

THE CRUTCH.

Charles Boswell, - - - - - Publisher

U. S. GEN'L HOSPITAL, DIV. 1, SATURDAY, DEC. 24, 1864

Christmas.

It is doubtful if this holiday has ever been observed with the same sincerity and emphasis, that the present times lend to it. The pleasant incident in its observance above all others, is the diversion of money, from more selfish enjoyment, to the use and refreshment of the soldiers. A generous, and timely suggestion was made early in the day, that the States should remember their soldiers, by presenting them with a Christmas, as well as a Thanksgiving-dinner, a move so earnestly seconded by the people, that its success is undoubted. Since the soldier is the most important figure in our population, the war a most familiar fact, and our successes so gratifying, this day must naturally bring with it a sense of national pride, deeper than the rejoicing we have been accustomed to indulge in. Throughout the homes in this land, and in the national heart, blows have fallen, each one of which, in itself, was a calamity; and yet, the moral atmosphere is clearer, hearts are beating with higher hopes, lives are made noble, and grander, through this year's events than the last. Our honor stands intact—our integrity firm; the air is filled with the voice of prayer and thanksgiving; there is a kind of inspiration in the fighting of to-day, since might and right are marching under the same banner!

Then, let the watch-fires be lighted on every hill; let light feet dance beneath the shining leaves of the holly; let the cross and the standard melt down all barriers of religion, politics, sect and race, and the light of manly deeds, tender words, and great heroisms fill the hearts of the people with rejoicings!

To our patrons, to whom we seem linked as with the golden thread of friendship, we present our humble compliments, trusting their courteous consideration for our shortcomings during the past year, may result in the honest desire to give the CRUTCH, though a crude piece of furniture, a corner in the household, which we trust will be brightened every year with a "merry Christmas."

For the Crutch.

"A Good Cause makes a Stout Heart."

A conscious feeling that one is right, nerves him to action. Courage is an innate quality of the mind, more strongly exhibited in some than others. Yet it is needful to a well developed character. We are so constituted that it is impossible for us to witness any transaction, or even read an account, but that we pass judgment almost instinctively, with regard to the justice or injustice of the deed. A desire that justice may be done to all, is a lawful and holy desire—one planted in our souls by the Creator.

However degraded man is, we find this principle pervading his soul. It is this which renders law needful. But as we have said the consciousness that we are in the right, that our cause is just, renders us courageous, and bold, resolved to do our duty, though forsaken by those whom we have called friends, and persecuted by enemies. What but this enabled our Fathers in the struggle for Liberty so successfully to repel the invaders. Few indeed in numbers, deprived as they were of the comforts of life, fully persuaded in their own minds of the justice of their cause, they resolved to die freemen, if needs be, rather than live slaves.

It is this same principle which has enabled the great and good of all ages, manfully to resist evil and persevere in that which they believe to be true. R.

Meinheer Von Dunck attended in court at New York to get excused from the jury-box. "I can't understand goot Englese," quoth Meinheer. "What did he say," asked the judge. "I can't understand goot Englese," repeated the Dutchman. "Take your seat," ordered the judge, "take your seat. That's no excuse; you need not be alarmed, as you are not likely to hear any."

Merit to Whom Merit is Due.

Among the officers of the U. S. Army, on board the transport George Leary, December 12th, 1864, a meeting was called for the purpose of expressing their appreciation of the services of Captain H. P. CRAWFORD, 2d Illinois Cavalry, among the sick, while prisoners of war. Captain W. A. ROBINSON, 77th Pennsylvania Vols., was called to the Chair. Captain J. S. GREEN, A. A. G., U. S. A., was appointed Secretary.

Upon motion, a committee upon resolutions was appointed by the Chair. At a meeting of the committee, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted, and approved at a subsequent meeting of the officers.

WHEREAS, Captain H. P. CRAWFORD, 2d Illinois Cavalry, a prisoner of war at Richmond, Macon, Charleston, and Columbia, has been constant and untiring in his attention, as surgeon and nurse, to his fellow prisoners, who were suffering from the neglect of the Rebel authorities. And

WHEREAS, These attentions were entirely unexpected, and gratuitous upon his part, he being a company officer. And

WHEREAS, Much suffering was relieved, and many lives saved by his attention.

Resolved, That we, recently prisoners of war at the above mentioned places, not only consider it due to Captain CRAWFORD, but are unwilling to separate without expressing our thanks for the constant care he has bestowed upon us when under circumstances in which we should have suffered and died without such care.

Resolved, That we do extend to Captain CRAWFORD, our sincere and hearty thanks for the constant exertions he has put forth to relieve our sufferings, and do assure him that his services will ever be remembered with the warmest gratitude.

Resolved, That these resolutions be published in the New York and Chicago papers.

Capt. B. F. CAMPBELL, 36th Ill. Vols., }
Capt. J. P. POWELL, 146th N.Y. Vols., } Committee.
Lieut. I. O. LADD, 35th U. S. C. T. }

PRACTICAL CHARITY.—A citizen of New York has offered to make one of twenty-five persons, subscribing to ten thousand dollars each to a fund, to be applied in furnishing coal and other articles of household necessity to the poor at first cost. In favor of the plan he says:

"It will be of more real benefit to contribute the use of money to cheapen the necessaries of life than to give a large amount outright, which might go in part to encourage professional beggary or idleness. By furnishing the goods at cost, we shall place the whole matter on a business basis, and the honest pride of no man or woman will keep him or her from accepting our aid."

A BISHOP'S LENTEN ENTERTAINMENT.—In Lady Morgan's memoirs a story is told of a certain gentleman who was denouncing a certain bishop, and concluded a violent philippic declaring that his lordship was so heretical in church observances that he would "eat a horse on Ash Wednesday!" "Of course he would," said a friend of the bishop, "of course he would, if it was a fast horse!"

A Budget of Differences.

WHAT'S the difference between your great coat and a baby? One you wear and the other you was.

WHAT is the difference between perseverance and obstinacy? One is a strong will, and the other is a strong won't.

WHAT is the difference between a boy running after a girl and running after a carriage? One chases the miss and the other misses the chaise.

WHAT is the difference between the effect of catching cold and one of the isles of Greece? In the one case it is you cough, in the other it is Corfu.

Conundrums.

WHAT kind of paper resembles a sneeze? Tissue.

WHAT is a woman like bread? Because she is often toasted.

WHEN do literary ladies change color? When they are so deeply read that they become blue.

WHO was the first little boy mentioned in the Bible? Chap. 1.

WHY is a Chrysalis like a loaf of bread? Because it is the grub that makes the butter-fly.

Sayings of Josh Billings.

I suppose the reason whi wimmin are so fast talkers, is bekauz they don't hav tew stop tew spit on their hands.

After Joseph's brothrin had beat him out ov his coat ov menny cullers, what did they do nex? Tha pittied him!

There is nothin in this life that will open the pores ov a man so much, as tew fall in luv; it makes him az fluent az a tin whissell, and az a limber boy's wotch chain, and az perlite az a dansing master; his harte is az full ov sunshine az a hay field, and there aint any more gulle in him than there ix in a stick ov merlarses candy.

There is a grate number ov ways for folks tew make phools ov themselves, but there iz wun wa so simple, I wunder no wun haz ever tried it, that iz to run after real estate advertizements.

There don't seem tew be enny end tew the ambishun ov men, but thare iz wun thing that sum ov them will find out if tha ever dew git enny further.

He who kan hold awl he gits, kan most genrally git more.

Conshense iz only anuther name for truth.

I suppose that if a comishun should cum from heaven tew gather awl the intrinsick literaturé among men, a common sized angel kould fly off with the whole ov it under hiz wing and not lug him much.

Yu kant always tell a gentleman bi hiz cloes, but yu kan bi his finger nails.

Adam invented "luv at first sight," wun ov the gratest labor-savin machines the world ever saw.

The onla wa tew git yure rites iz tew demand them.

It iz a grave question, whether in curtailing superfluities in these hard times, we hev a moral rite tew cut oph a dog's tale tew save the expense ov boarding it.

Are greenbacks a lawful tender? If yu don't believe it, tri wun on me, espheshila wun ov the heavy wuns.

Don't never parade yure good luck, nor yure bad luck, before men; the first sight will make them think les ov yu, and the seckund will make them think more ov themselves.

There are a grate multitude ov individguals who are like blind mules, anxhus enuff tew kick but kant tell whare.

I hav herd a grate deal sed about "broken hartes," and thare ma be a few ov them, but mi experiense iz that nex tew the gizzard, the harte iz the tuffest peace ov meat in the whole critter.—Troy News.

THE LADY WITH THE WOODEN LEG.—On the Norfolk circuit, Lee was retained for the plaintiff in an action for breach of promise of marriage. When the brief was brought him, he inquired whether the lady for whose injury he was to seek redress was good looking.

"Very handsome indeed, sir!" was the answer of Helen's attorney.

"Then, sir," replied Lee, "I beg you will request her to be in court, and in a place where she can be seen."

The attorney promised compliance, and the lady, in accordance with Lee's wishes, took her seat in a conspicuous place. Lee, in addressing the jury, did not fail to insist with great warmth on the "abominable cruelty" which had been exercised toward the "lovely and confiding female" before them, and did not sit down until he had succeeded in working up their feelings to the desired point. The counsel on the other side, however, speedily broke the spell with which Lee enchanted the jury, by observing that his learned friend, in describing the graces and beauty of the plaintiff, had not mentioned one fact, namely, that the lady had a wooden leg! The court was convulsed with laughter, while Lee, who was ignorant of the circumstance, looked aghast; and the jury, ashamed of the influence the mere eloquence had had upon them, returned a verdict for the defendant.

To Correspondents.

The article entitled "Maryland Heights," has been crowded from our columns by an accumulation of original matter on hand; we hope to give it due notice next week.

"Continental."—Declined.