

# The Orphans' Friend.

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## IMPROVEMENTS OF THE AGE.

Twenty years ago one of the most offensive refuse products from manufacturing industry was that known as gas tar. It was surreptitiously gotten rid of by throwing it into the rivers, and formed the ghastly blue patches known as "blue belly." This substance, by the aid of the chemist's art, has been lifted up from its lowly place, and now stands forth as the source of some of the most useful products in the arts; but its horrible color and odor have been transmuted into the most beautiful dyes and the most delicious flavors. The offensive refuse, this poor rejected Cinderella, has now become the queen of the by-products of our manufactures. Instead of its being furtively put out of sight, factories have sprung up alongside of the gas works to enable the chemists to transmute their gas tar and ammoniacal liquors into a score of different by-products of wholly different natures; and the curious thing is, that many of them are, as if by magic art, elevated from this dire nuisance into materials which appeal to the sense of beauty and delicacy in every form. Among other products of gas tar as of insufferable smell is benzole, which, with nitric acid, produces nitro-benzole, a body resembling in odor bitter almonds. It is greatly used for the purpose of perfuming soap. Benzole itself is a body of great solvent powers, and one of the most effective removers of grease stains known; whereas the source from which it springs is one of the greatest soilers in existence. Naphtha is a product of this tar—the source of light in many factories removed from gas works; when treated with turpentine it is transmuted into camphene, and illuminates our drawing-rooms. Naphtha is also used in dissolving the various gums, resin, etc., India rubber and gutta percha, and by its instrumentality a hundred new substances are thereby introduced to the world. Aniline, the base of the dyes bearing that name, is obtained from the action of nascent hydrogen, or nitro-benzole. It seems almost incredible that the delicate tones of color known under that name should issue from so foul a source; but so it is. The arts would, indeed, be deprived of one of their most beautiful embellishments if this new agent had not been discovered. A brilliant yellow is again produced by the action of nitric acid. Carbolic acid is converted into carbazotic acid. Even red dyes, but of a very ephemeral character, are produced from naphthaline. Almost all the colors of the rainbow issue from it; but the absence of all color, lamp-black, is made by burning with slight access of air the least volatile components of gas tar. Among the light oils of tar are some, which, mixed with the heavy oils, are effective in preserving wood from rotting, and the tar creosote, carbolic acid, which is a most powerful antiseptic, and one which will come greatly into use now that the nation is becoming more careful of its health.

## BE CHEERFUL.

What a thing it is to be cheerful, and to have cheerful people about one.

Life, except during the pressure of its most terrible calamities, always has a bright side, and those who look at that side are far the wisest. Yet there are excellent people who go about bowed down under a weight of forebodings, who feel sure the worst thing possible will happen; who indeed make it manifest that, in their opinion, it has happened already. A funeral is not more sad in their eyes than a wedding or a christening. To be sure they do not wear the "customary suit of sel-em's black" at these latter; but in their light silks and white gloves, they groan, and they water the orange flowers and white rose-buds with their tears as thoroughly as they do the cypress. "Poor dear Matilda Jane," they say, "may she be happy—but it's not likely one knows what men are; or if she is—if he is all that can be desired, of course she'll be left a widow; and then what will she do? for he's to improvident to leave anything."

To Mr. and Mrs. Doleful Dumps the sky always threatens rain. Water-proof and umbrella, and your worst dress, is the costume they always advocate. Five minutes delay on a journey is untold misery to them. The air is always close or there is a draught. It is "perfectly frightful" out of doors, either because of sun or rain. Any social occasion is always remembered by the toil and labor of getting ready for it, and the faults of a friend are enumerated when he is spoken of, not his excellencies. No seat is comfortable, no condition agreeable. One is tempted to wonder whether the Dumps family will not actually be happier in their graves than anywhere else.

In contrast to this, how delightful is a breezy, merry creature who enjoys life; who loves "the fun" of getting ready for anything; who doesn't mind an hour's delay, and rather likes a rain though sunshine does make him or her so jolly; who had just as soon have the chair that is too high or too low, and rather prefers the piano-stool that doesn't work well; who has inevitably "had such a splendid time!" and shrieks with laughter over accidents that are almost the cause of suicide in the Doleful Dumps set. Such a cheerful creature is more precious than gold or diamonds, and though the Doleful Dumps may groan, blots them out as sunshine does the darkness when one throws wide the door.

MARY KYLE DALLAS.

## MINERALS IN AUSTRALIA.

Queensland and New South Wales have large breadths of coal land, and so thick are the veins and so easily are they worked that the coal is delivered on barges at \$3.50 a ton. This coal is bituminous, and its value may be judged by iron men from the fact that it makes fine coke, which is so much in demand for the ocean steamers that it sells for \$60 a ton. This coke is much more solid than coal, and

it looks somewhat like a metal.

Iron ore is plentiful, but such is the clearness of labor that none is yet manufactured, and the Australians will be content to buy American edge tools, and even railroad iron, if it can be shipped cheap enough. They have a high opinion of much of our hardware, especially saws and axes. The American woodmen's ax is their ideal of a perfect tool.

There is a large export of copper to England. Some of their mines are as much as two hundred miles from shipping ports, and it costs \$60 a ton to haul the copper thither. But they are building railroads as fast as they are able, and soon great facilities will be afforded. The standard gauge of their railroads is noticeable. Six hundred miles of the Queensland is three feet six. These roads enter mountains from the coast region by tunnels, and wind by heavy grades to an elevation of 2,000 or 3,000 feet. Miners' wages are from \$2 to \$3 a day. Antimony is shipped largely. Gold was first discovered in Queensland in 1868, and the yield since then has been \$35,000,000. Other colonies have yielded much more. Little or no silver has been found. Lead is plentiful, but it seems not to be extracted, and there are no white lead works in the country.

No metal is more profitably worked than tin, and none has caused so much excitement and influenced so largely the industry of the country as the comparatively recent discovery. The plentifulness of the ore at present is such that the main cost is in labor and transportation. It is almost all stream-tin, coming from old river bars, and it is so found nowhere else in the world. In the time of Julius Cæsar, however, the tin of Britain was found in similar localities. Not all the gold excitement of Australia has equaled the excitement over these tin mines, and it is understood that their production has been so great that the Cornwall mines are closed and even the price has been reduced.

## LITTLE THINGS.

Little charges, little assertions, little, careless things, stinging words in a moment of bitterness and anger,—what a world of misery has resulted from them! The cases are very numerous where the smallest matters have made impressions upon sensitive and selfish people, such as could not have been imagined or foreseen.

A rich banker, who was known to be of a sordid disposition, and careless as to ordinary civilities, wrote to his nephew, whom he intended to make his heir. The answer came on a half sheet with jagged edges, soiled, and folded slovenly. The banker took a mortal offence at this indignity, as he chose to call it, and made a new will, by which his property was given to another person.

A man recently died, about whom the following is told: There were two brothers, who apparently loved each other very much. They had grown to manhood together. At the respective age of fifty and sixty, both of

them retired from business with a competency. The younger man soon lost his money by speculations; but his brother gave him pecuniary assistance, and at once made his will in the other's favor.

One night, at some festive gathering, George, the younger, thoughtlessly pulled the chair in which his brother was about to seat himself from under him, so that William, a man of exceptional dignity of demeanor, fell floundering upon the floor. The consequence was a lameness for life, and from that unhappy moment, William never spoke to his brother till the day of his death, and left all his fortune to a stranger.

On the other hand, the smallest offices of kindness, given, no doubt, from pure benevolence, or love of assistance, have been the means of leading to happy results. They seem like the fairy story of the beautiful girl, who met an aged woman of many infirmities, and on being asked a question, repulsed her. Then the malison of the old woman, a powerful spirit in fairy land, changed the young girl to a fright. But when a poor, homely, tired child offered the miserable dame her arm, because she was old and sorrowful, down came the fairy gifts, and before her stood a dazzling queen, who endowed the child with wealth and glorious beauty. The spirit of this myth is still acted out by humanity. A soft word at the right time proves the guerdon of power and grace. A foolish action, or a reckless one, seals a man's fate with the direct misfortune.

## FLORIDA ORANGE GROVES.

If oranges are not golden apples, and the groves of Florida a new Hesperides, there are indications that the culture of this fruit is coming to be very profitable. Dummet's grove, which only cost \$1,000, yielded last year 600,000 oranges, for which the proprietor received \$11,000, and with proper care it would give \$50,000 to \$75,000 yearly. H. L. Hart's grove at Palatka yields him an income of \$15,000 to \$20,000 per annum. Arthur Gin's grove at Mellonville, of 1,100 trees, pays him \$12,000 to \$15,000 yearly, and is worth \$100,000. Mr. DeBerry, of New York, has a grove near Enterprise of 20,000 trees. It will be strange if the handsome profits of business do not stimulate the culture of a fruit which is always sure for a near and ready market.

One acre of budded orange trees in five years will yield a clear income of from one to three thousand dollars per annum. An orange budded tree will bear in two years from the bud, and will reach perfection in seven; so with the lemon. The banana will bear in fourteen months from setting out; the pine apple in less time. Vegetation hardly ever dies in Sumpter county. Tomato vines will bear two years; so will beans. The planter never digs sweet potatoes only as he wants them; the vines do not die. Cane comes for years from the ratoon. —Palatka (Fla.) Herald.

Many articles have been written, and many speeches made in behalf of this noble Institution, and nearly every one has his plan, based on some impracticable theory, how it should be supported.

After three years experience, and after hearing many speeches, and reading many interesting articles on the subject, the Committee to whom was referred all matters pertaining to the Orphan Asylum, at the last Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, unanimously recommended that the plan adopted at the commencement of the enterprise, be adhered to—that no change be made in the plan, viz: *Voluntary Contributions*. We are satisfied this plan will raise more money, at less cost, than any that can be devised. But the trouble is, the Masons themselves, much less the public, do not have as many opportunities offered them to contribute as they ought to have.

The Grand Lodge has a law requiring each subordinate Lodge to have a Special Committee to solicit funds for the Asylum, and that duty is made a part of the business at each regular meeting. We have the very best authority for saying that in many of the Lodges the subject is never mentioned, and in others when it is, it is done as a mere matter of form, and no effort is made to induce the members to contribute. In other Lodges where the matter is properly attended to, the burden usually falls on the faithful few who are always prompt in their attendance on Lodge meetings.

This matter should be remedied, and it can be done by no one so well as the Masters of Lodges. Not only should the Committee on the Orphan Asylum, in each Lodge, take up the collections as required by the Grand Lodge, but they should afford every member of the Lodge, whether he be a regular attendant at the meetings or not, an opportunity to contribute to the support of this noble Charity. Masters should see that Committees do their duty, and Committees should see that every member has an opportunity afforded him to do his duty. —*Masonic Journal*.