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MIRAMICHI ADVANCE

Vol. 2?. No. 17 | CHATHAM, NEW BRUNSWICK, MARCH 3, 1904 | D. G. SMITH, PROPRIETOR
TERMS—$1.50 a Year, if paid in advance, $1.00

BUSINESS NOTICE.

The "Miramichi Advance" is published at Chatham, Miramichi, N.B., every Thursday morning in time for despatch by the earliest mails of that day.

It is sent to any address in Canada or the United States (Postage prepaid by the Publisher) at One Dollar and Fifty Cents a Year. If paid in advance the price is One Dollar.

Advertisements, other than yearly or by the season are inserted at eight cents per line nonpareil, for first insertion, and three cents per line for each continuation.

Yearly, or season advertisements, are taken at the rate of $5.00 an inch per year. The matter, if space is secured by the year, or season, may be changed under arrangement made therefor with the publisher.

The "Miramichi Advance" having its large circulation distributed principally in the Counties of Kent, Northumberland, Gloucester and Restigouche, New Brunswick, and in Bonaventure and Gaspe, Quebec, in communities engaged in Lumbering, Fishing and Agricultural pursuits, offers superior inducements to advertisers. Address,
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SMOKE WITHOUT HARM.

Tobacco poisoning has long been made a subject of investigation by Prof. Furst of the University of Leipzig, Germany, who finds that tobacco may be smoked without injury to the smoker by observing the following precautions: (1) Use only mild tobacco; (2) smoke only good tobacco; (3) do not smoke the last half of a cigar or the end of a cigarette; (4) if a cigar or a cigarette goes out do not relight it; (5) do not sit in a room filled with the fumes of tobacco; (6) do not chew the end of a cigar; (7) use a cigar holder or a cigarette-holder with a bit of cotton to catch the nicotine; (8) at home smoke only pipes with long-stems and preferably a nargileh.

DURABILITY OF WOODS.

Which of the species of woods is the most durable? To answer this question some interesting experiments have been made, and the following results were obtained: Birch and aspen decayed in three years, willow and horse-chestnut in four years, maple and red beech in five years, elm and ash in seven years; oak, Scottish fir, and Weymouth pine decayed to the depth of half an inch in seven years; larch and juniper were uninjured at the expiration of the seven years. In situations so free from moisture that they may be called practically dry, the durability of timber is almost unlimited. The roof of Westminster Hall is more than 450 years old.

Stubs: "How well you're looking this mornin', Boone!" Boone: "Yes—I never looked better in my life. I'm looking for a man who owes me."

About the ....House

THE FARM KITCHEN

So much of the time of the farmer's wife and daughters is of necessity spent in the kitchen that it really ought to be the pleasantest room in the house. The outdoor life and work of the farmer and his hired men create appetites that require strenuous exertion on the part of the "wimmen folks" to satisfy, and all too often the work is made extra strenuous by lack of conveniences to work with, writes a correspondent.

A conveniently arranged kitchen, well stocked with modern utensils, is a source of pride and joy to every housewife so fortunate as to own one; and her sister who does not has always in her "mind's eye" a mental picture of the ideal kitchen she means to have some day when the mortgage is paid, or the new house built, or John has all the new fences and binders and corn harvesters he wants. It is with a desire to help make that mental picture a reality that this is written.

Personally, I've no use for a carpet on a kitchen floor. A grease spot on a carpet stares one out of countenance, and it's wonderful how fast they will appear. Oiled floors are nice, but it's no light task to keep them oiled. Painted floors are an abomination, for the paint soon wears off, making the floor unsightly. Even the beautiful white ash floors our grandmothers loved are not exactly a joy forever, for they require so much scrubbing and mopping. Of course, it's lovely to have a floor always beautifully white and clean enough to eat off from, but, after all,

WHAT'S THE USE?

You'll never want to eat off it, anyway! And surely there are higher ambitions in life than that of having the most beautiful kitchen floor in the neighborhood. Altogether, nothing I've ever used, or seen in use, has proven so satisfactory as linoleum. It can be put down over any old floor, and it comes in pretty patterns that are stamped all the way through, so it never wears off, but it looks well as long as it lasts. It wears well. We have some that has been in use for ten years and does not look at all worn. It should be laid by an experienced workman, for it must be very carefully matched and cut to fit into all the corners of the room and about all the curves of the door frames. When down it is down to stay till worn out, and the floor always looks clean.

The woodwork may be painted any preferred color, if one doesn't object to repeating the process every three of four years. If one wishes to do it but once "and be done with it," and wants something really nice, it is best to have it grained and given a hard oil finish. It will need revarnishing once in several years, but the thrifty housewife can do that herself, if so inclined, and will find it much easier than painting. Such woodwork cleans easily; finger marks do not show upon it, and dust and dirt slide it in the most delightful way.

A WALL PAPER

especially for kitchens is now made that can be cleaned by wiping with a damp cloth, and is said to be very satisfactory. Never having used any, I cannot vouch for it, but I can say a good word for the painted walls. They are pretty and pleasing and sanitary and with such walls, woodwork and floor a kitchen is very easily kept clean.

The young housewife, or one familiar only with a cook stove, hardly knows what to expect of her first range. Good ranges are never cheap and poor ones are dear at any price. All modern ones have asbestos linings, which insure a warm oven and a cool kitchen. The heat should be uniform in every part of the oven, and it should be unnecessary to turn anything around while it is baking. The warming oven permits the cook to easily serve "warm meals at all hours." Many ranges have no damper for the reservoir and the water is always warm with no concern save keeping the reservoir filled. The majority are fitted to burn both wood and coal, and with a system of dampers that, properly manipulated, will keep a fire all night. Sometimes, with a good chimney, the draft is so strong this cannot be done, yet is no fault of the range. A damper in the pipe is the remedy. When burning coal it is usually more satisfactory to use a little wood with it when baking. No wood range is really right that is not fitted with a drop door to the fireplace that permits no ashes to fall on the floor.

A GASOLINE STOVE

is now a necessity in every farm kitchen. In harvest and thrashing time, when the range is hardly equal to the demands upon it, the gasoline stove can join forces and make the hard work much lighter. And when the thermometer is up in the 90's it can boil a tea-kettle in less time than a fire can be built in the big range, and with far more comfort and economy.

The kitchen cabinet is a comparatively new thing, but a more convenient and useful article was never invented; it deserves all the popularity it is winning. Such cabinets are made in many styles and at prices to suit all purses. The larger ones are really pantry, storeroom and kitchen table, all in one. They have a place for everything needed when baking or preparing a meal, and they save many steps. The better ones are warranted dust and mouse proof.

Many modern kitchens have a broad zinc-covered shelf in the place of a table, which is particularly handy if it can be built about a corner, and may be as broad and as long as the size of the kitchen and the taste of the housewife permits. A narrow strip of wood is placed about the edge of such a shelf, under the zinc, to raise it above a level and prevent any drip falling to the floor. Underneath it cupboards are arranged for the various articles that every housewife wants out of sight when not in use.

THE KITCHEN SINK

is often a troublesome piece of furniture. It's really the handiest thing in the room, if properly placed, drained and cared for, but on level ground the problem of drainage is a serious one. If any reader of this has satisfactorily solved the problem, I shall be very grateful if she'll tell me how it was done. Fortunate, indeed, is the housewife whose home, like the famous city, is set on a hill, for she can install any system of plumbing she likes and need have no fear of the dreaded typhoid fever germ.

As nearly all farms have now either a windmill or a gasoline engine for pumping water, it is a simple matter to have the water pumped into a tank in the kitchen—so simple one wonders why it is not more often done. Many a hard cold and attack of la grippe can be traced to the lack of this convenience.

Few new houses are built without a separate dining-room, but in many old ones the kitchen must do double duty. Some very pretty pen pictures have been drawn of the big, sunny, old-fashioned kitchen, with the kettle bubbling on the hearth, the cat basking before the fire, and the family gathered about the table loaded with viands "that mother used to cook," but the prosaic fact remains that such a kitchen is apt to be too redolent of the odors of

SALT FRIED PORK,

boiled cabbage and scorched pancakes to be really agreeable. Too much care cannot be taken with the ventilation of such a room. There should, if possible, be a ventilator in the ceiling above the range, and the windows should be so fitted that they may be lowered from the top as well as raised from the bottom. The collapsible screens, so handy in other parts of the house, have no place in a kitchen. The screens there should be large enough for the whole window. Mosquito netting tacked on the outside of the window frames answers the purpose very well.

The warm, moist air of a kitchen is usually very favorable to plant growth, and a few geraniums blooming in the windows add the artistic touch that all women love. Finally, let no young housekeeper grow discouraged because the conveniences she desires are long in coming. "Rome was not built in a day," and it is worth while to work and wait and plan for even so prosaic a thing as the furnishing of a kitchen.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

A correspondent of an exchange tells how to make a paste that will always be conveniently ready for use. Take a handful of flour, mix it smooth with cold water, and pour on boiling water sufficient to cook it. Add a teaspoonful of powdered alum, and a few drops of carbolic acid and oil of cloves. Strain through a thin cloth and put into a wide-mouthed bottle.

Did you ever try baking potatoes on the top of a stove? Turn an iron pan or basin over them and they will bake nicely. If the fire is very hot place them on an asbestos mat. They should be turned occasionally. It is convenient to know this, in case one wants baked potatoes, but does not wish to keep up the kitchen fire. Of course rather more time is required than when baked in the oven.

The "cellar smell" is extremely disagreeable. It is apt to permeate the whole house. Place a dish of unslaked lime in the vegetable cellar and it will absorb the moisture in the air and also the unpleasant odor.

If the brass fixtures of a hanging lamp have become tarnished past redemption paint them with white enamel. Then you can gild them.

Somebody has discovered that if boiling water is poured over potatoes and they are left in it fifteen minutes they will bake in about half the usual time. But wouldn't they cook as fast in the oven as in the hot water? What is gained?

Sarasate, the eminent violinist, declares that his extraordinary command over his favorite instrument is due to the fact that he has practised on an average six hours a day ever since he was twelve years of age.

"That large man thinks himself a pretty important personage in this place, doesn't he?" asked the stranger. "Important?" exclaimed the native. "Why, if you tell him we're having fine weather here, he swells up as if he thought he made it."

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FARM·FIELD AND GARDEN

COOKED FEED.

I have had no experience in cooking feed for any animals, other than swine. I commenced about 28 years ago and have continued ever since whenever I consider it necessary says Mr. Richard Sparks. I generally test matters of consequence and am not easily carried away by every new argument to the contrary. I have had experience enough in this line to convince myself of the efficiency of cooked feed for health and appetite for stock or fattening hogs.

Dissolve one-fourth pound concentrated lye in two or three gallons of water, then add 1½ bushels of shelled corn and a bucketfull of oats, parings from apples, potatoes, turnips, scraps from the house, beef or dog cracklings or anything else that will serve as a seasoning and cause the mass to become palatable. Then put in enough of water to give the ingredients a thorough cooking. Turnips may be raised for this purpose and small potatoes can be used.

The above mixture may be prepared in a larger quantity, if desired. Hogs eat the preparation greedily and will leave any other feed for it. I have used it for a period of 28 years with

SPLENDID SUCCESS.

I have never, by disease, lost a hog that was fed previously on this preparation, and have checked the disease when prevailing by feeding it. Feed the cooked material warm and see that each animal gets a share, three or four times a week. I often feed it every day and especially during cold weather. I also put it in the watering troughs to keep the water from freezing. Trials have proved that hogs like cooked feed better with the lye than without it.

I would not be without a feed cooker even though intending to keep but a few hogs. One sow and her farrow kept in a healthy condition with cooked feed is sufficient satisfaction for the investment. My principal aim in feeding cooked food is to keep the animal healthy and for a change as an appetizer. The cooker can also be used for a number of other purposes. Fuel is not an expensive feature, provided attention is given the damper and the kind of fuel used. Burn cobs, and when a good bed of coals is secured place in a few large chunks of coal or a few large sticks of wood, close the damper and they will hold a good fire for a long time.

First have large room with roof not less than 8 feet high, ventilation along eaves of roof for dry, warm sleeping quarters. Then do not be too fastidious to get in frequently and sweep it perfectly clean. Shake bedding of straw up frequently and also

CHANGE IT OFTEN.

If roof is low you will fail to clean the room. It is just as essential to have a warm place for hogs to eat in during winter. If you feed in the cold wind during a bad spell of weather and the hogs hold their own you are a lucky feeder. Weigh your hogs before and after and note the consequences. The watering troughs of the feeders are generally one-half full of mud. Keep them clean and during very cold windy days place them on feeding floor where they can eat, drink and sleep warm and snug.

In cold, windy weather or rainy, chilly weather, I find by having my preparation cooked and warmed is an inducement to eat heartily and almost as freely as in fair weather. I keep salted ashes always in a trough so they have free access to it. I sprinkle everything they use frequently with crude carbolic acid. The best argument that I can produce or muster up in favor of cooked feed for a change is that I am not bothered with disease nor troubled in any way in fattening, something of the greatest importance to every western farmer and stock feeder.

I think there is nothing better than dry ear corn and dry oats for fattening hogs. I would want nothing better if they stay heathy and have a good appetite. I have no use for corn meal either cooked or raw. Nor have I much use for bran for hogs when fattening or otherwise, except for sows suckling pigs, in which case it may occasionally be used in moderation.

GASOLINE ENGINES.

I use a gasoline engine of six horse power of the two-cylinder type. I have had no experience in silo work, but can get about 1½ tons per hour of dry stalks half inch long with a 12-inch cutter writes Mr. A. C. Innis. It requires only about half the power of engine to do this. The capacity for wood sawing is unlimited, depending only on the amount of wood the men can get on the table and the feeder can get through the saw in a given time. I cut over 300 cords from December 1, 1902, to April 1, 1903, and peddled a 100-quart milk route all but four days. We expect to get through from 15 to 20 cords in ten hours, depending on kind and condition of wood, and whether it is of easy access.

I cut five cords in one hour and 35 minutes as a test last winter, but should not care to follow it up for ten hours. It took three men to put this amount on the table. In winter in severe weather about half a gallon gasoline per hour, and in summer only about half this amount will saw two cords of wood.

I have also used the engine for threshing with equal satisfaction. I have used both tread and sweep horse power and steam for all of the above work, but should never think of going back to either unless more than eight or ten horse power was required. Then, of course, it would be a traction steam engine unless they succeed in perfecting a traction gas engine, which I expect to see in the near future.

SHEEP NOTES.

The earliest lambs bring the highest prices.

Roots are indispensable in feeding sheep.

Overfeeding is as bad as underfeeding.

For poor lands and short pastures sheep are better than cattle.

The best sheep is the most profitable one under all circumstances.

With sheep a change of rough food is as essential as well as of grain.

All flocks should be graded according to age, size and condition as far as possible.

Medium sized sheep usually have the best and heaviest fleeces.

Sheep will appear to a better advantage if graduated according to the size, kind and quality.

The permanent fertility of a farm is increased to a great extent by the number of sheep kept on the farm.

It is always good economy to provide plenty of bedding for sheep as they will keep healthier and thrive better.

Sheep are the most difficult animals to put into a good condition and it will be easier to keep the flock thrifty.

Sheep should be kept in small flocks during the winter, and be fed grain in roughs and roughness in racks.

Wool soaked with water chills the skin of the sheep, while a coat of dry wool will protect it against the severest cold.

Wool is a product that does not take fertility from the soil like grain growing, but actually adds to the value of the soil for growing grass.

Sheep to fatten the most rapidly and on the least grain must be kept quiet and not be allowed to run over so much ground as to run the flesh off them.

Give the yearling sheep extra attention as sheep generally require more care and better feed at this age then later.

JAPANESE JIU-JITSU.

Method of Defence Used Effectively by Policemen.

More than 2,500 years ago there sprang into existence in Japan an order of knights who were known as the Samurai. To them were imparted all the learning, the polite breeding and the forms of superiority that mark the gentleman. They were skilled in arms and versed in the arts of war, for they were the Emperor's fighting men, and none but they were allowed to bear arms.

As there could not always be war on hand, and as it was considered beneath the dignity of the Samurai to go into any ordinary calling, it came about naturally that these little knights found much idle time on their hands. Being men of war, they turned their attention to athletic feats. One among the Samurai conceived the idea of learning by practice the location of every sensitive nerve and muscle in the body. After that he discovered all the joints of the bones that couln be seized in such a way as to give momentary power over the muscles of an adversary. He practiced with his fellow Samurai, and thus by degrees was developed the most wonderful system of athletics known in the world. The Japanese call this work jiu-jitsu. The deft pressures applied in the practice of jiu-jitsu produce only momentary pain, but do not really injure the muscles or nerves. In all other things the Japanese are the most polite people in the world; so it follows that even in their fighting they have adopted a humane yet effective method of self-defence. They do not strike out with the clenched fist and seek to bruise, as do the Anglo-Saxons in their boxing contests.

A knowledge of jiu-jitsu enadles one almost instantly to convince his opponent that it is useless to fight. There are now schools of jiu-jitsu everywhere in Japan. Every soldier, sailor, and policeman is obliged to perfect himself in the system. A Japanese policeman possessed of the art has been known single-handed to reduce to submission and to take to the police station four sturdy sailors of a foreign Asiatic squadron.

VERY PARTICULAR.

In the course of an assault case heard at a court the other day the defendant was asked his trade.

"I drive a 'bus," was the reply.

"You mean," suggested the precise solicitor on the other side, "that you drive the horses attached thereto?"

"Yes, if you would rather have it put in that way," replied the defendant.

Shortly afterwards, in the course of his cross-examination, the solicitor asked the defendant:—

"Did you or did you not strike the prosecutor in the face?"

The defendant, after a thoughtful pause, convulsed the Court with the following:—

"Well, now I come to think, there's a doubt about it. I was under the impression that I did strike the prosecutor on the face; but perhaps it would be as well to say that I struck him on the nasal organ attached thereto!"

BLIND, FIND VOCATION.

Among the Japanese massage as a vocation is restricted almost entirely to persons afflicted with blindness. Sweden, Switzerland and Belgium are other countries in which this profession is gradually being confined to blind people. Massage is work for which the faculty of sight is not necessary. A writer in a French medical journal urges the adoption of this method of earning a livelihood for the blind, and no doubt the medical profession in this country will lend a willing hand to further the movement of this worthy cause to render assistance to a class of people to whom work involving physical exercise should come as a welcome avenue, opening a new and remunerative vocation.

Hardup: "I'm very sorry, but I can't pay you to-day. You see, the grocer has just been here, and——" Butcher (interrupting): "Yes, I just met him, and he said you put him off because you had to pay me. So here's the bill."

QUITE A DIFFERENCE.

Mrs. Henpex—I understand you are going about telling people I boss you.

Henpex—You are mistaken, my dear, I've been telling them that I had the boss wife.

PERSONAL POINTERS.

Gossip About the Leading Actors on the World's Stage.

The Crown Prince of Germany is the only child of the Emperor who is not left-handed, a trait common for centuries in the Royal family of Prussia.

President Loubet will resume his study of astronomy as soon as he lays down the cares of State. An observatory is being built in the grounds of the chateau which the President recently purchased.

The Dowager-Empress of Russia is very fond of the Danish black or rye bread, such as is baked for the soldiers. During Her Majesty's visits to Denmark she eats this kind of bread every day, and when at home a loaf is sent to Russia every fifth day.

The Queen of Holland's chief hobby is amateur acting. She takes the liveliest interest in dramatic art, and never fails to attend the first night at the theatres. A few years ago she had a theatre built for use at the Los, where plays are performed under her direction.

A man who resumes active Parliamentary life after a break of forty years is something in the nature of a political curiosity. Such has been the experience of the Hon. John Dennistoun Wood, who has just been elected a member of the Tasmanian Parliament in succession to the late Speaker. He quitted Colonial politics at thirty-five and now returns to them at seventy-five.

Sir August Manns, the great conductor, was born seventy-eight and a half years ago at Stolzenburg in Pomerania, Prussia. His father was a glass-blower earning $5 a week, on which he brought up a family of ten children. The worthy old man himself was something of a fiddler, and after working hours would take down his instrument and play a tune or two. But the master at whose feet the young August sat was an old soldier, who had come home crippled from the wars.

Mr. Clyde Fitch, the successful American dramatist, has been wonderfully lucky with his plays, making, it is estimated $200,000 a year out of them. He works very rapidly, seldom more than half an hour at one time, and makes a point of taking six months out of every year as holiday. He is a great Shakespearean scholar, and loves all the Elizabethan dramatists. This love he attributes to his having had an English governess with a cultivated literary taste, and before he was nine years old she assisted him to publish a weekly newspaper. Its circulation, though limited, was not quite so much so as its staff, for the youthful publisher was also reporter, editor, compositor, and all.

The Earl of Leicester holds, in more than one respect, a unique position in the British peerage. He has been the father of eighteen children, of whom fourteen survive, and he numbers among his sons-in-law four earls, a viscount, and a baron. There is a difference of age of close on half a century between his eldest daughter and his youngest son, and he is at once a great-grandfather several times over, and also the proud father of a boy of ten. Another most astonishing fact in Lord Leicester's family history is that his second marriage (to Miss Georgina Cavendish) took place exactly 100 years after his father's wedding, the respective dates being 1775 and 1875.

Sir Henry Thompson was the pioneer of the movement in England for the adoption of cremation. He is one of the foremost surgeons in the world and, besides, a man of extraordinarily varied attainments. He has exhibited his paintings at the Royal Academy and the Salon, Paris; written novels of merit, produced standard works on cremation and surgery, and at eighty-three years of age drives a motor-car. A friend called upon him to discuss cremation. The great specialist was at home in Wimpole Street, London, but "not at home" for the moment to patients no matter how exalted their rank. The privileged friend was shown into Sir Henry's—not surgery, but studio. There he was hard at work on a picture for an exhibition.

Lord Charles Beresford, who would be hard to beat for popularity in the Navy, had a favorite hobby as a boy which was on a way prophetic of his future calling. This hobby os pastime was that of modelling boats, and he was exceedingly skilful in this direction. These boats he would give as birthday presents to those people for whom he had some special affection. Quite a number of them are in existence. "I would give anything to get one of them back," he remarked one day, "as a reminiscence of my schoolboy days. I offered one old friend $250 for a little model which certainly was not worth $1. But neither he nor any of those who possess them will part with them. So, after all, I must console myself with the thought that my little boats are regarded by those who have them with a certain amount of affection."

TOWN WITHOUT WOMEN.

Maiwatchin, on the borders of Russia, is the only town in the world exclusively inhabited by men. The Chinese women are not allowed to live in this territory, and are even forbidden to pass the great wall of Kalkan and to enter Mongolia. All the Chinese of this border town are traders.

AFTER SHORT TRAINING

YOUTHFUL BRITISH CABINET MINISTERS.

Britain Has Some Very Young Men Round Her Cabinet Board.

Two things strike one forcibly in looking into the composition of the present British Cabinet—the youthfulness of the great majority of its members and the surprisingly short time in which a legislator may blossom from the position of a private and unknown member of Parliament into full Cabinet honors.

In the present British Cabinet just half its members are still in or under the forties, and five have yet to see their forty-fifth birthday. There are seven Ministers in the fifties, and only two who have lived more than sixty years, while the average age of its eighteen members is but a few months over fifty years. If youth is any guarantee of political efficiency, then the Cabinet of to-day ought to establish a record of achievement.

Some of its members have had careers as remarkable as their youthfulness. In past generations a man who reached Cabinet rank any time with a quarter of a century was considered fortunate as well as clever. It is true that William Pitt, that political prodigy, was Chancellor of the Exchequer at the age of twenty-three, after two years' apprenticeship in the House; but his father, the great Earl of Chatham, had to wait twenty-one years before he became Secretary of State. Mr. Gladstone was Colonial Secretary eleven years after he first entered the House of Commons; and it took Canning thirteen years, Fox fourteen, Sir Robert Peel thirteen, Lord Beaconsfield fifteen, and Lord Randolph Churchill eleven years to qualify for Cabinet rank.

ONLY EIGHT YEARS.

It is only eight years since Mr. Lyttelton entered Parliament as member for Leamington, and to-day he fills the exalted position vacated by Mr. Chamberlain—a promotion as astounding as if a junior at the bar were with one leap to take his seat on the woolsack, or at least among the law lords. But he had a rival in the veteran Lord Halsbury, who was in the Cabinet within eight years of finding a seat in the Commons for Launceston. In both cases these honors came to men who were no longer quite young, for Mr. Lyttleton became a member of the Cabinet at 47 and Lord Halsbury at 60.

To some of their colleagues fate has been much kinder. Mr Austen Chamberlain had only been three years in the House when he became a Lord of the Admiralty, and seven years later he found his way into the Cabinet while still in the thirties, a wonderful record of advancement; but still inferior to that of Lord Randolph Churchill, who was Secretary for India at the early age of 36.

LESS THAN FORTY.

Lord Stanley, too, in a sense beats Mr. Austin Chamberlain's achievement, for after three years in the House he was made a Lord of the Treasury, and Postmaster-General with a seat in the Cabinet after eleven years, and while still two years on the sunny side of 40. Mr. Arnold-Foster must be bracketed with Lord Stanley, for it is only 11 years since he first found a seat in the Commons, and to-day he fills the high position of Secretary of State for War.

The Prime Minister has also a very gratifying record of advancement, for he was only a dozen years in reaching the Cabinet. It is interesting to note that, although Mr. Balfour was in the nursery when Lord Halsbury was a fully-fledged barrister, he is the Father of his Cabinet, with a record of 29 years' service in the Commons. Mr. A. G. Murray makes a dead-heat with his chief by winning a Cabinet prize within 12 years.

MAKE A RECORD.

Thus we see no fewer than seven of the present British Ministers have won their positions after an apprenticeship of a dozen years or less, the time that it takes the average curate to graduate into the dignity of a vicar, or a very successful lawyer to become a junior K. C.

Although Mr. Wyndham finds himself a Cabinet Minister at the early age of 40, he has been less successful than some of his colleagues in having to wait 14 years for his reward; but he is still ahead of Mr. Akers-Douglas, Mr. Gerald Balfour and Mr. Long.

Lords Onslow, Selborne and Ashbourne were legislators for 18 years before reaching their present eminence; and Mr. Broderick, who is commonly considered a very lucky man, actually wins the "wooden spoon" of the Cabinet, for 20 years separated the day on which he first sat as M. P., for West Surrey from the day, in 1900, when he became Secretary for War.

SENTENCE SERMONS.

Love cannot be leased.

Silence is the eloquence of sympathy.

The happy man cannot help being helpful.

He who courts martyrdom weds no crown.

Bitter remedies often have blessed results.

Mercy to the guilty is malice to the innocent.

A liar's legs can never keep up with his news.

Failure is a spur while success may be a snare.

The devil is too old to be scared by blank cartridges.

The good Samaritan is never afraid of soiling his hands.

Hunger is the only ticket required for the heavenly feast.

Only the Infinite Pity can fathom the infinite pathos of life.

They who love God for what he has never done know what he is.

When a man speaks the language of hell he proclaims his nativity.

No man can be fattened on the feast that spells famine to another.

The revival that does not stir the sheep will never win the wolves.

The man who prays to be nothing has been answered before he began.

Nothing easier than bearing other people's crosses with complacency.

There never was an argument that could compete successfully with an appetite.

Many men are so absorbed building the house of life that they let its tenant die.

But for the need of horrible examples many a man's usefulness would never be properly listed.

The Widower

A Study in Natural History.

The Widower.—This interesting bird, concerning whose habits little that is authoritative has been written, is believed by ornithologists to belong to the Phoenix family (manibus easy consolibus) because it has the power to rise from its ashes in resplendent plumage and renewed youth.

The Widower is a migratory bird, and at intervals makes its appearance in every community, but so greatly is it esteemed as a household pet, and so keen is the pursuit after it, that it rarely escapes the net of the fowler for long, and few of the species are to be seen at large.

In appearance the Widower is what may be called interesting rather than beautiful, though it varies greatly at different ages. When it is young it has a sad and melancholy air, and utters plaintive notes that make every female who hears it long to console it. But this sorrowful swan song lasts only during the first few months. After that it grows chirpy and chipper, and blithely carols a merry roundelay that greatly resembles "A Hot Time in the Old Town To-night."

The plumage of the Widower is also worthy of note, for it has the peculiar, chameleon-like quality of changing under different conditions. During captivity it almost invariably wears a garb of sombre hue unfashionable in cut, and frequently conspicuously unpreened and unkempt.

The moment, however, it becomes free this strange bird blossoms forth in a beautiful gorgeous coat of lively hues that is calculated to catch the eye from a distance; but as soon as it is again caught and caged it molts its fine feathers and resumes its unattractive appearance.

No one has ever been able to account for this idiosyncrasy, but the phenomenon of the Widower doing his lightning change act into a butterfly, or back into a grub, may be witnessed daily. This peculiarity, unfortunately, often causes great disappointment to the owners, as not infrequently a female goes to great trouble to capture a Widower, thinking it a Bird of Paradise, only to discover when she has got it home that it is nothing but a scarecrow. Thus, from this simple circumstance, does nature teach us not to buy a bird by its looks.

Concerning the anatomy of the Widower ornithologists differ greatly, though all agree that it is All Heart. Some authorities contend, however, that this organ, in size and shape, is like an omnibus, while others hold that it is of the elasticity and durability of a football. It is interesting to observe that some of the most earnest and painstaking investigators along this line of scientific research are women, and we may confidently look for valuable light to be thrown on the subject in the near future.

The chief characteristic of the Widower is, as has been stated, its ability to arise from the ashes of the funeral pyre—as long as it is its wife's funeral—with renewed youth. Reputable eye-witnesses declare that they have seen one of these birds, droopy, with draggled tail feathers, and one leg swathed in red flannel bandages for rheumatism, suddenly metamorphosed into a giddy young thing that could dance the two-step and stay up all night, and that looked like a two-year-old. It has also been observed that the oftener the Widower arises from the ashes the younger it becomes, until after about the third rejuvenation nothing but a debutante is young enough to attract its attention.

In its habits the Widower is a curious combination of the fly bird and the barn-yard fowl, for while its giddy flights are interesting it is admirable because it knows how to scratch for a living. It has, too, generally a well-lined nest, instead of having to build one.

In a way the Widower has something of the predatory characteristics of the hawk, and knows that the only way to get a thing is to take it, and this causes it to often pounce upon the most charming young pullet in the bunch and bear her away, under the very eyes of her chaperon. On the whole, though, it conducts its love-making after the manner of the nightingale, and sings a song of such surpassing sweetness that no heart can resist it.

There are many reasons why women should have a great fondness for Widowers, and a desire to possess one. It is always much more comfortable to have a thoroughly trained pet about the house than one that one has to domesticate themselves.

A Widower's first owner has always taken the edge off of it and taught it little tricks, and it knows when to pipe up, and when to sit on his perch and keep mum, all of which render it a most desirable ornament for the parlor or boudior.

Inasmuch as the Widower has once been caught in the matrimonial trap, it has been argued that it showed lack of intelligence in allowing itself to be snared a second time. The truth seems to be, however, that after having once had its wings clipped, it does not know what to do with freedom, and so returns to the edge through force of habit.

A BEGGAR'S FORTUNE.

Simon Oppashic, who has just died in Austria at the age of seventy-one years, was a beggar. People did not wonder to see him in that position, for Simon had neither arms nor legs, and it was perfectly plain that he could not work like an ordinary mortal. So he went through the towns and villages of the dual empire in his specially-prepared chair, wheeled along in the places of public resort, and holding out his hat to get the alms of the charitable. Everybody knew that he got enough to live on, but few were prepared for the revelation which was made when he died. No less than $150,000 was found in money and scrip in his humble home, and books were found in which a daily account was kept of all money which he received in the form of alms.

In an Irish court an old man was called into the witness-box, and, being near-sighted, instead of going up the stairs that led to the box mounted those that led to the bench. The judge took the mistake good humoredly. "Is it a judge you want to be, my good man?" he asked. "Ah, sure, yer honor," was the reply, "I'm an ould man now, and mebbe it's all I'm fit for."

"A drop of ink may make a million think," quoted M'Swilligen. "So I have heard," added Squilldig. "It may provoke language, too. A few drops of ink that I inadvertently dropped on my wife's new carpet brought forth about a million words, and all energetic words, too."

Professional.—"Are you blind by nature?" asked the charitably inclined citizen. "No, sir," candidly replied the beggar. "I'm blind by profession."