

Miscellaneous.

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MARRIAGE.—Much has been said in England regarding the falling off in the number of marriages. Persons who took this view of the question based their conclusions upon indiscriminate statistics. They found that in certain classes of marriage there was a falling off, and this concluded, rather hastily, that there must be a similar falling off in other classes. Recent returns show that the price of provisions influences very greatly the marriages among the lower classes, but that there are no ascertainments that the marriage institution is in reality failing into decay in any class of the population of England. The Leader, *Censor*, in speaking of this subject, holds the following language, which is equally applicable to certain classes in this country:

The only truth with which the argument was tingued was this, that in a certain class, where the education and habits generally acquired are considerably above the pecuniary competence usually possessed, there does appear a growing difficulty in making matches in sufficient numbers in the class in question, which would be found in the upper levels of the great middle order of society, is not far enough to effect the return of the whole nation, but it is one in which there is much activity of tongue and pen, and where any disagreement attracts a good deal of attention. The people comprised in it are evidently writing and talking people, and they talk and write of what comes home most forcibly to themselves. They are also of no small influence, and for this, as well as for general reasons, it is much to be wished that the anomaly could be removed. A young lady of this class has not a fair chance of getting comfortably married, but the fault and the remedy can be both indicated in a moment. Mothers must not expect for their daughters at the age of twenty-one such an establishment as they enjoy themselves after thirty years of matrimony. Neither professions nor fortunes can be obtained half-grown. The mistake lies in the endeavor to reproduce the parent establishment on its full scale in the case of each child at its first settlement, just as if the landholder with £5,000 a year were to expect that every one of his daughters should enter by marriage upon exactly such a property. Fathers should remember that their elevation comes by degrees, sons that they have naturally the same probation to go through, and mothers, that what they have now they had not when they began. To the daughters we say nothing, for the fault is surely theirs; but the whole evil would vanish at once if it were openly acknowledged that the people might move in the same social level with broad dispositions of living and means.

THE SPIRIT AND THE LETTER.—That a man should compound for the "sins he is inclined to," by "damning those he has no mind to," is natural enough. But here is something extremely quaint and refreshing in the instances upon which we occasionally stumble of people who, in one breath, will both compound for and damn the sins they have a mind to. Such exhibitions, argue a charming *moral* in the individual performers, while they speakingly illustrate the gravity of that pervasive atmosphere of cant in which the majority of civilized men live, and move, and have their being. At an examination of one of the national schools in England last summer, a little boy—the son, it appeared, of a stableman, and one of the most promising scholars of the institution—was requested to write a "composition" on the custom of horse-racing. His paper was handed up in due course of time, and read as follows:

"Horse-racing is a very wicked custom—very cruel to horses, and it makes gamblers gamble and lose their time. None but very bad persons have anything to do with horse-racing. The last Derby was won by Mr. Janson's Blink Bonny, and was one of the finest races ever seen."

The tribute which the poor child had paid to the morality he learned by rote, did not save him from the penalty incurred by his betrayal of knowledge that lay nearer his heart. An older adept in the damage which character pays to custom, would have strengthened the orthodox sermon and suppressed the heterodox revelation, without proving himself thereby a much more commendable member of society. We must therefore admire the honesty with which one of our Western contemporaries unconsciously imitates the English school-boy in dealing with the kindred institution of pugilism.

"Mr. Deck," says an Ohio editor, "is an American by birth, and one of the most respectable men in our community. His insight rises six feet—straight as an arrow—and weighs, when stripped, 200 pounds. He proposes to fight Tom Hyer for \$5,000 a side. His huge and giant-like frame indicates him to be a man of very superior strength; and, though we hope the two combatants may never meet, yet if a transaction so disgraceful should ever occur, we predict for the Buckeye boy the championship of the world."

The affirmative character of a woman's negative is proverbial, but we doubt if there was ever a woman's "No" that meant more clearly "Yes" than this denunciation of the "disgraceful" contest which is to transfer the lot of the Universe, or the United States, to Mr. Deck, with his respectability, his six feet, and his two hundred pounds weight. We suspect our contemporary is a devout reader of the *Tribune*; and like that ingenious journal, firmly hopes the Union will not be dissolved, while he is convinced that if it should be, we shall all be great gainers thereby.—*N. Y. Times*.

AN INTERESTING RElic.—Mr. David Young of Bridgeport, showed us recently an interesting relic, found at Valley Forge, some time within the year past, by Mr. Randolph Supplee. It is a portion of a coarse comb, on the upper part of which is the name of George Washington. It is made of iron which had, no doubt, been gilded or silvered. The whole name is perceptible, except the letters O. N., a part of the comb having been broken off with the instrument used in digging. Mr. Supplee was digging a post-hole at the time. The comb was evidently the property of Gen. Washington, and was dropped or lost by him at Valley Forge during the perilous times of the Revolutionary War. Some of the teeth are entire, and the letters, with the above exceptions, distinctly to be seen. It was something very fine, no doubt, in those days, and is now an interesting relic.

Newspaper Register.

The Pacific telegraph line has been completed to Lexington Mo.

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Bacon, Ham, Salt, &c. &c.

Ham, Bacon, Ham, Bacon, Bacon,

Beef, Bacon, Bacon, Bacon,

Ham, Bacon, Bacon, Bacon,

Bacon, Bacon, Bacon, Bacon,</i