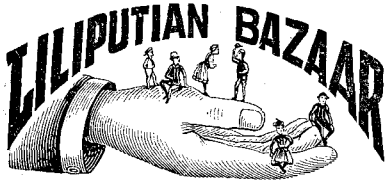


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A little girl who had an aptitude for long-sounding words was one day playing school with her dolls. She was speaking quite emphatically, when her mother said, "My dear, do not speak so loud; it is better to speak gently." "Yes, mamma, but I wish to make a deep indentation on my scholars."—*Youth's Companion.*

"I didn't like your cake very well to-night," remarked Gus De Smith to his landlady. "No?" queried she; "what was the matter with it?" "It seemed to me it was a little short." "I have noticed the same failing in you, Mr. De Smith," was the terse reply. And Dingley borrowed enough from his friends to pay something on account.—*Texas Siftings.*

"One of my ancestors won a battle during the Crusades by his skill in handling his artillery," said the Baron. "But, my dear Baron," said his friend, "at the time of the Crusades gunpowder had not yet been discovered." "I know that as well as you do, and so did my ancestor." "How did he win the battle, then?" "He brought his artillery to bear on the Saracens, and the stupid fools, seeing the guns, supposed that powder had at last been discovered, and fled in dismay."—*Texas Siftings.*

Mr. Talmage must be highly delighted with the head-lines given his sermon on Jephthah by that delicately æsthetic daily journal, the Cincinnati "Enquirer." These head-lines thus appear: "Jeph—The Old Freebooter—At an Early Age He was Forced to Rough It—He Held Up the End of His String in Great Shape—And Soon Sewed Up the Games of Twenty Cities—On His Return from Victory He Kept a Promise—He Must Sacrifice the First Person Seen in His Door—He Looks—Holy Horrors—It is His Fair Daughter—But Jephthah Was a Man of His Word and the Beautiful Young Girl was Slain."—*Exchange.*

Prices for Sermons

Much has been said of the practice of buying and selling sermons—a practice, by the way, of no very special novelty. Just before Toplady was about to be ordained, Osborne, the bookseller, the friend of Johnson, offered to supply him with a stock of original sound sermons for a trifle. "I would sooner buy second-hand clothes," was the reply. "Don't be offended," said Osborne; "I have sold many to a bishop." The price of sermons, as of all else, has varied with the times. In 1540 a Bishop of Llandaff received from the churchwardens of St. Margaret's, Westminster, for a sermon on the Annunciation, a pike, price 2s. 4d.; a gallon of wine, 8d., and boat hire—in all 3s. 4d.

In the seventeenth century sermons seem to have been valued at about 5s. each. But the difficulties of composition have been by no means universally felt. Sharpe, Archbishop of York, was wont to acknowledge that it was the Bible and Shakespeare jointly which had brought him to that ancient see. Wesley in fifty years preached over 40,000 sermons; Hook burned over 2,000 when he left Leeds; and Grimshaw, in the wild districts adjacent to the Brontës' home, preached habitually thirty-six sermons in a fortnight.—*Temple Bar.*

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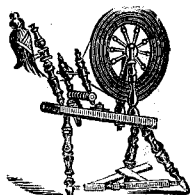


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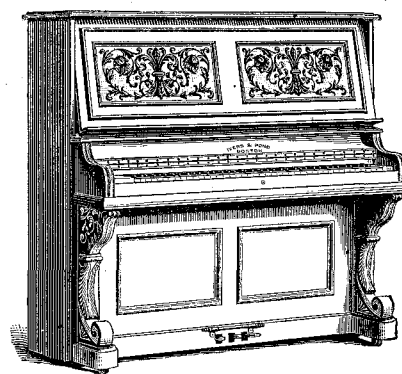
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