

The Fireside.

TEMPTATION.

Upon my arm she placed her hand. So soft and white, I longed to seize it. Would I offend? I took it, and what could I do but gently squeeze it?

BASHFUL YOUTHS.

As a general thing young ladies are much more self-possessed when they first go into society than young gentlemen, and while the girl of sixteen is helped out by the attention of older women and the attention men always pay to the 'roses' if they are pretty or pleasing, the boy of eighteen or nineteen is left to do the best he can for himself, and if he is modest, well bred and not conceited, he often retreats from society after a few brief plunges into it, with a feeling that he is not wanted there and will never be fitted for it.

It is also a relief to any one whose feelings are strong and who is apt to grow melancholy in solitude to have 'some where to go.' I presume many originally able men who have become oddities, and grown careless in their habits and offensive in their manners, might have been comfortable and well liked if they had taken a little pains to know a few people, and to be sought at least in some small circles of society.

Long ago Lord Chesterfield said to his son: 'Your figure is like other people's; I hope you will take care to dress so, too. Why then should you be ashamed? Why not go into mixed company as freely as into your own room?'

And he adds: 'I remember that when, with all the awkwardness of college about me, I was introduced into good company I was frightened out of my wits. If I was sure it was about me, and thought myself the object of the censure or ridicule of the whole company, who Heaven knows, did not trouble themselves about me. In this way I suffered martyrdom, and should certainly have renounced polite society forever if I had not been absolutely convinced of the necessity of forming my manners. I remember at last gaining impetridity enough to go up to a fine woman and tell her that I thought it was a warm day. She answered me very civilly that she thought so, too; upon which the conversation on my part ceased, until she remarked, good naturedly resuming it: 'I see your embarrassment, and I am sure the few words you said to me cost you a good deal; but do not be discouraged. All you want is manner, and do you not want that as much as you think you do.'

'Lord Chesterfield was supposed to be one of the most elegant men of his day; and the bashful boy who made an effort to say, 'It is a warm day, madam,' became Ambassador to the Hague, Viceroy to Ireland, Secretary of State, and member of the cabinet. He had all the elements of social success within him, and yet, no doubt, he might have gone to the wall but for that determination to form his manners in good society. And what was said so many years ago to a bashful boy of any nation may read with benefit: 'Do not be discouraged. All you want is manner, and you do not want that as much as you think you do.'

THE MOST SCANDALOUS VANITY.

The women of New York—that is to say, the women which the stranger within those gates sees on the streets—are a law unto themselves. They do not resemble the women of other cities in manner or in anything except sex. Most of them are plump. All are martyrs to vanity. The most observable feature of their present martyrdom is tight lacing. The degree of squeezing which they endure, would, if it were done on compulsion, very likely be classed with some of the better remembered expedients of the Holy Office—the rack, the boot and the thumbscrew, for example. The disease is epidemic, and child and woman are alike stricken by it. To the eye and the imagination of man, who is bred to loose-waistedness, the evidence of fellowship between the bed-post and the corset-lacer is painfully clear. The immediate and visible consequences are ungraceful locomotion and an angry-red face which the thickest permissible layer of white-wash does not hide. Add to this torture the agonies that spring from the Frenchiest of French shoes (in all my life I never saw the like of the shoes which I find here in Vanity Fair) and you may faintly conceive the heroic spirit that animates the New York woman in her self-imposed martyrdom. Talk about man's inhumanity! That's magic poetry which has no foundation in truth or experience. Sutee itself, now happily forbidden, were blessed relief from all of earthly comparison with the crimes which these women so eagerly commit against nature and their own bodies. Even the pitiful artificiality of their lives afflicts me less in contemplation than does this latest and most scandalous quantity which finds expression in the last possibilities of tight lacing.

TWO KINDS OF GIRLS.

One is the kind that appears best abroad—the girls that are good at parties, rides, visits, balls, etc., and whose chief delight is in such things. The other is the kind that appears best at home—the kind that are useful and cheerful in dining-room, sick-room and all the precincts of home. They differ widely in character. One is often a torment at home, the other a blessing; one is a moth, consuming everything about her; the other is a sunbeam, inspiring light and gladness all around the pathway. To which of these classes do you belong?

What makes the rosy gums fragrant, pure? What makes the teeth so bright white? What makes the mouth a clear delight? 'Tis SOZODONT, that precious boon. Which none can use too late, too soon.

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ROUGH HANDLING OF CHILDREN.

The cause of joint diseases in childhood are frequently obscure; but this much is certain, that the rough handling which children receive at the hands of ignorant parents or careless nurses has much to do with the matter. Stand on any street corner and notice how children are handled. Here comes a lady with a three-year-old girl; she is walking twice as fast as she should and the child is over exerting itself to keep pace; but she time the child lags the mother gives it a sudden and unexpected lurch, which is enough to throw its shoulder out, to say nothing of bruising the delicate structures of the joints; a gutter is reached; instead of giving the little toddler time to get over in its own way or properly lifting it, the mother raises it from the ground by one hand, its whole weight depending from one upper extremity, and with a spring which twists the child rapidly and far around as the joints permit, it is landed, after a course of four or five feet through the air, on the other side.

Here is a girl twelve years old, with a baby of one year in her arms. The baby sits on the girl's arm without support to its back. This would be a hard enough position to maintain were the girl standing still; but she is walking rapidly and the little one has to gather the entire strength of its muscular system to adapt itself to the changing basis of support, to say nothing of adjusting its little body to sudden leaps and darts on the part of its upward nurse. Sometimes during a sudden advance you will see a part of the babe a foot in advance of its head and trunk, which have to be brought up by a powerful and sudden action of the muscles of the trunk and neck. Probably not one child in one hundred is properly handled.

FOURTEEN MISTAKES OF LIFE.

Somebody has condensed the mistakes of life, and arrived at the conclusion that there are fourteen of them. Most people would say, if they are told the truth, that there was no limit to the mistakes of life; that they were like the drops in the ocean or the sands of the shore in number, but it is well to be accurate. Here, then are fourteen mistakes: "It is a great mistake to set up our own standard of right and wrong, and judge people accordingly; to measure the enjoyment of others by our own; to expect uniformity of opinion in this world; to look for judgment and experience in youth; to endeavor to mould its dispositions alike; to yield to immaterial trifles; to look for perfection in our own actions; to worry ourselves and others with what cannot be remedied; not to alleviate all that needs alleviation as far as lies in our power; to consider everything impossible that we cannot perform; to believe only what our finite minds can grasp; to expect to be able to understand everything."

HOW TO TRAVEL ON SLEEPING CARS.

A physician referring to the custom of traveling on sleeping cars with their berths made up with their heads towards the engine said: "It is certainly bad for the brain of the sleeper, as it is not natural, and it is no wonder that so many travelers, especially those who have been on the road extensively, experience bad effects from it. Take infants in baby carriages and no sane woman will think of crumpling the vehicle along so that the child goes head first. They always—except the young and inexperienced mother—push them along feet first. Physicians invariably advise such locomotion. It is the same thing on the cars, and no one should hesitate about having his berth made so as to move along feet first. It is much better for the brain."

Ely's Cream Balm was recommended to me by my druggist as a preventive to Hay Fever.

Have been using it as directed since the 9th of August and have found it a specific for that much dreaded and loathsome disease. For ten years or more I have been a great sufferer each year, from August 9th till frost, and have tried many alleged remedies for its cure, but Ely's Cream Balm is the only preventative I have ever found. Hay Fever sufferers ought to know of its efficacy. F. B. AINSWORTH, Of F. B. AINSWORTH & CO., Publishers, Indianapolis, Ind.

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