

A Mother's Influence.
In a railway car man about sixty years old came to sit beside me. He had heard me lecture the evening before on temperance. "I am master of a ship," said he, "sailing out of New York, and have just returned from my fiftieth voyage across the Atlantic. About thirty years ago I was a sot, shipped while dead drunk, and was carried on board like a log. When I came to, the captain asked me, 'Do you remember your mother?' I told him she died before I could remember. 'Well,' said he, 'I am a Vermont man.' When I was young I was young I was crazy to go to sea.—At last my mother consented I should seek my fortune. 'My boy,' she said, 'I don't know anything about towns, and I never saw the sea, but they tell me they make thousands of drunkards. Now promise me you'll never drink a drop of liquor.' He said, 'I laid my hands in hers and promised, as I looked into her eyes for the last time. She died soon after. I've been on every sea, seen the worst kinds of life and men—they laughed at me as a milkop and wanted to know if I was a coward. But when they offered me liquor I saw my mother's pleading face, and I never drank a drop. It has been my sheet-anchor I owe all to that. Would you like to take that pledge?' said he. 'My companion took it, and he added, 'It has saved me. I have a fine ship, and wife and children at home, and I have helped others.'
That earnest woman saved two men to virtue and usefulness; how many more she sees all can alone tell.—Wendell Phillips.

Two Very Happy Toms.
Let it go upon record that the happiest man in the State over Mr. Hendricks' election is Mr. Hendricks' colored coachman, "Tom." When the count in New York settled the result beyond question Tom shouted:
"We are elected sure, and we are going to take our seat this time without doubt. There won't be any Senatorial Commission this time. I heard Mr. Hendricks say so. We'll take our seat."
This was said to a News reporter, who repeated Tom's utterances to Mr. Hendricks, particularly his defiant assertion, "We'll take our seat."
"Did he say 'we'?" questioned Mr. Hendricks, and when assured positively that such was the case he burst into the heartiest laugh he has been known to indulge in for many years. He fairly shouted with glee, and then, recovering himself, said:
"I was not sure how Tom voted, and I never said a word to him on the subject of politics until he came to me for information a few days before the election. I found then he wanted to know how to talk—a what kind of a speech to make. I have noticed the result was exceedingly gratifying to him. 'We are going to take our seat!' Well, that is good!"—Indianapolis News.

An Every Day Occurrence.
Once upon a time a Donkey fell into a deep hole, and after nearly starving, caught sight of a passing Fox, and implored the stranger to help him out.
"I am too small to aid you," said the Fox, "but I will give you some good advice. Only a few rows away is a big, strong elephant. Call to him and he will get you out in a jiffy."
After the Fox had gone the Donkey tumbled into the hole, and passing the hole saw within it a whitening skeleton, and remarked: "If it be true that the souls of animals are transmigrated into men, that Donkey will become one of those merchants who can never afford to advertise."—Philadelphia Call.

He'd Wait and See.
During the war a couple of New Yorkers went down into Pennsylvania to prospect for oil, and having discovered a "stratum," they undertook to purchase five acres of land from an old German. He was up to snuff, if not to oil, and refused to sell at any reasonable figure.—One of the would-be purchasers finally said to him:
"See here, Mr. Klopp, we propose to buy this land and turn it over to the government."
"Vas for?"
"To help put down the rebellion. The time has come when every man must show his colors. Are you for the Union?"
"Vhell—vhell—"
"Are you a patriot or not?"
"Vhell, I tell you how it vvas.—If dere vvas oil in my land, I hold for one thousand dollars an acre and vvas a rebel. If dere vvas no oil, I sell it to you for two hundred dollars an acre, and vvas a good patriot."

"Well, my daughter, your mother and I have been consulting recently about the windows for our house. What kind would you like in the parlor?" "Oh, thank you, papa, for seeking my advice. I should prefer bean windows, by all means."

Salt as a Fertilizer.
If it is to be believed that plants require in the soil a supply of every element they contain, then salt must be considered as plant food and as a fertilizer. Salt is certainly contained in all plants, and is also a component part of the blood and of the flesh and fluids of the animal system. It is also contained in almost all soils, but it is so exceedingly soluble that it cannot help but be carried off by the drainage water to a very large extent.—Consequently it is exceedingly probable that, in inland districts at least, the soil will in many cases be deficient in this substance and should be supplied with it. In practice it has been found very useful to many crops, especially grass, oats, wheat, cabbages, turnips and mangels. It consists of chlorine and sodium, the latter being the basis of the common soda. It has been used with good effect upon the light soils of New Jersey quite close to the ocean, and a well known and successful farmer in that State uses more than a ton of it on his meadows every year. Being soluble, it should be applied when the crop is in a growing condition, which is spring, when the growth is about beginning. Its greatest effect is upon clover, which is very much improved by it; 250 pounds per acre is the usual quantity.—Wheat is also greatly benefited by an application of 300 pounds of salt to the acre; the effect of the salt being to produce a thin bright husk and to prevent smut and rust.—Barley is also affected in the same favorable way by a similar application of salt. The crop most benefited by salt is mangels, to which about 600 pounds per acre is applied immediately after the seed is sown. Pastures are greatly improved by a liberal dressing of salt, as may be seen by the brighter green which appears a few days after the application. This is not at all due to the increase of moisture, as is sometimes supposed, as the small quantity of water absorbed by 500 or 600 pounds of salt would be wholly incapable of making any visible effect upon the field.—New York Times.

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Call Mr. Henry.
As an illustration of how the simple are used by politicians, the following anecdote is interesting:
At a political meeting the other night, the speakers and audience were very much disturbed by a man who constantly called for Mr. Henry. Whenever a new speaker came on the stand, this man bawled out—
"Mr. Henry! Henry! Henry! I call for Mr. Henry!"
After several interruptions of this kind at each speech, a young man ascended the platform and was soon airing his eloquence in magnificent style, when the same man as before was heard bawling out at the top of his voice—
"Mr. Henry! Henry! Henry! I call for Mr. Henry to make a speech!"
The chairman arose and remarked that it would oblige the audience if the gentleman would refrain from further calling for Mr. Henry, as that gentleman was now speaking.
"Is that Mr. Henry?" said the disturber of the meeting. "That can't be Mr. Henry! Why, that's the little fellow that told me to hold my tongue!"
"Failed But Not Fettered"
"Yes, George, dear, I accept your proffered love, and will be your wife; and a pair of strong arms clasped her tightly, lovingly.
"You have heard, of course," she said from under the lappet of his coat, "that father has failed?"
"No, I hadn't heard that," said George, weakening his grip a little.
"Yes," she continued, nestling more closely to him; "he failed last week and—"
"That puts a different phase upon matters entirely," said George, struggling to break loose. But the girl held him fast and continued:
"And settled with his creditors at two cents on the dollar, and—"
"Nay, dearest," interrupted George, passionately, "do not speak of such sordid matters. Let us think only of love and the happiness which the bright future has in store."
But, gentle reader let us leave them in their young love and prefer trust.

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