

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Philadelphia Convention has passed off very quietly, not of course without a goodly display of the Bombastes Furiosos style of oratory and resolution.

Mount Etna threatens to be troublesome. It has often been so in the past, and there is no reason why it should not be so again.

Germany is determined to have nothing to do with the Pork of the United States, and the Eagle—poor bird—professes to become indignant at that and threatens retaliation.

As to England giving up Ireland, it may just as well be said soon as later on, that will never be done till England's last shot is fired and England's last shilling is spent.

The Queen's knee is improving, and every one will wish she may reign yet twenty years at least. She comes of a long-lived race, and her life has been such as to give her constitution the very best chance for standing out to the extreme verge of four score and above it.

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The Factory Bill lately introduced into Parliament seems to meet with general acceptance even among the manufacturers. Some of the objections taken to it appear rather well founded.

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There are a great many miseries connected with marriage, and a great many evils resulting from ill-assorted ones. But things would be a great deal worse if there were no marriages at all, and men and women had got down to the level of the wild beasts of the field.

House cleaning! Who shall tell its horrors? Who shall picture the joys and comforts which result when all is safely over? Is there, however, any need for all the fuss that many house mothers make over it?

Of late some people have been saying that the Suez Canal has been no particular benefit to England—rather the reverse. That story won't hold, and won't go for much, though it is said that much of the trade between India and the Mediterranean ports which used to come by England and then round the Cape, now goes direct through the canal.

It seems the Queen's John Brown kept a diary which some folks would like to see published, but which, it is hinted, is too honest and outspoken to see the light of day. The likelihoods are that such a diary does not exist and never did out of the imaginations of the quidnuncs.

A good many evil doers have lately been getting themselves sentenced. It would seem as if these fellows had chosen a very poor way of getting on in the world. Burglaries that end in five years in the Penitentiary with broken character and ruined prospects seem to be rather expensive, unremunerative affairs.

It is to be sincerely hoped that there is no truth in the report that Gladstone is about to be pitchforked into the House of Lords

by the title either of Earl of Midlothian or anything else. It would cover an honored and remarkable life with something like ridicule. In any case, if he is to be made a lord, let him stick by his own name, and sit in the Upper House under the style and title, so far as possible, of that by which he has become world-famous.

It has lately been proved that under certain conditions yeast may be a powerful poison. If introduced in suspension into the circulation of living animals to the extent of more than two grammes, it always produces fatal results; in smaller doses it induces coma.

If the Malagasy Ambassadors manage to make a treaty with Germany it will be a good thing, though that will make the likelihood of a collision with France and the Empire only the greater. Well, when both sides are not averse to a fight, and not particular to the kind of a quarrel they go upon, they won't find it difficult to find what they want.

The Princess Louise, it appears, is in good health and as active as a cricket trying to make it fashionable to visit the widows and fatherless, the sick and the destitute in their affliction. The Capital gets a hard name in these matters, and the most of the people are more set upon the masked and fancy balls than charity, sweet charity!

The Factory Bill lately introduced into Parliament seems to meet with general acceptance even among the manufacturers. Some of the objections taken to it appear rather well founded. An Inspector may be rather arbitrary, and there might be cases in which an appeal from his decisions might be allowed, though that would need to be very carefully hedged round, else the poor inspector might be badgered or brought in to doing very much as the manufacturers might wish.

Toronto is getting to be quite aesthetic and a great patron of the fine arts. A good many lately added to their collection, most of whom are evidently determined to cultivate the aesthetic in a way and to an extent for which they have hitherto never got credit. Better by far, for them to play the patrons to native talent than to make themselves ridiculous by hunting after the "old masters," as too many both in the old world and the new have done, and are still doing.

A correspondence regarding tight lacing and the use of corsets has been started in the ladies' column of the Mail, which is likely to continue for some little time. So far, the correspondents on the affirmative side are all ladies, while the negative side is championed by gentlemen, and so far, it must be admitted, the "Nays" have it. We would be glad to see some shrewd, common-sense old lady give her opinion in the matter.

The young bank clerks who are rather "tony" have good reasons for complaining about being taken notice of in the papers. So long as they pay their weekly board bills and washers' score, they have a right to walk the world unchallenged by the whole universe. By the way, it may be noted that two young idiots of law students who had been misbehaving in their lodgings, breaking furniture, and so forth, and who had got notice to quit, were not satisfied with a week's warning, but showed their landlady their law books to prove that they could stay a month.

That poor Czar is really to be pitied. It is said the Nihilists mean mischief, and the way the Russian authorities are setting would seem to indicate that they believe something serious is in the wind. It is a pity for the poor fellow and still more for his wife, but there is no help for it unless he shows the white feather and abdicates, and that would scarcely do. Far better, let him say with Cromwell, "I did not seek this place, God knows I did not seek it, and that I should have preferred to take care of sheep at the back of a hedge. But now that I am in it, sooner than give it up, I should consent to be rolled in my bloody grave and buried with infamy." Yes, young man, that is the only course open to you with honor and manhood. So on with it, with a brave heart, and say with the North Country Farmer, "Gim I mun die, I mun die."

Next-door Neighbours.

It is simply frightful to think of what a great number of people suffer from cantankerous and ill-conditioned neighbors. Just let anybody watch the reports of the police court and they will soon see. And better still, let a great number compare notes with each other and see what has been the state of things with themselves and their friends for the last thirty or forty years. Sometimes the complaint is that these neighbors are cold and reserved, that they have lived next door for years without so much as exchanging the time of day; that they keep themselves to themselves, that they are proud and so on, and so on. It is a matter for great thankfulness when this is the case. At least ten times better than have the familiarity or the warfare with which many are tried. Think of the easy familiarity which leads a neighbor to be continually running in and out, and still more, which leads servants to spend half their time in idle gossip over the fence. Think of the process of promiscuous and continual borrowing extending to all manner of articles, from a garden hoe to a cupful of porridge, or a "drawing" of tea! Those who know the terror and worry of such a state of friendliness will be the first to cry for perfect non-acquaintance, or at the best for a condition of armed neutrality.

Science and Religion.

It is a great mistake to fancy that anyone in his zeal for religion objects to scientific investigation of facts. Very much the reverse. It is not the investigation of facts or their discovery that is ever found fault with, but the imperfect and illogical conclusions sought to be drawn from these facts. For instance, nobody could say anything against the most thorough investigation of all the phenomena in connection with the composition and varied conditions of water, the temperature at which it freezes, the fact that at the moment of freezing it expands, &c. But what is objected to is the laying it down a universal and irrefragable principle that such laws not only are everywhere prevalent throughout the universe, but that it is not possible to suppose them changed or different for any or every reason. This, of course, cuts at the very root of the miracles of the Gospel. And this, it is urged, is at once unphilosophical and illogical. There is, it is urged, nothing antecedently absurd in supposing it all different, and it comes to be a mere question of evidence whether such difference has actually ever taken place. There is nothing, it is urged, unreasonable in water freezing at 40° Fahr., instead of 32°. It fact, there is no reason why it should do the one and not the other, except that such is the fact. Whether there ever has been a case in which this difference in freezing or in anything has taken place, whether in turning water into wine or in multiplying the feeding power of a few loaves, has to be determined not by argument on its antecedent impossibility or the reverse, but simply on evidence for or against the fact. A law of nature is simply nothing but an observed mode of action. The very opposite would be quite as much a law of nature, and in itself quite as reasonable.

Hygienic Hints.

There can be no doubt about the fact that an even ordinary acquaintance with the laws of health and an improved system of sanitary arrangements, together with individuals regulating their whole domestic arrangement, and personal habits on true hygienic principles, will do more to improve the health of the country and diminish the death-rate than any quantity of doctors' drugs and pretenders' nostrums. This is what all the wisest and best doctors are now preaching, and this is what they are coming more and more to practise. They are impressing upon the people the necessity there is for plain food, cleanly habits, well ventilated, and properly constructed houses, thorough drainage, with few drugs, and these of the simplest kind. In doing all this they are showing themselves to be wise, judicious men and genuine benefactors. More people have very likely been killed than have been cured by regular medical practitioners in the past. There is hope that this is not going to be the case in the future. Let them proclaim war against the brandy and whiskey bottles, bad cookery, stuffy, ill-ventilated houses, bad drainage, filthy surroundings, &c., and let them train the people to follow their enlightened suggestions, and we will ever follow them with our due quota of applause. The number of such enlightened physicians is steadily increasing, though there are still only too many of the solemn humbug class who are dosing their unfortunate patients with medicines, and following a mere gin-horse round of unenlightened use and wont, kill or cure.

"Well, I've got a point up at last," said a slow composer as he ended a sentence with a period.

Peter Cooper believed that it was better to be deceived by many than to deny one deserving sufferer, and during the four cold winters succeeding 1874 he sat in his office or library from three in the afternoon till half past six, with piles of one dollar greenbacks and new half dollars, and gave to every applicant, some times aggregating fifteen hundred dollars.

GEMS OF THOUGHT.

Patience is a success. Above all things, reverence yourself. The virtue of prosperity is temperance, the virtue of adversity is fortitude. Wisdom is the talent of buying virtuous pleasures at the cheapest rates.

Let our lives be sure as snowfields where our footsteps leave a mark but not a stain. Act and speak to your servants as you would wish others to do to you if you were a servant.

Bear in mind every service that you can render, forgot every service that you have rendered.

Those who would let anything take the place of Christianity, must first abolish all sorrow from the earth.

To be perfectly just is an attribute of the Divine nature; to be so to the utmost of our abilities is the glory of man. Life is loving, and that soul lives the largest life that is truest to his God and himself, and is most useful to his fellows.

Thousands will at once form a positive opinion of a subject from its aspect seen at their standpoint where one will wait around and scan it on all sides.

Scarcity is the virtue of a confessor. And assuredly the secret man heareth many confessions, for who will open himself to a blab or a babber?

We must choose between the romance of a man and the mysteries of God. God only reveals Himself through many a veil, but those veils are not falsehoods.

The coin that is most current among mankind is flattery, the only benefit of which is that by hearing what we are not, we may be instructed what we ought to be.

An Incident of Sarah Bernhardt's Early Life.

The memoirs of Sarah Bernhardt will be published next October. The book will be edited by M. Drenbourg, and will be entitled "Ma Vie de Theatre." "When I commenced to grow a girl," says Sarah Bernhardt, "my character had suddenly changed. I beat everybody, and got into a furious passion whenever I was contradicted."

"I was fond of drawing. I was copying in chalk a copy of Greuze's picture, the 'Cruche Cassée.' My pretty aunt was laughing while pointing with her parasol, observing that one of the eyes was much higher than the other. The parasol scratched the drawing. I turned pale and felt inclined to beat her. Taking pity on me, an old friend declared that the drawing was not so bad after all, and that unquestionably I had an artistic sentiment. 'Let us make an actress of her,' he continued, appearing happy to have found a solution. 'An actress! but she is as ugly as a monster,' cried my godfather. 'Ugly!' cried my mother, protesting against the outrage; 'my daughter ugly! you are mad. She is charming, with her wild looks. But look at her eyes, are they not splendid? and these curly hairs,' exclaimed my mother caressing my head. 'Ugly! why you must be mad, my dear.' And humiliated in her amour propre my mother left the room. 'Yes, she is delicate, small, always ill,' continued my brutal godfather; and in so saying he raised my long arms and pushed me gently to show that my thin legs would hardly bear me. I had the appearance of a poor, sickly-looking bird whom nobody would care to buy."—Manchester Courier.

Dangers of the Cold Bath.

Alluding to a recent case of death of an old gentleman, caused by a morning cold bath, the Medical Press and Circular says: "The great mistake that is usually committed in regard to it is the error of never raising the temperature of the water from that of the surrounding air. In very cold weather the bath, even when exposed over night in the bedroom, will often be lower than 45 degrees, and where water is brought straight from the main or well it may be even 10 or 15 degrees lower. Only the strongest constitutions can derive benefit from the shock produced by application of a liquid 60 to 70 degrees colder than the body to its surface, and it is very questionable if it is ever attended with permanently good results. Reaction may be afterward complete; but there is always the risk of sudden danger from the condition of the body being temporarily such as to prevent immediate reaction. In such cases very serious accidents are possible, and this last instance of death may perhaps be regarded as an example in point. A temperature of from 40 to 50 degrees is quite cold enough for any person to submit himself to. This allows for a difference of between 40 and 50 degrees in the heat of the body and that of the bath—amply sufficient to produce all the benefits desirable from it—and it would be well for all if these extremes were never exceeded."

Don't be Afraid of Work.

Don't be afraid of killing yourself with overwork, son, is the facetious way the Burlington Hawkeye has of counseling young men to thrift. Men seldom work so hard as that on the sunny side of thirty. They die sometimes; but it is because they quit work at 6 p. m. and don't get home until 2 a. m. It's the intervals that kill, my son. The work gives you an appetite for your meals; it lends solidity to your slumber; it gives you a perfect and grateful appreciation of a holiday. There are young men who do not work, my son—young men who make a living by sucking the end of a cane, and who can tie a necktie in eleven different knots, and never lay a wrinkle in it; who can spend more money in a day than you can earn in a month, son; and who will go to the sheriff's to buy a postal card, and apply at the office of the street commissioners for a marriage license. So find out what you want to be and do, son, and take off your coat and make success in the world. The busier you are, the less evil you will be apt to get into, the sweeter will be your sleep, the brighter and happier your holiday, and the better satisfied will the world be with you.

The Lancon thinks that if children would wear woolen next the skin, and wear longer clothing, suspending it from the shoulders, we would hear more of boisterous health and less of back aches and pains.

A Week's Trance.

A case of suspended animation, which in many respects is one of the most remarkable known to science, has occurred in this city (says the Louisville Courier Journal) within the past ten days. A young lady, Miss Annie —, whose full name, at the request of her parents, is withheld, went into a trance on the 15th inst., and did not regain consciousness until last Sunday at 7 o'clock p. m.—a week afterward. At that time she awoke, and, recognizing the ringing of the bells of a neighboring church, remarked that it was Sunday, and since then she has been gradually improving.

The particulars of the case are highly interesting. Miss Annie is an attractive young lady about 20 years old, residing on Lower Madison street, and, with the exception of a severe attack of St. Vitus' dance about two or three years since, has always been ordinarily healthy. About two weeks ago, however, she began to complain of neuralgic troubles, accompanied by cerebral and spinal irritation. She was quite unwell until the following Sunday, when, about 7 o'clock p. m., she subsided into a trance from which she has not yet recovered. There was, however, nothing alarming about her condition, and to all appearance she was simply in a deep slumber. Her breathing, temperature, and pulsation maintained their normal condition, and at times, without appearing at all conscious, she was induced to take nourishment. Her family were, of course, very much alarmed at her preternatural situation, and summoned Dr. R. H. Porter, who endeavored to arouse her, but without success. Ordinary stimulants failing, he resorted to the use of an electric battery, but met with no better success. For several days longer she remained in this somnambulistic state, and awoke to consciousness for the first time on Sunday. Even then, however, she did not recognize any one, and, without regaining the use of her faculties, she relapsed again into her seeming slumber, her eyes being closed and her breathing regular and peaceful. The following day she rallied a little, and became actually sensitive to noises and touch, and recognized the family, but was unable to say more than "yes" or "no."

In company with Dr. Porter a Courier-Journalist paid a visit to his interesting patient. Throughout the day she had manifested consciousness to a limited extent, shrinking from noise or contact, and evincing a morbid dread even of the pillows on her bed. At the time of the visit she was lying in an apparently pleasant slumber, her head turned to one side, her eyes closed, and a half smile just parting her lips. When the physician spoke she roused up a little, and, by slow degrees, for the first time regained the full possession of her faculties. Upon his inquiry as to whether she felt any pain, she nodded her head, and after a little coaxing said it was in her forehead. After saying this, she relapsed into insensibility, but was easily aroused again, and answered a few questions with some effort, but intelligibly. The mental processes evidently cost her considerable effort, but she unquestionably was fully conscious. The presence of a stranger excited her curiosity, and she was manifestly puzzled over his identity. Her condition was extremely favorable, and she will most likely be fully recovered by the end of the week.

In the opinion of Dr. Porter, who has made nervous diseases a specialty, the case is most remarkable and interesting one. The majority of trances result from some injury, generally of the head, but this can not be traced to any such cause. In the course of a short conversation on this class of disease, he remarked that he had met with two other queer cases, though none so interesting. One was a boy who formerly resided on Ninth street near Broadway, who was subject to occasional trances, lasting for three days and nights at a time. During these he was entirely unconscious, and when he recovered he had not the slightest recollection of what had occurred. He recovered permanently, and for two years has not had an attack of his old malady. The other case was more remarkable, being one of complete double consciousness in a young lady. When in one of her trances she was able at times to go about her usual household duties, and even converse intelligibly, but was unable to remember anything that had occurred when in her normal condition. More singular still, when in another trance she recalled what had happened in the previous ones, though still ignorant of what transpired at other times. Under a treatment of tonics and stimulants she was also restored to perfect health.

Weak Eyes.

Many who are troubled with weak eyes, by avoiding the use of them in reading, sewing and the like, until after breakfast, will be able to use them with greater comfort for the remainder of the day, the reason being, that in the digestion of the food the blood is called in from all parts of the body, to a certain extent, to aid the stomach in that important process. Besides, the food eaten gives general strength, imparts a stimulus to the whole man, and the eyes partake of their share.

Eyes that are weak and watery are often strengthened and made to feel comfortable by dipping the finger in brandy or whiskey or bay rum, and applying it to the closed lids. If the fumes or a little of the liquor gets in the eyes all the better.

What is it Made Of.

Take a strip of something that, for the sake of convenience, we will call a "man"—which, by the way, is a gross libel on man. Around its neck place a tight collar, enshrouded with a hideous scarf and breastpin. Put upon it a silk hat and cutaway coat. Clothe its lower extremities with pants wherein calves were never meant to grow. In its hand a cane, and on its feet boots that break at every step in limping measure. Place a cigarette in its mouth; teach it a brief vocabulary of adverbs and adjectives commencing with "immensely clever" and finishing with "see you later, you know," and in my humble opinion you obtain a fair conception of the brains and capacity of the American dude. But let us change the subject—it is not enlivening.—Kate Field.

With reference to the advertisement of the Knickerbocker Ice Co. it may be unnecessary to remark that the Co. does not deliver ice twice on Sunday. The two deliveries are made on Saturday, so as to secure a good supply for Sunday.