

The Democratic Watchman.

BELLEVILLE, PA.

Stirling Castle, Scotland.

The view from Stirling Castle impresses all beholders with its variety and beauty, including, as it does, not only the fields of Bannockburn, the Abbey Craig, on which a monument in memory of William Wallace has of late years been erected, which stands as a landmark, visible in every direction for many miles around; but the beautiful woods of Kier, the fashionable watering-place, the Bridge of Allan, the majestic ruins of the Abbey of Cambuskenneth, and the sinuous river that issues from the highest hills beyond Callender—assumes the name of the Forth. And the interior of the castle is as greatly worthy of a long visit from every intelligent and well-read traveler as the exterior. In the banqueting-hall, the kings of the houses of Bruce and Stuart, and even of an earlier time, were accustomed to hold the Round Table, supposed to have been originally established by King Arthur, though no record states when that fabulous monarch inhabited Scotland. The old Parliament House, in which the estates of the realm met under the Stuarts, is now used as a barracks for the garrison. Almost if not every room of the palace and castle has its own little bit of romance and tradition; but that which excites the greatest interest among the multitude—for the same reason makes the Chamber of Horrors at Madame Tussaud's attractive—is the little bedroom of King James the Second, where a very ghastly tragedy was enacted, namely the execution of his wife, Mary, Queen of Scots, in the year 1567. William, the Earl of Douglas, haughtiest and savagely among the nobles of his time, carried his Scotch nobles to too high a hand in the south of Scotland, and in his own extensive domain, to be considered either a peaceable, a safe, or a loyal subject, by his king. Douglas had seized and imprisoned one McClellan, of Bombay, and threatened to bring him to trial and execution by virtue of his feudal jurisdiction and authority. Sir Patrick Grey, commander of the king's body guard, and uncle of McClellan, obtained from James the Second at Stirling a warrant for the delivery of the prisoner. On Grey's arrival at Douglas's Castle of Thrave, Douglas, suspecting his errand, invited him to dine, with the remark that it was "filling" between a full man and a "filling." Grey accepted the invitation, and in the meanwhile, the unfortunate McClellan was, by the grim Earl's order, taken out into the courtyard and summarily beheaded. After dinner Grey proceeded to business, and presented the king's warrant. "You are too late, Sir Patrick," said Douglas. "Your errand's over; the man is dead, without his head. That I cannot spare you, but you are welcome to the dead body."

Grey sprang suddenly to his feet, and dauntless outrage, rode off, pursued by some of Douglas's men until within a few miles of Edinburgh. He lived to be revenged, and in a manner which he could not have anticipated. The King was highly incensed, not only at the murder, which was but the climax of many other atrocities, but at the confederacy into which Douglas had entered with the Earl Crawford to Rose, Moray, and other great nobles against his crown and authority. But Douglas was too powerful a person to be lightly assailed; and at a loyal council it was resolved to offer him an amnesty for all past offenses, if he would renew his oath of allegiance, and break off his connection with the confederacy. For this purpose he was invited by the King to Stirling, with promises of a hospitable and a friendly reception, and provided with a writ of safe conduct.

Douglas was strongly dissuaded by his friends against trusting in the king's word, but, confiding in the writ, he set forth, attended by his trustiest clansmen and several hundred retainers, all well mounted and armed, and arrived at Stirling, on the 20th of February, 1551. His followers were lodged in the town, and himself and nearest kinsmen, to the number of about twenty, in the castle. Everything went on smoothly and quietly between the king and his powerful subject. They dined and drank together, sat, and walked, and conversed amicably, always avoiding, however, the main subject at issue between them. On the second day the king gave a great State banquet to the council, at which, after the removal of the cloth, the matter of the confederacy, of which Douglas was supposed to be the head and the heart, was brought forward and discussed. The discussion grew warm, and being shared by too many disputants, the king suddenly asked Douglas to retire with him into an adjoining room—a bedroom—to discourse with him privately. Here the king endeavored to persuade him to return to his allegiance, and to break the bond into which he had entered with the deaf-fisted nobles. Douglas defended himself quietly against some of the charges made against him; alleged his feudal right to punish his enemies within his own jurisdiction; and as regarded his bond or compact with Crawford and other nobles, maintained that he had as much right to make compacts as the king himself. The king lost his temper, and in a fit of rage drew his dagger and exclaimed, "Traitor! if thou wilt not break the bond, my dagger shall," and stabbed him to the heart. Douglas attempted to return the blow, but in vain. The lords of the council, hearing the sounds raised in, all armed, and Douglas fell to the ground, the finishing blow being given by Sir Patrick Grey, who smashed in

his head with a pole-axe. This done, the body was thrown out of the bedroom window into the court below, where it was immediately buried. This room was almost wholly destroyed by fire a few years ago, but has been restored in the exact style of the original. In 1797, a skeleton of a man was found in the spot indicated by tradition as that in which Douglas was buried.

The First of the Credit System.

The first occasion of which we hear of an organized system of credit, is when Joseph mortgaged the cattle, lands, and even the persons of all the Egyptian people, in order to pay for corn he supplied them from the state granaries. The end of the seven years famine found the Egyptians not only paupers but bondsmen, sowing Pharaoh's corn on Pharaoh's land, and compelled to pay for the privilege of doing it, twenty per cent. of the crop to Pharaoh's treasury forever, without equity of redemption.

The Egyptians had no previous experience of Jews, except Abraham, a quiet, inoffensive patriarch, who came to Egypt because he was hungry—and he got Pharaoh in trouble—he had never seen a Jew before. It is therefore highly probable that a remembrance of Joseph's fiscal policy whilst chancellor of their exchequer contributed in no small degree to the severity with which they ground down the children of Israel.

But the fact especially noticeable about the introduction of credit is this—bankruptcy and credit came together. Joseph left Egypt a nation of bankrupts.

And ever since that time, bound together by an indissoluble bond of union (bonds, in fact, of bills and promissory notes), those Siamese twins, bankruptcy and credit, have gone on thriving, until one of the twins gets his death-blow, it matters not which; then the other will immediately die a natural death.—Chamber's Journal.

The Next Best Thing.

'Last Fourth of July,' says a correspondent, 'I drove up to a small village in Iowa, and found most of the inhabitants on their way to keep the 4th. Of course I went with the multitude, and found an assemblage of some two hundred in holiday dress and in the best of humor. Presently the officer of the day marched upon the platform and took his seat. He was followed by the President of the day, who, stepping to the front, said, Fellow-citizens, the time has arrived to commence these exercises. We have waited some time for Colonel—but as he has not come we will go on without him. It is usual on such occasions to seek the presence of Heaven, and the committee have tried to get some one licentiated to act in such cases, but have not been able to get any one. If there is anybody in the crowd who is disposed to do this, let him come forward. We will wait a minute. He waited, but no 'licentiated' person appeared. Well, said he, 'we'll have the Declaration of Independence read.' And it was read; and after that we had the oration and our dinner in the wood.'

A Polite Horse.

We must certainly judge that politeness is increasing in the world, when we find that even horses are setting us a good example. A correspondent writes: 'Going one day to a worthy deacon's for dinner, I went with him to the stable to provide for the wants of my horse, which as I considered, is as much entitled to his dinner as I am myself. Before installing my steed, the deacon turned out a pair of sprightly ponies, and told me to watch their performance. 'In the yard was a well, the bucket of which was hanging on an old-fashioned sweep. One of the ponies led the way to this well, and reaching up to the pole, brought it down with his teeth. Dipping up a pail of water he set it on a shelf inside of the well curb, and then waited before helping himself. Sometimes he would even draw two buckets for her in this wonderfully gallant manner. What man can be rude when brutes are so polite?'

Just how it happened.—The pet of a family residing not far from La Grange street is a boy who has recently passed his fifth year, and having donned his first jacket and trousers, is attending a primary school. The other afternoon he failed to come at the usual hour, much to the alarm of the household, and after a long search, he was found, near the Providence depot. He was sent to bed without much explanation, though it was possible his treatment was that Solomon would have recommended, in such an emergency. The next morning he was down to the breakfast table, evidently none the worse for the lesson, and perhaps the wiser. Taking advantage of a full in the conversation customary at the morning meal, he turned his grave countenance to the head of the table, and giving free vent to his overcharged mind, he exclaimed: 'I'll tell you mamma, how it happened. After school I went part of the way home with Mary—and at the corner of the street where she left me, I kissed her, and she kissed me, and then I found that I was lost.' There was an explosion around the table, just about that time. It is expected that this is not the first young gentleman that has been lost under similar circumstances.

—When a dutch maid servant wishes to go to a dance, and has no swain of her own, she hires a cavalier for the occasion. A beau with an umbrella receives double pay.

—What is a young girl's most charming quality? That which she does not know that she possesses.

A Romantic Young Man.

There is a story told of a young man from Baltimore who got into trouble through his persistent folly in reading newspapers! It seems that he saw an account of how lovers in Seville, when they are forbidden to visit their young ladies' windows at night, and converse with them through a hollow tin tube made in sections, so that it can be shut together like a spy-glass and used as a cane. This youth in Baltimore loved a damsel whose father regarded his love's young dream as an inferior kind of nightmare which had to be shaken off at all hazards. So he refused to permit the dreamer to come to his house. Well, this infatuated one went right down to a tinner and procured about forty feet of tubing, which closed up into the smallest possible space. Then he used to go around in the evenings, unrecf his speaking trumpet, and run it up to the second story back window, where his angel was, and roost out the fence, whispering all kinds of sweet things along that forty feet of pipe. This was all very nice as far as it went. But one evening the eagle-eyed old man came to the room door with a pitcher full of hot water in his hand and sent his daughter off suddenly on an errand. Then the dispicable old scoundrel called down the pipe in a falsetto voice until the youth placed his ear against it, and then—! There was only a quart of hot water, but it was sufficient to make one side of the young lover's face resemble an underdone tenderloin steak. When his friends ask him what is the matter, he says he has been surprised; but he is convinced that Spanish customs—taking them as a whole—are abominable! He thinks however that forcible application to the old gentleman of walking popularly supposed to be in common use among the Spanish people, will be healthful and invigorating if the said lover comes in contact with the said hardened old sinner.

A New Business.

There is a good deal of talk in Philadelphia among the brokers about a fast young man whose father is overburdened with millions. The young man would not work, and the old man could not bear an idler, and many were the quarrels between them. At last the old man, quite out of patience, said: 'Now, Jack, I give you one week to make up your mind what business you are to go in. No son of mine shall be a lounge, and go to work you shall. At the end of the week, if you have made no choice, I will stop your allowance altogether, and make you take a stool in my office, and work enough you'll have of it there.'

'Well, Jack promised to look around and make up his mind. At the end of the week, sharp and peremptory, as was his way, the old broker sang out to his son: 'Well, Jack, time's up; have you made up your mind to make your own living?'

'Well, father, I've been thinking of it, and have something on my mind, but it will require considerable capital.'

'Capital, Jack, capital, my boy!' said the delighted father, 'only try to make your own living, and I will buy you a national bank or a line of steamers. Well, what is it, Jack? What is it?'

'Well, father, I was thinking that if you would only advance me three or four hundred thousand dollars, I could invest in government bonds, and make my living by cutting off the coupons.'

The old man never talks to Jack any more about 'business.'

Not the Lady.

A well known minister walking along the street a few days since, met a lady for whom he had recently performed the marriage service. Desiring to renew the acquaintance (for the lady had greatly interested him at the time) he accosted her with the remark: 'Madam; did I not have the pleasure of marrying you a few days since?'

'I was married a few days since sir.'

'I thought I was not mistaken. I married you.'

'Indeed, well, I thought my husband was a much younger man than you are; but I have not seen enough of him to make his acquaintance thoroughly. By the way, my dear, my chignon is getting shabby; please give me some money to buy a waterfall.'

Evidently this was more than the minister bargained for, and with a heavy bow, accompanied by the remark: 'No, you are not the lady—I'm mistaken,' he took his leave.—New Orleans Picayune.

A curious fact about book publishing in the kingdom of Greece, is that, of every book published at Athens, nearly three times as many copies are sold out of the country as in Greece itself.

—A widow holding a policy on her deceased husband in Washington gets the money herself. It cannot be taken for his debts.

—Five hundred and twenty-five thousand six hundred trains leave London in the course of one year.

—A gentleman of Bedford, Mass., is now repairing his house, which was built 237 years ago.

—Othello was not a lawyer, although he was a tawny general of Venice.

—Of what crime is a carver most guilty—Of stealing his knife.

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