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## Poor Richard Junior's Philosophy

- ☞ Conventuality is not morality.
- ☞ A ruffled mind makes a restless pillow.
- ☞ The stationary stone becomes a mossback.
- ☞ The game of divorce is not worth the scandal.
- ☞ Saying the wrong thing is misfortune; but trying to explain it is disaster.
- ☞ When we fail our pride supports us; when we succeed it frequently betrays us.
- ☞ If man really wants but little here below he can get it by investing in trust securities.
- ☞ Most of our misfortunes are more supportable than the comment of our friends upon them.
- ☞ The worst thing about dismal people who are gloomy at the prospect of going to Heaven is that they don't go.
- ☞ As the home of the football championship and of Mr. Grover Cleveland, Princeton is big enough to be twins.
- ☞ It begins to look as though the national House of Representatives will soon consist of one speaker and a roll call.
- ☞ Half the sting of poverty is gone when one keeps house for one's own comfort and not for the comment of one's neighbors.
- ☞ In cases of doubtful morality we usually ask ourselves if there is any harm in doing this; it might be better to ask, is there any harm in letting it alone.
- ☞ In the winter the South proceeds to get from Northerners what the North got from the Southerners in summer—and thus an equilibrium is maintained.

## The Housekeeper's Problem

THE tendency on the part of intelligent young women to prefer employment in factories and stores to doing housework seems to increase rather than to lessen, and sensible people no longer spend so much time as they once did in asking one another why this should be so. It is admitted that domestic service under the conditions that now commonly exist involves a sacrifice of personal independence that is out of harmony with the spirit of the age. The problem is, not how young women can be persuaded to take up housework as

a calling, but how the conditions can be changed so that they will need no such persuasion.

One of the most hopeful things about the whole situation is that American women are thinking, as they never thought before, of their responsibilities as employers. They are beginning to see that the administration even of the smallest household is essentially a business proposition. They realize that it is just as absurd to put an inexperienced, untrained, ignorant person in charge of the domestic machinery and to expect economy and efficiency as it would be to permit similar conditions in any other business. More important still, they also see that, if the work of their own homes is to be conducted with due regard to an adequate return for a given expenditure, there must be expert and continuous supervision, and that to get expert supervision they must either employ fully trained housekeepers or they must become experts themselves.

The result of this will undoubtedly be to make housekeeping a profession like that of trained nursing, and when that ideal shall be attained the work of the household will be systematized, the duties and hours of labor of each employee will be clearly defined, and, instead of being a question of "favor" on either side, it will simply be a question, as in any other business, of so much work of a stipulated degree of efficiency in return for so much money. There will not, perhaps, be so much sentiment in the relations of mistress and maid under such conditions, but there will be two results well worth striving for—an assurance of comparatively uninterrupted comfort for the household, and a standard of skill that will rapidly relegate the shiftless, ignorant and untrustworthy to the tender mercies of employers who continue to believe that successful housekeeping is essentially a matter of luck rather than of competent management.

## Millionaires, Please Note

THE operation on the Emperor William once more sharply calls attention to the most mysterious of the few remaining mysterious diseases—the most mysterious and the most dreadful. It is not generally known that cancer ranks seventh among the causes of death in the United States, having 17,296 victims in 1900 as against 9410 in 1890—a truly enormous increase. In 1890 it ranked twelfth among causes of death—only ten years before! While shallow people find something more appalling in the attack of such a disease upon European sovereigns than upon untitled Americans, the fact is that each and every one of those 17,296 deaths represents a catastrophe beyond comparison.

There are many scientists at work trying to isolate the cancer germ. There should be more, and they should have all the facilities that money can assemble.

## The Prudent Jack-Rabbit

WHEN an intelligent and experienced citizen who has lived eighty-two years comes out flat-footed against anything it ought to give all men pause. When that citizen happens to be a Senator in Congress, representing such a Commonwealth as Alabama, and when he bears the honored name of Pettus, it ought to settle the particular matter without discussion. This is the status of the case against "gravy," which holds a place in the American heart very near to that occupied by pie and to that occupied by buckwheat cakes with molasses. Senator Pettus says that "gravy" is hurrying us to ruin, and that worse even than its common and humble form is its fashionable disguise as a "sauce."

Coffee gone and tea going; milk under suspicion and water in dispute; bread proclaimed the staff of death, cakes banished, pastry proclaimed, most meats forbidden and most vegetables posted as more or less poisonous—clearly, we shall soon be living, like the jack-rabbit, on an occasional bit of dry grass, boxed and sold as "health food." Well, the jack-rabbit manages to keep alive and to keep moving. And what more can any one ask?

## The Reason Why

THE New York "reformers" are still discussing in a dazed way their recent terrific knockout, and are attributing it to the preponderance of ignorance and depravity in their beloved city. But there are other explanations besides the easy, self-excusing ones that reformers are so apt to give.

For instance: three-fourths of the Tammany candidate's majority in old New York were got in the densely crowded districts where the foreign born number from nearly half to two-thirds of the population. Tammany, which is in business day and night, all seasons and all years, has an organization that looks after every side of every block or square in New York. And its agents are always going among the masses of the people, helping this one to a job, lending that one a few dollars to tide over a spell of hard luck, making the newcomer and the foreigner feel that he has a friend. And above all, Tammany is always careful not to interfere with the peculiar customs and tastes of the foreign bred.

That is, just as the merchant who looks into and appeals to the tastes and desires of the most people gets the most

trade, so the political organization that is nearest to the people gets the most votes. The people will forgive corruption, any amount of it, before they will forgive neglect and aloofness and patronizing superciliousness. In that respect they are not unlike human beings everywhere. Isn't it possible to combine honesty with common-sense in politics? Isn't it possible for a man to work among the people from patriotic motives just as hard as he would if he were aiming at dollars, and mighty dirty dollars at that?

## Class Distinctions in America

ONE of the ablest school teachers of New York said recently: "I do all in my power to help put off the inevitable day when class distinctions will be as marked here as they are in Europe."

There are a good many signs that seem to point to class distinctions. But when we examine more carefully the true nature and meaning of "class," the aspect of the matter changes. For some to be rich and others poor, some educated and others ignorant, some brain workers and others manual laborers, some leisurely and others overworked (if there is such a thing as real overwork)—that means different *kinds* of people, not different classes. And for people to associate with those whose mental mode and mode of living are like their own, that is not class distinction but merely a natural following of the law whereunder like seeks like. Class means a condition to which one is born and from which one may not escape. When we first set up as a republic we inherited classes from Europe, but we soon got rid of them. And to-day what preferment can a man guarantee to his children that is not open to any other man's children if they choose to work for it and have been well endowed by nature? Each succeeding American generation quickly and often somewhat boisterously demolishes such small class distinctions as the preceding generation has set up.

## The Parent's Debt

A RICH man said: "I have always given my children everything they wanted. I wish them to feel that they couldn't possibly be any better off if I were out of the way. I don't wish them to hate me or to wish I were gone." And there are a great many parents who are not rich yet who act upon this principle to the limit of their abilities, sacrificing everything to the children.

Of course, no father or mother wishes the children to hate them. And it is equally true that parents do owe a great deal more to their children than the children owe to them. But when an overindulged child reaps the inevitable consequences of overindulgence, isn't it apt to look back to the cause of its downfall, to the foolish parent who taught it to be selfish and greedy, with a bitter feeling worse than hate? To indulge a child is not to be self-sacrificing toward it but to be grossly selfish. There is only one way in which a parent can pay back its debt to its child, and that is to bring it up in simplicity and honesty, teaching it self-control.

## The Survival of the Unfit

IT IS said that beavers rarely build their wonderful houses and dams nowadays; and those who are fond of discovering signs of superhuman intelligence in the lower animals say that the beavers are learning that their works draw the attention and the ravaging fire of the hunters, and so are shrewdly desisting. But there is another explanation which does not snatch so boldly at man's place as the first intellect of creation. Isn't it possible to suppose that among beavers there were differences in the intensity of the building instinct and the building energy, and that the hunters have been killing off the more industrious and instinctively ingenious beavers, have been thus bringing forward the kind of beaver who said all along: "Any hole is good enough for me. Why work when I have my health?"

The law of the survival of the fittest works very, very often, among men as well as among beavers, to cause the less attractive types to survive. There have been societies that have developed conditions in which it was difficult, if not impossible, for a sane, honest, just man to survive.

## The Facts of the Case

THERE is a dispute about the reason, but there can be no dispute about the fact, that stimulants—liquors, tea, coffee and tobacco—produce a more powerful effect upon Americans than upon any other people on earth. The probabilities are that the conditions of universally quickened intelligence in America as distinguished from the widespread soddenness among other peoples are responsible. And it is doubtless part of the innate perverse devilishness of things that makes the individual who ought to leave stimulants alone crave them more than his more phlegmatic neighbor. If we are too self-indulgent to take the lesson home to ourselves, at least we can bring the children up in the way they should go.