

The Lancaster Intelligencer.

Volume XVII—No. 188

LANCASTER, PA., SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 1881.

Price Two Cents.

WANAMAKER'S ADVERTISEMENT.

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NEW THINGS FOR SPRING 1881

—AT—

JOHN WANAMAKER'S,

THIRTEENTH AND MARKET AND CHESTNUT STREETS, PHILADELPHIA.

In value and variety exceeding any Retail Store in Philadelphia.

We have done our best every Spring to have ready the best and largest assortment of goods for personal wear and house use. It is an easy thing to say that with experience gained since last season, this Spring shall be improved—that shall be the very best that the better a single year can make. Our whole stock for this Spring is, we believe, the very best that we have ever gathered for our customers, and in carefulness of selection and excellence of materials and variety of uses, is not matched anywhere else on this side of the Atlantic.

Every railroad to Philadelphia will bring you within a few squares of the store, and if time for shopping is limited—or if it is not—we can save you in purchasing, time as well as money.

JEST FROM PARIS.

Parisian conceits in lace, received from our resident buyer. For the month of June, the foundation of Breton net is half-covered with a *perle* chain with white figures of embryonic interposed. Two patterns only. In one, the embroidery is quite subordinate, 4 inch, 2 yard; in the other, it is the principal, 4 inch, 45 Spanish lace, for parasols and dresses to match. The combinations received are black and white, and gold and black.

ALSO FROM PARIS.

Silk tulle, embroidered with silk and gold and bordered with lace which is also embroidered with silk and gold; 37. Collar and cuffs of white tulle embroidered with gold and trimmed with point d'Alencon, 52.

PARASOLS.

Twenty-five silk parasol covers, embroidered in China with silver and gold, in quaint and rather characteristic, but not extreme, Chinese designs, with wide borders and variegated silk linings, have been imported and put on neat frames, with variety of stalks.

SCOTCH GINGHAMS.

More Scotch zephyr gingham are in today, but not all by any means. Our price is 21 cents; as the New York price. Now, don't suppose that such a difference as that means anything whatever in the gingham. It does not. It means simply that we buy of the makers, and save one profit.

BOUQUET SQUARES.

The bouquet squares of satin are a late thought from that wonderful city where every body vies with everybody as to who shall produce the most perfect and most beautiful paper. It was almost impossible to look into any book of any merit, and read ten pages together, without coming to some of these squares, and some of them were really beautiful and marvellous, some *à la carte* and some *à la mode*, which made whole passages perfectly unintelligible. Many of the sweetest passages of Shakespeare are converted into unmeaning nonsense. As to Milton, he was nearly ruined, as Scott's naturally he supposed. Walter Scott's were filled with perpetual *leaves*.

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DOMESTIC GINGHAMS.

If you would rather buy a coarser or heavier gingham, that looks just a little better, you can make, as you wish, what you want. They are last colors too.

LADIES' CLOTHS.

An entire counter is devoted to the ladies' cloths for dresses. There's nothing new in them but the colors, plain and illuminated. New ladies' cloths are here. It is useless to say more of these.

CHESTS.

Black and white, blue-white, green-and-white, and various other colored chests in three sizes, all quite small; fabric either wool or cotton-and-wool, as you may prefer, at 75 cents.

CHESTS AGAIN.

The same chests in silk-and-wool; but the silk has nothing to do with the chests. Three colors, black, blue, and green, in three sizes, all quite small; fabric either wool or cotton-and-wool, as you may prefer, at 75 cents.

PLAID.

A new woolen plaid of very quiet, though marked effect, has a figure about three inches square. For the purpose of it is, perhaps, that you don't know exactly where the figure is, or comes to an end; and the colors are so arranged to combine with the figure. From the double necessity of form and color, comes the quietest of the plaid.

FURNITURE.

A due to the character of our furniture without seeming it. Take, for example, a bed-room table of large pieces.

IRON BITTERS.

IRON BITTERS are highly recommended for all diseases requiring a certain and efficient tonic; especially

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SATURDAY EVENING, APRIL 9, 1881.

THE BLANK BIBLE.

What Was Seen and Experienced in a Dream.

The following is from "a dream" by a writer in "The Eclipse of Faith," who dreamed that the Bible and all extracts from it had been by some accident expunged from literary record:

"On inspection, it was found that every text, every phrase that had been quoted, not only in books of devotion and theology, but in those of poetry and fiction, had been remorselessly expunged. Never before had I had any adequate idea of the extent to which the Bible had molded the intellectual and moral life of the last eighteen centuries; nor how intimately it had interposed itself with the habits of thought and modes of expression; nor how naturally and extensively its comprehensive imagery and language had been introduced into human writings, and most of all, where there had been most of genius. A vast portion of literature became instantly worthless, and was transformed into much waste paper. It was almost impossible to look into any book of any merit, and read ten pages together, without coming to some of these squares, and some of them were really beautiful and marvellous, some *à la carte* and some *à la mode*, which made whole passages perfectly unintelligible. Many of the sweetest passages of Shakespeare are converted into unmeaning nonsense. As to Milton, he was nearly ruined, as Scott's naturally he supposed. Walter Scott's were filled with perpetual *leaves*.

Those who held large stocks of books knew not what to do. Rain stared them in the face. Their value fell seventy or eighty per cent. All branches of theology in particular were a drug. One fellow said that he should not so much have said that the miracle had spouted out of the clouds, as that it was what was divine; for in that case he would, at least have had so many thousands volumes of fair blank paper, which was as much as many of them were worth before. A wag answered that he was not usual, in despoiling a house, he carried away anything except the *valuable*. Mentions millions of blank Bibles filled the shelves of stationers, to be sold for day-books and ledgers, so that there seemed to be no more employment for the paper-makers in that direction for many years to come. A friend, who used to mope over the thought of palimpsest manuscripts—of portions of *Livy* and *Cicero* erased to make way for the nonsense of some old monkish chronicler—exclaimed, as he saw a tradesman trading off with a Morocco-bound quarto, or a thick book, or a heavy volume, the pages once filled with the poetry of Isaiah and the parables of Christ sponged clean to make way for orders for silks and satins, muslins, cheesc and bacons." The old authors, of course, were left to their mutilation. There was no way in which the confusion could be remedied. But the living began to prepare new editions of their works, in which they endeavored to give a new turn to the thoughts which had been mutilated by erasure, and I was not a little amused to see that many, having turned from writing compositions were as much mutilated as their own pages.

It seemed at first to be a not unnatural impression, that even those who could read the sacred texts, as they perused the injured books—who could, by and by, fill up the imperfect clauses—were not at liberty to inscribe them. They seemed to fear that if they did so, the characters would be as if written in invisible ink, or would surely fade away. It was with trembling that some, at length, made the attempt; and to their unexpected joy, found the impression durable. Day after day passed; still the characters remained; and the people, at length, came to the conclusion that God left them at liberty, if they could, to reconstruct the Bible for themselves, and to recover nearly entire, and new in the very words of the original, by the combined effort of human memories. Some of the obscurest of the species, who had studied nothing else but the Bible, but who had well studied that, came to be objects of reverence among Christians and bookellers, and the various texts they quoted were taken down with the utmost care. He who could fill up a chasm by the restoration of words which were only partially remembered, or could contribute the least text that had been forgotten, was regarded as a sort of public benefactor. At length a great public movement among the divines of all denominations was projected, to collect the results of these partial recoveries of the sacred text. It was curious, again, to see in how various ways human passions and prejudices came to be manifested. It was found that the several parties who had furnished from memory the same portions of the sacred text had fallen into a great variety of different readings; and though most of them were of little importance as the bulk of those which are paraded in the critical recensions of Mr. Griesbach, or Tischendorf, or the like, became, from the obstinacy and folly of the men who contended about them, important differences merely because they were differences. Two reverend men of the synod, I remember, had a rather tough dispute as to whether it was *et* or *etiam* in the words of the *five loaves* which the *five thousand* had, and *seven baskets* full of the *seven loaves* which the *four thousand* had, or *vico versa*; as also whether the words in John vi. 19 were "about twenty or five-and-thirty furlongs."

To do the assembly justice, however, there was found in intense general earnestness and sincerity during the occasion, and an equally intense desire to obtain as nearly as possible the very words of the lost volume; only (as was also a natural vanity in some, in other confidence in their strong impressions and in the accuracy of their memory, obstinacy and pertinacity in many more (all aggravated, as usual by controversy), caused many odd embarrassments before the final adjustment was effected. I was particularly struck with the varieties of reading which mere prejudices in favor of certain systems of theology occasioned in the several partisans of each. No doubt, the worthy men were generally unconscious of the influence of these prejudices; yet somehow the memory was set down so clear in relation to those texts which told against them. A certain Quaker had an impression that the words instituting the Eucharist were preceded

by a qualifying expression, and Jesus said to the twelve "Do this in remembrance of me," while he could not exactly recollect whether or not the formula of "baptism" was expressed in the general terms some maintained it was. Several Unitarians had a clear recollection that in several places the authority of Griesbach's recension was decidedly against the common reading; while the Unitarian majority of the Griesbach's recension in those instances had left that reading undisturbed. An Episcopalian began to have his doubts whether the usage in favor of the interchange of the words "bishop" and "presbyter" was so uniform as the Presbyterian and Independent maintained, and whether there was not a passage in which Timothy and Titus were expressly called "bishops." The Presbyterian and Independent had similar biases, and one gentleman, who was a strenuous advocate of the system of the latter, enforcing one equivocal remembrance by saying he could not see how it was likely to see the very spot on the page before his mind's eye. Such tricks will imagination play with the memory when preconception plays tricks with the imagination! In like manner, it was seen that while the Calvinists were very distinct in his recollection of the ninth chapter of *Romans*, his memory was very faint as respect the exact wording of some of the verses in the *Epistle of James*; and though the Arminian had a most vivid impression of all those passages which spoke of the claims of the law, he was in some doubt whether the Apostle Paul's sentiments respecting human depravity and justification by faith alone had not been a little exaggerated. In short, it very clearly appeared that *tradition* was no safe guide; that, if even the law, he was hardly a month old, he could play such tricks with the memories of honest people, there was but a sorry prospect of the secure transmission of truth for eighteen hundred years. From each man's memory seemed to glide something or other which he was not inclined to retain there, and each seemed to substitute in its stead something that he liked better.

It was curious to see by what odd associations—sometimes of contrast, some times of resemblance—obscure texts were recovered, though they were verified, when once mentioned. In the consciousness of hundreds. One old gentleman, a miser, contributed (and it was all he did contribute) a maxim of prudence, which he recollected principally from having systematically abused it. All the ethical maxims, indeed, were soon collected; for, though as usual, no one recollected his own peculiar duties or infirmities, every one, as usual, kindly remembered those of his neighbors. It was remembered what was due from their wives, and wives what was due from their husbands, and so on. It was about "better to dwell on the house-top" and "the perpetual dropping on a very rainy day" were called to mind by thousands. Almost the whole of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes were contributed, in the most fragments, in this way. A few sentences, "times for everything" fear could remember them all; but everybody remembered some. Undertakers said there was a "time to mourn," and comedians that there was a "time to laugh"; young ladies unnumberably remembered there was a time to love, and people of all kinds, that there was a "time to hate." Everybody knew there was a "time to speak" but a worthy Quaker reminded them that there was a "time to keep silence."

Some dry parts of the laws of Moses were recovered, and were, in fact, justly, who seemed to have no knowledge