

his plans till the moment of execution, and then they were executed with such despatch, that the enemy were taken by surprise. He also added deception to his other qualities. If he were to come down like a thunderbolt upon any province or kingdom, he would be sure to make the faint of war in some remote corner, far away from the real object of his movements; while, with his usual secrecy, like an Indian in ambuscade, he would be making sincere preparations for a formidable engagement. Thus he diverted the attention of his enemies, embarrassed their counsels, and kept all Europe in a state of awkward suspense and speculation; while his own plans were as clear as the light in his vigorous and far-seeing mind.

Cæsar was not deceptive. Frank and open in his manners, he was equally so in his military operations. The whole empire knew what he was doing; and he performed his pleasure only because no man in the empire, nor all the men opposed to him, could put a stop to his onward progress.

This Roman general, wonderful as it may seem to us for a military man to know any thing besides his own trade of destruction, was really an able statesman, a respectable poet, one of the best of historians, and second only to Cicero as a powerful and brilliant orator.

But, after all his victories, after all his success in founding a vast empire, and seating himself on the imperial throne, he fell by assassination, and died a most miserable death, by the hands of those whom his smiles had raised to consequence and power.

What a commentary is the life of Cæsar on the earthly condition of many of the human race! They begin their career with high hopes. Their ambition spurs them on, and on, towards the prize that sparkles in their sight. With vast labour the prize is taken. They sit down to enjoy it. They expect long years of happiness to pass gently and quietly over them. But, lo, the enemy stands near. His dagger is drawn and ready. They look up and behold the dagger,—the next moment the fatal blow is given, and then, like Cæsar in the senate-house, they fold their mantles round them, and submit themselves reluctantly to their fate. Fortunate are they who can "lie down to pleasant dreams."

From Graham's Magazine.

LUCRETIA.

BY HENRY B. HIRST.

There rolled a howl along the streets of Rome,

As if its ancient patron, to the skies,
From street, arcade and pillared cellonade,
Sent up her hungry cries.

And there were sounds of trampling feet of men

Moving in haste; and each one, as he passed,

Glanced in his neighbor's eye; then onward dashed,

Swift as the wild sea blast.

From every hovel door—each portico

Of marble palaces, pale faces gazed

On the pedestrians, passing to and fro—

Mute, trembling and amazed.

And ever and anon, that howl arose—

The she wolf's legacy—long loud and hoarse;

The voice of men aroused from deep repose,

And surging on in force.

Rome's alleys, lanes, and streets were all alive;

All hurrying towards the forum from which came

Impulsive words, followed by moans, that told

The giver's heart in flame;

And sparks from torches, lit at quiet homes,

Waving in answer to the speaker's tones;

And the black crowd with thunder which was Rome's,

Replied with ominous greans.

Occasionally the name of Collatine,

In audible whispers slowly crept about—

And ever as the orator's form was seen,

Went up a mighty shout—

Another! and another! at his hand

Upheld a bloody knife—his figure bent;

Regarding them; his aspect of command

Loftily eloquent—

A bale fire flashing from his eagle eye!

As pointing unto something laid below,

He saw a shudder, followed by a sigh,

Pass trembling to and fro

Among that crowd with eager faces bent

Up on his own; and then came words of peace,

As though he painted home, and calm content,

And joy unto surcease.

Swayed, like the ocean by the hurricane,

That sea of men responded as the name
Broke on their ears,—the pale polluter's name,

Immortal in its shame.

And mingled in a yell that shook Old Rome,

"Death to the Tarquins!" every voice

arose.

Women and warriors—all men and all

time—

Were Tarquin's foes!

As autumn tempests gathering break, so

broke

Thus crowd in frenzy rushing to and fro

With blazing torches—Tyranny's iron yoke

Dissolved like snow.

And there were louder cries, and other

flames

Srang to the heavens till Rome was red

with fire

From Tarquin's palaces; and Freedom rose

From pale Læretia's Lyre.

From the New York Spirit of the Times.

COLLEGE LIFE A CENTURY AGO.

There is a certain college in New England, not less celebrated a hundred years ago for its meagre fare than for its literary reputation at present. Provender, such as it was, was provided by the college regulations, and for the privilege of partaking thereof, every student was obliged to pay, whether he eat anything or not. The supplies were disposed of by contract to the highest bidder, so you may judge of the quality of the food. Many of the young gentlemen paid their bills, boarded in the town; and never once sat down at the college table during their term; yet there were others whose circumstances would not allow them to pay for food which they did not eat, and it is to their account that we are indebted for some of the tales of wonder connected with Commons Hall. Whence the name; saving from the commoners of the food devoured there, is not known. Traditions of employing an empty pie crust for a blacking bowl were long extant: undoubtedly our ancestors were terrible screws. But of late years a more reasonable system has been adopted, and the young democracy are now permitted to get "their vittles," where they please.

It was at this period that a Mr J. T. K. was on the Sophomore Rolls, a young man of very moderate fortune, distinguished for his extraordinary talent and extreme disinclination to submit to the college discipline. The fare in Commons had for some time past been descending from ordinary to poor, from poor to bad, from bad to positive indecency, until the stomachs of their victims were as empty as their pockets, and there were symptoms of mutiny prevalent.

Then clouds were dark on many a brow,
Fear set upon their souls,
And in bitter agony,
They clasped their buttered rolls.

For famine all but stared them in the face. —in this extremity K. hit upon a scheme to satisfy his appetite and his love of fun, and at the same time at the expense of the college. The President of that day was somewhat of a farmer; and was never so happy as when in the possession of some rare agricultural article.

Some friend had lately presented him with a sow of some peculiar race; whether it was such a pig as fertile Chinn breeds, I know not, but on it and its progeny of nine pigs, old Prex placed higher value than any ten of his students. Leaving it to the vulgar herds to steal turkeys, set snares on neighbouring sheds for pigeons, inveigle poultry into secret places and there make way with them, etc. K. turned his attention to these animals. On account of their peculiar connexion with the President, these interesting creatures were permitted to ramble at large in the enclosure which contains all the college buildings.

Our hero arranged his plans in the room in the third story of one of the largest halls, and soon put them in execution. Every evening about dusk he would scatter some Indian corn on the ground immediately beneath his window and then watch for his game. Ere long the tuneful nine, with their tender mamma, discovered the deposit and proceeded to devour it.—Then carefully opening his window K. lowered a sack in the nature of a casting net, in which was placed some corn. Hardly had it reached the earth when the bristly troop, emulously scented the bait, and one fat greedy little creature blindly rushed upon his fate—

Ah! helpless porker! what can now avail
Tay backs stiff bristles or thy curly tail!
Ah what avail those eyes so small and round,
Long pendant ears, and snout that loves the ground

In a twinkling the cord was drawn and the prey ascending; ("sic itur ed astra," as K. classically remarked), while the envelopments of the sack stifled his feeble cries. Once in K.'s room and all was safe. In a trice he was duly butchered and cleansed, *secundum artem*: the offal &c., being got rid of as only students can dispose of such things; and the carcass at a proper season being suspended by a cord from the mantle, was duly roasted and partaken of by a select few. But the mysterious disappearance of the little pig was not viewed with the same levity by the Prex. Due search was made on all sides and rewards offered; but no one suspected K., for, during

the whole affair, with a blindness not unusual, the owner never let his suspicions rest on the starving students, but imagined that the proprietor of a large farm in the neighborhood, jealous of his agricultural emulgence, had instigated the theft. This was all that was needed to embroil the faculty in a feud with this worthy, whose sufferings from college depredations had been far from light. In the meantime however another pigling had disappeared, and yet another had gone to look after his brothers. In short, in a few weeks the old sow with two of her progeny were all that remained; and finally on the loss of another, old Prex took to his bed, which he vowed he would never rise from—trusting, we suppose, to meet his young friends in the other world.

Now, while all the faculty and towns-people were on the *qui vive* about the pigs; while expectation stood on tiptoe, and people every day would peep over the palings and regard the remnant of the pig-sty with commiseration not unmingled with curious awe; there was a certain cunning tutor who had his suspicions.—Perhaps the oily appearance of K. in recitation coupled with his scanty appetite in commons had aroused attention. Yet that could hardly be either, since K. with commendable benevolence had resolved that the contractor should make as little money as possible and therefore he invariably destroyed all the commons he could lay his hands upon. He saw them sniff anxiously under K.'s window, seemingly loath to quit the spot. Little did he wot that the flickering blaze in K.'s hearth illuminated the greasy countenances of a select crowd who were feeding on cold pork.

The next night he repeated his watch, unsuccessfully as before. The third time his espionage was crowned with success. At a safe distance he had dogged his charge to their accustomed haunt; a suspicious incident in itself.—But what was his amazement when he saw the sack descending. The obscurity rendered it impossible for him to distinguish to whose room the window belonged, there being some sixty windows on a side. Should he commence of every room on the floor, he saw that the only evidence would be thrown from the window, and that discovery would be hopeless. That was the last pig, too; no hopes of a repetition when he should be better prepared. Quietly stealing around the corner of the wall, he examined the rope and concocted his plans. He was a light weight, and the cord was a good stout rope, so grasping it firmly, with one foot resting in the loop of the sack, he prepared for the ascent.

"Great Jupiter!" ejaculated the astonished group above, "we have got the old sow and all."

K. peered through the window, and saw his situation. Unaware that the tutor was ignorant from whose room the rope depended, and fully conscious that discovery was expulsion and disgrace, he decided in a moment upon his conduct. He and his comrades vigorously pulled away, until the tutor was between the second and third stories, when they suddenly ceased their exertions, and wound their end of the rope around the bed-post. Then all but K. stood at a safe distance from the window, listening with palpitating hearts to the following discourse between their friend and their tutor. With a knife in his hand, K. coolly opened the window, and saluted the tutor with a mild "good evening, Mr. Y."

"Ah! Mr. K. Who could have believed such a thing possible? This is the way the President's pigs have gone, is it?"

K. mildly assented that several of them had gone in that direction:

"Do you know, Mr. K., that you'll be expelled to-morrow, sir? I pledge you my word that you and your comrades shall leave college with disgrace before noon to-morrow."

After letting his unwelcome guest run on till he had acquired a little composure, K. interrupted him with a set speech. He reminded him how the students were driven by hunger to such desperate courses; declined giving the names of his accomplices; and stated the inevitable ruin that would follow his expulsion from college, as the Church was his only resource for a living. Then he called the tutor's attention to the interesting position that he, Mr. Y., was placed in: Swinging like the coffin of Mohammed, midway between Heaven and Earth; and that though there was a great gulf between them in the recitation room yet just at the moment, he thought he had Mr. Y. at a disadvantage, for if he did not within five minutes swear as a gentleman that all he had seen that night should be kept secret, the cord should be cut, and the tutor be instantly precipitated to the earth, where his mangled remains would be found the next day; and no one ever be the wiser how he or the pigs met their end. In vain Y. commanded, expostulated and plead; K. was inexorable. Of course Y. consented reluctantly to the prescribed form; and he and the little pig long after survived.

In process of time K. graduated with high distinction, and entered on his career. He came unexpectedly into possession of a large property—and in the course of events was elevated to the Presidency of Alma Mater, the very university in which Mr. Y. sat as Professor. At the inauguration dinner he released Y. from the injunction of secrecy, and himself told the story narrated above.

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LIFE ASSURANCE.

It would be difficult, we should think, to overestimate the advantages of Life Assurance, either to those who have studied its principles, or shared in its blessings. Where

its leading principles are fully understood, its affairs properly and judiciously conducted, and its influence generally diffused, it has afforded in different places, and in numberless instances, immediate, important, and most acceptable relief to the bereaved widow and the helpless orphan, and it enables those who feel so inclined, to extend their deeds of beneficence, and minister to the necessities and the comforts of those who are near and dear unto them, after they themselves have ceased from their labours and left this transitory world.

Based upon the most accurate calculations and the most approved principles, Life Assurance Societies afford equal rights and advantages to all who join them, to the Peasant as well as to the Prince, to the humblest Mechanic as well as to the wealthiest Nobleman. We ought then to view it as a very great privilege indeed, that these benevolent Institutions are now brought to our very doors, and that we enjoy almost without any effort of our own, the experience and the wisdom of ages, the fruits of the enterprise, the wealth and the benevolence of others, most of them entire strangers, and that the Colonists, here at least, are placed on as advantageous a footing as the most favoured subject in Britain.

We do not profess to have acquired any very extensive or minute acquaintance with the business of Life Assurance, although we know quite enough to enable us to approve of, and earnestly to recommend its general principles. But in directing the attention of our readers to the advertisement in a subsequent page, from the office-bearers of the Colonial Life Assurance Company, and to the notice of the other Life Assurance Companies which appear in our columns, we shall allow a correspondent to be heard, who thoroughly understands the nature of the Institution, and evidently writes not only from the fullest conviction of its utility, but from motives of the purest and most disinterested philanthropy.

LIFE ASSURANCE.

"The advantages of Life Assurance Companies have long been understood in Great Britain, where the practice of Life Assurance is almost universal, and hundreds of families are annually secured from ruin by the funds drawn by these sources: and if the system has not enjoyed in this country that degree of encouragement to which it is eminently entitled, we believe it is solely because its nature and benefits have not been sufficiently studied.

"Though nothing is more uncertain than the life of any one person, it has been found that out of a community of persons—say a thousand—it can almost certainly be predicted how many will die each year, although the individuals who will die cannot be known. In conformity with these facts, calculations have been made, and tables prepared, upon the basis of which societies will undertake the risk of healthy persons living for the average number of years, and though they lose upon some lives, yet, if the calculations are carefully and correctly made, they will not lose upon the aggregate. The advantages secured to the community by such an arrangement are incalculably great, and require merely to be stated, to convince every prudent and reflecting man of their immense practical utility.

"Few persons will have the hardihood to deny, that a weighty obligation is laid on them to provide, during life, not merely for their own individual wants, but for the necessities of their household, whether wife, children, parents, or more distant relations. Do their thoughts never lead them on such a subject beyond the passing week or the current year. Charity compels us to believe so, for if they love parent, wife, child, brother or sister, who is dependent on them for support, they will often think of how their present comforts can be increased, or continued when they are gone. If at all given to reflection, they will ponder occasionally, what their condition would be, in the event of their stay being removed, and correct views will lead to the resolution to lay aside periodically, a certain sum out of their annual incomes to provide for such a contingency, that when it arrives, those who are dear to them may not be altogether without provisions, and dependant on strangers.

Perhaps some will say that such thoughts are distrustful and sinful, and such cares unavailing. No such thing. We do not distrust God's providential care. It must, however be remembered that God's works generally, through the instrumentality of means, and to work without means is a miracle. Are they not tempting their Maker, who, despising the means, expect him to work without them. And here we would ask, if the same parties who urge this objection against making such provision for their families in the event of death, do not think it their duty to adopt such precautionary measures, as to secure their prosperity in the event of life? Do they not also seek success in their daily avocations by diligence and attention? So, if they would seek to provide for their near and dear relations, with any chance of success. They must do it through the use of appointed means. And it will almost invariably be found, that the man who most sincerely relies upon God's providential care, is the man who most diligently uses the means which are placed within his power, because he knows that it is only in the use of the means, that he is warranted to expect a blessing on his efforts.

An individual may live long enough to accumulate a sufficient sum to provide for his relatives by annual additions, but he has no uncertainty that he will be spared to do so. This method is therefore an insufficient one; for he may die in the course of a few years, when the accumulation is small, and no adequate provision made. Were he, however, instead of placing these small yearly savings