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A Decision Between Rivals

By ALAN HINSDALE

"Lucile!"

"Good gracious, Aunt Jane, what's the matter?"

"I have just heard something that concerns you very deeply."

"What is it? Tell me at once."

"You know Jules Le Ferré?"

"I should know him well. He has been boring me to death."

"And Francois Garnier?"

"He is as persistent and disagreeable as Le Ferré."

"Well, these two men are going to fight a duel, and about you."

"About me?"

"Yes; Le Ferré has accused Garnier of having taken unfair advantage of him in respect to you. He says that Garnier stands in his way, preventing his securing your hand in marriage."

"Nonsense! I would not marry Garnier on any account."

"And Garnier has accused Le Ferré of taking an unfair advantage of him. He says that Le Ferré has made him appear ridiculous in your eyes."

"M. Garnier needs no one to make him ridiculous in my eyes. The fact is, Aunt Jane, I find both of the men to be most insupportable bores, and I must find some way of ridding myself of their attentions."

"Nevertheless they are going to fight about you."

"How do you know all this?"

"I got it from Julie Linthion, who is in love with one of them."

"Poor child! And I am standing in her way?"

"Could you not stop this affair by choosing one of these men?"

"I will stop it by choosing neither of them. Where can I find them?"

"It is too late tonight. To have any effect upon them you must see them together. You might confront them on the field."

"You are right. Where do they fight?"

"In the Bois de Boulogne. All duels take place on the same spot there."

"Very well, aunt. It is now 11 o'clock. What hour do they fight?"

"At 6 o'clock in the morning."

"I will call for you at 5."

"Must I go with you?"

"Certainly! I need a chaperon."

"In that case I shall expect you at 5."

The next morning shortly before two motorcars drove up to the dueling ground, one closely following the other. M. Le Ferré alighted from one, M. Garnier from the other. Each had a second with him, and a third automobile followed containing a surgeon, who stepped out lightly, carrying a satchel containing surgical instruments, etc. One of the seconds approached the other and said:

"This duel has come to the knowledge of the lady who is at the bottom of this meeting."

"Indeed?"

"Yes, Mlle. Linthion, who is devoted to M. Le Ferré, learned of it and let it out purposely to prevent the meeting and M. Le Ferré from possible death. She contrived that it should get to the ears of Mlle. Lucile Devereaux, who, I understand, is to come here and forbid our principals to fight on her account."

"Then they must fight on some other account."

"Such as?"

"I will attend to that. Here comes the lady now."

An auto arrived containing Miss Devereaux and her aunt. The ladies did not leave their car, but Miss Devereaux spoke from her seat behind the wheel:

"I have learned that two gentlemen are about to fight a duel here this morning. The cause—"

She hesitated. One of the seconds advanced a few steps toward her car, doffed his hat, bowed very low and said:

"The cause does not concern made moi-même."

"Indeed! What then is the cause?"

"M. Le Ferré spoke of M. Garnier's head as a squash."

"And what did M. Garnier say of M. Le Ferré?"

"He said that M. Le Ferré's head was a cabbage."

"M. Le Ferré's head is not at all like a cabbage."

"And M. Garnier's not like a squash?"

"No."

"Perhaps mademoiselle will deign to decide between the two heads."

"I shall be happy to do so provided my decision shall prevent the encounter."

The seconds went to the principals and told them that the lady would decide between them provided they would agree not to fight for her. They assumed that her decision would be concealed in what she would say about their heads. It was not to be expected that her preference would be expressed thus publicly in so many words. The principals accepted the situation and gave their promise not to fight. Then the lady was asked to speak.

"When M. Le Ferré spoke of M. Garnier's head as a squash," she said, "he did not speak aright."

She paused for a moment. All were intent upon her words.

"And when M. Garnier said that M. Le Ferré's head was like a cabbage he misrepresented it entirely."

Another pause and eager ears.

"M. Garnier's cranium is a bowl of jelly and M. Le Ferré's is a bag of pudding."

Miss Devereaux's horn snorted, and her car started with accelerating speed. The dueling party looked at one another and laughed.

Our Losses by Fire

If one could imagine all the buildings destroyed by fire in the United States in a year arranged along one highway, each building occupying a lot sixty-five feet wide, the highway would extend from New York to Chicago, and the buildings would line it on each side. Such is the calculation of the department of the interior. Furthermore, a person traveling this scene of desolation would pass in every thousand feet a ruin from which an injured person has been taken. At every three-quarters of a mile he would encounter the remains of a human being who had been burned to death.

For years, it is estimated, the amount of actual property annually consumed by fire in this country reaches \$250,000,000, and another sum of about like proportions is spent for the maintenance of fire departments, waterworks, insurance premiums, etc., to prevent still greater losses.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Care of Silk Stockings

Of course you know that nothing, however durable, will wear either well or long if not cared for properly. Silk stockings are no exception to this rule. They demand proper care. First and foremost, washing every time the stocking is worn is almost imperative. Perspiration tends to rot the fiber, consequently the little holes that pop out so unexpectedly. Make a lather from a mild white soap, "swish" the stockings about in it, rinse and iron when quite damp. If the stocking is only mercedized and you desire the silky sheen, then rinse in water that is a bit soapy and press damp. And a word about mending: Silk on cotton and cotton on silk is easy to remember, and a deal more satisfactory in the long run.

Matter of Fact Lovemaking

For downright prose Dr. Johnson's offer of hand and heart to his second wife would be very hard to beat. "My dear woman," said Johnson, "I am a hardworking man and without something of a philosopher. I am, as you know, very poor. I have always been respectable myself, but I grieve to tell you that one of my uncles was hanged."

"I have less money than you, doctor," demurely answered the lady, "but I shall try to be philosophical too. None of my relatives has ever been hanged, but I have several who ought to be."

"Providence and philosophy have evidently aided us, my good woman," said the doctor as he pressed a chaste salute upon the lady's brow.

The First Iron Bridge

The first iron bridge ever erected in the world and which is in constant use at the present time spans a little river in the county of Salop on the railroad leading from Shrewsbury to Worcester, England. It was built in the year 1778 and is exactly ninety-six feet in length. The total amount of iron used in its construction was 378 tons. Stephenson, the great engineer, in writing concerning it said, "When we consider the fact that the casting of iron was at that time in its infancy we are convinced that unblushing audacity alone could conceive and carry into execution such an undertaking."

Proper Question

The grocer was attending to his customers when a nice little boy approached the counter and asked in an innocent manner:

"Have you any dry herrings, sir, if you please?"

"Yes, my lad," answered the grocer, looking benevolently down at the youngster.

"Well, why don't you give them a drink?" said the nice boy as he fled.—London Globe.

He Meant Well

Visitor—We would like to locate a sanitarium on your lot, Uncle Eben. Hunt all ye want to, but I don't think ye'll find one. I've tread here fifty years, been over every foot of the ground, and I ain't never run across one.—Puck.

In Certain Cases

"Do pearls mean tears?"

"You bet they do when you don't get your wife the string of 'em she's set her heart on."—Baltimore American.

Practical Health Hint

Chronic Rheumatism.

Although acute rheumatism may occur at any age, it is more common in adolescence or in early adult life; chronic rheumatism is essentially a disease of later life. It often attacks sailors and outdoor laborers, who apparently bring on the malady by exposing themselves to cold and wet or by overworking or, failing to eat nourishing food.

Treatment of chronic rheumatism is very unsatisfactory; no actual cure is known, and the most that can be done is to relieve the pain and stiffness during the attacks and try to prevent or delay their recurrence.

Unless the pain is so bad as to call for an anodyne, much comfort can be obtained by rubbing and massage and the application of a hot water bag to the joints. For constitutional treatment, in addition to internal anti-rheumatic remedies, benefit sometimes comes from a sojourn at a mineral spring resort. The patient should have a simple, nourishing diet and should avoid exposure in cold and damp weather.

Inspiration Miscellany

"You may be whatever you resolve to be."

That was the motto of "Stonewall" Jackson, who died a lieutenant general at thirty-nine. The meteoric soldier found that sticking energetically at it was what put the solve in resolve.

"Stonewall's" maxim means that you can do what you try to do if you try hard enough. M. Favre found that out forty years ago, when against obstacles supreme and penalties of \$1,000 a day for failure, he pierced the St. Gotthard tunnel through the Alps.

That stupendous work cost eight times the original estimates of \$10,000,000, but it was done and done to the everlasting glory of human pluck.

Another case of doing what you resolve to do is "Flagler's folly." This is the only marine railroad on earth, and it joins the mainland of Florida to Key West.

"It will ruin you." "It won't pay." "Only an old man's dream." "It violates all the rules of good railroad-ing."

These are samples of what Henry M. Flagler's engineers told the old Standard Oil millionaire when he announced his intention of building that road.

"Anyhow, I shall build it," was Flagler's final order, and he did build it. Railroaders laughed, and his family saw visions of a wasted fortune. But what is the result?

Why, "Flagler's folly" cannot handle the Cuban business which northern railroads are sending it. That picturesque salt water line is one of the best paying properties this partner of J. D. Rockefeller ever owned.

Moral? Why, you may do whatever you resolve to do.—Girard in Philadelphia Ledger.

The Affections

Young men and women sometimes assert flippantly that to deceive or assent with the feelings of others is fair enough and does no special harm. Whether it vitally injures a person's life to have his or her affections trifled with may be a question. But there is no question whatever as to the effect upon the trifle. "There is no playing fast or loose with truth in any game without growing the worse for it."—Charles Dickens.

Allowing for Shrinkage

My ehum was an apprentice in the pattern shop. Sometimes I ate my lunch with him, and then together we roamed about the shop, studying the new machines as well as the old ones. But one of the things that strongly impressed me was his own set of "shrinkage" rules. I discovered for the first time that every pattern was made larger than the cast was intended to be, as when the pattern was put into the sand, and the mold was cast, the casting came out smaller than the pattern, because of the shrinkage of the cooling metal. For cast iron the rule was made an eighth of an inch larger to the foot; for brass, three-sixteenths, and for steel, a quarter of an inch.

That pattern maker's shrinkage rule taught me that if my life was to square itself with the plans laid out for me by God, so that it would harmonize and fit in with other lives and plans, my ideal as to what I should be and do must be higher and better than the average, for those ideals would suffer grievously when transmuted into practical everyday living. If my ideals were higher than the average perhaps I would make a pretty good, ordinary sort of a fellow.—Christian Herald.

Temper

A great source of cruelty is temper. When it is considered what a vast sum of misery temper causes in the world, how many homes are darkened and how many hearts are saddened by it; when we remember that its persecutions have not even the purifying consequences of most other calamities, inasmuch as its effects upon its innocent victims are rather cancerous than medicinal; when we call to mind that a bright face and a bright disposition are like sunshine in a house and a gloomy, lowering countenance as depressing as an arctic night, we must acknowledge that temper itself is only another form of cruelty and a very bad form too.

The Real Life

The mere lapse of years is not life. To eat and drink and play and sleep, to pace round in the mill of habit and to turn thought into an instrument of trade—this is not real life. Knowledge, truth, love, beauty, goodness, alone can give true vitality to the mechanism of existence.

Practical Value

"Has your college education been of any practical value to you?"

"You bet it has! If it wasn't for my experiences in track athletics I'd have to leave my house five minutes earlier every morning in order to catch the 7:58."—replied the commiserate.—St. Louis Republic.

Teak the Count

"Bobby, you have been fighting with that Stapleton boy again. Did you count ten before you struck him, as I have always told you to do?"

"No, but I was told that somebody counted ten after he landed on me."—Chicago Tribune.

Try a Laugh

The man who laughs "fit to kill" need have no fear of tuberculosis. A real, hearty, rib-tickling guffaw is better than a yawn for emptying the lowest passages of the lungs.

To some the past gives only retrospection, the present sorrow, the future, fear.—Lambert.

Rich and Wealthy

Wealth is a splendid possession and invited Pride to inspect it. Pride was glad, but found fault with the house and everything in it from cellar to garret.

"Why," said he, "competence has its good points and furniture and wall-to-wall has more coziness, pictures and a much more elegant main staircase. Furthermore, I see you have consulted convenience in regard to some of the arrangements, and this I can construe only as a bitter result to myself."

To please Pride, Wealth said, he would have a few more of its value and built a far more costly one. This time Luxury and not Convenience was consulted, and the result pleased Pride so well that he took up permanent quarters in the mansion. He invited in his comrades, Vanity, Ostentation and Prodigality. Wealth was the only one who could not see that the house he had paid for belonged, not to himself but to Pride.

Moral—Wealth builds and Pride occupies.—Pearson's.

Watering Plants Drop by Drop

Lucien Daniel, a French botanist, has made some experiments with cabbage, chicory, lettuce, etc., which prove that they thrive far better by a system of continuous watering than by watering the soil thoroughly every other day. The new method, which is strictly itself, depends upon the law of capillary attraction. As presented to the Academy of Sciences in Paris it consists of placing near each plant a large-mouthed jar containing water, in which is dipped one end of a strip of burlap or cotton whose other end lies near the plant. Mr. Daniel determined the exact amount of water required by any given plant for its best development and proved that in general this interrupted supply of water, drop by drop, gave infinitely better results than the usual method of intermittent drenching and with a minimum expenditure of water.—Literary Digest.

Embroidery Design

Here are suggestions for transferring the embroidery design before you to any material:

Perhaps the easiest way is the "waxed-down" method. This is successful when the material is thin, like muslin, batiste, etc. Pin the sheet of paper and the material together and hold them against the glass of a window. With a sharp pencil draw on the material the design, which can be easily removed through the goods. If you wish the design in given upon the paper, turn the other side to the fabric.

If you have carbon paper you should place the sheet between the fabric and the newspaper. The latter is on top. With a sharp pencil go over the outline of the design. The impression will be left in fine lines and will take away worked.—Exchange.

Cuts of Meat and Caloric Value

The kind or cut of meat used does not usually make much difference in the full or caloric value.

There is a popular belief that porch-house steak and other choice cuts of beef represent the highest degree of nourishment to be obtained. This is, however, a misconception. The full value of brisket or ribs of beef, as well as mutton and lamb, exceeds the usual desired tenderloin steak.

According to Langworthy, expert in charge of nutrition investigation of the United States department of agriculture, "for all practical, everyday purposes it may be considered that the protein obtained from a given weight of meat differs very little either with the kind of meat or the cut."

They Sang It Again

Florence Howe Hall describes in her book, "The Story of the Battle Hymn of the Republic," a scene in 1864 in the house of representatives at a meeting of the Christian commission, at which President Lincoln was present and in immense audiences filled the hall. Chaplain McCabe sang the Battle Hymn by request. Men and women sprang to their feet, wept and shouted till they rolled down his cheeks and a glory lighting his face, cried out, "Sing it again!" and the great multitude, led by Chaplain McCabe, sang it through again.

Banishing the Avalanche

Along the side of an Alpine railroad an ingenious device is used to prevent avalanches from falling upon the track. A wall was built which intercepts the sliding snow and forces it to pass into itself in a leap whereby it clears the roadbed and huris itself into a final upon the other side.

Push

Sometimes we're apt to stand and knock. When a little push instead would open up a vista new. And we would so be led. To see things as they really are. And change our point of view. From one of shallow prejudice. And find some work to do. The pushing is what really counts. To help us on, my friend. While no amount of knocking here. Will help us gain our end.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Book or Job Printing of any kind at 64 North Street, Up Stairs