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MAIN STREET

LIVINGSTON, MONTANA.

#### An Elephant's Punishment.

Though the white elephant, and all elephants in Indo-China, are held in very high honor, they do not always occupy a very creditable place in the fables of the people. There is a long story in the Non-thukpakkaranam about an elephant, Yukunson, who went wild, and rushed about the forest in mad fashion. He came upon a clump of bamboos, tore it down, and stamped to death the fledglings of a pair of hedge-sparrows, who had their nest there. The bereaved parents were in great tribulation, and fluttered about, bewailing their wrongs. A crow who flew by was touched by their sorrow, and after giving them a deal of religious advice, such as grudging Westerns would believe him incapable of knowing about, he promised to see that right should be done. The three of them, therefore, went off and struck up an alliance with the frog, and then enlisted the fly on their side.

This partnership did not seem very formidable, but the genius of the frog and the crow, both of whom in the story exhibit great wisdom and reasoning power, brought about a final triumph. The crow flew over Yukunson, the elephant, and pecked at his eyes. In the wounds the fly laid eggs. These bred maggots, and the elephant's eyes became terribly inflamed and he lost his sight. He wandered about the forest in torture, and wherever he went the hedge-sparrows flew chattering about his head, abusing him and exulting in his agony. To his other misery was added that of burning thirst. The frog seated himself on the edge of a deep abyss and croaked vigorously to make the elephant think there was water there. Yukunson followed the sound, and, falling over the cliff, was dashed to pieces.

Nevertheless, before he dies he moralizes on the wickedness into which even the most pious are led, and acknowledges the righteousness of the fate which has befallen him. His repentance is real, and saves him from the evil transincorporation which should have been the portion of so bad an action, but which would have been too great a punishment in the popular idea for so estimable a creature as the elephant.—*London Saturday Review.*

#### A Man of Nerve.

A retail dealer in an interior village closed his doors, and the agent of a wholesale house who went down to secure a compromise found that he would not be able to get 5 cents on the dollar. "Yes, business was pretty good," explained the dealer, "but I have never recovered from the panic."

"Why, that was ten years ago."

"Yes, but it has been hanging over me ever since."

"How?"

"Why, I married a milliner who kept her next door, thinking it would be a

good spec to combine the two branches of business."

"A truly wise policy, I should say." "It was, eh! Well, that was what busted me. She had a stock valued at \$2,000, owed about \$3,000 and gave me the shake after gobbling up \$1,500. The only wonder to me is how I have pulled along until I could get in debt over \$6,000. Some men would have given up long ago in blank despair."—*Wall Street News.*

#### Hot and Cold Drinks.

A correspondent of *Knowledge* calls attention to some of the disadvantages of hot drinks. Cold drinks, he says, are natural to man, though most people nowadays are so used to hot drinks that they do not feel satisfaction—really stimulation—unless they have them. Hot drinks are injurious to the tongue, for they deaden its sensation, and, after taking hot soup or drink, the tongue becomes quite numb and unable to taste the finer flavors of a dish. The teeth are greatly injured by them, and many dentists say caries (decay) is due to them alone. They crack the enamel and thus allow caries to set in. When caries has once set in hot drinks are a common cause for neuralgia. Hot drinks are especially hurtful to the stomach. They cause irritation of the nerves of the stomach and consequent mild inflammation of that organ; so that after a hot drink the stomach is red and congested; in time a debilitated condition is set up. A temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit also destroys the active ferment of the gastric juice—pepsin—and so leads to indigestion. If the stomach is at all disordered, hot drinks give rise to much griping pain, and in many cases to vomiting. In cases of diarrhea, too, hot drinks only increase it, while cold ones tend to lessen it. Thirst is not common in winter, unless sugary, salty, or hot-spiced foods have been taken. In cold weather the air contains more moisture than in hot, and in cold weather there is less perspiration. Hot drinks increase the volume of heat in the body, and, if that is not required, it is quickly got rid of by the skin. Water is the best thirst-quencher, but if simple food be taken the need of drinks will be small. Many vegetarians drink nothing from month to month, the only fluid they get being the juices of the fruits which they eat. But pleasant drinks, like tea, coffee, etc., may be taken lukewarm for a long time with little apparent damage. The least injurious is cocoa, made with plenty of milk and allowed to stand until nearly cool. A good test is to apply the little finger to the drink, and, if it be not too hot, then it may be safely taken.—*Hall's Journal of Health.*

People who are not superstitious believe in signs, and so the sign-painter gets his work in.

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