundering compositor made it read: "The Christian's Dream: *No Cows, No Cream!*"

SUPPOSE!

Suppose, my little lady,
Your doll should break her head,
Could you make it whole by crying
Till your eyes and nose are red?
And wouldn't it be pleasanter
To treat it as a joke;
And say you're glad "'Twas dolly's
And not YOUR head that broke?"

Suppose you're dressed for walking,
And the rain comes pouring down,
Will it clear off any sooner
Because you scold and frown?
And wouldn't it be nicer
For you to smile than pout,
And so make sunshine in the home
When there is none without?

Suppose your task, my little man,
Is very hard to get,
Will it make it easier,
For you to sit and fret?
And wouldn't it be wiser,
Than waiting like a dunce,
To go to work in earnest
And learn the thing at once?

Suppose that some boys have a horse,
And some a coach and pair,
Will it tire you less while walking
To say, "It isn't fair?
And wouldn't it be nobler
To keep your temper sweet
And in your heart be thankful
You can walk upon your feet?

And suppose the world don't please you,
Nor the way the people do,
Do you think the whole creation
Will be altered just for you?
And isn't it, my boy or girl,
The wisest, bravest plan,
Whatever comes or doesn't come,
To do the best you can?

VERBAL AMBIGUITIES.

The ambiguity of words and phrases is the occasion of numerous misapprehensions, puzzles, and absurdities in current literature, a few examples of which may be entertaining.

Referring first to puzzles, we may mention the case of the man who had six children, and had never seen one of them.—The mind is misled here, by supposing that "one of them," means any of them, and if it had been said, never saw a single one of them, it would have been still more likely to be misunderstood. The answer to this puzzle is, that one of them had been born while the man was on a journey, and he had not seen it.

There is a puzzle well known to the rising generation; "There was a poor blind beggar who had a brother; the brother died, but the man who died had no brother. What relation was the beggar to the man who died?" Here we are misled by taking it for granted that the beggar must have been a man, but the clew being given that the beggar was a girl, it becomes quite plain that the beggar was a sister of the man who died.

There are a number of these riddles on the subject of relationships. We are told of two men who met at an inn, and greeted each other affectionately. The innkeeper asked one of them if the other was a kin of his, and received the following enigmatical reply:

"Brother and sister have I none,
Yet this man's father was my father's son."

Now this is a perfectly plain proposition, and yet I have known a company delve at it for an hour, and finally give it up, only to marvel at their own stupidity in not seeing that this form of words was but an ambiguous way of saying that "this man" was the speaker's son. Again, two brothers were walking down the street, and one stopped at a door, remarking: "I have a niece here who is ill."—"Thank Heaven," said the other, "I have no niece." How could that be? The only difficulty in guessing this is the tendency of the mind to move in a rut.—Having got the idea of a niece fixed, the mind refuses to think of any thing else but different kinds of nieces, and never once looks to one side sufficiently to see that the sick girl was the daughter of the man who said he had no niece. It is very true that the expression "Thank Heaven!" seems somewhat uncalled for when the true fact appears, but then a riddle must not be made too easy.

There is something quite fascinating to the juvenile mind in that peculiar effect in words which is called a catch. Thus a youngster with a very serious face enters the room with a piece of news.—"Beecher," says he, "got shot to-day." "Is that so?" says one; and, "Where?" asks another. "He got shot in a hardware store down town," says the youngster. "He was going hunting." In the same way, with a little falsification of accent and the omission of the hyphen, he says that he has seen a horse fly, a garden walk, a kettle drum, a hat box, etc. He is delighted to annoy the company with the question, "How many hairs are there in a dog's tail?" and to assure them with much nonchalance at last that there are none, the hairs being all on the outside.

In the same spirit a man indorsed his companion who wanted to get trusted for a bottle of wine, with the remark, "If he refuses to pay for it, I will." The man refused to pay for it, and so did his friend, as he said he would. For such a person I have no sympathy, but I must admit a lurking admiration of that dilapidated student of the subtle distinctions of words, who, when trying to effect a free entrance to a theatre, was roughly told by the doorkeeper, "Here, I can't pass you," and who replied with dignity as he walked in, "You need not pass me, my dear sir.—Just you stand where you are, and I will pass you."

What is known as the white lie is rendered possible by the uncertainty of the language of which I am speaking. Thus when the sheriff asked the wife of a Quaker, against whom he had a writ, if her husband was at home, she replied, "He will see thee in a moment." The sheriff waited some time, and then suggested to the lady that she had promised that he might see her husband. "No, friend," replied the quakeress, "I only promised that he would see thee. He has seen thee. He did not like thy looks, therefore he avoided thee, and hath left the house by another path."

Persons unaccustomed to composition frequently express themselves in language which is liable to very absurd misapprehension. The proprietor of a bone-mill advertises that parties sending their own bones to be ground, will be attended to with fidelity and dispatch. A miller attempted to testify to the merits of a powder for destroying vermin, by saying: "A fortnight ago I was full of rats, and now I don't think I have one;" and in the column of "situations wanted," we read that a respectable young woman wants washing. An account of a funeral says: "The remains were committed to that bourn from which no traveller returns attended by his friends.

Some of the results of an imperfect knowledge of the proper grammatical relations of words are very ludicrous. The mistake in the following is quite easy to be made, and yet it produces a rather startling effect: "Housekeeper—A highly-respectable middle-aged person of economical habits, who has been filling the above situation with a gentleman for upward of eleven years, and who is now deceased, is anxious to meet with a similar one."

It was not necessary for this "respectable person," to say that her habits were economical. It would follow as a matter of course that her living would cost very little. Some verses were sent to an editor with the explanation: "These lines were written some fifty years ago by one who has lain in the grave for his own amusement."

It is somewhat difficulty to find the correlative verb and nominative of the following sentence: "Lost by a poor lad tied up in a brown paper with a white string a German flute with an overcoat on and several other articles of wearing apparel." The same trouble is found in the following copy of a note sent to a gentleman by the overseer [illegible] place:—"Please send me by the [illegible] a pair of trace chains and two door hinges. Jane had twins last night—also two padlocks." It will be seen that great care is required in the construction of sentences. A reporter once wrote: "The procession was very fine, as was also the oration of the chaplain." He afterward inserted, by a carat after "fine," "and nearly two miles in length," forgetting that this phrase also referred to the oration.

Persons accustomed to writing narrative often experience the difficulty of using pronouns, so that there shall be no mistake as to the noun for which they stand. In speaking of two persons of the same sex, there is continual tendency to confusion. This is ludicrously illustrated in the following account of the examination, by a judge, of a witness, in case of assault and battery. Said the witness:

"There was Mike and the dog there, yer honor; so he flew at me very savage—"

Judge.—"Who? Mike?"

Witness.—"No, the dog, yer honor.—And I says to him—"

Judge.—"To whom? The dog?"

Witness.—"To Mike, yer honor.—Get away wid yer!—and I just hauled off and hit him."

Judge.—"Hit Mike?"

Witness.—"No, the dog, yer honor, and he made a rush for me."

Judge.—"Who? The dog?"

Witness.—"Mike, yer honor. And I up wid a stun and throwed it at him, and it rolled him over and over."

Judge.—"Threw a stone at Mike?"

Witness.—"At the dog, yer honor.—And he got up and hit him again."

Judge.—"The dog?"

Witness.—"No, Mike. And wid that he run off."

Judge.—"Mike?"

Witness.—"No, the dog. And then he come back and got me down, yer honor."

Judge.—"The dog came back at you?"

Witness.—"No, Mike, yer honor, and he isn't hurt any at all."

Judge.—"Who isn't hurt?"

Witness.—"The dog, yer honor."

In the proceeding of the New York Common Council, May 12, 1869, appears the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That the Comptroller be and he is hereby directed to draw a warrant in favor of David Sherrad for the sum of $350, to be in full compensation for loss sustained by reason of his horse stepping into a hole in the pavement in South Street, at the foot of Pike Street, on the 17th of February, 1869, from the effects of which he died."

It is certainly remarkable that David should have died from the effects of his horse stepping into a hole, and quite as remarkable that he could be compensated for his own death by the paltry sum of three hundred and fifty dollars.

Similarly, we have an account of a steamboat explosion, in which the following sentence occurs: "The captain swam ashore and so did the cook. She was insured for fifteen thousand dollars, and was loaded with iron."

An old lady of Worcester, England, somewhat exaggerated this difficulty, in describing a quarrel between two women, by the errors in grammar. Said she: "If her had hit her, her had a killed her, or her, her." The pronoun "which" is also somewhat troublesome, as in a description of the doings of a mad dog, where it is said that "he bit a horse on the leg, which has since died." This was bad for the leg, but leaves the reader in uncertainty as to the fate of the horse. A city paper also once related how, "during the celebration a child was run over, wearing a short red dress, which never spoke afterward."

It is not surprising that foreigners occasionally fail to catch all the delicate shades of meaning belonging to our words, and some of their mistakes are laughable. Of such a character was the remark of a Frenchman, who, finding that ferment meant "to work," said he loved to ferment in the garden; and of another who asked at a lawyer's office for a "shall," meaning will. Still another said: "I love de horse, de sheep, de dog, de cat. in short, every thing that is beastly."—Shakespeare's line, "Out, brief candle," was translated literally by a Parisian author, "Get out, you short candle!" and the expression. "With my sword I will carve my way to fortune," was rendered, "With my sword I will make my fortune cutting meat"—one of the meanings of carve being "to cut meat."

Double meanings of words sometimes render sentences ambiguous, and the uncertainty and surprise which result from a ludicrous incongruity or odd appropriateness of these two meanings is an effect of wit which has become so common that there seems to be hardly a word in the language that has not been exposed to the assaults of punsters.

OLD TIMES AND NEW.—It will be remembered by the most of gray-haired readers that prices of farm produce were very low from 1825 to 1830. There was little money in the country, and that was mainly kept out of general circulation.—The following statement of the prices of stock and produce as well as the rates of wages, is believed to be below rather than above the general average.

In the spring of each of these years, good working oxen, from four to six years old, were sold from forty-five to fifty-five dollars a pair, if they were older, forty dollars was considered a large price. The same cattle would have sold in the spring of 1869 for $200 to $250 a pair.

At the same time, cows of the best quality were worth about eighteen dollars, while ordinary animals brought from twelve to sixteen, and, taking them together, the native cows then were quite as good as the same grade of cows now. In the fall, the same quality were sold for eight and ten dollars. In 1869, these cows would have sold in the spring for sixty and seventy dollars, and in the fall for at least fifty—nearly five times as much now as then.

Good ox-beef sold in all the fall of 1829 for three dollars and twenty-five cents a hundred, dressed, and common cow or small-steer beef for two and a half and three dollars. The same animals now would have sold respectively for fourteen dollars.

Calves in the spring, in these years, could be bought for two and two and a half dollars a head, and at the height of the season veal sold at two cents a pound for the fore, and three for the hind quarters. Calf-skins were then but six cents a pound.

Lambs that would weigh, alive, fifty pounds, and from that up to seventy, were sold by the season for one dollar a head.

Butter, the very best, went to families for a New England shilling a pound, and in June, when feed was flush, it brought ten to twelve cents. Cheese, in 1820, sold for five cents a pound; pork, at the same figures; and eggs not far from ten cents a dozen.

Potatoes sold at twelve and a half cents a bushel; corn, at fifty cents; oats, not over twenty-five cents; cider, at the mill, about fifty cents a barrel; and good winter apples at twenty-five cents a bushel.

On the other hand, good help was hired for six, seven and eight dollars a month and board—men would do a quarter more work than those who ask and get $22 and $25 and board now. The day began then at sunrise, and lasted till sundown, and generally the cows were milked before sunrise at that.

Good women to do house work could then be hired for fifty cents a week—girls that would do as much in one day as at least three wish to do now, beside being trusty and honest. Lady school-teachers, well educated, taught during the Summer for the same price, and men teachers in the Winter at from five to six dollars a month for beginners, and from eight to twelve dollars thereafter, and not unfrequently they had from seventy-five to eighty scholars each; and in addition to instruction given in the various branches then taught, they not unfrequently ruled the home-made writing-books, and always made the goose-quill pens, beside setting the copies, that numbered sometimes fifty each day.—*Hearth and Home.*

☞ A wealthy gentleman, who owns a country seat, nearly lost his wife, who fell into a river which flows through his estates. He announced the narrow escape to his friends, expecting their congratulations. One of them, an old bachelor—wrote as follows: "I always told you that river was too shallow."

LITERAL ANSWERS.—A lady noticed a boy sprinkling salt on the sidewalk to take off the ice, and remarked to a friend, pointing to the salt:

"Now, that's benevolence."

"No it ain't," said the boy, somewhat indignant, "it's salt."

So when a lady asked her servant girl if the hired man cleaned of the snow with alacrity, she replied:

"No, ma'am, he used a shovel."

The same literal turn of mind which we have been illustrating is sometimes used intentionally and perhaps a little maliciously, and thus becomes the property of wit instead of blunder. Thus we hear of a very polite and impressive gentleman who said to a youth in the street:

"Boy, may I inquire where Robinson's drug store is?"

"Certainly, sir," replied the boy, very respectfully.

"Well, sir," said the gentleman, after waiting awhile, "where is it?"

"I have not the least idea, yer honor," said the urchin.

There was another boy who was accosted by an eccentric, middle-aged lady with:

"Boy, I want to go to Dover street."

"Well, ma'am," said the boy, "why don't you go then?"

One day, at Lake George, a party of gentlemen strolling among the beautiful islands on the lake with bad luck, espied a little fellow with a red shirt and a straw hat, dangling a line over the side of a boat.

"Halloo, boy," said one of them, "what are you doing?"

"Fishing," came the answer.

"Well, of course," said the gentleman, "but what did you catch?"

"Fish, you fool; what do you s'pose?"

"Did any of you ever see an elephant's skin?" inquired a teacher of an infant class.

"I have," said one.

"Where?" asked the teacher.

"On the elephant," said the boy laughing.

Sometimes this sort of wit degenerates or rises, as the case may be, into punning, as when Flora pointed pensively to the heavy masses of clouds in the sky saying:

"I wonder where those clouds are going," and her brother replied:

"I think they are going to thunder."

Also the following dialogue:

"Halloo, there! how do you sell your wood?"

"By the cord."

"How long has it been cut?"

"Four feet."

"I mean how long has it been since you cut it?"

"No longer than it is now."

And also when Patrick O'Flynn was seen with his collar and bosom sadly begrimed, and was indignatly asked by his officer:

"Patrick O'Flynn, how long do you wear your shirt?"

"Twenty-eight inches, sir."

This reminds one of an instance which is said to have occurred recently in Chatham street, New York, where a countryman was clamorously besieged by a shopkeeper.

"Have you any fine shirts?" said the countryman.

"A splendid assortment. Step in, sir. Every price and every style. The cheapest in the market, sir?"

"Are they clean?"

"To be sure, sir."

"Then," said the countryman, with great gravity, "you had better put one on, for you need it."

HOW A FISH SWIMS.—It has been ascertained that the successive or simultaneous removal of the dorsal, pectoral, and ventral fins only renders the fish's position unsteady; but he could swim as well as before. But if the end of the caudle tail fin be snipped off, its speed is diminished; if the entire fin is removed, it moves still slower, and with evident exertion, but bravely keeps it up until the tail itself has been cut off; then at last the poor victim to science succumbs, rolls over like a log upon the water, gasps convulsively, makes a few desperate but ineffectual struggles with its abbreviated tail—and dies.

We have learned that a fish cannot swim without its tail. Let us now inquire how it swims with it. Very much as you scull a boat with an oar; but with the difference that in this case the oar is a part of the boat, and is flexible both in its length and its height.

Let us suppose our fish floating at rest in the water. Its tail is extended straight behind the body suddenly, it is bent to one side; this of course turns the head towards the same side, and perhaps carries the fish a little backward; but now comes a more forcible backward stroke of the tail which turns the head the other way and propels the fish forward. Then having touched the middle line it is gently bent to the other side, again forcibly extended. The result of these alternate movements of the tail in opposite directions is as in the sculling of a boat; to propel the fish forward, not in a straight but a zigzag direction. But the successive movements are so rapid that we notice only the reluctant forward motion which in some species as the salmon, at the rate of twenty-five miles an hour, and so powerful that the sword fish has been known to thrust his sword through copper sheathing, a layer of felt, four inches of deal and fourteen inches of oak.—*King's Musical Leaves.*

A WONDERFUL SQUARE MILE.—Under this head, *Chamber's Journal* of a late date, gives some statistics of the hurry of business within a single square mile in London. Ten thousand vehicles passed Blackfriar's bridge in twelve hours of one day, 12,000 at Fleet street, and 19,000 at London bridge. On one day of twenty-four hours, not extraordinary, 38,000 vehicles passed over the Thames. In nine hours of one day in 1848, 319,000 people entered the city, three-fourths of whom were on foot. Eight hundred and forty-eight thousand people entered, and passed out of the principal arteries of London in one day, as follows: Aldersgate, 16,000; Finsbury pavement, 21,000; Bishopsgate, 23,000; Blackfriar's bridge, 24,000; Temple Bar, 25,000; Aldgate, 29,000; Holborn-bars, 30,000 and London bridge, 42,000. In twelve consecutive hours of a day in 1867, there passed, on foot, in Walbrook, 17,000; Throgmorten, 18,000; Threadneedle street, 22,000; Lombard street, 30,000; Newgate street, 33,000; Leadenhall, 36,000; Cornhill, 44,000; Fenchurch, 46,000; Fleet street, 62,000; Poultny, 75,000! The latter is said to be the busiest part of London. Along the nine-foot pavement of that street the passengers number one hundred per minute!

SOCIAL HONOR.—Every person should cultivate a nice sense of honor. In a hundred different ways this most fitting adjunct of the true lady or gentleman is often tried. For instance one is a guest of a family where, perhaps, the domestic machinery does not run smoothly. There is a sorrow in the house unsuspected by the outer world. Sometimes it is a dissipated son, whose conduct is a shame and grief to his parents; sometimes a relative whose eccentricities and peculiarities are a cloud on the home. Or, worst of all, husband and wife may not be in accord, and there may be often bitter words spoken, and harsh recriminations. In any of these cases the guest is in honor bound to be blind and deaf, so far as people without are concerned. If a gentle word within can do any good, it may well be said, but to go forth and reveal the shadow of an unhappy secret to any one, even your nearest friend, is an act of indelicacy and meanness almost unparalleled.—Once within the sacred precinct of any home, admitted to its privacy, sharing its life, all that you see and hear is a sacred trust. It is as really contemptible to gossip of such things as it would be to steal the silver or borrow the books and forget to return them.

TABLE OF DISTANCE.—The following exhibit of the number of yards contained in a mile will often prove a matter of useful reference to readers:

Mile in England or America, 1760 yards.
Mile in Russia, 1160 yards.
Mile in Italy, 1467 yards.
Mile in Scotland and Ireland, 2200 yards.
Mile in Poland, 4400 yards.
Mile in Spain, 5028 yards.
Miles in Sweden and Denmark, 7323 yards.
Miles in Hungary, 8800 yards.
League in England and America, 5280 yards.

☞ A Washington belle is responsible for this: "In walking up a long room when the women who don't like you are looking at your back, there is a moral support conveyed by a Paris dress not to be derived from the firmest religious principles."

☞ The fly has uses. He serves to keep baldheaded sinners awake at church on a warm day, so that their unregenerated hearts may be touched by the preacher's word.

☞ An extravagant blade was told that he resembled the prodigal. "No" replied he, "I never fed swine!" "A good reason," retorts the other, "the devil would not trust you with his pigs!"

☞ "Capital weather, Mr. Jones, capital weather. My wife's got such a bad cold she can't speak. I like such weather."

☞ "Mr. Speaker, I straddle the blind," was the phrase in which a poker-playing California legislator seconded the motion.

☞ People of Wioming don't know whether to call their female judge a justice of the peace or a justice of the peaces.

"Four boxes."—Four boxes govern the world: the cartridge box, the ballot box, the jury box, and the band box.

☞ When a married man becomes *corned*, it is perfectly proper for his wife to pull his ears.

☞ A man who had a scolding wife being asked what he did for a living, replied that he kept a *hot house*.

☞ Value the friendship of him who stands by you in a storm; swarms of insects will surround you in sunshine.