

The Torture of a Flax Shirt.

The most trying ordeal that Booker T. Washington was forced to endure as a slave boy was the wearing of a flax shirt. In his autobiography, "Up From Slavery," he says:

"In the portion of Virginia where I lived it was common to use flax as part of the clothing for slaves. That part of the flax from which our clothing was made was largely the refuse, which of course was the cheapest and roughest part. I can scarcely imagine any torture except perhaps the pulling of a tooth that is equal to that caused by pulling on a new flax shirt for the first time. It is almost equal to the feeling that one would experience if he had a dozen or more chestnut burs or a hundred small pin points in contact with the flesh. Even to this day I can recall accurately the tortures that I underwent when pulling on one of these garments. The fact that my flesh was soft and tender added to the pain. But I had no choice. I had to wear the flax shirt or none, and had it been left to me to choose I should have chosen to wear no covering.

"In connection with the flax shirt my brother John, who is several years older than I am, performed one of the most generous acts that I ever heard of one slave relative doing for another. On several occasions when I was being forced to wear a new flax shirt he generously agreed to put it on in my stead and wear it for several days till it was 'broken in.' Until I had grown to be quite a youth this single garment was all that I wore."

The Resin Eaters.

"Resin eating," said a south Georgia doctor, "is a habit acquired by the Cracker settlers who live in the neighborhood of a turpentine still. The resin they use isn't the hard, shiny resin of commerce, but has been dipped out of the cooking caldron at an early stage of the process, and when it cools it can be kneaded between the fingers like wax. The backwoods resin eater will bite off an immense chunk and chew it placidly until it disappears. The heat of the mouth keeps it fairly soft, but if the chewing becomes too deliberate it is apt to 'set,' as they say, and cement the victim's jaws together in a grip of iron.

"On one occasion a big, rawboned backwoodsman who used to hang around a still I operated came rushing into my little office, clutching his face in both hands and making a horrible gurgling noise in his throat. 'What on earth is the matter?' I asked in alarm. 'His rosum's sot,' said another Cracker, who brought up the rear. I was nonplused at first, but finally grasped the fact that the man had been chewing a monstrous slab of resin and had thoughtlessly suspended operations long enough to allow it to solidify and clamp his teeth like a vice. We finally pried his mouth open with a chisel and broke a couple of molars in the operation. Next day I saw him chewing again."—Exchange.

The White Shark.

The shark of sharks, the real "man eater" and the one most dreaded, is the white shark. This variety reaches a length of 35 feet and a weight of 2,000 pounds. Its head is long and flat, and the snout far overhangs the mouth. Its six rows of teeth are sharp as lancets and notched like saws. Its mouth is very large, so that one has been known to cut a man's body completely in two at a single snap of its cruel jaws and another to swallow one at a gulp. Near Calcutta one of these sharks was seen to swallow a bullock's head, horns and all.

From the stomach of another a bull's hide was taken entire, and the sailor who made the discovery insisted that the bull had been swallowed whole and all except the hide had been digested. From the stomach of another was taken a lady's workbox, filled with the usual contents, scissors and all. It is commonly the white shark which follows the vessel at sea day after day and week after week.

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Could we read the hearts of women what a vast amount of suffering would be exposed. Female weakness has produced more invalids among women than any other cause. Have you any of the following symptoms? Nervousness, Weakness, Backache, Headache, "All-Gone" Feeling, Hot Flushes, Variable Appetite, Restlessness, No Ambition, Easily Excited, Painful Periods, Bearing-down Pains, Leucorrhoea, Pimples on the Face, Pains in the Loins, Eyes Sunk, No Vital Energy, etc. We can Cure You. It matters not who has treated and failed in curing you. Consultation by Mail is Absolutely Free, and if curable we will tell you so. Don't let surgeons operate on you. We can cure you without cutting. Our New Method treatment is mild and pleasant. Family doctors have treated you for years, yet you are not cured—they only help you from time to time. Let us cure you at your own home by our New Method Treatment. Hundreds are being cured. Why not you? We will mail you our Symptom Blank simply for the asking, and we will tell you free of charge what we think of your case. Remember, your letters are kept strictly private and confidential and are answered in plain sealed envelope. Write at once, enclosing stamp for reply. Address Dr. W. H. SAUNDERS & Co., Sta. C, Chicago, Ill. Mention this paper.

Dec. 21, 1900, dw&lyr.

Laughter.

Laughter is a positive sweetness of life; but, like good coffee, it should be well cleared of deleterious substance before use. Ill will and malice and the desire to wound are worse than chicory. Between a laugh and a giggle there is the width of the horizons. I could sit all day and listen to the hearty and heartsome ha, ha, of a lot of bright and jolly people, but would rather be shot than be forced to stay within earshot of a couple of silly gossips. Cultivate that part of your nature that is quick to see the mirthful side of things, so you shall be enabled to shed many of life's troubles, as the plumage of the bird sheds the rain. But discourage all tendencies to seek your amusement at the expense of another's feelings or in aught that is impure. It was Goethe who said, "Tell me what a man laughs at and I will read you his character."

The First Millionaire.

Who was the first millionaire? Solomon? But come down to earth in modern times. Solomon's wealth was fiction, like that of Croesus, Midas and the rest. Perhaps you remember Pope's lines—

When Hopkins dies, a thousand lights attend
The wretch who, living, saved a candle end.
John Hopkins was generally known as "Vulture" Hopkins from his rapacious method of acquiring money. He was the architect of his own fortune, dying worth \$1,500,000 in 1732.

Willing to Hear of It.

A Methodist critic, wishing to put his bishop "in a hole," or, as Dr. William Everett would say, "to deposit him in a cavity," asked in open meeting whether or not the bishop came to the conference in a Pullman car. "Yes," the bishop cheerfully replied. "Do you know any easier way?"—Boston Christian Register.

The verdict of the people from one end of the country to the other, is that Union Blend Teas are the best teas that can be produced at the prices for which they are old, 25, 30, 35 and 40 cents per pound.

Thoughts on Marriage.

A little girl in Ireland was asked what was the sacrament of matrimony. She said, "It's a state of torment into which souls enter to prepare them for another and a better world." "That," said the curate, "is purgatory. Put her down to the bottom of the class." "Leave her alone," said the parish priest. "For anything you or I know to the contrary, she may be perfectly right."

"Courting," said an Irishman, "is like dying. Sure, a man must do it for himself."—E. J. Hardy's "Concerning Marriage."

Varicose Veins.

An exchange gives the following cure for varicose veins, contributed by a person who was cured by it in less than three weeks: Peel a potato; grate it fine; place it on a white cloth long enough to well cover the ulcer. Warm it a little and apply in the morning. Renew at noon; also at night before retiring. Let it remain all night. Put on three new poultices next day just the same and continue to do so until the ulcer is entirely healed. Wash the ulcer every time the poultice is renewed.

Juvenile Discouragement.

Elsie—Mamma, there's a funny old man in this Pickwick book that's always telling his son to beware of the widows. Why is that?

Mamma—Well, a widow is supposed to be skillful in catching a husband.

Elsie—Gracious! I wonder if I'll have to be a widow before I can get married.

Collectors Needed.

Weary Waddleton—De world owes us fellers a livin.

Willie Wontwork—Dat's right, but its orful slow pay. Wot our perfeshun needs is a collection agency.—Ohio State Journal.

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Why Tell Her of It?

Ask!—I suppose Henneck was glad when his salary was raised, was he not? Tell!—Not much. He said his wife would take advantage of that to increase their expenses by twice as much as the raise.—Baltimore American.

Unexpected Egotism.

"One would not expect to find egotism among postage stamps," remarked the snake editor to the horse editor.

"No." "And yet when I put a few postage stamps in my pocket I soon find them stuck on themselves."—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

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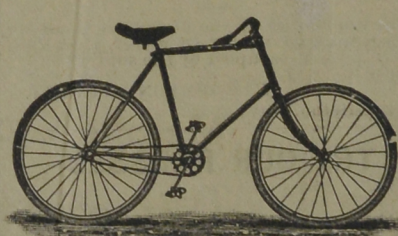
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