

sum, and was now paying it into his hands, to make good the honorable contract of her dead husband. He hesitated, ruffling in a half absent way, the edges of a little pile of bills that lay under his fingers. One thing was clear to him,—he never would take anything more from the widow. The balance of the debt must be forgiven. People would get to understand the widow's case; they would hear of herself-denial, and that of her children, in order to pay the husband's and father's debt, in order to keep pure his honor; and they would ask—naturally—who was the exacting creditor? This thought affected him unpleasantly.

Slowly, as one in whose mind debate still went on, Mr. Sterling took from his desk a large pocket book, and selected from one of the compartments the note on which Mrs. Granger had now made three payments; for some moments he held it in his hands, looking at the face thereof. He saw written down in clear figures the sum \$300. Seventy of this had been paid. If he gave up or destroyed the slip of paper, he would lose \$230. It was something of a trial for one who loved money so well, to come up squarely to this issue. Something fell in between his eyes and the note of hand. He did not see the writing and figures of the obligation; but a sad pleading little face, and with the vision of this came to his ears the sentence—No, dear, it's for father's honor.

The debate in Mr. Sterling's mind was over. Taking up a pen he wrote across the face of Mr. Granger's note the word "canceled," and then handed it to the widow.

What does this mean? she asked, looking bewildered.

It means, said Mr. Sterling, that I hold no obligations against your husband.

Some moments went by ere Mrs. Granger's thoughts become clear enough to comprehend it all. Then she replied as she reached back the note:

I thank you for your generous kindness—but he left his honor in my keeping, and I must maintain it spotless.

That you have already done, answered Mr. Sterling, speaking through emotions that were new to him; it is as white as snow.

Then he thrust upon her the twenty dollars she had just paid him.

No, Mr. Sterling, the widow said.

It shall be as I will! was the response. I would rather touch fire than your money. Every dollar would burn upon my conscience like living coals.

But keep this last payment, urged the widow; I shall feel better.

No, madam! would you throw fire on my conscience? Your husband's honor never had a stain. All men knew him to be pure and upright. When God took him, He assumed his early debts, and did not leave upon you the heavy burden of their payment. But he left with you another and most sacred obligation, which you have overlooked in part.

What? asked the widow, in an almost startled voice.

To minister to the wants of your children whom you have pinched and denied in their tender years—giving of their meat to cancel an obligation which death had paid.—And you made me a party in the wrong to them. Ah, madam!—Mr. Sterling's voice softened very much—if we could all see right in the right time, and do right in the right time, how much of wrong and suffering might be saved! I honor your true-hearted self-devotion; but I shall be no party to its continuance. As it is, I am your debtor in the sum of \$50, and I will pay it in my own way and time.

Mr. Sterling made good his word. Under Providence this circumstance was the means of breaking through the hard crust of selfishness and cupidity which had formed around his heart. He was not only generous to the widow in after years, but a doer of many deeds of kindness and humanity to which he had been in other times a stranger.

THE PARAGUAYAN WAR.

Paraguay, as our dispatches have already announced, declines the proffered mediation of the United States. This mediation was offered in the hope of bringing to an end the long and tedious war between Paraguay on the one side, and Brazil, the Argentine Confederacy and Uruguay on the other. The main reason assigned for the rejection of the interposition of Mr. Seward is the existence of a treaty between the opponents

of Paraguay not to cease fighting until her institutions are changed to suit their ideas. In other words, the allies wish to crush Lopez, the able president or rather dictator of Paraguay. Lopez is a despot, but there is no evidence that his people are dissatisfied with his rule. At all events they have fought most manfully for him, and his resources seem no more exhausted than those of his enemies.

The immediate cause of quarrel arose in Uruguay. That republic lies temptingly on the southern border of Brazil, and its addition to the Empire would much improve the boundaries of the latter. For prudential reasons, Brazil has not lately renewed her former unsuccessful attempts to conquer Uruguay, but has contented herself with manipulating its politics. A revolution—no rare occurrence—broke out in Uruguay two or three years since. One faction defeated another faction. Brazil sided with the new government, which it recognized as *de jure*. Paraguay favored the rejected officials. She, as well as Brazil, doubtless had a strong desire to rule Uruguay. Success in this direction would give her direct communication with the outside world, from which her geographical position now shuts her off. To send troops into Uruguay, Lopez must necessarily march them through the Argentine Provinces. This privilege was refused, and previously existing jealousies became intensified into positive hostility. The dominant party in Uruguay, Brazil and the Argentine States, united their forces, and for two years have been attempting to conquer Lopez and drive him out of his dominions. Having accomplished this, and rewarded themselves with liberal slices of Paraguayan soil, they will be satisfied. The attainment of this object seems as far off as ever, though the war has continued for over two years. The Paraguayan army has been forced into a defensive policy within the limits of its own country, but its position seems to be impregnable.

Much of the section occupied by the by the opposing hosts is low, swampy, and frightfully unhealthy. The Paraguayan forts and ironclads have thus far proved more than a match for the allied fleet, while malaria, wild beasts and reptiles have sorely afflicted the allies. Alligators have even penetrated their camps, and carried off sleeping men from their tents. The waste from carnage and disease has been so great that its supply is difficult. In Brazil the conscriptions have been frequent, and are constantly growing more severe. Slaves have been liberated by thousands, on condition of enlistment, and even the home guards have been compelled to go to camp or furnish substitutes at high prices. The large debt of Brazil is swelling rapidly, and her financial condition is not at all cheering. In the meantime, Paraguay doubtless suffers greatly, but her people are of simple habits and more self-supporting than those of Brazil. She shows genuine pluck, and will gain sympathy on this account, and also because she is contending against such odds.

It must not be forgotten, however, that though selfishness and hatred are the inciting reasons for the attack upon him, Lopez is the embodiment of all that is retroactive in politics, while his antagonists are progressive. The almost Japanese exclusiveness of Francia has been little abated under Lopez: hence the latter's humiliation would, undoubtedly, prove in the end, a benefit to the country over which he holds sway.

An unfortunate bachelor in the northern part of New Hampshire, who had made many unsuccessful attempts to get a wife, at last succeeded, by the irresistible temptation of a \$15 silver watch, in inducing a high tempered old maid to marry him. The ceremony having been duly performed at the house of the bride's father, the happy husband proposed an immediate return home. "Home!" exclaimed the bride, "home! This is my home, and you had better go to your'n. I agreed to marry you for the watch, but I wouldn't live with you for a town clock!"

To CLEAN STEEL PENS.—When a pen has been used until it appears to have been spoiled, place it over a flame (a gaslight for instance) for, say, a quarter a minute, then dip it into water, and it will be again fit for use. A new pen, which is found too hard to write with, will become softer by being thus heated.

RECIPE TO CLEAN WOOL.—Hunt Brothers, of the North Bloomfield Custom Woolen Mill, N.Y., give the following recipe for cleaning wool:

To two pails full of water add a quart of soft soap and a half pint of common salt. Heat from 150 to 180 deg., or a little warmer than the hand can bear. Put in all the wool that will stir conveniently, and let it remain fifteen minutes, moving in the kettle occasionally. Then take it out, let it drain, return the drained liquor to the kettle and add all the water needed. Repeat the process, and occasionally add a little soap and salt. After the wool is sufficiently drained, simply rinse it out well in cold water and you will then have it white and soft. Never let wool boil in the liquor, as that will fix the gum, render the fibre stiff and gray, and unfit it for soft, and flexible yarn. Fine wool needs more time in the kettle than coarse. Taggings may be cleansed in the same manner, by clipping off all the hard matter that cannot readily be compressed between the thumb and finger.—*Rural New Yorker.*

A NEW PROCESS FOR MANUFACTURING SUGAR.—"An interesting fact has been communicated to us," says the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, "by one of our correspondents in Canada, who, contrary to the results obtained in the United States, has effected at Montreal the complete conversion of the starch of maize and of cellulose into sugar. Little dextrine and strong crystals were obtained. There was a large quantity of this maize sugar manufactured at Mr. Molsen's refinery in New York last year, and crystallized with cane sugar, and delivered to the trade without any complaint, or the slightest suspicion that it partly consisted of sugars manufactured from cereals. A patent has been taken out in Canada, and another in the United States, and the inventor is actively engaged in following up this curious discovery, which, if successful, will add another to the different sources of sugar production." It may be visionary on our part, but we cannot help thinking that the manufacture of crystallizable sugar from starch is one of the greatest chemical discoveries which will someday or other revolutionize commerce. We should then be dependent neither on the beet nor on the cane, but every country would be in a position to manufacture sugar from almost all vegetable products. The trade in potato or starch or glucose sugar is already a large one in Germany, and if the sugar could be crystallized its development would be vast.—*London paper.*

MILK AND ONION JUICE IN DROPSY.—Dr. Pautier, a French physician, relates the case of a man who was afflicted with general dropsy and a double dropsy of the chest, accompanied with great difficulty of breathing and other distressing symptoms. Various remedies had been taken without any apparent benefit. Dr. Pautier then prescribed the following treatment: Three cups of milk porridge to be taken daily, each to be followed by eating dry bread and raw onion without any drink. This diet was persevered in for thirty days, but before half this time had elapsed the patient was able to leave his bed. In the following month nothing remained but slight puffings of the feet and ankles. A generous diet was then prescribed, and in another month complete cure was effected.

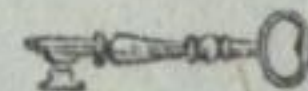
A TRUE LADY.—I was once walking a short distance behind a very handsomely dressed young girl, and thinking, as I looked at her beautiful clothes, "I wonder if she takes half as much pains with her heart as she does with her body?"

A poor old man was coming up the walk, and just before he reached us, he made two attempts to go into the yard of a small house; but the gate was heavy, and would swing back before he could get through.

"Wait," said the young girl, springing lightly forward, "I'll hold the gate open." And she held the gate until he passed in, and received his thanks with a pleasant smile as she went on.

She deserves to have beautiful clothes, I thought, for a beautiful spirit dwells in her breast.

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