DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Wednesday, July 22, 1868.

THE WORLD'S REWARD.

A TALE OF HUNGARY.

In the hot mid-day sunshine a poor countryman was making his way homeward to his native village, wearied and bent under the ponderous burden he was bringing from the neighboring town. He knew that a scolding awaited him (as usual) from his ill-tempered wife, who had been expecting him with no little impatience, and every step seemed to tire him more and more, and to make his load heavier, as it brought him nearer to her rattling, wrangling tongue. He felt so exhausted that he was glad to stagger to the boundary stone of an ancient field, upon which he sat himself down to rest for a short quarter of an hour.

Under the stone, however, in a rut which had been made by a water course or by the result of some accident which had caused the displacement of the stone, an enormous snake was hidden, and scarcely was the countryman seated ere the snake put out his head, and with a loud and agonized hiss, thus spoke: "Welcome, friendly stranger! Take pity on me and release me from the weight of this monstrous stone, which every instant threatens to crush me. It is more and more unbearable; and if you will not save me, I must perish."

The countryman doubted whether he ought to assist a reptile of such known enmity to man. He felt, however, some pity, though he hesitated to draw nearer to the snake; but the snake appealed to him with ever increasing earnestness; "I implore you, I conjure you, by all that is merciful! Save me! save me! I will reward you with every recompense that man pays to man for his good deeds—but save me!" The countryman could not resist the repeated piteous appeals. He mustered all his strength, turned over the stone, and released the prisoner. What was his astonishment, what his fright, when the monster, full of fury, moved toward him, spitting poison and menacing destruction. He could scarcely find breath to ask, while pale and trembling he staggered away, "Is this the reward, the promised reward to thy deliverer?" The snake coldly replied, "Such are the world's wages for benefit; and I promised thee nothing more."

The words only increased the countryman's alarm. He saw no way to escape, and no helper at hand. Finding no hope of deliverance, his heart beating with horror, his cheeks streaming with tears, he thus addressed the reptile: "I am in thy power, at thy mercy. I have neither strength nor courage to resist, and yet I cannot understand the meaning of thy discourse. I am a poor, simple countryman, ignorant of the ways of the world. I know not whether its wages are such as you propose to pay. Enlighten me on this matter, or at least let some just judge decide between us."

"So be it," answered the snake. "'Tis a just proposal. On that dry heath there is an ancient warhorse, a far nobler beast than I may have appeared to thee. Let us hasten to him; he shall be the judge"

No sooner said than done. The countryman moved tremblingly over the fields, and his venomous companion crept slowly behind him. They reached the burnt and grassless heather, and behold a grey horse stood before them—a ragged steed, a mere skeleton—whose nostrils were exploring the barren heath in search of a few scattered blades of grass. The snake broke the silence and began to question the poor broken-down beast: "What dost thou here on this wild waste, while there is such a supply of rich fodder in thy master's stables? What brought thy noble loins to such a wretched skeleton which thy rough hide scarcely covers?" Neighing woefully, the horse replied:—"Know you not these are the common wages of the world, and it is thus that friendly services are rewarded? For thirty weary years I bore a warrior on my back; I obeyed his every wink; I turned at his every touch of my bridle. Seven times I saved him in the battle tempest from fetters and from death. Now, worn out by toil and time, no longer able to serve, him he has delivered me over to the knacker, and soon my hide is to be severed from my bones."

"Ha! ha!" said the snake to the countryman. "Dost thou hear? Prepare for death, for that is thy doom." He spoke, coiled himself up, and was about to spring furiously upon the doomed one, but he threw himself down humbly upon his knees between the horse and the snake, and thus put forward his petition- "Spare me, spare me but a little while. I have a wife and children at home. Who will provide for them if you destroy me? Oh let us appeal to another judge—the life of a man hangs upon the award; and if he confirms the sentence given, I will prepare myself for death."

"Agreed," said the crafty creature. "I grant also this to thee of my great grace." And they crossed the heather over to a thicket in which the snake had seen the form of an animal in the distance; and as they approached they found a very old hunting dog fastened with a cord to the trunk of a willow tree, lean and wretched, and utterly unable to protect himself from the swarms of flies that tormented him dreadfully.

"And who brought thee, Squire Harehunt, to this willow trunk—to this forlorn condition? Why, it was but the other day that I saw thee joyful and bravely following the game over the country. What does it all mean?" Inquired the snake. The poor dog set up a bitter howl and thus replied: "Such are the world's wages, such the recompense of friendly deeds. Six years I served my master with diligence and fidelity—served him in house and field—and deserved the name I bore; I was a terror to the hares, known and feared by their whole army, and now I am bound to this willow trunk, condemned to die, and only waiting the arrival of the keeper to dispatch me."

(*To be continued.*)

MUSCLE.

To have muscle is not to be a gymnast, and to be muscular and enjoy robust health it is not necessary to be able to leap five feet four inches clear, to put up a 112-pound dumbbell, to perform the giant swing, or to go through dangerous looking gyrations on the trapeze. These are only the performances of gymnasts, who, having attended to preliminary exercises, feel conscious of their strength, and have the natural desire to accomplish what is difficult. Muscle is the concomitant of regular exercise, and that of bodily health. A man whose business is to walk much, to climb sundry stairs, finds that his limbs tire sooner than those of his fellows, and while he might own it would be a number of flights, his friend the blacksmith, who can shoulder all day without tiring, puffs and sweats like a porpoise. The point is evident, all the supplies should be [illegible] equally, and this only can be done by a regular course of gymnastics. The gymnasium is as necessary, aye more, to youth than the college; for while with robust health a young man can "pick up" ideas, with all the learning to be had, he cannot "pick up" health without gymnastics; it is better to fortify against ill-health than to recover lost health. Twenty minutes a day, at least, a minute every other day, at the short bars, parallel bars, horizontal bars, weights, dumbbells, and clubs will give any man muscle, a good carriage, a good appetite, health and life. [illegible]

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