[Continued from the First Page.] sail, delights the eye. The aspect of nature can-not be too highly estimated in its effects upon the better class of patients; it is the most promi-nent alleviation of the sufferings they feel in

being separated from friends, and for no sin con-fined in durance vile. It affords them that on which they can build many a pleasant thought, and helps them to relieve their minds of the fancies which oppress them. Among other noticeable objects pertaining to

the grounds is a pond of considerable size, which though of rather brackish water, is useful in the winter, furnishing ice for the Workhouse and the Asylum, and good skating for the officers and certain patients.

There are fifty-six officers, attendants, and employes salaried by the Commissioners. Of these the resident Physician holds the entire executive power. There are usually three assistant physicians and a chaplain attached to the Institution. An engineer and two witchmen are among the officials. The duties of the latter extend during the night as well as day. There are two attendants to each hall in the Asylum and Retreat. The Lodge is presided over by a female superintendent, and each hall has a single keeper. The Matron has the charge of the general housekeeping in all the buildings, and stands highest in rank among the female attaches. A gardener and a cook are noticeable, as well as the attendants in the sick-room. The laundry, wash-house, and kitchen include most of the other employes

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PATIENTS. The number of patients is usually about eight hundred. More than one-half—perhaps two-thirds—are of foreign nativity; Ireland annu-ally furnishing 150, and Germany 60. The usual number of admissions during a year is 340, while discharges and deaths amount to a similar number. Of male patients who are single there are more than of those who are married, while with females it is the reverse. The female majority in respect to age lies with those between thirty and forty years; the male between twenty and The term of residence of those charged is generally from three to six months, though not a lew have spent three years in the Asylum, and some from six to eighteen. The latter are usually discharged unimproved.

I shall not trouble my readers with medical subdivisions of the forms of insanity; suffice it to say that mania afflicts more than four-fifths of patients-dementia, or idiocy, and general paralysis being the mistortune of the remainder. Man a includes the violent and raving madman and those oppressed by a single delusion. From six to twelve improper subjects are annually sent to the Institution. These are mostly per-sons laboring under a short-lived delirium occaintoxicating drink, though sometimes a crimmal, relieved for a time from the penalty of his crime by a plea of insanity, makes his appearance from a court of justice.

Even where the criminal is really a lunatic it

is not considered that the Asylum is the proper place for him, there being at Auburn, erected by the State, an asylum for insane convicts, which combines as far as may be the comforts of an asylum with the strength of a prison.

In the construction of ordinary asylums attention is given more to the homelike comforts than to the great strength of the establishment. It is the moral power that holds the patients more effectually than strong rooms, and probably there is no asylum in the country, except that at Auburn, from which a sane man could not readily escape. In the Asylum oa Blackwell's Island there are no rooms really stronger than the usual sleeping rooms of the hotels in the city, and the only appearance of extra strength the cast-iron sashes of the windows, which might be readily broken.

They are well adapted, however, to common cases of insanty, but are insecure for the criminal insane with dangerous propensities, and afford to those who feign the disease, in order to escape punishment for their offenses, ready facilities for elopement. One of the unhappies results of the reception of this class is, that the other insane feel truly degraded by the associaciation, and are fearful that their own lives are endangered. Many of the patients are exceedingly sensitive, and feel deeply any real or fancied injury or injustice. It becomes with them a matter of complaint that murderers even occupy the same halls with them and sit at the same table. Expressions of feeling arouse a spirit of ill-will and antagonism, and serious quarrels and difficulties result.

There are usually between thirty and forty persons with suicidal tendencies confined in the institution. Most of their manifestations are, however, made previous to admission. The ken to prevent the st are is of their attempts at self-destruction while incarcerated, yet one or two annually effect their purpose. The nature of the attempts is various: umping from windows and heights, hanging, starvation, strangulation, cutting throat or arm. drinking laudanum or morphine, and beating the head against the wall are enumerated. widering the disproportion of the sexes within the Asylum, it may be stated that such cases are equally divided between them

The clank of chains and fetters is no longer heard in the Asylum. All means are taken to conceal every prison-like appearance. Iron doors are nowhere seen; entrance to the different halls is, of course, only obtainable by a key; but, though extremely strong, ordinary locks are used; bolts and bars are not visible iron gratings of the windows correspond in their openings to the size of the panes of glass before hem, so that a casual glance would detect no thing peculiar. The most violent cases are put simply into a cell containing only a mattress and a wooden vessel; and where that is insufficient to prevent barm a strait-jacket of bed-tick closely fastening the arms to the sides is used; but it is rarely worn.

The same care now extends to the clothes of the patients; these were formerly of striped cloth, resembling that upon convicts in other buildings on the island. Within a few years they have been exchanged for suits of navy blue, that patients in whom some degree of sanity exists present a respectable appearance; the females are attired in calico gowns. Apprecia tion of their apparel is a great inducement to cleanliness and neatness. The majority of the insane are furnished with clothes by the com-missioners, though many are provided by friends and relatives with such necessaries. At imes, however, some of these are not allowed to wear their own garments, their destructive natures necessitating stronger and less valuable attire Most of the inmates of the Lodge are thus clad.

The food, as I have said, consists mostly of soup with spoon meat, the impracticability of allowing the insane the use of knives and forks rendering this essential. The bill of fare is not uxurious, though better than in other institu tions upon the island. Beef soup, really meriting great commendation, is served three times weekly; for dinner mutton and salt beef once. The soup is thickened with Indian meal, and contains a variety of vegetables. Occasionally, in the season, other vegetables, such as radishes, accompany the dish, but this is seldom. The breat is very good, and of all edibles turnished there is always an abundance. Friday is a black day with those of squeamish stomach, for mush and molasses is then furnished instead of soup. The breakfast is composed of bread and conee; the supper of bread, butter, and tea. Frequently, as patients are recovering from their diseases, and manifest a desire for employment, they are turnished with it, and attendants' fare; this has greater variety, and includes roast meats, with

It would be desirable that each unfortunate should occupy a separate bed-room, and, as far as possible, this is done; but the overcrowded state of the institution prevents it as a general rule. In one hall of the Retreat there are no bed-rooms, and bedsteads line the walis merely In most of the small bed-rooms, also, two sleep, though on separate mattresses. Disturbances occasionally arise through this arrangement.

Most of the patients are from the lower ranks of life. They are in general frieudless or poor, Persons able to afford it, and gifted with natural feeling, would, of course, prefer to send their diseased relatives or friends to other than a charitable institution. Many, however, arrive committed by the city magistrates, their friends being ignorant of their affliction or whereabouts until weeks, or perhaps months, after their pres ence in the Asylum. Manifesting dangerous symptoms in the street, they are arrested by the police, brought to the station-house, thence to

the Tombs; the physicians there file a certificate, and the steamboat transfers them to the Lunatic Asylum.

OCCUPATIONS OF INMATES. The time of many is mainly passed in coursing from one end of the long hall to the other, some rapidly, with violent gestures and occasional ex-ciamations, invectives, and oaths; others, with dejected countenances and banging heads, pace wearily to and fro. Some will stand or sit motioniess for hours together, and of them there are those who would not go to their meals unless bid. Some, again, are loquacious, sociable with their companions, delighted at the presence of visitors; while others sedulously avoid all so-

nety, and will not speak even if addr. ssed. The main treatment on which reliance a placed for cure consists in sedatives and tonics the freedom from active excliements, and the establishment of correct habits. As happiness or unhappiness in all depends much upon men-tal training, so whatever tends to establish an evenness of temper aids not only in preventing insanity, but in actually restoring the diseased mind to its normal condition.

By far the majority of those in confinement being of an uncultivated class, it would be difcult to find means to alleviate the weariness they experience in their seclusion. But there are many to whom books and papers would prove highly valuable. Of these and such like inducements to mental ease the Institution ex-

hibits a great deficiency.

The position in this Asylum of a patient from the better class of society is not enviable. Crazy though he may be, he has yet the instincts, pre judices, and habits of the class to which he be ongs, and being in daily companionship his opposites in every respect his sensibilities are shocked on every side. Amidst the ignoble mass there are at times scholars and gentlemen. Men who have obtained distinction in their various walks of life find in this institution a emporary resting-place or a final abode. Clever actors, one musicians, artists, literary men, law yers, doctors, and clergymen have been num-bered among the inmates. Insanity, like death,

Visitors to this Institution, if they come provided with the proper ticket, will, upon pre-senting it to the clerk, be shown through a single lemale hall of the main building, usually Hall 3. I have supposed that ladies are of the party; if none but gentlemen are present, they are escorted in addition through male Hall 3.

In these two halls the quieter and better class patients are confined. The Lodge and the Retreat are, as a rule, closed from public curiosity, the indecencies in both word and action of many of the inmates rendering them untit for crutiny. The reason for refusing all applications to see more of the lunatics, is the unhealthy excitement induced by an influx of strange faces among them, reviving, as it necessarily must, old associations and starting anew delusions which have almost died out. Visitors, though always treated with politeness, are not at all desired by the physicians of the place. The cleanliness and neatness everywhere apparent always commands admiration. The white washed walls and spotless floors show constant attention; certain of the patients, under the guidance of attendants, sweeping and dusting the boards daily, and thoroughly scrubbing them once a week.

After contemplating the strangely attired, close shaven residents, chatting, perhaps, with some mild-eyed, ladylike monomaniac, shuddering at the approach of a baggard wretch with uncouth gesticulations, receiving urgent prayers from many to effect their release, the sight-seer de-scends the long winding staircase of the octagon and proceeds to the grounds for further spec-

Here, if the weather be favorable, he will doubtless find inclosed in a yard, profusely set with trees, a motley crowd of men. Almost every variety of dishabille is visible. Some are playing or wrestling with each other, some cagaged in altercation, some in quiet social converse. Occasionally one starts as on a foot-race, another jumps as it for a wager. Singing, preaching, howling is heard, producing a Babel of the most discordant noises.

Having gazed sufficiently, the summer visitor strolls into the garden, the season being summer, and there consulting his watch, learns he has just time in which to walk the quarter of a mile to the steamboat dock, and the whistle of the ressel coming up the river quickens his steps, He is soon after landed at Twenty-sixth street, joyiul at having "done" the Lanatic Asylum; but that he has seen and heard merely a hun-dredth part of what is most interesting the succeeding conversations will, I hope, prove.

With a stranger the insane are often slow to nbosom themselves. If I occasionally seem to push the sportive vein too far to be insufficiently filled with compassion for misfortune. the reader will please accept as my excuse that , too, have been a madman, and feel entitled o greater license than the ordinary pleasure-

THE FEMALE PATTENTS.

The female patients (as well as the male) exhibit every variety of ugliness of feature. It would seem, from a general survey of the inmates, that the demon of insanity prefers the most repelling abode. The 'vair" sex is really represented but three or jour times among the five or six hundred women in the Institution, so at least to the casual spectator it would appear. Their close-cropped hair, slovenly attire, and manuacal expression are doubtless among the causes of this. And again many have contracted a habit of sitting in the broiling sun until the skin peels of from their noses. It a painter wished to depict the Witch Scene

gobeth he would here find the finest models yet prominent among all the monstrosities, a very paragon of hideousness, stands Ann Barry. The pen is inadequate to describe ner, Contemplation of her grote-que bulk induces the shought, that like the monster in "Frankenstein," she became distracted through the sensation her appearance ever caused among her fellows. Her gigantic head, with its red, bushy, unkempt hair, is supported by a buge misshapen body, covered usually by a coarse blue cotton gown, while her arms and hands would astonish a prize-fighter. Upon meeting her for the first time one experiences a feeling akin to awe. Notwithstanding ber terrific aspect, this singular creature is of a tractable disposition and very aseful in the cook-house, carrying heavy vessels. Her conversational powers are not extensive; to all questions she replies by monosyla bles, given in a deep bass voice, tike the growl of a wearled lion. Her appetites are strong, yet she is not devoid of love in the line arts. Missic a cr what doubtless to her is such, is her great delighi. Would you till her soul with soft content, place in her hands a guitar. Hugging it as though it were the idol of her heart. She will sis absorbee in ecstacy for a whole afternoon, producing a monotonous tum, tum, tum. Though supid, Ann seems always happy, and doubtless is one of those who are satisfied with their position in the Asylum.

With ner there is usually associated in the mind of the resident her fellow-patient, She has the same carroty locks with the same frizzled texture (though not so profuse). But while Ann is seente and rarely smiles, a continual grin over-spreads the innocent face of Norah. To glauce at profuse). her is to excite a simper; a protracted look will influence her risibles to such an extent as to close her eyes and involve her whole frame in wriggles and contortions; then a pleasant expression upon your face, and she will beat the ground with both feet, turn her body from side to side, and smidst chuckles and snickers conceal her beaming countenance awkwardly with both hands and her apron. All this would be very pretty in a child of three years of age, but supremely ludicrous in the forty-five North numbers, and the speciator's son equal hers. To her concluding "Ugh, ugh! go away! go away! stop it!" he is hardly able to grant. attend. Upon her picture being taken she went through every variety of emotion, ending with suspicious glances at the artist, when her modesty burst forth in tears, evading all the endearing words and efforts of the attendants to Norah always impresses her acquaintance as an elderly and overgrown baby. When provoked she wears the sullen, angry look of spoiled boy, and emits a roar, intermingled with broken words, while she stamps savagely upon the ground. In person Norah is rather unwieldy. She may frequently be found at the entrance to | relative of yours, who ascended into fame by

Female Hall 3, where she assumes the sinecure office of doorkeeper, ever seeming in an intense state of satisfaction with nothing in particular, and indulging in a vacant reverie. She may also be occasionally met carrying pails of water from the cook house. Her in telligence is sufficient to enable her to eat and drink, wear her clothes, and sleep when she should. She also reads in the viscous of these She also reads in the visages of those about her their expression, a scowl rendering her frantic; her mental acumen is not otherwise noteworthy.

It is customary, during the pleasant weather, for the female attendants in the Lodge to give their charges an early morning airing. In troops of fifteen or twenty, two by two, these fantasti-cally garbed patients proceed through the walks of the Asylum grounds. Prominent in their midst is one styled the" Queen," rejoicing in her crown of artificial flowers and old rags. The usual number of sceptre-bearers are present in this Inst tution; there are some six kings: Prince Albert rows in a small boat belonging to resident physician.

PEMALE ODDITTES. Now and then, from the motley ranks prou nading, there will dart some particularly hila-lious member, who is soon brought back by threats, entreaties, or force. The principal of these undisciplined stragglers is a gross, portly woman, who, with wheedling smiles on her sensual countenance, attacks every man who may happen to be a few yards off with demands for tobacco. If her request is complied with, she pockets her freasure, pats the donor on the back or cheek, in token of thanksgiving, and reloins her companions at a pace scarcely war-

ranted by her unwieldy proportions.

Another oddity among these poor creatures is one who seems to imagine herself a steamboiler, her mouth being the valve. At the bidding of her keeper, or for her own ease, she will emit, during her excursions, a screech that would do honor to the whistle of the largest boat on the river. It is given with a passionless expression and an energy of purpose that are extremely comical. Leaving her and her asso-ciates to wander leisurely back to the Lodge, let us pass that building, and enter the gate of the yard of the Retreat. Here we are at once salled by the complaining old maid Miss B.

This lady is a neatly attired personage, some forty years of age, of a plain but by no means unpleasant cast of features. Her hair is very grey and in thick curls. The only peculiarity in her appearance is induced by the great care which she takes of herself, and consists of a mask made from a pasteboard box, with two rough holes cut therein, to protect her skin from the sun. A fan of the same material is held in her right hand. The left is, as a rule, occupied in buttonholing visitors. The story of her wrongs is endless. She wishes that she could write a book to horrify the world with her dire revelations of the fiendish corruptions and abuses that exist in the Asylum. She is cogni zant of murders that have been committed, and gazing carefully about informs you in a thrilling whisper that she has more awful secrets, but dare not breathe them; her life would be taken bould she do so.

Her discourse is coherent, and she is generally adged sare by those who talk with her. writer himself once had that belief. He knew what it was to be treated as it crazy. Since, how-ever, she rushed up to him one day, dissolved in tears and crying "outrage," and exhibited a bruised finger, he has changed his opinion concerning her. The unheard-of atrocity by which such serious injury was inflicted was caused by a froliesome patient snatching from her lap some needlework. Miss B, pursuing her to regain the goods stumbled against a table and fell. Ten rsons and forty assassinations were as nothing to this viflany, to judge from her denunciations.
If it were not for that girl she would never have stumbled, if it were not for that stumble she would not have burt herself, the girl was guilty of all—a perfect monster, should such things be, etc. etc. Poor Miss B., you are crazy, no doubt of it; but there are others as crazy unconfined. If you had friends willing to support you, you would not remain Lere. You are just ingane enough to be wretched.

LOQUACITY AND PUGNACITY.

Miss B. is rivaded in loquacity by Mrs. N., who, independent possesses a far wilder imagination. Her style is different, also, being that of a preacher. At times she has informed the world in general, and the writer in particular, that the whole Institution belongs to her, not a rag worn on the place but is hers; but that her servants somehow have got the upperhand and order her when she should order them, though a reckoning will surely come. Her mood changing, she has declared that every doctor new on the and many who have left it, is her husband. Mrs. N. has singular facility in extempore rhyming, yet occasionally the right word cludes her grasp; and it is amusing to hear her, without a pause, overthrowing on all sides sense and syntax, headlong through sentence after sentence before arriving at the destined goal.

An altercation now going on in the yard arrests our attention. I'wo women stand shaking their elenched hands at each other. One of them is a tall German with dishevelled hair, sunurnt skin, and toothless mouth. Her enunciation is rapid in the extreme, and pitched in a high key. Part of her discourse is in her native torgue, part in broken English, but all so jumbled together, so strangely uttered, as to render us unable to get at her meaning. We are less fortunate with respect to her Irish opponent, a wrinkled hag, whose maledictions, given with equal ferocity, are every where interlarded by profane expressions and obscenity.

Satisfied at length that no serious harm will be inflicted by either, we approach a crouching figure, whose preternatural neliness fixes the She is engaged in embrodering strange characters on a strip of cotton cloth.

What have you there?" we ask, irreverently "Take care, don't dare to touch it; hell yawns before you!" is the response; and afrighted eyes gaze into ours. What's the matter?"

This is sacred. It contains a despatch from the Almighty God. It is worth millions on mil I am the Queen of Heaven!" Rash mortals that we were! we effect our re

And now there advances towards us with light, tripping tootst-p and outstretched hand a plump female. Her clothing is soiled and slovenly Her countenance is unctuous with the WOID. milk of human kindness and mutton-suct. Her discolored teeth are fixed in the thigh-bone of a sheep, and her bare arms glisten to the cloows with the fat of the animal. As she nears us she drops the bone, nor head falls to one side, and her mouth expands in a loving leer. It is shether irrepressible "Moonshine." Woe is me that I am a man. It is I who have drawn the creating of the creating o ture to us. I have whiskers, I am therefored. That learful scene is to be repeated. I have whiskers, I am therefore

She sidles hesitatingly up to me and extendher dripping digits—my modesty takes alarm— I retire. She grows bolder, pouts her lips, and says to kiss me; both arms are now exter and a tender embrace would surely follow did not precipitately dodge behind a companion. In a low murmur are constantly emitted expressions of affection. Finally she gets wearied by my shy manner, and sportively claps me on the back. I thenceforward bear a love-token on my coat, the imprint of her greasy hand. To state it mildly, Miss M. is continually playing the ancient game of Copenhagen; without much re

gard, however, to certain of its rules. But where is our accomplished friend Fanny Our search of her is interrupted by a red faced woman in the raggedest of gowns, who seizes us by both arms, and, rapidly vociferating, commands us with threats to tell father that Moll Maguire has a litter of pigs and the old sow She also insists upon our making Par Mulrooney keep away from Biddy M'Ginnis, the ould varmint, the ugly baste. He, ha, did we see Tim O'F!aherty climb the greased poledidn't he fall sudden. Ann Suillvan sha'n't wear her silk dresses into the dairy; and we must tell father that Teddy Roche doesn't mind his business, and she wants to go home.

I gravely enter a note in my pocket-book, and promise all that is asked.

INTRODUCTION TO FANNY L. Fanny is at length found, and a mock intro duction is given her to the familiar faces about.
"Dr. Patch, the distinguished—" "Happy to meet you, sir. I have heard of a

descents into the water. He was en exceedingly decent performer—Mr. Sam Patch. Do you remember;" and forthwith Fanny recites with appropriate and striking gestures several stanzas from well-known verses in honor of the hero of Niagara Falls. Her delivery both in word and act on would excite the admiration of the elo-quent Gough, and do no discredit to Mrs. Kem-

"The gentleman before you," some one remarks, "is not unworthy of his illustrious ancestor. He also has jumped over waterfalls. The ladies wear them very large now, and occasionally lose them."

"Ah! then he is doubtless acquainted with the Maid of the Mist," Fanny replies, quickly; "for I presume he was gallant enough to present it to the lady, who, having let it drop, missed it." We have heard much of your vocal powers,

Miss I.; will you not favor us with a song?"
"Sing a song of stypence, shall I, gentlemen?
a pocket full of ryc.' A bottle of ryc whisky is meant by the poet, I surmise; it often induces sirging for sixpence. Ha, ha! As for me have only a wry face.

'Pshaw, Fanny, be serious; we are exceedingly fond of music, and would delight to hear "Well, what will you have? What is your favorite style? Operaffe or the simpler ballad?

Sad or gay ?" "Bing us the melody you like best."
"Well, the one I sing oftenest is the Blind It suits me, for I am always groping in

the dark. She strikes at once into a plaintive air, which with its pathetic words absorts the attention of her visitors. She sings with real feeling and true expression, and her voice, though not rich, is very sweet. Upon our repeated requests she sings another and yet another.

We are infinitely indebted to you, Miss L., but we are not yet satisfied. We know how much further you are capable of pleasing us and long to see you dance. You are not tired,

"Oh no, I have not yet thought of retiring, and so, of course, could not of tiring. What will you have?"

"Anything you please."
She straightens herself, extends her shabby skirts with both hands, after the approved man-ner of danscuses, and assumes a graceful atti-tude. Then, humming the music that should be played, she bounds into the first figure. Chasseng, pirouette-ing, she performs many of the more difficult feats of the Terpsichorean art every movement full of ease and elegance. agility is surprising, for she must number full forty-five years, and her locks are quite gray.

We clap our hands loudly as with a superly courtesy she sinks at our feet. "The Cachuca, Fanny, the Cachuca!"
"Certainly, my lords. You will excuse my slippers, they are, ha! ha! the best I have, but their at is charming." She protrudes her bare toes to our gaze, and then, throwing us a smile, launches into the wild dance with all the abar. aunches into the wild dance with all the aban don of a Spanish senorita. The languor, the fire, the passion of its voluptuous figures, are given con amore, yet chastely. Our plaudits are renewed with fervor at its conclusion, and we had become

old her farewell. Fanny was unquestionably at one period gifted with much beauty and more than ordinary intellect; sparks of the latter even now remain and frequently burst forth in repartee. her fine qualities were during their perfection prostituted to base uses—she has been one of the celebrities of the demi-monde. Her acquaintance with men prominent in the world is extensive and she delights to relate sneedotes concerning them. One of the most singular of her delusion is connected with a young physician attached to the Asylum. She believes him the Deity, and sits daily at his door, sadly disturbing his reflec-tions by pouring forth melody after melody. She makes him presents of bouquets of weeds, and grasses, and is never happier than when she

MRS. BUCHANAN.

sees him.

The interesting "Moonshine" I have men-tioned is conjoined with her in persecutions of this doctor, but shows less good taste in her de-monstrations—being wont to fill the keyhole of his door with gristle and fat, and thrust into his room old pieces of newspaper carefully tied up with various-colored string. At the approach of evening he usually finds finds a dozen of these missives on his floor.

For some reason (probably her long residence in the Asylum) "Mrs. Buchanan" is the female patient best known to the public. She is often inquired after by the visitor. Her name indicates her monomania; she believes President James Buchanan to have been her husband. quiet, motherly-looking old lady, she is always decently attired, and inhabits a comfortable bed-room in Hall 3 of the main building. A large doll is ever with her, which she sometimes im agines is one of her children, no less than forty five of whom, she affirms, have blessed her union with the ex-Chief Magistrate. In times past Mrs B, had some kittens, which she also nursed as her offspring.

The writer made a call upon her not lon since, and wishing to be well received, and knowing her predilection for distinguished guests, aunounced himself, his modesty consenting, as travelling tutor to the Prince of Stam, then visiting the United States. She hoped the king, my mister, was well, and did me all the courtesy in her power, inviting me into her apartment and giving me a seat. In the course of our conversation I ventured to say that it was strange that the wife of a President should be in her position.

Oh no, not strange at all, some political end. She would soon be free, Mr. Buchanan was coming that very afternoon. (Mr. B. has been coming every day for the last six years, yet the oid lady is as cheerful as a cricket.) She suffers no disappointment, for she forgets everything said or done as soon as it has pa

I also hazarded the remark that I was informed and, believed the venerable President was deceased. She burst into a laugh, and turned to my companion with the exclamation:-"Do hear him! he would impose upon we with that! No, sir; I had a letter from him yesterday."

'Are you well cared for here, madam ? "Well, sir, the fare is without variety, soup is very good; but is nothing to the courses to which I have been accustomed." I burst forth into rage at the inhumanity of her spouse in allowing her to remain so long with strangers: but was brought to a stop by a

hovrified look on my host's features. "Do not dure to speak so, sir! Mr. Buchanan is as much grieved at our separation as myself. Circumstances are uncontrollable; but I am resigned to the will of my Maker." And she uttered a long homily, as most Christian old ladies would

in her imagined position. Being informed that I was an artist desirous taking her portrait, Mrs B., with her sweetest smile, consented to sit. Upon the completion of the picture we respectfully withdrew.

AMUSEMENTS OF THE PATIENTS. Most of the amusements of the patients are only acceptable to convalescents or to monoma

Of such a character are draughts, chess, dominoes, and cards. These games are congreat skill is not infrequently found among them. Loggerheads and quoits are at the disposal of those to whom it is sale to intrust them, and who are desirous of exercising with them. At one time daily military drills, with drum and ific, took place in the yard of the Asylum. It was amusing and instructive to see the invigorating effect of the martial airs upon even the demented. They would go through the evolu-tions, too, with an exactitude that was surprising; and stimulating the melancholic cases to exertion, the orill probably not a little helped to promote their recovery. Falstaff, gazing from atar, might think he beheld his ancient army in the grotesque company before him. Fine facilities for swimming are afforded on the island; a small shanty serves as a bath-house at its extremity, and male and female patients enjoy in the season the luxury of a dash into the East river. Mention of sharks having been seen occasionally deters the timid from venturing in, but no accident from the presence of that fish is recorded as having nappened to island residents. There are sometimes dis covered among the patients accomplished per-

persuits. The penman finds ample occupation, under the doctor's direction; the cabinet-maker, painter, carpenter—all may work at their various on ployments. A museum until lately existed, in which specimens of the more curious work of inmates was exhibited. Drawings showing infinite patience were exposed-needle-work st the most outre character. The larger part of the museum, however, consisted of contribu-

tions from outsiders.
Fishing is to be had, but it is by no means as good as formerly. Lobster-nets are, however, set at the proper time, and not a few of the shell fish find their way into them. There is one ccentric whose whole time is devoted to the piscatory tribe. He is a sort of hermit; has built a but in the marsh at the upper end of the island, where he spends most of the day, coming to the cookhouse for his meals (when he has not suply provided himself), and to his proper half at bedtime. He is called Hudson, and his grizzly hair, long as a woman's, is coiled, Chinese fashion, at the back of his head, under a variety of handkerchiefs, rags, and an old hat. He speaks little English, knowing apparently just enough to enable him to ask for fish-hooks and

obacco, for he is a continual smoker. He is of German nativity.

Another prominent disciple of Isaak Walton is "Black Jimmy," a jolly, clever darkey, whose romantic story of his incarceration, as given by himself, runs thus. He is not wholly a negro, his father having been an Indian, and he in-herits some of the characteristics of the savage people to which he is allied. His former mas-ter, whose coachman he was, is declared by him to have also had Indian blood in his veins, and was once the Mayor of New York. Jumny, as time progressed, manifested matrimonial inclinations, and as his tastes leaned towards his tather's race, a young squaw became the favored object of his addresses. This most beautiful of women (Jimmy grows rapturous in picturing her charms) favored his suit, adoring him. But their marriage was not to be. When does the course of true love run smooth? The Mayor interposed, influenced by jealousy. He informed his servant that if he espoused the fair Indian eing, as he was, half red man himself-he would become equal to him, the Mayor, and such a thing could not be. Jimmy, iniatuated, would not listen, and his master, by the high hand of power, shortly transferred him to the Lunatic Asylum. It will be surmised by the reader, doubtless, that Jimmy's insurity manifested itself first in love-making to a beautiful guest of

his employer.

At the conclusion of his story the writer remarked that the narrator was certainly "done."

"Oh! no," Jimmy wittily replied: "I ain't
done, I'm accomplished!" And this is not far
from the truth. An ingenious tinker, he repairs
all the umbrellas, pans, knives, rings, and spectacles brought him by attendants. He soles and patches shoes, makes tobacco-pipes and fancy canes-in fact, is a sort of mechanical Admirable Crichton. Jimmy's great delight, however, is in fishing, and many a fine mess of black-fish, bass, and eels does be furnish for the resident physician's table. There are the remains in him of a once surprising agility, but some injury has so affected his right leg that it bends with diffi-culty, and he drags it stiffly as he walks. His countenance is capable of the most ludicrous expression. His fancies, as a rule, appear to tickle him amazingly, and he may not unfrequently be found convulsed with smothered laughter. His eyes close, every muscle of his face is contorted, and his body writhes in a vam attempt to free himself from the arasp of mirth. An artist might seize the habitual grin that adorns his features, but the chuckle would have to be left to imagination.

Jimmy is not unable to utter brilliant sayings, but he talks sad nonsense most of the time. is also a most amusing stammerer, working his jaws full five minutes before the word escapes, I subjoin a specimen of his style of conversa-

"Good mornin', Mr. D." "Good morning, Jimmy, that was a capital cel you caught me yesterday. You shall have your tobacce to-morrow."

into a fit.

"Now, James, be careful what you say. Don't do it. I would advise you to well con-

"Darn it, look here, Mr. D. You think you've c-caught a gudgeon, but I've caught m-more fish 'n you have—kickle, kickle! ha, ha, ha! he, he, he!" And convinced "he had me there," my black friend goes off shuffling with his lame leg, and shrugging his shoulders with glee.

Jimmy has all the negro fondness for high

sounding words, and masmuch as one of his numerous professions is that of corn-cutter-general, I informed him that he was a distinguished chiropodist. He labored to commit it to memory, and ever after announced himself in that capacity as a "stingus kiropokus." A large book being under my arm one day, he gravely asked if it was a "Hokopeekus," taat being his nearest approach to the word Ency-

clopædia. CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS AMUSEMENTS.

On Christmas and New Year's day all the talent of the Institution is usually assembled aud an entertainment is given. An exhibition o this character is present to my mind in which a magic lantern was the prominent feature, the slides of which were mainly furnished by a young artist recovering from an attack of mania. His productions were mostly of a comic character, and numbered some two hundred pictures. He was helped in the mechanical contrivances by an ingenious physician, since deceased. The designs were all original, and drew forth enthu-siastic plaudits. The war of Secession was waged at the time, and many of the drawings were political. John Bull was represented in one about to fight a duel with Brother Jona than. They stood boldly confronting other, according to the done, until Brother Jona than pointed his pistol, when J. B,'s counte-nance tell, and he raised his right leg in an attempt to leave. A "Magic Mirror" excited much amusement; it had the quality, according to the lecturer, of reflecting upon the character instead of the face of the in-looker. Some dozen figures presented themselves, "Brother J. saw some pumpkins." J. B., very small potatoes indeed, and Jeff. Davis no less a personage than Old Nick himself.

A menagerie was shown, which numbered among its mmates all known animals, and in-cinded the tar-famed Gyascutus. All the specimens passed through a cage on the curtain, the giraffe with great difficulty. The female elephant was only got through by means of pulleys and the forcible endeavors of three men, but when the turn of the monster male elephant, "Atlas, came, it was found only his head would enter the cage. The lecturer then announced that, unwilling to disappoint the spectators, he would have the animal cut up and his vast proportions be shown them in parts. Accordingly a procession appeared, which a hyena led, drawing in a cart a tusk; a muskrat with his cart brought up the rear in more than one sense, conveying as he did the tail of "Atlas!" There was also a "Magic Microscope," in which a teather in a young lady's cap, properly magni-fied exhibited a number of young men on a string—the limits of a magazine article forbid me to mention more. A fine pianist, who had been a patient, accompanied the pictures; and a solo player on the cornet-a-piston added to the delight. Vocal music also found skilful exdelight.

A complete minstrel band at one period per tained to the island, with its bones and tambon rine, giving concerts on the holidays. Gentlemen from the city used to tavor the Asylum with acred music every Sabbath, but of late have discontinued the practice.

FOURTH OF JULY BALL.

On the last Fourth of July a novelty was in-augurated; a ball was given in the large hall of the Retreat, and certain male and female patients intermingled in the mazy dance. athletic Irishman distinguished hunself by his pracon-wings and extraordinary agility. was there, hopoing up and dawn as though pins were in each shoe. And Jimmy the fiddler was formers in the water—men conver-ant with all known feats, and able to spend half a day dis

porting on the surface. Good skating is also to be obtained in the winter.

Fach innate is allowed, as far as is possible, if he is fit for it, to busy himself with his favorite in accident occurred—patients, physicians, and extravagantly to the wheezings and abrickings of his instrument. But the ball was a success-no accident occurred—patients, physicians, and visitors were equally delighted.

A LECTURER. A comic lecturer and ventriloquist well known to the public has not infrequently given performances in the institution, and they were of a character exceedingly acceptable to the inmates His late was most sad. He died the terrible death of a hypochondriacal maniac; not a single pleasing fancy illumined his piteous confinement. He was an illustration of the danger of allowing ar active intellect to run into a miessness. He obtained a competence, retired from business, and went mad. He voluntarily committed him sell to the Asylum two years ago, and his story

ran thus:"I bought me a house; ordered and paid for runniture to be put therein; arrived at it one right and found it empty; slept on the floor; became disgusted and sold it next day for a mere song. I then reflected; found I had lost a large sum of money; knew I ought to be under care; and came here for it."

From the deepest welcomboly be rapidly analysis.

and came here for it."

From the deepest melancholy he rapidly sank into hypochondria of the most extravagant character. He was living in the midst of putrefaction: he could eat nothing: his meat was decomposed; milk was a mass of gangrene. He became a walking skeleton, and would unmistakably have starved himself to death had not food been forced upon him. His shricks as the detested viands entered his mouth were appalling. Only may be named as another cause of his Opium may be named as another cause of his madness. He had addicted himself to the habitual use of that drug. Such got to be the unhealthy state of his constitution that a slight scratch on one of his feet caused it to swell mordinately. He would point to it with despair. "That foot is dead! Look at it! Isn't it horrible? It is all gangrene. Pah! how it — ! I shall die of cholera from that foot." He finally imagined himself a corpse. Passing his door one afternoon the writer heard a cry (as he understood it) for coffee.

Bring me my coffee, my coffee!" "What do you want coffee for, Doctor!-"Coffee!" exclaimed the poor man, testily;
"I didn't say coffee. I said coffin. I am deal.
I won't keep long. I ought to have been buried

two days ago."
(linging to this delusion, he had to be dressed and undressed by the attendants, for he would do nothing for himself. He was a corpse; no such thing could be expected of him. this living death he soon now passed into the reality. A case of more unmiligated woe I have never seen before or since; yet the sufferer was one who had convulsed large audiences with laughter at his finished imitations of a hypochondrine.

Shortly after his decease another miserable man breathed his last within the walls of the Asylum. An educated Hungarian exite, he practised law in the city even while a patient. His death was caused by consumption. He was ever talking of his position in his native land how he was wealthy and noble. Some of his hallucroations while upon his sick bed were amusing. Two holes for ventilation were in the wall near the ceiling, and through them he imagined the doctor was playing upon him with large magnetic battery in the room above. I tried in vain to disabuse him of the belief, em ploying incontestable arguments, but to no pur-

THE BLACK PREACHER.

We want fresh air after contemplating these cases of extreme wretchedness. A stroll about the grounds will recreate our sickened souls. Coming up the pathway towards us is a recognize; the placid countenance of Charley is about to pass. "How are you, Charley ?"

"Quite well, tank you, massa,"
"In a hurry?" "No, no great, massa."

"No, no great, massa,"
"I have here some friends who like instruction. Will you not edity them by a discourse?"
"Can't preach widout notes, sah."
I know Charley's peculiarity, and at once
hand him a scrap of blank paper. He surveyed
it for a few moments, and then enunciated the
following:

ellowing:-

"Bredren, de Queen of Sheba, Moses, and de prophets, de New Jerus'lem for eberlasting. Yea, berily, eben so, new and foreber. Selah. In de beginning was de word, and de word was made in six days out ob noting. Paul an apostle to dem dat am wid Nebuchadnezzar—peace. Blessed am de merciful, for dey shall pluck corn on de Sabba day, etc. Charley speaks as if reading from a book.

There is no question but that the piece of paper is of service to him; he never was known to preach without it. His is certainly a Scriptural discourse, and delivered with earnest purpose, yet we are not sorry when he commences sing ing, in his weak, lackadalsical way, the words of an old Methodist hymn. While he is so occupied let us talk with

"Paddy," who is bitching desperately at his trowsers in the potato-patch yonder. He picks up his hoe as we approach and vindictively lacerates the ground. "Paddy "Ah, go long wid ye; I'm busy." Then a sud-

den idea strikes him; he rushes up to us, thrusts his bleared eyes and haggard, twitching mouth into my face, and catching me by the lappel of my coat, propounds the question:—
"D'ye remimber the ponies I gave your father

-three colts and a bay mare-beauties, every son of 'em ?" "No, Paddy, you never gave them; they were bought at a good price.' "D'ye mind that, now? Wasn't I the largest

landowner in the County Killarney? Dye know Tim O'Brien's tayern? He was next door to me. Take this." He puts in my hand a bit of broken crockery, and closes my fingers upon it. "Keep that, now. D'ye mind? D'ye mind that?" He hitches his trowsers again, and is off, with a painful, nervous step. I turn my back, wondering, as I move away, if he were not a horse-jockey at one period, when my sleeve is pulled,

and io! Paddy once more. He motions me to extreme caution, slips another bit of an old plate into my hand, "D'ye mind that, now?" and As the artist is putting the finishing touches to a likeness of him he has picked up during the adventure just related, an attenuated and spectacled bgure looks over his shoulder at the drawing, and then, with irrepressible indigna-tion gleaming in his eyes and quivering in every

word, declares that he will have no such work done in the land. Thou shalt not make to thyself the likeness of any thing in the heavens above or in the earth beneath. Dare ye disobey the Second

commandment?" The artist, in despair with the portrait he has

obtained with such difficulty, mildly suggests that it can hardly be considered the likeness of anything. 'New Jerusalem" looks puzzled, but solves the question by asking for some tobacco, which

It is mine," he returns, as he pockets it. "All you have is mine. We look our gratitude for the use of his pro-

perty, and retire from the presence of the "Special Messenger" Continuing our walk we soon reach the en-trance of the main Asylum; and there before it, comfortably smoking under a large willow-tree, we descry two individuals that deserve notice.

THE OLDEST PRESIDENT. The little, bent old man, with the long white beard, is the oldest resident of the institution, having been a patient some thirty years. An amiable Frenchman, it is one of his boasts that ne once served under Napoleon the First. Devoted to his pipe, he causes all his own tobacco; and as he cures it, it would prove innocuous to a babe. He may be subject to aberration occasionally, but strongly marked symptoms of insanity have not been magicasted by him for a long time. He is very useful in his way, having a great liking for the medical officers, and doing

them many services.

His companion is M.—, an Irishman, who, without any peculiar delusion, is certainly datt. He talks sense much of the time, but is also an utterer of the most "highfalutin" nonsense. He has a learned friend among the patients, with whom he is toud of discoursing ethics and

politics, and a more amusing dialogue than [Continued on the Third Pages]