

evening. You won't laugh quite so much as you did, and you will have a serious look upon you and you will have been in confidential communication with your mother, who will be looking around for some respectable old female who understands gruel and chicken broth, and knows how to make herself unpleasant to all in your household for a fortnight. At the end of this time she will want three pound ten in addition to all the bottled beer and gin and water she has consumed. After a few more months have passed away there will be much confusion in your household. A doctor is knocked up and the ancient female is sent for, and there is a clothes' horse in front of the kitchen fire with ever such a lot of little things being aired and warmed up. Your husband will be snubbed by the ancient female, and told that he had better get out of the way; and if he takes my advice on such an occasion he will go quietly to the nearest hotel and call for warm brandy and water and fill his pipe and smoke. When you get back home it is probable you will have a bundle of something very limp put in your arms; something with a salmon colored face, and you won't know what to do with it, because it will seem to you that if you are not very careful it will come in pieces, or will fold up and slip through your hands, and come to grief. You will be told what a happy man you are and how proud you ought to be, and that it is so like you—as like as two thimbles. You really cannot see the likeness, because you are not limp yourself, nor are you salmon coloured, nor damp, and your eye lids are not closed with something like gum arabac; nor is your nose at all like the nose you see before you. But there is no getting over the fact that whether like you or not this is your first baby. And when it is taken from your arms and after some little time you are admitted into your wife's room with strict injunctions as to your behavior, you will receive a look from that mother's eyes so tender, so loving, so sweet, as she glances from you to the little thing by her side and then carries her soft look back to you again, that if you don't feel that that woman loves you better than at any time since you came together and that she means to be true and honest to you all the days of her life, then what I say is you don't deserve to have had that dear, moist little blessing, which has got all its teething to do, its measles to get through, together with hooping cough, scarlatina, croup, nettle rash, the swallowing of thimbles, the putting of buttons up one of its little nostrils to be sneezed down again by the application of snuff; the sticking of beads and peas in its ears which can only be extracted by surgical instruments. I say that when you contemplate all these things with regard to that one little innocent, and think that it may be your lot, as it has been mine, to gaze upon these things at ten successive periods of your life—to look at ten little salmon colored babbies—I think you will agree with me that the less you have to do with billiard saloons and betting at race courses and euchre it will be safer for you, happier for your wife, and will leave a larger margin of your income for the instruction of your sons and daughters, how they shall grow up into honest men and women fitted to fight the battle of life as you have had to do yourself.

I haven't quite done with the subject of babies. It's too interesting to pass over in a hurry. I recollect when I was a six year old slip there was one of those commotions in my mother's house which I have just made a passing allusion to. I recollect being cuffed and boxed on the ears and told to go into the garden and get out of the way and make myself scarce, as my mamma wasn't a bit well and musn't have any noise made.

A doctor came to the house, and when he saw me he only said that I

should soon have my nose put out of joint, which made my father laugh, and then he asked the doctor whether he wouldn't have a little brandy, and the doctor said he would when the affair was all over, but not before.

And I know that all that day I wasn't allowed to see my mamma, but the next morning they took me into her room, where she was lying in bed, looking very pale, and by her side, on a little pillow in frills, there was a pink baby in white. And the nurse lifted it up and told me to kiss my little sister, which the doctor had brought yesterday in a silver basket, having taken it from a parsley bed with a silver trowel. I know I began to cry and say I didn't want a sister. But when my mother patted me gently on the head and said I must try to love my little sister, and be good and gentle and tender towards her, my heart was softened and I wanted to give it an Abernethy biscuit and some cheese.

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There are two or three fallacies connected with married existence which I shall endeavor to dispel. It is said that a man and wife should never quarrel. My opinion is altogether to the contrary of this. I think a good quarrel between a married couple is very refreshing to both providing that they quarrel on the square the wife giving it to the husband just as hot as he gives it to her.

You wouldn't any of you I suppose like to live in a land where every day was alike and there was never any break in the weather. You wouldn't like that the sun should always shine, that the wind should never change. That day following after day should always be the same from one year's end to the other. You wouldn't like it if it never rained any more than you would like it if it always rained. Nature knows very well you wouldn't like it. So after a course of fine weather nature causes a black cloud to ascend above the horizon, and the cloud spreads itself out, and by and by with a good round peal of thunder it relieves itself in petting showers. When the storm has passed over, you feel how beautiful the air is; how everything looks freshened up. The days are ever so much pleasanter after the storm. Now this is just what a good honest quarrel between man and wife does. They have it out. Then they make it up, and then go again for ever so long quite comfortable. I don't want you to understand a quarrel should be like the sort of storm which turns into a hurricane and damages things—knocks down chimney pots and blows the panes of glass out of your window frames. I shouldn't advise a man and wife to quarrel to that extent which goes to the smashing of crockery and the shying of tumblers and bottles at one another's heads; that sort of storm does harm and leaves traces behind, which last a long time. What I refer to is a good family breeze, strong enough to cause a ruffle on the smooth waters of domestic life, but not so strong as to cause things to be soilt.

MY SENTIMENTS.

MY CONFERENCE WITH THE RISING GENERATION.

LETTER II.

MY DEAR CHILDREN,—When, by attending the instructions I gave you in my last communication, you find one of yourselves in later life elected to fill a vacant seat in the Colonial Parliament, your first duty will be to cut the constituency which returned you. This, you will not be long in discovering, is absolutely essential to your personal interests as it will be to your peace of mind, otherwise the electors will be incessantly insisting upon you to bring forward some of their favourite measures, or to fulfil certain promises you made them when you were standing your candidature. Tell them in reply to their importunities that you never proposed

to act as their delegate; but that you are the representative of a great colony—not of a coterie or a clique—and that you will not permit the loss of that respect due to yourself by being dictated to. Get rid of these fellows at once. You can always make it right again at the end of the session, by calling your constituents together and explaining away matters, when there will be no difficulty in getting a vote of confidence in your past public actions moved, seconded and carried unanimously. It may happen, as it has happened before, that a section of the constituency may get up a memorial asking you to resign. In such a case you take a man out of a public-house bar, you give him a pound or two, and a week's free board and lodging, when he will get you up a counter-petition (people will sign anything if you don't ask them for money) with any number of signatures, requesting you to remain where you are, in the name of liberty, progress, the true advancement of the colony, and in the interests of the intelligent electors for whom you have sacrificed so much of your valuable time, your ability, your energy, and your money. This request, I need hardly say, you will feel bound in all honor to comply with. You can't, you know, in honor refuse.

Your chief duty (to yourself) upon taking your seat in the House will be to ascertain whether the existing Ministry are likely to remain in power. If so, by all means stick by them. But, if not, take your seat on the Opposition benches where you will go in mind and body to kick Ministers out and put in your own party. Don't make a mistake in this matter. Don't allow sentiment to prevail over probabilities or facts. Many a sucking politician has ruined a rising reputation by supposing a Ministry will go out simply because he would like it to happen. Ministers don't care about losing their salaries and travelling perquisites, owing to an adverse vote. They simply make it a matter of calculation how much it will cost to purchase a majority, when they purchase it, and the colony pays for it. If the colony does not, who should, I wish to know. Should you succeed with your coadjutors to oust a Ministry from office, you must not expect that much will be done for you at first. Every one cannot be a Colonial Secretary, or a Minister of Public Works, or a Commissioner of Customs, and other tall things, with place, power and pay at command. Your time will come by and by. In the meanwhile get a whipper-in-ship, or be made a witness on a commission of enquiry by which you will earn a guinea or two a day, in addition to your honorarium. You can besides impart scraps of special information to the newspapers which you have picked up in the lobby or at caucuses, or which has been whispered in your ear in strictest confidence. You will find something hanging to this, either in pay or praise. In reporting your speeches the newspaper will correct your grammar in return for such services rendered. Your position will also enable you to get credit for your washing, board, and bar bill during a session.

If it should happen, however, you find your party neglecting you, or not adequately remunerating your services, then try what you can do with the Ministry in power. In all occupations other than that of a politician you can only, as a rule, succeed by making yourself useful, and by identifying yourself with the interests of those you may have engaged to serve. In politics, however, it is the reverse. We will say your own party refuses to acknowledge you as you expected. It will not answer your purpose, bear in mind, to secede until you see something before you. Your course will be to proceed systematically to obstruct the business of the House, and cause annoying and dangerous delays by moving amendments upon every clause of a bill you take upon yourself to oppose. This procedure you pursue until you weary out the patience of Ministers, who, in order to get rid of you as a nuisance, will assuredly give you an appointment to which some pecuniary benefits are attached. A Minister asks, "What can we do with the member of Povertystruck. He is a great hindrance to the business of the House. I think it will be advisable to offer him a Sub-inspectorship of Back Lanes, or a billet in the Extirpation of the Fern Root Department. It will be the cheapest way of getting rid of him." Before, however, accepting the appointment you will consider whether you do not set a higher value upon "peace, quietness, and silence" than that which is offered you. You may do better, you know. For instance, you have a reason to believe there is likely to be a sudden alteration in the customs tariff, when, although you have not been taken into the confidence of Ministers, you will have no difficulty in making outsiders believe you have. You may meet with an occasional windfall, by recommending some of your commercial friends, confidentially, the buying up of sugar, or brandy, or some other dutiable article, upon which a higher impost is to be fixed. You are quite likely to be wrong, but that is nothing if you have obtained your reward.

I once knew a member of Parliament making enough in this way to pay all his debts by "

composition of three-and six in the pound, whilst the parties to whom he gave the exclusive information were compelled to go through the Insolvent Court by acting upon it. I thought at the time, and I have still since thought, that it was very hard lines with these speculators. I recommended them at the time to petition the House for compensation; but they were too independent, and declined taking any action.

My dear children, it is very ennobling to become a member of any Colonial Parliament. Be one and your parents will bless you; but bear in mind you must get rid of all non-sensical scruples upon the ground of political morality. They will stand in your way, and prove a bar to your progress. Of course I know, and I desire to impress upon you that it is very wrong indeed not to do that which is right. You have read the advice once given by an ancient parent to his male offspring: "My son get rich—honestly if you can—but get rich." So I offer a piece of advice as sound and enduring as that of the ancient parent. I say on no account as a politician or a statesman do any wrong; but if you should, always take care not to be found out. How was it that Smith got all those profitable contracts which enabled him to retire upon a handsome competency? Why ask me? I don't know; I don't want to know; I am not going even so much as to venture a guess. I know Jones his opponent once got a very fat contract indeed, but he wouldn't keep his tongue between his teeth, and he got found out, so that the contract had to be cancelled, and it fell to the lot of Smith to get hold of it. Jones allowed himself to be found out. Smith never did, and Smith is the man for my money.

SNYDER.

SNYDER'S CONFERENCE WITH THE RISING GENERATION.

AS CONCERNING STUBBORNNESS.—UPON ACTING ON PRINCIPLE.—UPON THE DUTY WE OWE TO SOCIETY.

LETTER III.

I HAVE had a deal of trouble, my dear children, with the editor of this paper concerning what I conceive to be the excellent advice I have given you in order that you may carve out for yourselves a successful political career in after life, should your inclinations lead you into that profitable line of business.

The editor tells me he doubts the moral tendency of these letters. He is of opinion they are pabulum better suited to the constitution of old folk. He says that strong advice, like strong drink, is not good for those of tender years. My reply was, that you cannot know too much, nor know it too soon, if you are destined, as I take it most of you are, to go out into the world, and there to circumvent or be circumvented, according as you are able to bring your mental powers to bear on others, or others on you. It will be your lot to have to cope with Messieurs the family of Cunning, Unscrupulous, Self-interest and Company; with a host of aspirants for the honour of being attached to the Number One Brigade. I have told the editor that if he will allow me to advise you according to my experience, he may add as much "moral tendency" as will suit his mental palate, just as he adds salt to his soup or sugar to his coffee.

I think of all the many great faults which form some of the component parts of our compound human nature, that of obstinacy is the very worst. When we come to discover that we have been steering a wrong course towards making life a success, veering round to one directly opposite is, in my humble opinion, a very great virtue. I know that some years ago I was greatly opposed to the loan scheme for railways and immigration. I insisted on it that the great financier would never be able to raise the money, and that when the proposal to borrow was laid before the money markets of the world there would be a difficulty in getting it entertained. Nothing could shake my opinion. But since then I found our great financier was right. He did get what he asked for, and my opinion of him has altogether changed. I am not obstinate, like many doubters and disbelievers. Some day I shall get my reward for it. I offer the great financier my warmest congratulations. I desire to shake hands with him, and to tell him how much better he understands human nature and the money market than I do. I know several members of our noble and disinterested House of Representatives, who agreed with me in my early convictions, but who now cordially endorse my later ones. Some of them have met with their reward. It will doubtless be the same with others in due course. Every one of these will shake hands with the great financier when they meet him. They will say such pleasant things, and shew how, while individually they themselves have flourished, the colony has been keeping pace in all other things. When we pay a compliment to a statesman and a financier, I don't know that it is actually necessary that we should confine ourselves