

FAMILIAR LINES IN EARLY SCHOOLBOOKS

Middle-Aged Find Charm in Simple Sayings.

Old-time schoolbooks were likely to be painfully solemn and didactic; levity was abhorrent to their conscientious compilers. But in our day they afford amusing reading.

Lindley Murray, a grave and heavy-minded Quaker, was averse not only to laughter but to smiles; in a footnote to the once-famous Lindley Murray's English reader he carefully apologized for a brief passage that he feared was too playfully expressed. But no one who read the passage and the footnote could ever discover the playfulness! Modern readers, however, can discover a good many passages that are the cause of mirth, however unimprudently they were intended. He desired to be impressive in his account of Niagara falls; he gave its height and pronounced a eulogy upon its grandeur; and then he provided a complete anticlimax by adding, "It is said that the Indians have sometimes passed down it in their canoes in safety."

Some little time ago a reminiscence writer, in the New York World declared that the Webster spelling book and the Webster reader had doubtless had the longest history of any school-books in the United States—once covering at least three full generations.

How familiar, after you pass the alphabet page, these lines appear to us: "Am I to go in? I am to go in." "She fed the old hen." "The hen was fed by her." "Ann can hem my cap." "She has a new fan." "Fire will burn wood and coal." "Coal and wood will make a fire." "Will you help me pin my frock?" "The good girl may jump the rope." "Bakers bake bread and cakes." "I like to play in the shady grove." "Cider is made of apples." "A tiger will kill and eat a man." "Ann can spin flax." "A shad can swim." "Cotton velvet is very soft to the feel." "We can burn fish oil in lamps." "Never pester the little boys." "I had some green corn in July on a plate."

The obviousness and simplicity of those sayings have now a distinct charm. But they were gauged, it must be remembered, for infantile minds not for graduated from the cradle. Some changes in society have taken place since they were written. Ann cannot spin flax now, because that crop has lost its prevalence, and we no longer burn fish oil, but when gas and electricity are not in hand use oil of another sort. A shad can still swim, but he now swims with rare and rarer frequency and very soon will not swim at all unless we stop polluting our streams and waterways.

Readers for older children often included selections that from their terrifying, puzzling or too ornately rhetorical qualities we should not deem suitable nowadays. Children often read these "elegant extracts" without understanding them or even trying to understand them. A grandmother of today was told by her mother of the extreme amazement with which long after she had grown up she came in her reading upon a passage with which she had been familiar since her little girlhood and found that it really meant something and more astonishing still, that she enjoyed it!—Youth's Companion.

Priceless Manuscript

The Alexandrian Codex is a Greek manuscript of the Old and New Testaments, written on parchment in uncial letters, without accents and without spaces between the words. Its probable date is about 450, the Kansas City Star informs us. The Old Testament is in the translation of the Septuagint. This famous manuscript belonged in 1008 to the Patriarch of Alexandria. In 1621 it was taken to Constantinople by Cyrillus Lucaris, the patriarch; and in 1628 was given by him to Charles I of England. It was first placed in the Royal library; and in 1753 was transferred to the British museum.

Clock in Sidewalk

Thousands walk over the northeast corner of Maiden lane and Broadway in New York and never know that they are stepping on the face of a clock. This clock, measuring about two feet across, is covered with glass an inch thick. The hour and minute hands are painted jet black. Because of the dust and dirt the clock is scarcely discernible during the daylight hours, but at night it is illuminated and is a useful teller of time.

"Find" on the Farm

The city kid was roaming about in the country when he came upon a dozen or so empty condensed milk cans. He yelled to his companions: "Hey, fellows, come here, quick! I've found a cow's nest!"—Farm and Fireside.

Absence Was Absence to This Timekeeper

The boss on a large construction job in western Canada was going over the accounts on pay day with the new timekeeper, who had been there only a week and was anxious to make a good impression. The pay checks were regular enough except that one showed one hour less than the rest.

"Look here," said the boss suspiciously. "I thought everybody put in full time last week."

"All except Abe Martin, the night watchman," the timekeeper answered. "He was off duty one hour Wednesday night."

"Man alive!" exclaimed the astonished boss. "That was the night he discovered the burglar setting fire to the commissary building after he had robbed the storekeeper's till. Why, didn't you hear about it? Everybody is calling Abe a hero, and," he whispered confidentially, "the railroad company is talking about rewarding him handsomely for what he did. If he hadn't captured the fellow, thousands of dollars' worth of supplies would have gone up in smoke."

"Yes, I know," agreed the timekeeper. "I estimated the loss and figured that it would have run into as much as this job is worth."

"And Abe chased the fellow up into the hills," the boss continued. "The fellow was desperate and took two or three shots at Abe. They struggled desperately before Abe finally overpowered him and forced him back to camp. It was an hour before he got him back, too."

"Sure," responded the timekeeper triumphantly. "I docked him for the time he was gone."—Youth's Companion.

Cheetah Described as Masterpiece of Nature

We call the cheetah the hunting leopard, but leopard he certainly is not. The leopard is heavier, more truly catlike. The cheetah is lighter in the body and mounted on abnormally long legs. The cheetah is a catlike greyhound. No other animal so oddly combines suggestions of such totally unrelated groups as the cats and dogs.

With a body about four and one-half feet in length and a tail half as long, the cheetah stands about thirty inches high at the shoulder and with his long forearms and hocks reaching almost down to the foot he is built exactly as man has tried to build the greyhound during hundreds of years.

So far as we know no records exist to tell the speed of this wonderful beast, but hunters agree that for a short distance the cheetah is beyond comparison the fleetest creature that treads the earth. It is a masterpiece of nature. To the lion, the tiger and the leopard it is what the airplane is to the ocean liner, the swift destroyer to the battleship.—London My Magazine.

Odd "Restitution"

There is on record one Edward Hunt, who played a rather dirty trick on his only son. It seems that the old gentleman had one time wronged another man—had beaten him out of a large sum of money and otherwise worsted him. The fellow had died, but Hunt's conscience still troubled him. When it came to dying he decided he would make some kind of restitution, so he ordained that his twenty-one-year-old son, in order to fall heir to his fortune, must hunt out and marry the daughter of the other man—that is, if the daughter existed, and if not a daughter, then a niece.

The young man did as he was bidden in his father's will and found the daughter, but she was fifty-five years old. He was a good sport, however, and, with the woman willing, carried out his father's wishes.

Old-Time Oratory

When in the house of commons Sheridan made his famous speech on the spoliation of the Begums of Oude, he was offered, within 24 hours, £1,000 for the copyright. Burke's subsequent plea for the impeachment of Warren Hastings had even more dramatic effect, as we may read in the pages of Macaulay. "Handkerchiefs were pulled out, smelling bottles were handed round, hysterical sobs and screams were heard, and Mrs. Sheridan was carried out in a fit."

That was in 1788. Orators and their art—and some other things—have changed since then.—New York Herald-Tribune.

Made Provision for Pets

A kind old English lady was so much attached to three goldfish that she left £70 (\$350) for their feed and care. When they died the interest from the money was to be used to keep the grass green and smooth above their graves and decorated with fitting flowers. Another woman provided \$500 a year for the care of her parrot. The keeper was to bring the bird every two years to a certain lawyer that identification might be made of the bird as the original one.

Riches Have Wings

I can remember when I was more enriched by a few cheap rays of light falling on the pond-side than by this broad sunny day. Riches have wings, indeed. The weight of present we will express the sweetness of past experience. When sorrow comes, how easy it is to remember pleasure! When, in winter, the bees cannot make new honey, they consume the old.—Thoreau.

Richest in Animal Life

Back from the Nazarov river, South America, a party of explorers led by Dr. William Beebe reports that in a single quarter of a square mile of tropical jungle—believed to be the richest in animal life in the world—it discovered 777 different sorts of vertebrates. Of these, 450 species were birds—a greater variety than occurs in the whole continent of North America.—Collier's Magazine.

Mirthless Laughter

All hyenas do not laugh, and those that do—the spotted hyenas—are not inspired by merriment. Their "laughter"—it is a horrid sound—generally indicates annoyance. In fact, so-called laughter in the animal kingdom is the reverse of happy, for the jackal gives a weird laugh when it is being pursued by its enemies.

Food Properties

Mothers of growing children in preparing their foods should consider well properties foods contain. Line for bonemaking is obtained from milk and carrots, iron from blood from spinach, egg yolk and liver and lean meat, cabbage, raisins and tomatoes; the phosphorus from fish, beans, peas and whole grains.

Seemed Fitted to Survive

Some of the edentates of former times were creatures of immense size, such as the extinct glyptodon, whose great convex shell was remarkable for its strength. Why such a form as the glyptodon should have failed to keep his ground, says one authority, is a great mystery.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Whale's Small Throat

The blue whale sometimes reaches a length of 80 or 85 feet, says Nature Magazine. The opened mouth of one of these monsters is so large that 10 or 12 men can stand upright in its depths, yet the throat measures only about eight inches in diameter.

World's Continents

Geographers usually recognize five continents: North America, South America, Eurasia, including Europe and Asia, Africa and Australia. A sixth continent is sometimes represented by the land area about the Antarctic region.

North American Species

Researches of the last 50 years or so have confirmed the opinion that the animals called edentates, which include sloths, anteaters, armadillos, etc., originated in North America and afterward migrated to other parts of the world.

In Rebellious Moments

We have our rebellious moments under all this weight of regulation, when we feel like running this slogan up to the masthead: We will neither eat nor do anything that is represented as being good for us.—Ohio State Journal.

Famous Trotting Horse

Goldsmith Maid, the famous bay trotting mare, held the one mile trotting record from 1871 to 1874, taking it from Dexter in 2:17 and losing it to Rarus in 2:13 1/4. She lowered the record to 2:14 before losing it.

Infant Prodigy

Alexis Claude Clairaut, the celebrated French mathematician, at the age of six years understood infinitesimals, and at twelve read before the learned Academy of Science of Paris an original paper on curves.

Early Mystery Story

"The Castle of Otranto," a novel by Horace Walpole, later fourth earl of Oxford, was the forerunner of the modern mystery story, and its publication in 1754 started a vogue of such stories in England.

Prayer of Br'er Williams

Lord, show us de right road, an' ef we don't travel it, please tell Satan to lay low an' not hit us too hard till he gits us fer good an' all!—Atlanta Constitution.

A Child's Description

A child's description of her first concert: There was a lady screaming and a waiter played on the piano all the time.—Edinburgh Scotsman.

Not So Serious for Him

Man may be inferior, but he doesn't waste nervous energy worrying for fear he will freckle.—Detroit Herald.

Community Building

Paint Adds to Beauty and Value of Building

No man or woman with any self-respect would wear the same suit or coat year after year, frayed at the bottoms, buttons missing, or otherwise in a dilapidated condition.

How about the home with its ugly discolored patches, roof with shingles missing and doors and windows showing the effects of the elements? asks a writer in the Indianapolis Star.

One is just about as foolish as the other and both are a source of needless expense.

Has it ever occurred to you that it is less costly to keep the home painted up spick and span than to let it wear a discouraged, dilapidated look?

Plenty of good paint, frequently applied, is one of the best investments any home owner ever made.

One of the first requisites in making the home beautiful is to dress it up in beautiful colors, outside as well as inside. This applies alike to the little cottage, the modern bungalow and the stately mansion.

Take the most unattractive house you can find, study its architectural lines, use care in the selection of the colors and the transformation will be so great that you would scarcely recognize it as being the same house.

Campaign to Clean Up Approaches to Cities

The brokers' division of the National Association of Real Estate Boards has instituted a national campaign to clean up the approaches to our cities, according to a circular recently issued by this group. Real estate boards throughout the country are requested to appoint committees to work in cooperation with other organizations in cleaning up and properly maintaining attractive approaches, both by way of railroads and automobile roads.

The circular points out that railroad sites and industrial locations can be made very attractive by developing lawns and shrubbery instead of permitting the city's back yard to become a dumping ground for the city's refuse. Industrial buildings located along the railroad tracks can be beautified with comparatively little expense, and it is the purpose of this realtor movement to encourage this improvement.

Home Grounds Important

All city improvement work should begin at home. The first essentials are neatness and cleanliness of the grounds. "Keep all irrelevant things away and out of sight. A front yard is no place for unused tools, broken-down equipment, or castaway household goods. The lawn must be good and, which is imperative, must be made and continually improved. A good lawn can seldom be found; it must be established. A good lawn is the foundation of every successful garden. It must be made in a rich soil, with a thick, even stand of lawn grass and a firm, even surface. It is well if the land slopes gently away from the house.

Make Repairs Now

If repairs to the house or lawn remodeling are necessary it is well to get it over with and get the lawn straightened up afterward. There is always plenty of necessary work in the spring without postponing that which could have been done in the fall or winter months. Then, too, a forethought man asserts, workmen are less busy on repairs at that time, so that it is easier to get work done well.

Raising Home Quality

"Those who insist on good, honest standards in the houses they build or buy not only benefit their families and themselves but perform a broader service," says John M. Gies, chief of the division of building and housing, Department of Commerce. "They help raise the quality of homes in the United States and provide a sound basis for wider home ownership."

Driveway

In building a macadam driveway, that is, a driveway of crushed stone, it will be found very effective in keeping the small particles from being scattered around the lawn if a concrete curbing is built on both sides of the driveway. This not only protects the lawn, but is very artistic and prevents the driveway from spreading.

Give Thought to Cellar

The cellar is as important as the rest of the house. Coal bins, furnaces, ventilation, cold storage, drainage, lighting and other points cannot be too carefully thought out to insure comfort.

DRUGGERY

The weary tasks the druggery tasks, the tasks of every day. The tasks without a gleam of gold to gleam upon their gray hair. Dishpan and fasten; tub and broom, till darkness falls—and then Dawn, and the druggery, weary round of laden tasks again.

The common tasks, the simple tasks my hands have learned by heart. The tasks which my busy brain no longer bears a part. Druggery indeed, if idle brain must lag on, loiter-wise. Forgotten wings a-dragging, and ashes in its eyes!

But happy tasks the daily tasks my hands can do for me. If I set them going at my work and let my soul fly free. I set them going at their work, and float in skies of flame, and dash on shining silver to shores without a name.

I climb my childhood's fairy hills and pluck the laurel flowers; I weave a web of purple thoughts across the dusty hours. I play with olden golden words that men have made before, and hang them for a lighted lamp above my kitchen door.

Ah, happy tasks, and blessed tasks, and tasks that set me free. When my hands are in the soapuds and my soul is on the sea.—Florence Crannell Means, in Grit.

Lie Above Ground in New Orleans Cemetery

As New Orleans is built on land which is below the level of the Mississippi there is difficulty in burying the dead in ordinary graves, owing to the water seepage. So the plan has been adopted of placing the bodies in



Like a City Street.

masonry vaults built in rows, and one above another, as shown in the picture. The idea was borrowed from Europe, where it has long been in use. The most extensive and famous cemetery of this sort is the "Cimetiere de Genoa," Italy, where the vaults, each one with a body in it, and sealed by a street in almost endless succession.—Pathfinder Magazine.

Surveying the Seas

Plans for the most complete survey of the ocean ever attempted have been inaugurated by a conference representing scientific branches of the United States government and allied institutions.

One or more ships, says London Tit-Bits, will be fitted out with a complete laboratory and equipped with the latest scientific apparatus for the cruise. The sea-bottom will not only be mapped, but the composition of the water, its density, temperature and currents, which affect the distribution of marine plant and animal life, will be studied at all depths.

Five-sevenths of the surface of the earth is covered by water. This water area can produce more food than all the land can ever be made to yield, and one of the purposes of the expedition will be to take an inventory of such food possibilities.

Twenty Tame Eels

A lady in New Zealand has a family of 20 eels.

In the first place she beguiled a very shy eel by feeding it daily with boiled fish or cooked meat, until it would eat from her hand.

The eel seems to have quickly spread the news of its good fortune, and others followed its example, so that now 20 eels wiggle out of the water every day in search of food and allow the woman to touch them.

Snake Invaded Auto

A four-foot bullsnake snort-crested the battery in the automobile of G. W. Barnes of Griswold, Iowa, and caused considerable trouble before being discovered. When the car would not start Barnes blamed it on the batteries, but when this proved a mistake he fired the hood to inspect the wiring. As he did so the snake attempted to strike Barnes' leg and crawled into the top of the battery.

The Way of an Eagle

An eagle measuring eight feet from wing-tip to wing-tip is reported from Chatham, Ontario, and has swooped down upon a golf course, clutched a boy of fourteen and lifted him five feet into the air. The boy's clothing gave way and he dropped to the ground.

Odd "Jumping" Customs in Various Countries

"Jumping" customs are to be found in numerous countries among the superstitious peasantry. In Russia, on Midsummer eve, young men and maidens carrying a straw figure of a mythical hero, jump over a bonfire in couples. This act is supposed to help the crops. In Baganda, South Africa, when the beans are ripe, a woman calls upon her oldest son to eat some of them which she has cooked. If she neglects to do this it is believed that she will fall ill. After the meal her husband must jump over her. Following this the beans may be eaten with impunity by the family. These people also treat fishing ceremoniously. The first catch of the season is devoted to the god Mibusu. The second catch is taken home and after the fish have been cooked and eaten, the man of the family jumps over his wife and all is well. Otherwise, distress may ensue.

In Uganda, when a warrior returns to his home after a campaign, his first act is to jump over his wife. Before starting out on a warlike expedition each general must jump over his wife, or disaster will befall.

Remembered by His Deeds

The little fishing town of Loomis, in the northeastern coast of Scotland has for its patron saint, St. Geradine. This little known saint, according to legendary history, is said to have sojourned on that coast in 924. His home was a cave, and it was his custom to perambulate the sands on stormy nights holding up a lantern to warn mariners away from the rocks. Geradine's way, with the legends of the legend, is engraved on theburgh seal, together with a ship and the legend, "Per Noctem Lux," "Light by Night."

Cutting the "Gordian Knot"

This expression has its origin in the tale of Gordius, a Phrygian peasant, owner of a yoke of oxen, who became king. He dedicated his car and oxen to Zeus, and the knot of the yoke was tied so skillfully that an oracle declared that whosoever should untie it would be ruler of Asia. When Alexander the Great came to Gordium he cut the knot in two with his sword and applied the prophecy to himself.

Small-Town Men Succeed

At the president-day luncheon of an Eastern Rotary club recently, the program was given over to stories of success after forty. There were 120 men who testified that at forty they were failures, whereas at the time of the luncheon they were considered successes, the aggregate number of their employees being 50,000. Their formulas differed widely and among them were: "Constant industry," "never work too hard," and "don't do anything that can be put off."

Get Ready for Visitors

In the olden days a town was judged by the view from the railroad train. Today the approach to the city on the highways gives the first and usually a lasting impression to the tourist. Special attention should be given the approaches to the city on all main highways with prospects of thousands of tourists visiting northern Minnesota. Now is it too late to get started on this work, in which the entire community will benefit.—Bemidji Pioneer.

Dates From Pagan Times

Halloween is a relic of pagan times in England the influence of Druidical ceremonies is evidenced in the ancient Halloween fires. Certain of the customs which used to prevail in England were survivals of Pomona, the goddess of fruit. Halloween is called by this name because the festival falls on the evening of October 31, which is the eve or vigil of All Hallowes, the festival of All Saints, which falls on November 1.

Tempered Criticism

He was only twelve, but he contrived to throw the apple of discord into the boarding-house to which he had been sent for convalescence after influenza. It came about because they all read the postcard he had left on the hall table. He had written: "There are three extraordinary old geezers stopping here, but one of them is rather a decent old geezer as geezers go."

Even Cider Will Turn

Leon Hall of South Woodstock was injured a few days ago when, as he was opening a cider barrel, the top flew up and struck him in the forehead, cutting a deep gash. Surgeons were called to be taken to Atlanta hospital.

Odds and Ends

Long, Short and Broad were the names of three fugitives in a New York court.

Curious Beliefs Held by Trinidad Natives

Port of Spain is the principal city of the island of Trinidad in the West Indies and is the most colorful and cosmopolitan city in the world," says an American citizen, who has returned to his native land for a visit after an absence of two years, according to the Detroit News. "The streets of Port of Spain," he says, "present the appearance of a strange pageantry, so varied are the people. Strangest of all are the native black people. Here you will see nose rings and all sorts of weird styles in hairdressing. They are so fond of bracelets that their forearms, from wrist to elbow, are completely covered with all sorts of metal circles. Nor is it unusual to see their lower limbs adorned in the same fashion.

"All our servants are these black people. They are excellent servants, but their many taboos and superstitions are very trying, unless you have a good sense of humor. They go by the moon and stars in everything. They refuse any sort of undertaking unless the aspect of the moon is propitious. They also have special taboos pertaining to things hot and cold. None of them will, under any circumstances, put their hands into both hot and cold water on the same day. They believe that if they do this they will die in three days. By the moon they reckon time and forecast the future. By the moon they hold their pagan ceremonies, and one might say that by the moon they live and by the moon they die."

North Pole Receives Full Share of Heat

The North pole, it is said, receives more heat than the equator. Of course, each hour of sunlight brings more heat to the equator, but the hours of sunlight each day increase in number the farther one goes north. Therefore, while the sun is shining the arctic receives more hours of sunlight a day than does the equator and altogether it gets more heat, says the Detroit News.

As one goes north the length of day increases more rapidly than the amount of heat per hour decreases. Consequently, although the heat per hour received at Winnipeg, Canada, is less than at New Orleans, the amount of heat received per day is greater. This is one reason why in July Winnipeg is frequently hotter than New Orleans. For about six weeks every summer more heat per day is received from the sun on a square mile in the arctic than at the equator. However, the winters at the North pole would be as hot as the equator. However, the seasons at the pole are long and a great deal of cold is stored up in the ice mass. This neutralizes the surplus of heat from the summer sun.

Storks in Great Britain

A Welsh lad was recently attacked by a large stork which was believed to have been blown from Holland by storms. It is a somewhat strange fact that storks have refused to breed in the British Isles except in Kew gardens. There a pair started housekeeping in the year of King Edward's coronation, and clearly copied the design for their grotesque nest between the two elm trees from a Coronation banner. They met with a multitude of misfortunes. One year a stork fell from the nest and broke its neck; in another year a nestling was slain by a barnacle goose. A continuing disaster was the drowning of an entire family by a thunderstorm. When the "stork's mound" becomes a congested district, superstitious storklets are expected to populate other districts.

Oysters Sold on Boughs

The traveler in the West Indies has the opportunity of viewing the novel sight of gathering oysters from trees. Around the harbor and lagoons the mangrove trees grow down to the water's edge. Their branches droop until a part of them is submerged. Oysters will cling to any surface in the water to which they can fasten themselves, and as there are few shelves or stones along the shores the bivalves attach themselves to the branches. When the natives go oyster gathering they lean over the side of the boat, and a branch to which oysters are clinging, and cut it off, and the bivalves are sold on the tree.

Boy Knows His Business

Mr. Peters brought a piece of cloth home to have a suit made. The family, examining the goods, pointed out the fabric, remarked upon the quality and pattern. Even Mrs. Donald was called upon to give an opinion of father's new suit. He turned the cloth on the wrong side and began to examine it. "Donald," said old Peters, "that is the wrong side. How stupid you are!" "Why stupid?" answered the boy. "You bet it won't come to me until it's turned on the wrong side."—The change.