

Proper Training.

One among the first remembered verbs I can recall to mind is. "As the twig is bent, so the tree is inclined."

It is not all in the training or the bringing up. True, we often see the crooked, misshapen oak, the result of the blowing of the wind or weight of fallen timber, yet it is an oak still, and despite the gnarled, ungainly appearance of its trunk and limbs, it may throw out as stout trusses as its neighbors, hence we say that blood will tell, and that in man, as in the vegetable and animal creation, like begets like in a measure, and if the true principle is therein in-born; and unadulterated, it is hard to so misshape and change the individual as to destroy all traces of it.

I do not undervalue training—no, indeed. It has much to do with the general make-up of the individual, and in a religious and moral point of view is essential; and yet a born thief will be a thief still.

Every man or woman should know just where their weak points are, and knowing them, should consult the strong one and cultivate one while they endeavor to control the others.

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minister beat his son to death to make him say his prayers? How many parents of to day show almost as little feeling! Death, in fact, would be preferable to leaving their children embittered against them for all time, converting them into perfect devils.

A Frightful Famine.

Four provinces in Northern China, containing a population of more than seventy millions, are now devastated by the most terrible famine ever known in the world.

The cause of this extraordinary famine is a continual failure of the crops. The general characteristic of that portion of China is that of a high table-land. Dense forests never covered the plateau or the mountains, though the southern provinces were tolerably well wooded.

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At bedtime little Willie was saying the usual prayer at his mother's knee, and, having got as far as "if I should die before I wake," hesitated.

In ancient days the precept was, "Know thyself." In modern times it has been supplanted by the far more fashionable maxim, "Know thy neighbor and everything about him."

"Cheek."

Cheek! Why, that's no name for it. He was an itinerant vender of lamp-burners, this one, and he generally gained his end wherever he was permitted to enter a house.

"Can I sell you my new patent lamp burner, ma'am?" said the vender.

"No, sir," replied the woman, between her sobs. "I don't wish anything of the kind."

"Please let me explain its beauties, ma'am," said he, "and I'm sure you'll take one. You see this?"

"But I don't want it, sir," she said. "I wish you would go away. Don't you see my poor dear husband lying here? Leave me with my sorrow."

"Oh! yes, and I sympathize deeply with you ma'am. Excuse me—I can't keep back these tears. Oh! ma'am, if you only knew what a great consolation these patent lamp-burners of mine are on such occasions as a single woman not without one a single minute.

And that precious scoundrel kept on in that strain until he had sold half-a-dozen to every female in the room.—Cheek! Oh! no.—Louisville Commercial.

Two Ways of Managing.

A correspondent of the Utica Observer relates the following story. We have all of us seen cases, which prove that it may have been true:

"A farmer bought of me some pigs of a choice breed, paid a high price, and, after keeping them a year or two and breeding them, he came to me exclaiming: 'You remember that I bought some of the—breed of pigs of you?'"

"Yes," I replied, "and how do you like 'em?"

"Like 'em! Why, I'm disgusted with 'em. Can't get 'em up to 300 pounds at 18 months and you said they would scale 600."

"Come, and look at mine," said I, and he accompanied me to my pen.

"Now," said he, excitedly, "do you pretend to say that the pigs you sold me are of this breed?"

"I do, the same stock and breed."

"Why, you must take me to be an ignoramus. Come over and see them, and you'll find 'em as mean, rawboned, scrawny a lot of hogs as you ever laid eyes on, and I shall expect you to refund my money."

"I went with him and found his hogs, in December, in a pen where the mud was eighteen inches deep, into which their feet (corn in the ear) was thrown and the only shelter they had, as a sleeping apartment, was a few poles laid across one end of the enclosure, over which a few boards were laid horizontally, so that the rains kept the swine drenched in wet weather.

"Neighbor," said I, "you ought to be indicted for cruelty to animals. Can it be possible that you don't know any better than to treat your pigs in this way?"

"In the first place they are half starved, as one half the corn fed to them is lost in the mud, and the other half is eaten with so much filth that it barely keeps life within them. You should lay a plank over the entire enclosure; then you should build a warm sleeping apartment, with a single roof, and then feed your hogs on cooked food mostly, but never on corn in the ear. Corn meal may do, but it pays well to cook it. Get a furnace kettle that holds from forty to sixty gallons, set it in bricks and mortar in an outhouse where there is a chimney, or build one if you have none, and then mix Indian meal with potatoes, carrots, parsnips, or beets, and cook altogether, giving the feed warm as often as you can conveniently—all they will eat to those who are fattening (the others keep sep' re) and, after following my advice for a season, come to me and report the result."

"I did not happen to see this man till the next Fall, at the State Fair, where I found him with a group of farmers admiring some fine hogs that they said had taken the 'first premium'; and they were fine! weighing over 600 pounds each!

"Who are they?" I asked. "They are mine, from stock I bought of you," replied my neighbor, adding: "I did as you directed, and I am satisfied now that the pigs you sold me were the pure breed, just as you represented."

"The moral of this result is, that it pays well to take care of all animals, to provide comfortable quarters for them, to give them plenty of straw for their beds, and to feed them in a rational way."

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