

Odds and Ends.

Curry not oil to a city of palms. Say well is good; do well is better. A wild goose never laid a tame egg. A live dog is better than a dead lion.

ANECDOTE OF PITT.

Pitt was an unfortunate statesman, but he had a lofty eloquence, capacious views, and a noble mind. Sir Walter Farquhar calling one day, the premier observed him to be unusually ruffled.

"What is the matter?" exclaimed the patient. "Why, I tell you the truth," replied Sir Walter, "I am extremely angry with your daughter. She has permitted herself to form an attachment with a young gentleman by no means qualified, in point of rank or fortune, to be my son-in-law."

"Now let me say one word in the young lady's behalf," returned the minister. "Is the young man you mention of a respectable family?" "He is."

"Has he the manners and education of a gentleman?" "He has."

"Why then, my dear Sir Walter, hesitate no longer. You and I are well acquainted with the delusions of life. Let your daughter follow her own inclinations, since they appear to be virtuous. You have had more opportunities than I of knowing the value of affection, and ought to respect it. Let the union take place, and I will not be ungrateful that I had the honor of recommending it."

The physician followed the disposition of his patient; the lovers were united; and the patronage of the minister testified his satisfaction.

Chatterbox's story of the old lady (his son) is excellent. Being very nervous, she told Sir Farquhar she thought Bath would do her good. It's very odd, said Sir Walter, but the very thing I was going to recommend to you. I will write the particulars of your case to a very clever man there, in whose hands you will be well taken care of.

No man can promise himself to be wealthy till night. One storm at sea, one coal of fire, one false friend, one unadvised word, one false witness, may make thee a beggar and a prisoner all at once.—Brooks.

seated with great accuracy. The large celestial globe is six feet in diameter. After a century and a-half of exposure to sky influences, they look fresh and capable of being issued to advantage. Below this terrace for observing the stars, there are seen, lying at a slight elevation at the bottom, the astronomical instruments, nearly six hundred years ago, by the Chinese mathematician, Kwo-shu-ching.

Near the observatory is the Examination Hall, where thousands of students gather to acquire distinction in a struggle for literary honors. I met several candidates who had just arrived by the steamer from Canton. Lower degrees are granted in the provinces; but that of Doctor in Literature is only given in the capital. They are Masters of Arts who had braved the inconveniences of a sea voyage rather than be checked by the disordered state of the intermediate provinces in their purpose of reaching Peking. Only 200 out of 5000, they told me, can receive the coveted honor. Their own chance was not a bad one, because, coming from remote provinces, twelve or fifteen hundred miles distant, they would share in the advantage gained by the equitable distribution which the Emperor makes of the 200 diplomas among the provinces to which the candidates belong.

Profanity is a vice that has nothing to offer in its defence. A man who steals may plead his necessities or the wants of his family in extenuation. He that lies has some sinister or selfish purpose to subserve. He that commits murder may do it to gratify his malice or revenge. But he that swears gains neither honor nor profit. In the opinion of the wise and good, he is regarded as low and vulgar. Degraded by this vice, he becomes unfit for the society of the refined and the educated; the grossness of his language more than shocks the sensibilities and the Christian feelings of the virtuous and moral; as a proof of which, how few there are so lost to all sense of propriety as to utter an oath in the presence of a mother or a sister.

Habitual profanity can proceed only from a corrupt and depraved nature, and how dreadfully polluted must be the fountain which sends forth such impure streams as issue from the mouth of him who blasphemes! It is an unprovoked insult to God! Just think of it, calling upon him to curse you, or invoking the maledictions of Heaven upon others. These are thy prayers, O sinner! Suppose they should be answered, your soul would be ushered into an awful eternity, to sink beneath the accumulated load of your own curses to the dark abyss of infamy and wretchedness.

Rome.—A correspondent of the Spectator says the population of the city of Rome is somewhat under 200,000 souls. Of these less than 100,000, of course, are males, and less than 70,000 adult males. Of these 70,000 marriageable men, 15,000 are French soldiers, 12,000 British troops of all kinds, and about 23,000 ecclesiastics bound by vows of celibacy. Here are actually 50,000 men restrained from marriage in a city which only contains 70,000 in all, and where there are 70,000 women. It is needless to point the moral of such an unnatural condition of society.

Culture of the Strawberry.—I have a circular flower garden enclosed by a wire net fence, containing little less than the eighth of an acre, on the south side of our dwelling-house. Next to the fence I have a border laid off about two and a-half feet wide, for flowering shrubs, tall annuals, &c.; between this border and the flower beds is a walk three feet wide. Early in 1858, I set strawberry plants for an edging to the border, about six inches apart, more from a want of a sufficient supply of bordering plants, than from the expectation of fruit from them. To my surprise they produced abundantly the first year, and have yielded more and more profusely ever since. I keep it closely trimmed of course, and the border is closely set and neat, giving me less trouble in keeping out the grass and weeds, than any other bordering plant. In 1860 I allowed some suckers to stray through the wire net, and root in the grass outside, separating them as soon as rooted, from the plants inside. Last year these outside plants bore surprising quantities, and being shaded by the grass, the fruit matured just as that on the inside began to fall. The plants were sent to me by one of our best fruit culturists, without a name, but I should judge the variety must be the Albany Seedling. Fruit very large, abundant, and of pale red hue,—more tart than the meadow strawberry, but resembles it in the form and flavor. As I am my own flower gardener, (what farmer's wife in New England is not, especially when there is swamp land enough at hand to employ all the men who can be paid in reclaiming and subduing it?) I feel quite delighted with the result of my experiment.—DORCAS, in Country Gentleman.

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