Two Sides To a Question

Evelyn Carpenter was a girl of decided opinions. One day as she was walking homeward suddenly a flood of sweet song seemed to soothe her ruffled feelings. A lark, imprisoned in a narrow cage, poured forth to the heedless world outside its soul of melody through hard bars of wire.

The sense of relief which had stolen oven the girl gave place to one of anger, combined with some odd satisfaction. Here at last was an opportunity to do good, even if it were but obtaining the freedom of one poor, hopeless lark. And who more suited to the task than she, the president, self constituted only three days since, of the N- Society For the Promotion of Christian Charity Toward Animals? Crossing the road with decided step, she entered a little shop, over the door of which the bird sang on. It was a cobbler's workshop. A little, bent old man, with large spectacles on his wrinkled nose and deft lean fingers that moved nimbly over the rough leather, put aside his work and shuffled forward to the counter. He moved 'slowly and with difficulty, for his old limbs were getting past their work. Pleasantly, but rather curiously, he bade her "Good day," scarce hoping for work in his poor shop from so smart and nicely dressed a lady. Evelyn felt somewhat uneasy at the old man's harmless aspect.

"This bird," she began rather timidly; "is it yours?"

The cobbler looked at the cage with visible pride.

"Yes, yes, miss; my bird sure enough, and a fine bird too. Not a better bird in all N--, miss," He rubbed his hands and smiled genially. Evelyn was silent as he continued half to himself, as old

"Four years it is I've had him; four years, and scarce a day off his song. It was my boy's, my Dick's youngest that's gone for a sailor. It seems only yesterday he came in just as it might have been you, miss, today, with the bird in his hand, and says he-

"But beggin your pardon, you was say-"What will you take for the bird?" she asked, not feeling quite so sure of her cause now she had actually plunged into

"Wouldn't sell him, miss. Wouldn't take \$5 for him, not if I was starving." its contents-30 cents. She drew out a

quarter, saying in firm and superior tones, "Not a cent more." The old man looked at her kindly and

explained gently, as if to a child (it was really very irritating): "No, miss. I don't want to sell him. I

was sayin, you see, it was my lad gave me the little bird before he went to sea. No, I'm not likely to part with him for that, dearie," indicating the coin with smiling contempt. "Aye, and him all the chick or child I've got left since Dick died. It 'minds me o' my lad when I hear him sing so bright. Often when I'm feeling lonesome and low spirited he'll chime in so cheery and set me thinkin how my boy's comin soon-eh, dear; eh, dear! No, you can't have him, but never mind, never mind." He nodded kindly, as if to comfort her in her disappoint-

Evelyn's patience could stand it no lon-

poor bird?" she broke forth. "I want to buy it to give it back its liberty, to let it be free in the fields and the blue sky. Surely you know how very, very cruel it is to confine a creature made to sour and sing at the very gates of heaven in a narrow cage with scarce room to turn."

This was delivered fluently, being a verbatim quotation from her speech at the opening meeting of the before mentioned society.

"Poor, miserable bird!" she concluded. apostrophizing the unconscious lark.

The cobbler, simple soul, was a good deal taken aback at this convincing tirade. He attempted a defense, however. "Nay; he's not miserable. Hear to him sing. Would he sing like that if he weren't happy?"

"Yes," cried Evelyn, "he sings because he longs to be free. That is the song of despair, and not of joy."

The old fellow's face fell. Her elo-

quence half convinced him. Evelyn felt rather heated, and wanted, she didn't know why, to get out of the shop. "Come," she said, "here's 30 cents, and

far more than the wretched bird is "Nay," he said, sadly. "I'm not going

to sell hin. He's like an old friend to me, and he loves me too, that he does." "Keep your bird, then!" cried the an-

gry reformer. "Keep it, and let it die in its miserable prison. Some day you will perhaps repent your wanton cruelty!" With which grandiloquent threat she departed, with rather more haste than dig-

That night, getting into bed, Evelyn. came to the conclusion that she had made rather a poor show.

She had also a lurking idea that her motive had not been quite so much the cause of righteousness as the pleasure of reporting progress to her new society. Her passionate words kept recurring to her mind as she lay sleepless half through the night. She wondered if little birds had their duty to do, as she had; whether, perhaps, in giving pleasure to a lonely old man's declining days the lark might not be unconsciously doing its great



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maker's bidding in the place for which he intended it. She was, she decided, over young to judge so hastily. And, being a thoughtful and conscientious girl, she bravely resolved to go the next morning. humble her pride to the dust, and own herself in the wrong.

About 9 o'clock the next morning, walking with rather a red face up the narrow street, she perceived the old fellow standing at his door with the empty cage in his hand. He was gazing toward the sky. and she saw a tear trickle down his wrinkled cheek. He turned as she approached and smiled mournfully in answer to her inquiring glance.

"Maye you was right, miss," he said; "maybe." He passed into his shop as a sob checked his utterance.

Evelyn turned away abruptly. Never in her life had she been so much ashamed of herself.-Chicago Times-Herald.

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Half of what people call "education" is the worst sort of nonsense.

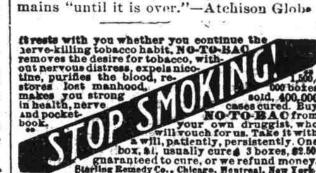
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it. She goes to the daughter's and re-



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No Change Hicks-Living on a farm, as usual, this

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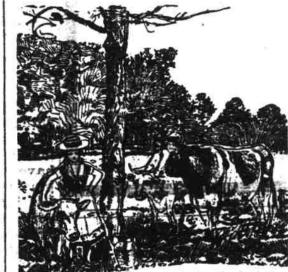
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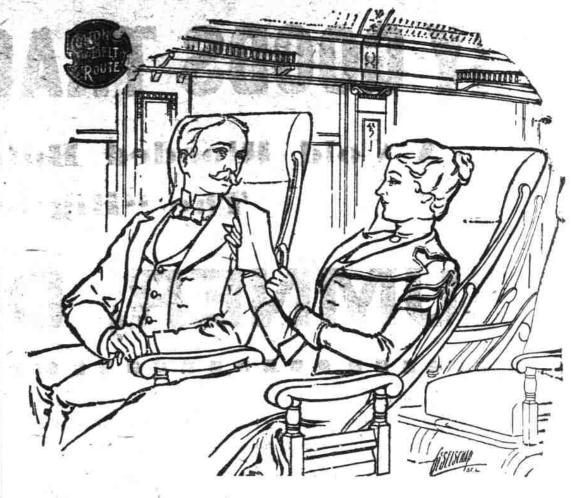
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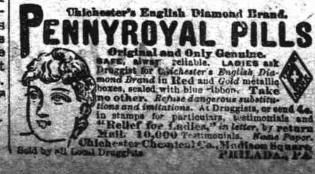
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