

# LIPPINCOTT'S MAGAZINE

MARCH, 1875.

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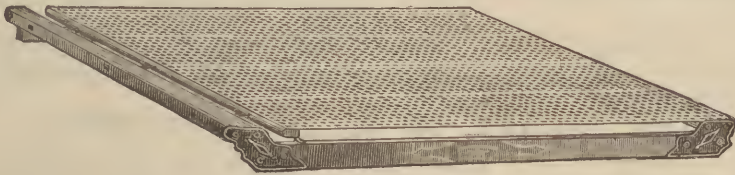
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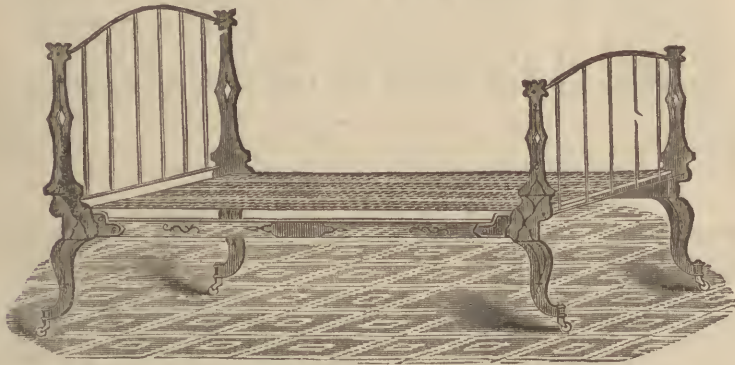
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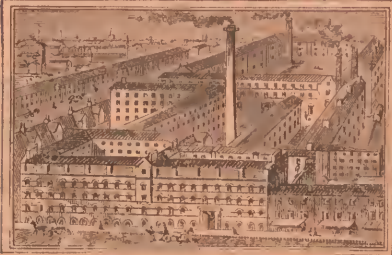
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seemed to render up no ghosts but were shrouded in sorrow.

There was one spot I might have visited, but did not : it seemed to me better to wander to and fro about the dear old parsonage with the living spirit near me, and to go out again into the world with the softened influences of that lessened but unbroken circle consoling me, than to seek the new grave that had not yet had time to clothe itself with violets, and the sight of which could have given me nothing but pain. By and by, I thought, let me return, and when it has healed over and is sweet with summer flowers I will sprinkle rue upon it and breathe her name. I went back from Heartsease like the bearer of strange news. We had all sat together and thought, rather than

uttered, the memories of the past : they weighed me down, but they were precious freights. When I looked once more, and for the last time, upon the darling village drowsing in the sunshine, I felt that I had learned the burden of the hearth : Not length of days is given, but the sweetness and strength thereof : their memory shall live even though the dead be dust. Out of the loam of this corrupting body springs heavenward the invisible blossom of the soul. You have watered it with tears : let the performance thereof comfort you. Though ye die, yet shall ye live : thus saith the Lord. But shall the old days delight us and the past live ? Yea, verily, saith the Spirit—once, but never again !

CHARLES WARREN STODDARD.

---

### THE SCIENTIFIC LIFE.

IT has been my good fortune to be thrown much with men of science, and to find among them companions made agreeable by the best of social qualities and by many larger capacities. Perhaps it is their life apart, their consciousness of belonging to a distinct class, that has made them, as I have found them, so strikingly individual, and partly for this very reason so interesting. Indeed, it is curious to observe how varied and how utterly different may be the non-essentials, moral and mental, of the beings to whom God has given the rare gift of power to look into the secrets He has scattered around us in plant and earth and animal life. Consistently with various grades of competence for investigation, the man may be social, or may flee his fellows ; may be witty, or incapable of seeing the broadest fun ; a poet, or almost devoid of creative imagination ; full of refinement and rife with multiple forms of culture, or neither scholarly nor well-informed outside of his especial line of work. According as he is endowed with mental graces and forms of culture,

apart from his science, will be his charm as a companion ; but while the absence of these means of pleasing is sometimes met with, and while their lack in no wise lessens his power of investigation, I have found most men of science to possess in a high degree qualities which rendered them delightful as comrades at the camp-fire or as guests at the dinner-table. Indeed, the best talkers I know are men of science—not the mere students of a knowledge already garnered, but those who discover new facts or who spend their lives in original research. The most mirthful, cheery, happy and liberal-minded of men are to be found in the limited ring of those who are known in this country as investigators. On the European continent the same remark holds true, but in Europe this class is very often less refined than with us. In England the same class is undoubtedly notable for a curious absence of the wide range of general information constantly found in America, so that English men of science often amaze us in social life by their lack not so much of culture, as

of wide knowledge of matters outside of their own studies, as well as by their aptitude to share the lighter chat of the dinner-table.

Even in Great Britain—and yet more in Germany and France—the habits of life make it less of a sacrifice than here for men to abandon all that money gives and to devote themselves to the quiet life of the closet and the laboratory. Once set in a groove, the average man abroad is less apt to seek to rise out of it or depart from it; while with us the constant flow of a too intensely active life is for ever luring men with baits of greed to take the easy step aside from pure science into the golden ways of gain. Honored be they in this land of eager money-getting who withstand the temptation, and in quiet and peace, undisturbed by the turmoil about them, pursue those noble quests which give to humanity its highest training! What these men lose we know: to them are neither great houses nor the hoards of successful commerce. Their lives are often vexed by the trouble and worry of wretchedly incompetent incomes, and what trials they endure those they love must also share. Their incomes, in fact, are usually such as a well-paid bank-clerk or dry-goods salesman would despise. Officers of the navy or army are, as a rule, as well paid as men of science who hold the chairs of teachers; but while the former class are the most signal and steady grumblers, the latter are, of all the men I know, the most tranquilly content. What they miss in life we can well imagine; what they gain the general public little comprehends; but those who know them best will readily understand why it is that their lives are seemingly so happy.

And here, again, I would remind the reader that the class I speak of are not the mere college professors, useful as they are, but those men, in or out of that class, whose lives are devoted to the acquisition of facts fresh from Nature—to the original study of bird and beast and stone and flower—and those who, on a yet higher plane of work, are busy with the patient investigation of physics and phys-

cess in their pursuits on their knowledge of human nature, or the passions and foibles and lower wants of their fellows, but, for ever turning toward a more quiet life, are living among those strange problems which haunt the naturalist, or among those awful forces which rule the stars and pervade the dead and living world of matter. There must be something quieting and ennobling in this steady contemplation of vast machineries, which have all the force and terror of human passions, and yet the serene steadiness and certainty of unchanging law. It is "a purer ether, a diviner air," from whence its citizens can afford to look down in peace, perhaps in scorn, upon the ignoble strifes beneath them.

I suppose, too, that other men can hardly dream of the one vast pleasure which comes to these searchers when ever so little a new truth or a fresh analogy reaches them as the result of their work. The pursuit itself is all absorbing, all exacting, and when at last the purpose is attained, and out of darkness flashes the light of some novel law, the knowledge of some new connecting link, some simple explanation of a range of facts or phenomena, or even the discovery of a fresh analogy or homology, or of an undescribed fossil being, the purity of the pleasure which they win is something which to be understood must have been felt. "I think," said Jeffries Wyman once to the writer, "that the most happy and heartfilling thing in the world is to come face to face with something which no one but God ever saw before." How transcendent must have been this form of joy when it rewarded the first who saw the spectrum analysis of starlight in its fullness of meaning, or to him who first knew where and how the blood runs its wonderful courses!

Then, too, the life of other men, of the merchant and the lawyer, palls as age advances and its rewards are paid in dollars or in honor. Their experiences are limited and work out, but the naturalist or investigator only gathers day by day new interests about his life of duties. His work is as pleasant as play, and his play is usually only some new

form of work. Nature is his—a mistress whose charms are unfading, and who is his for life. Go to some meeting of men of science and see how this is. The oldest has as keen a zest as the youngest, and while life becomes to others a weariness, to these men the pleasure in their steady work is absolutely unflagging. I heard the other day a half-jesting remark at a dinner-table of men of science to the effect that life might become a tiresome thing as we grew older. "Not for me," said one of them, whose name is known wherever science is held in honor: "there must be no end of Rhizopods I have never studied." Thus it is that men who live ever gazing at the surely widening horizon of truth, who know that they at least need never sigh for new worlds to conquer, who day by day are coming into closer company with the yet unwhispered thoughts of the great Maker, are happy and contented in the tasks to which their lives are given, and serenely patient of what their duties deny them of luxury and wealth and freedom to wander or to rest.

It might well be thought that men living so far apart from the general paths, and pursuing purposes so remote from those of the trader, would become obnoxious to that bitterest of American reproaches, the charge of being unpractical. The directness of aim of scientific training and the lofty code of honor among students of science, with their fair share of cis-Atlantic pliability, makes them, however, most useful and trustworthy people whenever it becomes requisite to entrust to them the mixture of commercial and scientific labor which is needed by heads of boards of weights and measures, of lighthouses, of coast surveys, and for the affairs and mere business conduct of societies and colleges or museums. Indeed, as regards this kind of work, they have too much of it—too much of that sort of labor which in England is well and wisely done by wealthy aristocrats who are amateurs in science or eager to find work of some kind. The popular opinion certainly conceives of the man of true science as being almost unfit for the practical every-

day duties which bring him into working contact with his fellow-men. This is, as it were, a reversed form of the prejudice which believes that a physician or a lawyer will be a worse doctor or advocate because he writes verses or amuses an hour of leisure by penning a magazine article. As regards medicine, this popular decree is swiftly fading, though it still has some mischievous power. It was once believed, at least in this country, that a doctor should be all his life a doctor, and nothing else: the notion still lingers, so that young medical men who at the outset of their career seek to become known as investigators in any of the sciences related to medicine are, I fear, liable to be looked upon by many older physicians, and by a part of the lay public, as less likely than others to attain eminence in the purely practical part of medical life. It is time that this phantom of vulgar prejudice faded out. "Whatever you do," said a late teacher of physiology in my presence to a young doctor, "do not venture to become an experimental physiologist—that is, if you wish afterward to succeed as a doctor. It is fatal to that. It is sure to ruin you with the public." Yet Brodie, Cooper, Erichson and many others so employed their earlier years of leisure, and I might point in this country to some noble instances of like success in practice following upon careers which at first were purely scientific. But, in truth, every physician is more or less an investigator, and those who have been early trained to the sternly accurate demands of work in the laboratory of the experimental physiologist are only the better fitted for study at the bedside.

There is, however, a long list of physicians who have begun life in the pursuit of science, and have found its charms too potent to allow them to depart thence into the more lucrative ways of medical practice. One of this class was Jeffries Wyman, whose character and career well illustrate all that I have said of the scientific life, its trials and rewards. There are some graves on which we cannot lay too many flowers; and if, therefore, after those who knew him best, I venture to

add my words of honor and affection, and to state the impressions derived from my intercourse with the very remarkable student of science whose loss we have all lamented, I trust that the strong feeling which prompts me may be held a sufficient excuse.

I had three or four sets of associations with Wyman, no one of which fails to come back to my remembrance filled with the charm of a man whose whole nature was simple, wholesome, pure and generous. Others have said all that need be said of what he did for his much-loved science: it is less easy to convey to those who knew him not an impression of the influence he exerted upon younger workers, and a sense of the social pleasure which came of his remarkable combination of vast knowledge and general culture, combined with a certain loveliness of character and an almost childlike simplicity. I once heard our greatest preacher nobly illustrate, with Samson's riddle as his text, the delightfulness of that form of human character in which sweetness and strength are blended. As I listened, somehow I began to recall Wyman, for it was just here that his social charm resided. He was intellectually stronger even than any of his completed work showed, but he was also the most lovable of men. His mind was very active and remarkably suggestive—so much so that in social chat, even the most careless, he was constantly saying things which made you think or left you thoughtful. For many years he wrote to me frequently, and his letters are filled with the most lucid and happy suggestions, explanations or comments. After the failure on the part of one of his friends to attain a deserved object of just ambition, he wrote to me to state his own extreme regret; and this not once, but thrice, as if he was haunted by the sorrow of another's disappointment. At times he was full of the most boyish spirit of jesting, as when in 1862 he wrote to me grieving over the secession of Virginia, because we had both of us thus lost our easiest supply of rattlesnakes. Then he rejoiced over the fact that we still had the bullfrog; and in an another note regrets that

the rattlesnakes had not been allowed to vote on the question of seceding.

As I write I pause to turn over these records of a dearly-valued friendship. They begin years ago with words of encouragement as to certain investigations in which both of us felt interest. Here and there they touch on matters of social or personal value, but for the most part they deal only with science. I used to wonder in those days, and still am surprised anew as again I turn over these letters, at the amount of what I might call suggestiveness in Wyman. He replies, for example, in one letter to the gift of a scientific essay, and then in a postscript runs off over eight pages of comment, explanation and novel suggestions which put the subject in a new light; while every here and there, amidst the wealth of scientific illustration and useful hints given to aid another's work, there is some pause to express a courteous doubt of his own opinions. Everywhere, indeed, his letters, which made the most of our intercourse, were full of the broadest sympathy in pursuits which often were—but often were not—in the same direction as his own lifelong studies. At times, too, the sympathy broke out into the extreme of generosity. Thus, having learned from me that certain very important and hitherto undescribed anatomical structures would probably be found in serpents and frogs, he tells me soon after that he has found them; also, that he has discovered them in birds, and that he has been led finally to a series of unlooked-for discoveries in the anatomy of the nerves of the frog; and he wishes experiments made on living frogs to learn the physiological use of the structures thus found. Then not long after he proposes that as the first discovery came from this writer, he should take and use the notes and drawings which recorded his own researches, and should use them in a second paper. It is needless to say that this was declined, and the results appeared under Wyman's name. It was characteristic of the man, and was not the only time when I had to thank him for the kindest offers of aid.

To see Dr. Wyman in his museum

was one of the most pleasant exhibitions of the man at his best. I well remember one Sunday afternoon in May three years ago, when, walking in Cambridge with H——, one of the most prominent of our great railway presidents—and, better than this, a man notable for genial social qualities, high culture and a broad range of the readiest sympathies—I proposed to him to call on Wyman and ask him to show us the Archæological Museum. We found Wyman at home, and if you had asked a bright little girl to show you her baby-house she could have been no better pleased than he. At first, as we went from case to case, he was quiet and said little, but as we showed the interest and admiration we so warmly felt, he also grew eager and vivid in description, until as he went on his talk became a marvel of illustrative learning—so wide, so varied, so complete, that we were carried along the current of his thoughts in wonder at this strange combination of intense interest, of almost childlike satisfaction, of a concentration on his subject of vast antiquarian knowledge and of absolutely perfect anatomical skill. Mr. H—— called his attention to the curious distortions and odd enlargements of the protruded tongue in some of the Alaskan wooden masks, and on this little text he was away in a moment from case to case in the museum, and from century to century, pointing out the use of the tongue as an organ of facial expression in various ages. Here were Roman or Greek examples, here Sioux or Alaskan types of the same usages, and here was a new thought he had never had before, and we were thanked for awakening it; and so in his talk over this little point he showed us how barbarian natures had like thoughts everywhere, and, as much amused as we, he quoted and laughed and talked, still always pleased and easy under the vast weight of learning which, coming from his lips, was so utterly free from the least appearance of being ponderous or tiresome. I think I never knew any other man whose learning sat upon him as lightly or was given to others as gracefully.

I had once a like pleasure in raking over an Indian shell-heap with Wyman. The quiet, amused amazement of the native who plied the spade for us was an odd contrast to Wyman's mood of deep interest and serious occupation. He had a boy's pleasure in the quest, and again displayed for me the most ready learning as to everything involved in the search. Bits of bones were named as I would name the letters of the alphabet: bone needles, fragments of pottery and odds and ends of nameless use went with a laugh or some ingenious comment into his little basket. In truth, a walk with Wyman at Mount Desert was something to remember.

The acquaintances of the merchant or lawyer grow fewer as age comes on, but the naturalist is always enlarging his circle of living or dead things in which he takes interest, and none more profited thus by the years as they came than Wyman. The bird, the tree, the flower, the rock, tiny worlds beneath damp stones, little dramas of minute life within mouldy tree-trunks, the quaint menageries in the sea-caves, shifted with every tide, whatever the waves brought or the winds carried or the earth bore were one and all acquaintances of this delightful and delighted companion. Not without a manly interest in the world of men and politics, he lived for the most part serenely above its ferment and passions. Without the large means which, had they been his, had been in the truest sense and for the best purposes *means*, he lived a life of quiet, studious content, made somewhat hard by ill-health, but, so far as I know, undisturbed by envy of easier lots than his. Whatever were his crosses in this world—and they must have been many—no man who knew Wyman could now wish them to have been changed, if, as no doubt was the case, they helped to build up a character so filled with honest labor, so pure, so lofty and so generous—

Nor could Humanity resign  
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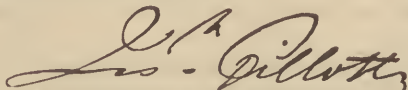
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
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# The Simple Truth.

PEOPLE in search of a good family soap are usually bewildered by the multiplicity of articles claimed to be such that are pressed upon them, each strenuously claiming pre-eminent excellence on all points. No doubt this mode of gaining public attention is shrewd if not very candid, since public opinion is often more influenced by the boldness of an assertion than by its proved veracity.

Practically, there are but two kinds of soap offered to the public for family use, viz., adulterated and pure; and the former class so largely predominates over the latter, that a few years ago there was no such thing as a pure American family soap, and even now we know of but one brand that is strictly free from all adulteration. In Europe, where materials are cheap, pure soaps are the rule, but the humiliating fact forces itself upon the investigator, that in this country, while the general rule is low prices and poor quality, in no branch of trade or manufacture is the art of adulteration made so perfect a science as by soap manufacturers. The principal, and most universally used adulterating substance, is rosin, a well-known product of the pine-tree, an article which, although perfectly useless in soap, and only used because it costs so little, has proved a mine of wealth to thousands of unscrupulous manufacturers of soap. Nearly all the yellow and brown family soaps made in this country are largely adulterated with rosin, in some cases as high as 200 per cent. being added to pure soap. This state of affairs has been brought about by competition, each manufacturer striving to increase his sales by underselling his competitors, rather than by maintaining and extending a reputation for purity of his products. It is self-evident

that nothing can be successfully manufactured if sold at less than cost of production, and before reducing his price a manufacturer must reduce his cost of manufacture, which can only be done by adulterating with cheaper substances than pure soap materials, thus reducing the value of the article produced, in quality invariably more than in price.

M. Fourcade, of the International Jury, thus speaks of American soaps in his report of the Universal Exposition, Paris, 1867:

"Fatty bodies at the present day can produce no more nor less than in the past, and no one can pretend that the addition of foreign matters, with which the soaps from the United States are loaded, is an improvement.

"To try to keep salt water in the paste, to introduce into it resin, talc, sulphate of baryta, argillaceous and ochreous earths, so as to increase the weight, or to obtain a fallacious cheapness,—giving the consumer a half-pound of pure soap, or, in many cases, even less, made up with worthless and deleterious substances, to appear a full pound,—is a fraud, and not an industrial process; and it is to be regretted that, in any country, such operations should remain unpunished; and we must here express regret that, in one country, at least, the peculiar standard which makes the reputation of all good soaps begins to be an exception. The most honest of manufacturers seem to have a tendency to abandon it, by adding to their working mixtures all sorts of greases and oils,—without doubt, under the stimulus of competition and the pressure of necessity,—while there seems to be no article too poor and worthless to be used by the less scrupulous of our American friends.

“Why is it that a great industry, in its own land, forgets that it is the respect of good traditions alone that can give a lasting and universal reputation to soaps, and that it is a sure way to encroach on such reputation to furnish the trade with a product deprived of its traditional merit?”

These remarks, although severe, are just, but unhappily, have accomplished no good purpose, as not one person in the United States out of every hundred have ever seen them, and, consequently, the manufacturers of adulterated soap have pursued the evil tenor of their ways, undeterred by the fear that the public would rise in rebellion against the further consumption of these miserable apologies for pure soap.

Had American soap manufacturers received honorable mention at the Universal Exposition, every town and village throughout the country would have been flooded with circular copies of such mention; but as it was rather the reverse of honorable, no circulation of it has been made.

The one exception to the rule, the one pure soap among the countless adulterated ones, is the well-known “Dobbins’s Electric Soap,” made from a French recipe, and perfectly free from all adulteration of any kind whatever.

Its price is necessarily a little higher than that asked for adulterated soaps, but its cost of production is still higher in proportion to them; and that it is infinitely cheaper to the consumer, the following figures show.

There are well-known brands of yellow soaps, made from the following formula, by men who buy refuse pieces of Dobbins’s Electric Soap from its manufacturers:

100 lbs. Dobbins’s Electric Soap, at 12c.....	\$12.00
200 lbs. resin, at 2c.....	4.00
100 lbs. clay, at 2c.....	2.00
100 lbs. silicate of soda, at 2c.....	2.00
500 lbs.....	\$20.00

or four cents per pound for the compound, each pound of which contains but three ounces of pure soap, the balance of thirteen ounces being valueless, as far as its presence in soap is concerned.

The three ounces of soap possess all the detergent properties in the pound,

and accomplish all the work done with the pound; or in other words, three ounces of Dobbins’s Electric Soap will do as much washing without this adulteration as with it, and, therefore, the three ounces will do all the work done by the pound of so-called family soap, which is in reality but three ounces of soap.

Were the price of the adulterated substance low enough, so that a pound of it would cost no more than three ounces of Dobbins’s Electric Soap, it would make no difference to the consumer which she used.

Let us see if the prices of the two do agree. Dobbins’s Electric Soap sells for thirteen cents per pound in Philadelphia, the other for eight cents per pound; but, as the low-priced compound only contains, and will only do the work of, three ounces of Dobbins’s Electric, we should have to buy five and one-third pounds to get as much soap in that form as from one pound of Dobbins’s Electric.

This, at 8 cents per pound, amounts to 42 $\frac{2}{3}$  cents. That is, it will cost us more than three times as much to use the 8-cent soap as it will to use Dobbins’s Electric Soap at 13 cents per pound.

Owing to the great popularity which Dobbins’s Electric Soap is deservedly making, the market is filled from time to time with imitations, in which, Dobbins’s Electric Soap being perfectly white, rosin has to be left out and its place filled with silicate of soda, coconut oil, water, and other substances that adulterate without discoloring the soap.

These fraudulent imitations tell the tale of their demerits on the first trial, as they are no better than the yellow rosin soaps. But our readers may be misled by the fact, that the name “Electric” is stolen by all such imitators. Our advice to all is—when you ask for Dobbins’s Electric Soap, be sure you get it, as very inferior soaps are often substituted for the sake of extra profits.

The genuine bears the name, Dobbins’s Electric Soap, on each bar, together with name on each wrapper of the sole proprietors and manufacturers.

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