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Guarding One's Speech.

Baltimore Sun.

The story of the boy who cried "wolf" so often that when the wolf really came his cries passed unheeded has many practical illustrations. The boy had simply lost reputation and was not believed. That is the fate of all who tell lies; when their character becomes known they are not believed, no matter how earnestly they may protest they are telling the truth. Such loss of reputation is a very serious matter, especially for young men and women whose success in business life is sure to depend in very great degree upon their good reputation. They should guard it not only by exemplary conduct in the fulfillment of engagements, the discharge of duties, &c., but by truth-telling exactness in their reports and speeches. Those who are careless in this respect, though they may never consciously tell an untruth, soon become known as inexact and unreliable, and what they may say loses much of the weight it would carry if they had maintained a good reputation. One who is given to exaggeration has all his sayings discounted, so that he finds it impossible to convey to those who know him an adequate idea of some really great event. He has, through a habit of exaggeration, lost to some extent the power of speech. Moreover, men who exaggerate usually defeat their own purpose even with those who are strangers to them and do not know their faults. It used to be the rule of a writer somewhat famous for the strength of his expressions to write from the fullness of his heart and then when in a calmer mood to strengthen his article by removing therefrom nearly all of the adjectives he had originally employed. It is a fact that extravagance of statement weakens a declaration, and there is no part of speech of which more sparing and thoughtful use should be made than adjectives, and especially superlatives. The boy who cried wolf too often has another companion in the common scold. People who are always complaining of others so injure their reputation that they find themselves unable to get a real grievance redressed. It seems to be the old tale revived, and those who are forced to listen to it really pay no heed. The scold is most mischievous in the family circle, especially if he or she has to deal with young children. The parent who is continually scolding soon loses control of the child and finds fresh grievances in the latter's indifference to rebuke. One who, after living in a quiet neighborhood, settles near a railroad line finds the unaccustomed noises almost intolerable, but after a time scarcely notices them. So also the

child whose attention may be arrested by an occasional rebuke, loses consciousness of scoldings when he has heard them every hour of the day for weeks together. The scolder is really crying wolf too often and losing reputation to such a degree that ultimately his scoldings will pass by as the idle wind and be unheeded, if not unheard. It is well, therefore, to guard one's speech against untruthfulness, exaggeration or unnecessary complainings and to maintain a reputation for exactness, moderation and justice, so that whatever one may have to say will be listened to with respect and not be passed by as the idle cry of "wolf" when there is no wolf.

Be Your Own Prophet.

Reflector.

Notice your cat when it washes its face, the paw it uses and the direction it faces will show the point of compass whence the wind is blowing. For instance if the cat faces the north and washes its face with its left paw the wind is from the west. When a person kills a snake he does well to consider what kind of weather he would like. If he hangs the snake up it will rain. If he buries it the weather will be fair. If the breastbones of the Thanksgiving chickens are light in color there will be a good deal of snow in the winter following. If the color is dark there will be little snow. The last Friday of each month is the almanac index for the next month. If the weather is fair the month will be likewise; if foul so will the month be.

When the cattle lie down as soon as they are turned out to pasture in the morning it is because they feel a rheumatic weakness in their bones and you can look for a rain soon.

After the frogs begin to sing in the spring if they are frozen in three times you may be sure that afterward you will have warm weather. Blow out a candle and if the wick continues long to smolder look for bad weather. If it goes out quickly the weather will be fair. The twelve days after Christmas indicate the weather for the following year. Each day in order shows the weather for one month.

If the chicken's feathers are very thick at Thanksgiving time the winter will be a hard one.

When you take up the teakettle and find sparks on the bottom it is a sign of cold weather.

When the camphor in its bottle is "riley" it shows that a storm is brewing.

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