(From the Californian.) CONSCIENCE.

"Whatever creed be taught, or land be trod, Man's conscience is the eracle of God."—Byron. Tell me, O Conscience? what thou art, That fires the brain and wrings the heart; That haunts the guilty mind with fears, And fills the eyes with bitter tears; That keeps the memory on the rack. That plays with feelings at thy will,
And tortures with consummate skill;
Whose task it is, by smile or frown, To lift man up or drag him down; Whose stings are keener far than steel Whose stings are keener in than siee:
Which felons in dark dungeons feel.
The prince may golden favors shower,
Yet he is subject to thy power;
The priest may preach some creed of

gloom,
And sing of bliss beyond the tomb!
But thou caust read his thoughts profound,
Lone Sentinel of sacred ground!

The hero honor's path may tread, And his great name world-wide be spread: But glory brings not peace of mind, That jewel rare, so hard to find, From thy dominion none can flee, For mortals all must bow to thee! Tell me, O Conscience! what thou art. Weird Watchman of the human heart!

Art thou the child of wretched Care, That murders Sleep and mocks Despair— That fills with pangs the human breast, And robs the guilty head of rest— That mutely weeps o'er crime untold, Where Vice buys Virtue with its gold— Whose records by some mystic hand Are written in a fadeless land? Tell me, O Conscience! what thou art, Weird Watchman of the human heart!

The soul that claims celestial birth. Finds naught but tainted joys on earth; Imprisoned in a cell of clay, That yields to laws of swift decay— Too pure for such a horrid hell, Where shapeless fiends in anguish dwell-The spirit tenant of the heart Is ever yearning to depart; Like some caged warbler, to be free, That it may soar, O God, to thee!

O Conscience! mute, mysterious guest!
Man fain would pluck thee from his breast,
As if thou wert his deadly foe,
The only cause of human woe;
Could he but snatch thy golden crown,
And media pull thy temple down. And madly pull thy temple down, Dark vice would rear her bloody shrines Where perish hopes and Virtue pines; Strike but the brave heart-monarch dumb And earth a desert would become

When man can feel a conscience clear, What wrongs and dangers need he fear? Calmly at his departing breath. It takes away the stings from death; It nobly braves the coward world, Till Reason from her throne be hurled; With all the feelings of the heart It gently plays a leading part, In concert acting with the soul When passions wild brook no control; Close by life's purple fountain found, It guards the spot as holy ground.
Tell me, O Conscience! what thou art,
Weird Watchman of the human heart!

JAMES LINEN. San Francisco, October, 1866. A THEILLING SEA TALE.

The Magic Tug; or, Phoebe, the Phickle-An Exciting Bomance of Land and Water.

CHAPTER FIRST.

Gentle reader, have you ever stood on the heelpath side of the canal on one of those mild January evenings peculiar to the early autumn, and watched the sun rise from his gorgeous couch athwart the western sky, and listened to catch musical warble of distant coal-heavers, mingled with the criesof a ragged canal-driver encouraging a pair of attenuated calico mules? (If you don't remember whether you have or not, take time to consider, and inform us through the post-office, inclosing a stamp.) It was at such a time, and on such a spot, that two solitary youths might have been seen walking arm in arm in that vicinity and about that time. Need we tell you that one was fair, and the daughter of poor though wealthy parents, and that the other wasn't, being her lover.

After considerable time spent in reflection, it appears rather necessary that we should, because you wouldn't know it if we didn't. The young man had seen but nineteen Springs, yet did he urge his suit with the passionate ardor of one who had attained the ripe age of four score years and ten, and although his weight did not exceed one hundred and twenty-five pounds, he couldn't have plead more eloquently had he weighed a

The maiden, she was fair. Tooth brush handles could not compare with her teeth in whiteness, and raven's wing had no more business by the side of her glossy curls than a stove brush. Can we wonder that the young man swore he would cheerfully catch the measles for her sake, and expressed a willingness to have the scarlet fever a second time to prove his devotion?

Alas! the perversity of woman. Ala though loving him devotedly, she replied to his ardent declarations by sitting down on a stone boat, and writing him a letter of introduction to the marines. to whom she recommended him to report to whom she recommended nim to report that narrative. Driven to frensy (in an open hack) by such trifling, Caleb—for that was his name—turned so red in the face that he tore all the buttons off his vest, and frothed at the mouth to such an extent that he split a bran new coat down the back. Then casting upon her a look of unutterable anguish through a pocket telescope, he cried:

"False one, farewell for-r-ever!" threw a double somersault backward, and disappeared behind a high board fence. Phœbe Ann phainted.

CHAPTER SECOND. We left Pheebe Ann in a swoon; or rather Caleb did. "As soon as consciousness came Phœbe Ann came too, and then she remembered with a pang that she had driven Caleb away. She called aloud—"Ca-leb! Ca-leb!" But no Caleb answered. However well other Calebs might answer for others, no one but her Caleb would answer for her and he Caleb would answer for her, and he couldn't because he wasn't within hearing. Where had he gone?

A thought struck her. A (coward

thought, to strike a woman.) She re-called his love for the briny deep, which induced him when a mere lad to rin away from home to drive on the Whitewater canal. Then his father, humoring his passion for riding mountain waves and climbing giddy masts, procured for him, through his influence with the President of the United States, the appointment of Third Assistant Lock Tender. "What more natural," thought the Phœbe bird, "than for Caleb to follow his vouthful passion and go for a sailor?"

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Her resolution was taken. What was it? We shall see.

CHAPTER THIRD,

Before explaining the meaning of this thrilling ejaculation, let us take a brief thrilling ejaculation, let us take a brief review of things at the period of our story. Old Bourbon ruled France and Kentucky; Gin swayed the sceptre of Holland, and Sweden was governed a good deal by the price of Swede's Iron. Wales was becoming celebrated for her prints known all over the world see the prints, known all over the world as the "Prints of Wales." Columbus, having completed his labors by discovering Sandusky, had retired to Put-in-Bay and Johnny Morrissey had been elected to the Continental Congress.

Our readers being now thoroughly posted in regard to the condition of things, we will proceed to inform them what's what in another chapter. CHAPTER FOURTH:

When Caleb left the phickle Phœbe it was with the determination never to see her more. He would be a wanderer. He would land on other lands, and climb foreign climes—he would go and be an ancient mariner. Filled with this desperate resolve, he put a box of paper col-lars in his valise, and started for the river. A gallant tug lay at the landing and this he boarded, requesting to see the Captain. A sailor, whose voice was deeply bronzed by exposure to the Tropic of Barleycorn, appeared at the maintopmizzen gangway, and invited him to

walk below.
When Caleb entered the cabin, he was struck with the singularly youthful ap-pearance of the Captain. He was about to tell him that he had come to ship before the-well, smoke-stack, when the supposed Captain raised his cap, and a shower of raven curls fell upon his shoul-

ders.
"What!" exclaimed the lover, as a gleam of recognition flashed across his brain, "Phœbe Ann!" "Caleb!"

They rushed into each other's arms. After an embrace, which caused a thermometer in the cabin to rise to 100 degrees in the shade, explanations ensued. She had divined his purpose to go for a sailor, and resolved to thwart it. The captain of the tug being an aunt of hers, had allowed her to be captain for the day, and chance had done the rest. Phœbe Ann was penitent, Caled forgiving, and that very day they agreed before a minister to share the tug of life together. THE END.

-Cincinnati Times.

The Poet Percival. Professor Ticknor tells me that, while guests at his house in Boston at this time, his ways were peculiar. Sitting at the table opposite Mrs. Ticknor, he would converse with her husband and sometimes with her with the greatest fluency, but with his eyes downcast upon the plate, always avoiding the glance of Mrs. Ticknor's eye; and this was his habit always among females. The same shrinking from women was also seen in the drawing-room. And at the homes of his two Boston friends he was probably more at home than anywhere else. I have been told that this dropping of the eye (while he apparently saw every-thing) was observable as he walked the street wrapped in his camlet cloak, "the observed of all observers:" While on his Geological Survey of Connecticut he was often obliged to pick up a meal or a lodging where he could; and his dress was not always such as indicated his

character and position.

Throughout life he never polished his shoes, and his pants and hat generally showed that they had been used the full time of service. Clad in such a habit he presented himself one evening habit he presented himself one evening at the door of a young ladies' seminary, asking, as he was some distance from the village, for support and a night's lodging. The lady Principal met him at the door, and was not inclined to grant his request. He urged it, however, as he was tired and hungry; and she finally yielded, following him to the hitchen and remaining while he are him kitchen, and remaining while he ate his supper. Observing him more minutely, she thought he looked more intelligent than common beggars, and engaged in conversation with him, when she found that he could talk upon a variety of subjects. The conversation at length turned upon poetry, and the lady, after speaking of other poets, mentioned Perspeaking of other poets, mentioned rer-cival, and went on to express her enthu-siastic admiration of his poetry, to the somewhat startled yet quiet listener; when checking herself she asked, "Do you know Percival? Have you read his pootry?" To which the stronger replied poetry ?" To which the stranger replied, in his gentle, lisping tone, "I—am—Mr. Percival, and I semetimes write poetry." It is needless to say that he was generously entertained that night, and that the resources of his hostess were ex-hausted to do him honor.—Ward's Life of Percival.

No Longer a National, Drink.— The Council Bluffs, Iowa, Nonpareil says: In the recently published case of the State of Iowa vs. Baldy, one of the grounds of appeal was the misconduct of a juror in retiring from the jury room, in charge of the bailiff, for a necessary purpose; and who, while thus separated from the balance of the jury, went to a grocery and purchased some tobacco, and procured and drank a glass of ale. For this misconduct the court reversed the judgement, and remanded the case for a new trial. In delivering the opinion of the court, Justice Cole took occasion to say: "That at common law the jury were kept together without meat, drink, fire or candle, unless by permission of the Judge, but that rule has been so far modified in this country, that the jury may, of course, and with out any special permission from the Judge, have water, fire and lights, but the permission of the Judge is requisite for meal or board. But that at no time has it ever been declared that even with the permission of the Judge, could the jury have spirituous liquors, or cider, which at one time was considered as a national drink, but now happily by reason of its stimulating qualities, gone into comparative disuse."

YALE SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS.—We learn from the New Haven Palladium that this embryo school has had another stroke of good fortune. Mr. William Thompson, of Irvington, N. Y., intends to present to the school a statue of Ruth, now in his possession, and a number of pictures of his own selection. The statue of Ruth represents her as holding a sheaf of grain, and its value is computed at five thousand dollars. The amount of money to be expended for plotures will be about twenty thousand dollars. Mr. Thompson is at present at Paris, where

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