

HONOR ON THE WANE?

AN ENGLISH WRITER ON THE DECADENCE AMONG MEN AND THE DUTY OF WOMEN

Commercial Probity's Ebb... Levity of the Would-be Wit Tends to Sink High Moral Ideas... Politics is Tainted... Lying Considered Fine Art... An Appeal to Women to Stop the Downward Tendency and Restore Old Confidences

STRAH GRAND, in an article printed in the London Chronicle, says: It has been suggested that man's honor is a myth. And appearances seem to favor the suggestion. But it may be that here again appearances are misleading, because so much more appears now than of old. Few escape from those amateur public prosecutors, not of the press but of our acquaintances, who come into our house under various pretexts, take all that we have to share with them, and, in turn, sap our credit by a system of petty criticism of every act and word, from which the Lord Himself would not have escaped unscathed. They find what they seek in human nature, these people, nothing but blemishes. There are undesirable accretions on most characters that can be sloughed at will, but the character as it should be; but it is the sloughed accretions which the scavenger critic rakes out of the dust heaps of our degraded selves, to which they belong, and would fain readjust to prove his point. Certainly honor is not very conspicuous at the present time in the habits of men, whatever it may still be in their estimation. Some say that it never was at so low an ebb; but that can only be said in ignorance. Take the Creevy papers, for instance, to go no further back. From the prince in power to the struggling party politician, what a picture we have there of sordid self-seeking, of motives so mean that a man must have extinguished in himself the most rudimentary sense of honor before he could have acted upon them.

Still, the fact that the existence of honor in man has come to be called in question contains a threat which is significant. Our national honor has been little vaunted of late. Our commercial honor is a sore subject. Our professional honor stands highest, but even it has been assailed. And as to honor in politics, no one expects it of us. Lately a politician in high repute, an ex-member of many governments, the hero of many a hard won debate, was describing to me some electioneering antics in which he had been engaged, and in the enjoyment of his subject he burst out with the assurance that of course he had lied; he had lied, or he never would have carried his point. It is not man's honor but his dishonesty that calls for comment every day. The early life of a woman of my time, cast out into the world, as was the custom, without preparation, her faith in man full fledged, and no suspicion in her soul, was apt to be darkened by disillusion. I know not how it may affect a boy, but the first shock of proof that a man can lie is a thing from which a girl never recovers—I mean a girl who has been brought up in the tradition of honor. There are still some such. In the case of the boy it may be that the system of education at our public schools, by which a hatred of learning is implanted for life in the breasts of the majority of the pupils, may be subtly calculated to destroy all inconvenient sensitiveness on the subject of honor, as a practical means of fitting boys for success in any career by robbing them at the outset of an old-fashioned inebriance. To hear men talk is to think so sometimes. Levity is the pose of the would-be wit of to-day, and the tone of the subject of honor tends to sink low enough to be tainted by levity. In modern fiction heroes and heroines are often made to lie as a matter of course, and the reader is not expected to think any the worse of them. In the days of Dickens the badge of honor was the unsullied word of hero and heroine. Even in conversation men may be heard nowadays taking credit to themselves for having lied successfully on occasion, a thing that would not have been tolerated in general society barely a century ago. Doubtless in those days there were men enough who dishonored their word, but when they did so they held it a lapse, not an evidence of smartness, and kept the matter to themselves. There was still in them at that time the saving grace of shame. An evidence of the change of tone in this respect came to me first from a man of mark in his own time, a Roman Catholic convert, ardent in his devotional exercises, devoting to the full, with keen aesthetic fervor, the emotional possibilities of his religion. We were discussing a point of honor, and he argued hotly that a man is not dishonored by a lie so long as he does not bear false witness. When a word falls into disuse, the quality of which it is the symbol is apt to atrophy. In England the word honor is becoming antiquated, if not obsolete. No one now is expected to talk of his honor, and the subject in the abstract is only tolerated in the official utterances of preachers in their pulpits, orators on their platforms, or an editor in a leading article. The man who should venture to discuss honor in a fashionable drawing-room to-day would be quenched with the silence which signifies that he had committed a solecism. The ebb of honor corresponds to the rise of the parvenu in our midst, and the spread of the commercial spirit among the decadent nobility, whose sense of honor is notoriously anemic. By the commercial spirit I mean the spirit which never gives, but always batters; which calculates upon a return of its offerings with interest; and tends to make a cutlet for a cutlet the highest hope of our modern hospitality. Honor is of slow growth; it is said that it does not appear in the parvenu family until the third generation—which I should accept as an indication of the place these people have won for themselves in the estimation of the public, rather than as a statement of the exact truth, although it did happen to me once to be asked in confidence by one of them, "What on earth does it mean, this noblesse oblige you are always talking about?" In all this there is an indication of danger, yet such statements make for misrepresentation when unqualified, being true of individuals only, not of the nation at large. There are dishonest politicians, dishonest capitalists, dishonest tradesmen, and a small clique of smart rogues of both sexes conspicuous in society; but these people are the scum of their various classes, who have risen like scum to the surface, and there become conspicuous, attaining an unenviable notoriety, not by reason of their merits, but for want of the solid qualities which might have secured fame for them in more desirable places. The nation is not to be tried by the standard of decadent peers and unscrupulous capitalists. The parvenu, on his promotion, his wealth made by methods which will not bear investigation, is not our typical self-made man. We have still our hereditary gentlemen, in whose families the tradition of honor has been handed down unscathed to the present time; and we have our great representatives of honorable commerce, whose careers are proudly told in evidence of what a man may rise to, by honest means, in a free country. Titles originally indicated what was expected of the bearer, and with us honorable and right honorable are the most ordinary titles. Honor is the health of a nation, and honor is still our national ideal. It has been no vain boast from of old that an Englishman's word is his bond, and English women will see to it that it does not cease to be so.

BRAVE MAMMA HIPPOPOTAMUS.

An Incident Showing That Somewhere in the Huge Animal Lies a Brain.

The hippopotamus is not generally credited with great intellectual power, but it seems from the following incident, taken from the Popular Science Monthly, that somewhere in that mass of flesh and fat resides a brain prompt to act when necessity demands. For several weeks the wonder and delight of an English zoological park was a baby hippopotamus, which was named Guy Fawkes because its birthday fell upon the 5th of November. The young hippopotamus was about the size of a bacon pig, of a pinkish-slate color, and as playful as a kitten. It was only three days old when, as the superintendent of the zoo was watching the little fellow's antics, it dived to the bottom and did not rise. The grown animals never remain under water much longer than three minutes; so as the time went on and no baby reappeared, the superintendent became alarmed.

When twenty minutes had elapsed he gave orders that the water be drawn from the tank to recover the body of what he felt sure was a dead baby hippopotamus. As the plug was being removed young Guy Fawkes appeared, shaking his funny little horse-like ears, and wearing a hippopotamic grin, which seemed to say, "Don't be frightened; I'm all right. You don't know all about me yet." The young animals have a great power of remaining under later, which they lose as they increase in years. The next time baby went to the bottom, however, was not so much of a joke. He tried to climb up the side of the tank in which there were no steps. He fell back again and again, until he was exhausted. The keepers were gathered about the tank in great anxiety, not unable to help. The mother, however, hurried to her baby with all her clumsy haste. She dived, put her broad nose under Guy Fawkes, shoved him up, and held him above the surface until he had recovered his breath and was rested. It was nearly half an hour before the little fellow was able to make another attempt. Then he made a huge effort, Mamma Hippopotamus gave a big shove with her head, and Master Guy Fawkes clambered triumphantly up the side of the tank.

Anglo-Saxon English.

There is an old fallacy that Anglo-Saxon words are best. The fallacy is based on the belief that words of Anglo-Saxon origin are more simple and vigorous than those derived from Latin. In point of fact, some Anglo-Saxon words are obscure and long, and many of our commonest, most simple words are from the Latin. The London News tells a story in point. A barrister more remarkable for the vigor of his address to juries than for his learning was commenting on the proceeding of the other party in a case under trial. "I do not know what gloss my learned friend is going to put upon this matter, but I will not mince my words. I denounce it in plain, downright Anglo-Saxon English as a nefarious transaction."

Sees Evils in Overstudy.

Henry R. Edmunds, President of the Philadelphia Board of Education, says that the public school pupils of that city are suffering from ill-effects brought on by overstudy. The principal evils resulting, he says, are nervous affections and defective eyesight, both largely traceable to excessive home study and the crowding of too many branches into the elementary grades. He champions the abolition of afternoon classes and the wiping out of all home study.

Mythical Creatures of Japan.

Japanese believe in more mythical creatures than any other people on the globe, civilized or savage. Among these are serpents 800 feet long and large enough to swallow an elephant; foxes with eight legs, monkeys with four ears and fishes with ten heads attached to one body. They also believe in the existence of a crane which, after it has lived 600 years, has no need of any sustenance except water.



Five Rules For Spraying.

- 1. Use material known to be best. 2. Keep the pump and nozzles in perfect order. 3. Spray thoroughly or not at all. 4. Know why you spray, and do it in season. 5. Do not condemn spraying unless you have done your best and failed.—Country Gentleman.

New Use of Powdered Alum.

Finely powdered alum, as much as will lay on the point of a pen knife, blown into the eye of a horse, cow, sheep or hog will remove any foreign substance, chaff or grain or sand, etc. No case is hopeless, even where a layer of membrane has grown over it. A complete cure is only a question of time. Where the treatment is attended to early, one application is usually enough, but when of long standing it may be necessary to repeat the operation two or even three times a week, until recovery is established. If the eye should become inflamed leave off for a week or ten days.—L. Olsen, in The Epitomist.

Good Care of Harnesses.

Now is the time to oil and repair the harness before the busy season begins, says American Cultivator. Take the harness to pieces and wash thoroughly with warm water and soap. It is important that the harness be clean before applying the oil. After washing let the harness dry; this can be hastened by rubbing with a dry cloth, then apply the oil while the leather is soft, but not too wet. The harness may be hung in the open air until the oil is absorbed. Old, neglected harnesses that are dry and hard had better not be oiled; the fibres of the leather have lost their tenacity, and oil will not restore it. Oil does not add to the strength of leather, it merely softens and keeps it from cracking. It is a preventative of decay, not a restorer. A well-oiled and repaired harness will last as long again as a neglected one.

To Prevent Black Rot.

As a preventive of black rot in vineyards next season the North Carolina Experiment Station recommends that all dead leaves and rotten grapes be raked up and removed, and rotten grapes clinging to the vines and trellises picked off. Loose, shredded bark that can be readily pulled from the vines, prunings, dead grass and weeds should be burned; in fact, anything capable of harboring the dustlike spore should be destroyed or taken away. While the vines are still in a dormant condition, spray with the copper sulphate solution, thoroughly wetting the vines and posts, and paying particular attention to bunches of tendrils or rough surfaces on the posts that would be likely to retain the spores. It is much easier to keep black rot out of a vineyard once cleaned than to keep it down in a vineyard not cleaned.

Hollyhocks.

In old times the hollyhock was the most formal of all flowers, says Woman's Home Companion. For a century after its introduction there was no change in its form or the dull tints of its colorings; in fact, it attracted but few devotees. However the hollyhock is coming in to its own, as the hybridizers have taken it in hand, and we now have the blooms single and double, of all imaginable shades and colors—resembling the quilled asters, rivaling in form the choicest frilled and incurved chrysanthemums, and others as round as the flower of a peony—and the seed has been selected so severely for early blooming that they can now be had in bloom from seed in one season. Give them a permanent location in the hardy bed or border, or plant them in clumps to hide unsightly places. The soil cannot be too rich for them, and it should be deep and mellow and well enriched with well rotted manure. Mulch in hot weather. When the frost kills the stalks in the fall, cut them off and cover with manure twelve inches deep.

Summer Feed For Cows.

If farmers who milk cows for profit, be it many or few, kept milk records, they would learn that a large amount of money is lost annually by allowing the cows to fall off in their milk yield during the summer, due largely to scant pasture and to a certain extent the attacks of flies. If they do not know it from their own experience they should profit by that of others. Cows allowed to fall off in their milk flow cannot be made to produce as much milk by any kind of feeding later as they would had the flow been sustained throughout the season. To the end that this loss may be guarded against, some provision should be made to supplement the pasture by green feed, or silage left over from winter.

Smuggling Popular.

Smuggling was very generally practiced in England in former times. A London journal says: "Hardly a family upon our coastline has not a smuggling record. Lord Shaftesbury, father of the philanthropist, sat at dinner at Heron Court with the last of the Hopper family, chairman of customs, when with a great shouting and clatter, a cavalcade of smugglers with wagonloads of smuggled spirits dashed into view. Shaftesbury sprang to the window and called his host. The chairman of customs sat down resolutely with his back to the window, for would he move until the last echo of the train had died away. When ten minutes later a troop of mounted excisemen pulled up at his door he was truthfully able to say that he had seen nothing of the lawless ones."

Cattle eat very much like horses.

sheep eat nearly as much in proportion to weight, and hogs eat more than any other of the larger animals as compared with their weight. In proportion to numbers, the calculation is that five sheep will eat as much as a cow and four or five hogs as much as a steer. The feed, too, is largely grain.

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to the field and cut oats and peas or corn, especially if it necessitates stopping a team from the field work, even should it be more profitable to do so than to let the cows suffer.—H. E. Van Nerman.

Clover as a Poultry Food.

Clover is not only more suitable as summer food for poultry, owing to its juicy nature, compared with corn, but it is also more nutritious, as it contains a greater quantity of the substances required for the production of eggs. The lime for the shells is procured when in a soluble form in the food, as it must pass through all the stages and processes of digestion, and the more soluble the mineral elements the easier and more completely they serve the purposes of the hens. Clover hay contains over thirty times as much lime as corn or wheat, and the green clover, though containing more water, is comparatively as rich as the hay. Clover is also a nitrogenous food, and supplies the elements necessary for the eggs. When the hens have access to clover they eat a large quantity during the day, and if insects are numerous their wants will be fully supplied. If it is desired to allow grain to the flock it should be fed sparingly and only once a day. Do not waste food by feeding it in summer, as the hens are capable of supplying themselves. If clover is finely chopped, holding water poured over it, and the mass allowed to remain over night, until the next morning, a strong decoction of the clover is obtained, known as clover tea. This water off the clover is the best of all liquids for mixing ground grain, especially for chicks. The clover may be fed to the fowls with benefit. It is an excellent and agreeable change if it is thickened with corn meal and bran, and it may be used for ducklings and young turkeys. If given warm, on cold mornings, it is an invigorator and tonic, and costs but little compared with some other substances.

Orchard Subsoil.

The climate being suitable, successful orcharding depends more than on any other requisite on the subsoil. We can make the soil so if it is not rich enough, but we cannot change the subsoil without great expense, said L. A. Goodman in an address. There are thousands and thousands of acres of good lands scattered all over our country with the proper subsoil among these lands are still other thousands just as valuable for other purposes, but by no means having the proper subsoil, and hence, orchards planted on these lands will be unprofitable. Congenial subsoil—success; improper subsoil—failure, are two sentences which should be burned upon the memory of every fruit grower. Dig down under your soil, not one place, but in a hundred spots all over the land you intend to plant, and see what is below. A few dollars spent in this way may save you thousands in your orchard. The best subsoil is the loess formation. It allows the rains to sink deep into its bosom and there holds it until called for by the drought of summer and the cold of winter. It is fertile also, and a fertile, porous subsoil is to be desired above all other considerations. Look to it well. Gravelly shale or clay loam are next in order as to value and they can be secured in many of our apple districts. A red clay shale, with the limestone soil and subsoil is always valuable also. Many of the subsoils are found in our mountainous districts, and there we find them mixed with iron, which gives color to the skin and quality to the fruit. Above all things, then, select a good, porous, fertile subsoil, and if you have it not, then go where it is.

Farm Notes.

Don't crowd your hens into too small quarters this winter, for that invites roup. Two elements of success with milk and butter are perfect cleanliness and attractive packages. One advantage with a sandy yard is that it needs very little cleaning; the rains will carry the filth into the soil. If the milk has a bitter taste give the cow about two tablespoonfuls of sugar at each meal for two or three days. Keep a dust bath within reach of the fowls. They enjoy wallowing and it helps to keep them healthy and free from vermin. It would be a nice thing if you would wash the inside of your poultry house now. Put some coal oil on the roosts and clean the windows. Growing pigs should be fed regularly at stated times, feeding each time what they will eat up clean, and so much but what they will come when called to their next feed. If you do not wish to go to the expense of building double walled poultry houses, a couple of thicknesses of No. 1 tarred felt closely nailed to the inside, will go toward making the house frost proof. Cattle eat very much like horses; sheep eat nearly as much in proportion to weight, and hogs eat more than any other of the larger animals as compared with their weight. In proportion to numbers, the calculation is that five sheep will eat as much as a cow and four or five hogs as much as a steer. The feed, too, is largely grain.

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At a meeting of Hope Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1, held on July 9, 1901, the town was divided into Fire Districts and a Code of Signals was adopted in order to facilitate the location of fires in the future. The town was divided as follows: District No. 1—All that portion of town bounded north by Bellevue street, west by Union street, south and east by corporation line.

District No. 2—All that portion of town bounded by Bellevue street on the south, Union street on the west, and corporation line on the north and east.

District No. 3—The portion of town lying west of Union street, and south of Bellevue street, with the corporation line as the south and west boundary.

District No. 4—The portion of town bounded on the south by Bellevue, east by Union, north and west by corporation line.

The Signals adopted were short taps to indicate the district in which the fire is located, followed by a rapid alarm, same to be repeated until general alarm is given.

To illustrate, should an alarm be sounded for District No. 3, first three taps, one, two, three, followed by rapid alarm, and repeat.

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