

James F. Shunk on Secret Societies.

The last issue of the Easton Argus, whose editor is the talented and brilliant James F. Shunk, has the following article on Secret Societies, which we commend to the perusal of every body that is disposed to endorse the

MISCHIEVOUS MEDITATION.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church which met in Philadelphia last week, adopted a resolution denouncing secret societies. It is quite clear that these reverend gentlemen, when they devised and supported this resolution, were not about their Master's business, nor even their own business, but were meddling offensively with that of other people.

Secret Societies are certainly not without blemish. With the mysteries and ceremonies of most of them there is, doubtless, mixed a good deal of nonsense but it is nonsense of a harmless kind and is more than balanced by the solid good which each accomplishes in its own way.

But there is a good word to be said for secret societies which is a reproach not to Christians, but to the people who claim to be its exponents and custodians. Those societies teach the masses. They get hold of the restlessness and the hob-nailed boots. They grasp horny hands and are not nice and critical in sweat.

The author of "Recollections of Mexico," in speaking of the hospital of Lazarus, says, "The inmates would have rivalled, in sores and rags, the brother of Mary and Martha." An English Lord closed one of his charges to a jury as follows: "Finally, gentlemen, I would call your attention to the example of the Roman Emperor Julian, who was so distinguished for every Christian virtue as to be called Julian the Apostle."

What the churches fail to do the secret societies which have fallen under the Presbyterian ban do with all their might. They pick up morsels of humanity, too foul for the dainty touch of gentlemen of lawn and mitre and white cravat, and make them clean.

IN JUNE.

So sweet so sweet the roses in their blowing, So sweet the daffodils, so fair to see; So little and gay the humming-bird a-going - From flower to flower a-hunting with the bee.

Bible Reading of Public Men.

Some years since a member of Congress from Illinois, in the course of debate, quoted the following lines as coming from the Bible: "And while the lamp holds out to burn, Thy vessel never may return."

Col. Benton, in the Senate, once spoke of our Saviour having cast seven devils out of a man, and of the devils taking possession of the swine, which ran violently into the sea and perished.

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A timid man, when relating his experience in obtaining the object of his heart's affections, stated, that alternating between hope and fear until he could no longer endure the suspense, he at last determined to give no sleep to his eyes till the matter was settled.

A lucky gambler is finding publicity through the Louisville journals. He had run through his money, but borrowed \$5, and with this sum again tried his luck at faro. At the first sitting he won upwards of \$2,200, and this gave him a start. He deposited all the money securely, and returned to play the same bank another game, and at this sitting won about \$700, and when the bank refused to allow him to play longer and closed up.

"Break it Gently."

"Yes, I remember that anecdote," the Sunday School Superintendent said with the old pathos in his voice and the old sad look in his eyes. "It was about a simple creature named Higgins, who used to haul rock for 'old Mally'."

"Does the widder Bagley live here?" "The widder Bagley? No, sir." "I'll bet she does. But have it your own way. Well, does Judge Bagley live here?"

A STRANGER IN THE CITY.—If there were more with the spirit and habit of Harlan Page in our churches, not half so many of our young men in our cities would go to destruction.

A young man entered a church one evening, and found no one present but the sexton. Presently a plain man came in, spoke pleasantly to the sexton, and then sat down by the stranger.

A REMARKABLE FAMILY.—The Holston (Tenn.) Journal says: There is, perhaps, the most remarkable family of people in this county that there is in the broad limits of the United States of America.

The Boston Traveler, says that a member of a Massachusetts House Committee was offered \$20,000 to sign a certain report, and subsequently made a full explanation to his colleagues thus: "I went home the other night, and after Harriet and I had retired says I, 'Harriet, which had you rather have me to do, bring home to you \$20,000 for pin money or an honest husband!'"

A great deal of the craft of Satan consists in calling things by wrong names. He calls idolatry, religion; superstition, reverence; and atheism, science.

CONUNDRUM for the heated term.—Why is a perspiring person unlike a chiropodist? The one feels the heat, while the other heats the feet.

THERE is a tobaccoist in Washington who rejoices in the appropriate name of Plugg; and in the same city a liquor seller named Bacchus.

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