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Letters of Condolence.

To write a letter of congratulation on a happy event in the history of a friend is a comparatively easy task. Words of cheer and felicitation fall trippingly from the pen as from the tongue. The letter of condolence requires more care, more delicacy, a greater comprehension, a fuller recognition of the friend's character and environment. Many people hesitate to write their thought of sympathy to one who is suffering under the first surprise and bewildering shock of a deep bereavement.

The impulse is strong to put forth a hand in the dark and give the warm clasp which means "I am sorry," "I grieve in your grief," "I would help you if I could," but quick upon its heels tread the suggestions of caution. "I do not know her well enough to intrude," whispers an instinctive refinement of pity. "My rude thrusting in of myself would only tear open the wound afresh." "Should I attempt to speak words of consolation, they would sound like platitudes, appear conventional or perfunctory." The arguments are often so reasonable in their appeal to common sense that the original tender impulse is resolutely crushed back. One prays for one's friend, but does not directly address her.

In most cases the silence is a mistake. Occasionally it is better than speech, we grant, particularly when those of whom we think are mere acquaintances, not even in the outer circle as yet of friendship, or when the sufferers are specially shy of manner and reticent of nature.

Usually, however, the letter of condolence, if short, earnest and sincere, is an olive branch of promise borne as by a very messenger dove of peace over the wild, whirling waste of snow. The simpler it is the surer its errand of mercy. The sooner it is sent the more speedily its tender balm is laid on the aching heart. On the whole, it is very nearly always safe to trust to the early friendly impulse and to disregard the later detaining hand of caution.—Harper's Bazar.

Electricity Applied to Farm Work.

An interesting example of electricity as applied to farm work is now in operation at a Scotch farm. The whole of the usual farm machinery, such as thrashing, sowing, corn thrashing and the like, are here driven by an electric motor. The electricity is generated by water power, the turbine wheel which drives the dynamo being about 1,000 yards from the farm. The electric current is conveyed by underground wires to the house and farm, in each of which a storage battery is placed. These supply the electric current for lighting and motive purposes when the machinery is not working. The whole of the mansion is illuminated by electric light, and an electric motor is provided for pumping the water for domestic purposes.—New York Telegram.

A Most Beautiful Volume.

The most beautiful volume among the $90,000 in the congressional library at Washington is a Bible which was transcribed by a monk in the sixteenth century. It could not be matched today in the best printing office in the world. The parchment is in perfect preservation. Every one of its 1,200 pages is a study. The general lettering is in German text, each letter perfect, in coal black ink, without a scratch or blot from lid to lid. At the beginning of each chapter the first letter is very large, usually two or three inches long, and is brightly illuminated in red and blue ink. Within each of these capitals is drawn the figure of some saint, or some incident of which the chapter tells is illustrated. There are two columns on a page, and nowhere is traceable the slightest irregularity of line, space or formation of the letters. Even under a magnifying glass they seem flawless.

This precious volume is kept under a glass case, which is sometimes lifted to show that all the pages are as perfect as the two which lie open. A legend relates that a young man who had sinned deeply became a monk and resolved to do penance for his misdeeds. He determined to copy the Bible, that he might learn every letter of the divine commands which he had violated. Every day for many years he patiently pursued his task. Each letter was wrought in reverence and love, and the patient soul found its only companionship in the saintly faces which were portrayed on these pages. When the last touch was given to the last letter, the old man reverently kissed the page and folded the sheets together. The illustrated initials in perfection of form and brilliancy of color surpass anything produced in the present day. With all our boasted progress, nothing either in Europe or America equals it.—Chicago Herald.

She Never Came Back.

She was a coy young woman, and she looked decidedly pretty in her new summer costume when Guard White beheld her sitting on one of the divans in the art gallery yesterday afternoon. He gave her several of his most killing looks, and she responded with the sweetest of smiles, and the heart of the young man in blue beat so hard that the kettledrums in the Turkish village were not to be compared for sound. As he gazed into the young woman's limpid eyes the order of Colonel Rice that all members of the Columbian guard must desist from flirting was forgotten. As he walked proudly and fro each turn brought him nearer to the smiling beauty, and each time his manly bosom was thrilled by the smile she gave him.

This sort of thing went on for several minutes, when she arose, and as she swept into the vestibule she cast him a sidelong glance which plainly said, "Follow me." The guard did so. By the side of one of the columns stood his charmer, and she extended a dainty hand, which sank out of view in his white glove. After a few minutes' conversation the girl asked for the time, and Guard White gallantly pulled from his vest pocket the handsome gold watch he carried.

"Oh, it is half past 3," she cried, "and I must let mamma know the time. She sits right in there. Poor, dear thing, she is awfully deaf, and one has to scream to make her hear. Just let me take your watch a moment while I take it in and show it to her, and I will be right back."

It took the guard less than a second to unsnap the chain which held the timepiece, and handing it to the charmer he watched her run into the gallery.

And then he waited for her return.

She never came back.—Exchange.

Felt It In Their Bones.

She—After you left me last night, George, papa put his foot down and said your attentions to me must cease. I knew this cruel blow was coming, for I've felt it in my bones all along.

He—Yes, dear, I know it, for just as I was leaving he put his foot up and told me the same thing. I feel it in my bones still.—Truth.

Gilt Edged Bibles For Savages.

Objections having been made to the sending of leather bound Bibles with gilt edges to the South seas as a needless luxury in the mission field, it is announced that the strong binding is necessary on account of the humidity of the climate and that the gilt edges are not so much an ornament as "an armor plating against the attacks of cockroaches and the white ant."

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BLANEY'S AGUE MIXTURE
25 CTS. ALL DRUGGISTS EVERYWHERE

ODDS AND ENDS.

Steel needles were first made in England in 1545.

A whale develops 145 horsepower when it flops its tail.

There are 2,754 languages and dialects now spoken.

Say "waistcoat" and "trousers" and not "vest" and "pants."

Harvey, who discovered the circulation of the blood, was a farmer's boy.

The roll of paper as used in the newspaper printing press is from 4 to 6 miles long.

A limb of a Missouri pippin apple tree, 2 feet long, has 33 well developed apples on it.

Fear manifested invites danger; concealed cowards insult known ones.—Chesterfield.

The petroleum oil trade at Baku, on the Caspian sea, is reported to be on the increase.

A returned tourist from Yucatan reports that that place is fast becoming a deserted country.

The men who are always fortunate cannot easily have a great reverence for virtue.—Cicero.

A memorial church to Jay Gould is to be built by the late financier's family at Roxbury, N. Y.

It is but a base, ignoble mind that mounts no higher than a bird can soar.—Shakespeare.

The largest single fortification in the world is Fortress Monroe. It has already cost over $3,000,000.

In Middle Smithfield, Pa., there is a chestnut tree the trunk of which measures 19 feet in circumference, breast high.

Because a young man refused to shave off his mustache at the demand of his Philadelphia fiancee she promptly broke the engagement. And now each is considering which has the better of the quarrel.

Great Fun at a Lawn Party.

One of the most amusing and novel summer lawn parties ever given occurred on the grounds of Banker Brown's beautiful residence on William street. The tables were profusely decorated with roses and spread for about 40 guests. The elite of the village was there.

The real fun began when Dr. Horton brought out one of those newly invented boomerang guns. The hostess proposed that the men should stand up in a row, while the ladies should by turns shoot for an escort to supper, her choice being presumed to be the one nearest whom the arrow should fall.

Now, everybody knows the boomerang is thrown away from the victim it is really intended to hit. Perhaps that is the reason the women took to it so naturally.

At all events, when Judge Lilly volunteered to give them an object lesson on the proper way of holding a gun and it went off before he got it up to his shoulder, a perfect volley of witty taunts rattled about his ears. But the boomerang flew off into space, right side up, like a bird, and when, to his dignified amazement, it presently returned and thumped his own shins, with the presence of mind of William the Conqueror he turned the accident to his own glory, kissed his hand to the applauding audience and retired with great honor, handing the gun over to Mrs. Eddy.

It is said that a cat cannot take an ungraceful attitude. No more can a woman with a gun. Neither judicial minds nor even old soldiers can ever hope to reach that inimitable air of noble and martial bearing that pervades a woman with a gun in her hands.

When Mrs. Eddy pulled the trigger, the boomerang darted away only to return with a whack upon her own beautiful chignon, thereby showing how much higher a woman's aim instinctively is than a man's who merely thumps his own shins.

Then she took another shot, and quickly the infernal boomerang from its perch in the sky surveyed that crowd and made a bee line for its midst. In vain they dodged and scattered. The lady bagged her man. It was a continuous round of fun till the last one had shot.

Undoubtedly this new sport has a brilliant future, as it is adapted to various lawn games.—Whitehall Cor. New York Times.

His Idea of Art.

Over in the art palace a man and three women were studying the paintings in the United States collection. They were devoting their time to that part evidently with a sort of homesick desire to see something familiar. It is a peculiar fact that visitors to the exposition who are little accustomed to being away from home invariably look first for something that will remind them of what they left only a few hours before. Complete change of scene makes time and distance seem so great. These people had an absent, far from home look in their faces, manners and clothing. The women appeared always to be of one fancy as they looked and would all stop to go over to look at a picture. The man would keep saying:

"Come on, come on—that's no good."

And then he would walk on. Finally one of the women said:

"Now, see here, Seth, you just leave us alone and do your own lookin. We know what we want to see a heap better'n you do."

"Waal," he said, "I know how to look at picters, and you don't. I found out that when I've been one of the judges at our different county fairs. There was one rule we allers went by. When a picter tells its own story, it's good. When you have to look in a book to find out what it is, it's no good. And you've been looking in that 'ere book to find out what all o' them picters are. Now you just come on and look at the picters that tell their own story, and you won't waste any time."

"I don't know but you're right, Seth," said the woman.

And the quartet started down the room, looking for stories from the canvases. My first impulse was to laugh, but the smile was drowned in a moisture somewhere near my eyes. The homely speech was full of the pathos of ignorance. What artist is there that would not be happy to know that his brush and soul thoughts had told their story without the "book?"—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Queer Place to "Whip Behind."

"It is common enough," said a promenader, "to see boys catching a ride on the tail of a truck, but today for the first time I saw some boys taking a ride in that way in an undertaker's wagon. The wagon was empty, and these boys, three of them, sat in the rear end of it. And they were not irreverent, nor careless of death, nor even thoughtless; they hadn't lived long enough to invest the black wagon with any terrors whatever. They had wanted to ride, and here was the chance, and they had jumped into the undertaker's wagon with the cheerful indifference of youth."—New York Sun.

Spencer In a Boarding House.

Mr. Herbert Spencer was once advised by his physician to live for awhile in a boarding house in order that he might be rested mentally by the light, cheery and brainless conversation at the dinner table. He took the advice, but did not stay long. A lady who was accustomed to sit next to him at dinner was asked her opinion of the house and spoke of it generally with favor. "But," she said, "there's a Mr. Spencer here who thinks he knows something about science and philosophy. I have to correct him every night."—London Tit-Bits.

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THUS YOU SEE WE HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO
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" " 12, 10, 8 dollar	" "	at	5.95
" " 8, 7, 6 dollar	" "	at	3.69
" " 7, 6, 5 dollar	Men's Pants	at	2.98
" " 4, 3, 2 dollar	" "	at	1.65
" " 2 and 1 dollar	" "	at	.69
" " 6, 5, 4 dollar	Children's Suits	at	3.00
" " 4, 3, 2 dollar	" "	at	1.55
" " 2 and 1.50	" "	at	.95
500 dozens	Men's Linen White Shirts	at	.42
600 "	Silk Suspenders	at	.16

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