

Facts Stranger than Fiction.

Those persons who in any degree incline to a belief in special Providence will find in the following something to greatly strengthen their faith that the hand of the Divine Father is continually outstretched to guide and protect his children in ways past all human comprehension. The narrative of fact rivals the creations of fiction in an eminent degree. One night two weeks ago William Battersson, of Buffalo, left Bradford with his wife and two small children to drive to Howard's Hill, in the mountains twelve miles south of Bradford. He got on the wrong road, and after driving in various directions through the woods came out upon the track of the Erie railway's Bradford branch at an isolated spot. It was very dark, and Mr. Battersson determined to take the risk of driving on the railroad track in hope of finding a road crossing. He lighted a lantern and walked ahead of the horse, while his wife drove after him over the ties. They proceeded a mile in this way, and found only high banks and woods on either side of them. The situation now became one of great peril, for a train might approach at any minute, and it would be impossible to turn the horse from the track. Mr. Battersson, to insure his wife and children against danger, helped them from the carriage, so that they could at once climb up the bank if necessary. He then led the horse and the party went on their way. They soon came to the Kinzua viaduct. This is the highest railroad bridge in the world. It is 303 feet above Kinzua Creek, and nearly half a mile long. There is a narrow foot-path on one side of the bridge. The locality is in an unbroken wilderness. Although ignorant as to where it would lead him, Mr. Battersson determined to take the chances of getting across the bridge before the coming of any train. There was room for the horse to walk on the foot-path, but the wheels on one side of the carriage ran on the ties. It was now half-past ten o'clock, and within a few minutes of the time that a north-bound was due at the bridge, of which fact, however, Mr. Battersson was ignorant. His wife and children followed along behind the carriage. The party had reached about the middle of the bridge when a sudden gust of wind extinguished the lantern. After trying in vain to light a match, Mr. Battersson groped his way onward, followed by his wife and children the latter crying with cold and terror. They crossed the bridge in safety and found themselves in a narrow cut, where the darkness is impenetrable. Trusting to blind luck, Mr. Battersson groped his way through this cut. If it had not been that the up train was delayed for ten minutes, a mile or two below, owing to a hot journal, nothing could have saved Battersson and his family from a horrible death in that narrow cut. As he emerged he heard the whistle of the approaching train. To his great joy he found that there was a road at the end of the cut. They had not gone thirty feet from the railroad track before the train rushed by and thundered into the cut. Mrs. Battersson was so overcome when she saw what a narrow escape they had that she fainted.—Union Leader.

Chaff.

"Well," said the country postmaster, as he handed a young lady a postal card, "I hope to gracious you can make some sense out o' that. It's more'n I can do."

"What brought you to prison, my colored friend?" said a Yankee to a darkey. "Two constables, sah." "Yes; but I mean had interpenance anything to do with it?" "Yet, sah; dey was bof of 'em drunk."—Baltimore Every Saturday.

When Lord Coleridge returns to his native 'eath and writes a book about America, we trust he will not say that Chicago is a larger state than Hoboken; that Louisville is an isthmus that connects California and Hartford; that the Hudson river is a beautiful city; that the Alleghenies are a lovely archipelago, and that Idaho is the capital of Brooklyn.—Puck.

An Austin lady, who had company to tea, reproved her little son several times, speaking, however, very gently. At last, out of patience with him, she said, sharply, "Jimmy, if you don't keep still I'll send you away from the table." "Yes, that's what you always do when there's company and there are not enough canned peaches to go around," was the reply of the gifted youth.—Texas Sifting.

"You should have learned some trade, my son," said an Austin gentleman to his young hopeful; "bricklayers are getting \$6.50 a day, while lawyers can't afford to ride on the street cars." "Pa, why didn't you learn a trade when you were a boy?" "That's not only a silly but also an impertinent question. I did not learn a trade when I was a boy out of regard for your feelings. I wanted to give you an opportunity to say that your father was a gentleman." "It can't be helped now," replied the boy moodily, "but I wish you had consulted me, for if we had arranged for you to be the bricklayer I could have been the gentleman myself."—Texas Sifting.

Wood Finish.

The patented preparations known as wood fillers, are prepared in different colors for the purpose of preparing the surface of wood previous to the varnishing. They fill up the pores of the wood, rendering the surface hard and smooth. For polishing mahogany, walnut, etc., the following is recommended: Dissolve beeswax by heat in spirits of turpentine until the mixture becomes viscid; then apply by a clean cloth, and rub thoroughly with a flannel or cloth. A common mode of polishing mahogany is by rubbing it first with linseed oil, and then holding trimmings or shavings of the same material against the work in the lathe. Glass paper followed by rubbing also gives a good lustre. There are various means of toning or darkening woods for decorative effect. Logwood, lime, brown soft soap, dyed oil, sulphate of iron, nitrate of silver exposed to the sun's rays, carbonate of soda, bichromate and permanganate of potash, and other alkaline preparations are used for darkening the wood; the last three are specially recommended. The solution is applied by dissolving one ounce of the alkali in two gills of boiling water, diluted to the required tone. The surface is saturated with a sponge or flannel, and immediately dried with soft rags. The carbonate is used for dark woods. Oil tinged with rose madder may be applied to hard woods like birch, and a red oil is prepared from soaked alkanet root in linseed oil. The grain of yellow pine can be brought out by two or three coats of Japan much diluted with turpentine, and afterward oiled and rubbed. To give mahogany the appearance of age, lime water used before oiling is a good plan. In staining wood, the best and most transparent effect is obtained by repeated light coats of the same. For oak stain a strong solution of oxalic acid is employed; for mahogany, dilute nitrous acid. A primary coat or a coat of wood fillers is advantageous. For mahogany stains the following are given: 2 oz. of dragon's blood dissolved in one quart of rectified spirit of wine, well shaken; or raw sienna in beer, with burnt sienna to give the required tone. For darker stains boil half a pound of madder and 2 oz. of logwood chips in one gallon of water, and brush the decoction while hot over the wood. When dry, paint with a solution of 2 oz. of potash in one quart of water. A solution of permanganate of potash forms a rapid and excellent brown stain.—Amateur Mechanics (London).

Stanley in Africa.

The famous Traveler Writes of His Travels in an Unknown Country.

A letter from Henry M. Stanley, dated at Stanley Pool, Congo river, July 14, has been received by a personal friend in Boston. Mr. Stanley says: "Since I have arrived on the Congo last December I have been up as far as the equator and have established two more stations, and besides discovering another lake, Mantua, have explored for a distance of one hundred miles or thereabouts, the river known on my map as Ikelumbu, but which is really the Maluminda. It is not as large as I stated in my book, but is a stream of the size of the Arkansas, and is deep, broad and very navigable. The big stream which I expect, must drain the largest part of the South Congo basin, must be higher up."

"Having become better acquainted with the country I am really struck with the dense population of the equatorial part of the basin, which, if it was uniform throughout, would give 49,000,000. The number of products and the character of the people are likewise remarkable. The gums, rubber, ivory, camphor wood and a host of other things would repay transportation even by the very expensive mode at present in use. The people are born traders, and are, for Africans, very entertaining and industrious."

Is Mr. Tilden Going South?

Samuel J. Tilden is said to be preparing for a trip to the South and the West Indies this winter. There are some circumstances which seem to warrant even this guarded allegation, and yet nothing to substantiate its accuracy. The yacht Yosemite which was hired by the mysterious old man, to run up and down the river, and even as far out as the Narrows with him aboard, has been lying in the North river for some days, and unwonted activity has been manifested with her crew. Boat loads of stuff, in hamper, boxes, and sacks have been sent abroad, and all the indications are favorable to the belief that she is victualing for a cruise of unusual length. Her captain declined to throw any light upon the meaning of this unwonted activity. Her crew are quite as mysterious as the old man himself. When asked if Mr. Tilden is really going to poke the Yosemite's nose against Sandy Hook and bear away for a milder climate, the sailor's only response is to shift his quid from the starboard to the port cheek, hitch his trousers and indulge in a vacant squint at the clouds and the horizon. Leading Democratic politicians and others, who are supposed to know something of Mr. Tilden's plans were interviewed, would neither confirm nor deny the report.—New York Special.

Profits of the Mints.

Over Seventeen Million Dollars Made from the Coinage of the Silver Dollar.

The director of the mint at Washington is preparing a statement to show the profits arising from the coinage of the standing silver dollar. The amount thus made is very large, being in gross for the five years since July 1, 1878, the enormous sum of \$17,342,113.02. Nearly all this profit has gone direct into the treasury, for after subtracting the wastage, cost of coinage, transportation and other expenses there is left a net profit in standard dollars and subsidiary coin over bullion value at the respective dates of purchase of over \$16,800,000. This is equal to an average net profit for the five years of \$3,360,000 annually. Large as this seems it is not so great in proportion to the value of the issue as that which results from the coinage of the baser pieces. Last year the profit from the coinage of nickels and one cent pieces at the Philadelphia mint alone was about a million dollars. The director of the mint is cooling a little in his affection for the standard dollar. He says he thinks we have enough of them. He will probably recommend the repeal of the compulsory coinage clause in the law in his message this year. Treasurer Wyman reports a pretty fair demand for the dollars at New Orleans. Last month there were more dollars taken there than were issued by the local mint, \$80,000 monthly. Owing to the fact that the dollar is repugnant to the Pacific coast the coinage has been almost stopped at San Francisco.

ON one question Governor Porter of Indiana disagrees with President Arthur. Mr. Porter says now that what carried Indiana in 1880 was the superior organization of the Republicans, whereas President Arthur, as is well known, said it was "soap." And Dorsey, who dispensed the "soap," agrees with Arthur. The weight of evidence is against Governor Porter.

LEBANON county is not entitled to a senator under the constitution and the census of 1880, and that is the reason Senator Lantz clings to the ultimatum which prevents the redistricting of the state into senatorial districts. Lebanon robs the remainder of the state of a senator, but that sort of robbery suits the Republican ultimatum.

How They Do It.

The Manner in Which Newspapers Obtain their Most Interesting Reading—An Excellent Illustration of It.

Few positions in journalism are so important to a good newspaper, and yet so easily filled as that of the "exchange editor." To those that are unsophisticated into the workings of a large newspaper, it may be stated that the "exchange" editor is a man who uses the scissors and paste-pot. All newspapers of metropolitan pretensions have exchange lists of hundreds of papers. They send their paper to all the leading journals in the country, besides to a number of country papers in the immediate vicinity. Every one of these papers are read by the exchange editor, and if he finds something novel and interesting, he cuts it and credits to the paper from which it is taken. When he gets a number of these clippings, he hands them to the managing editor to make a selection from. The latter chooses the most interesting of them, and those are published in the paper upon the following day.

Some newspapers use more clippings than others. In a large city, like New York, where interesting news is plenty, few are needed, as the columns are well crowded without them. In Cincinnati, St. Louis and cities further west, the papers will be found well filled with them, and there is no mistake but that they make mighty good reading.

For instance, the following entertaining story, which is from the Pittsburgh Dispatch, a journal which is extensively copied, has been going the rounds of the newspapers:

"Very seldom do we read of an actual case of recovery, where hope had altogether been lost, to parallel that which was Monday investigated by a Dispatch reporter who had heard in various quarters persons talking to their friends of a cure, seemingly little short of marvelous, that had been performed. The plain facts in the case referred to, without exaggeration, are these, as they were learned from the mother of the young man, his pastor and other persons well known in the community:

"William Lincoln Curtis is the name of the young man in question. He is now employed at H. K. Porter & Co's locomotive works in Pittsburgh, Pa. A year ago he resided with his mother, on Grant street. About that time he went to bed one evening with a violent pain in his shoulder, the result, he thought of a cold. The next morning the shoulder was greatly swollen, the pain was intense, and aches were felt all through his system. His case was speedily developed into a violent form of chronic rheumatism, among the first notable features of which was the paralysis of his left arm.

He gradually grew worse, and in a few months the elbow and knee joints, and both ankles became enormously enlarged. In March last the cheek

bones began to enlarge, and upon his left side particularly, spreading his face out of all resemblance to his former self. The pain in all his joints became intense; fever, with its deteriorating effects, was now added, and he became rapidly reduced to the semblance of a skeleton, while vitality reached its lowest possible condition, and his sufferings were of such an indescribable character that those who most loved him sometimes thought it would be better if he was called away. It is this time physicians well known in Pittsburgh informed his parents that he was in imminent danger of total paralysis, and directly afterward they announced to his sorrowful mother that they could give no hopes of recovery.

The young man finally commenced taking that wonderful medicine, PERUNA. Almost at once the good effects were perceptible. In two weeks quite a change, for the better, was perceptible by all the friends of the invalid. In six weeks almost all the enlargement had been reduced completely, while in spirits and strength the patient was quite as well as he had ever been in his life. Nearly three weeks ago he resumed work as a machinist at his old place, able to perform as much labor as ever in his life.

"The mother of Willie Curtis in stating all these facts, said: 'Indeed, I cannot look upon the cure much less than as a miracle. I do not hesitate in sounding the praise of PERUNA, and in recommending it to all my friends. My heart is very full of gratitude for my boy's recovery was really like that of one snatched from the jaws of death.'

The pastor of the church where the young man attended Sabbath school was visited, and he readily confirmed the facts of the deformed bones, the emaciated condition from disease, and of the doctors having given him up. The young man entered the minister's house with the reporter, and the pastor, who had not seen him since his recovery, was greatly surprised at his improved condition. Said he, "if he had not spoken, I would not have known him."

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