PITTSBURGH GAZETTE

Sketch of Martin Luther.

BY THOMAS CARLYLE.

A coarse, ragged, plebeian face it was, with great crags of cheek bones—a large amount of wild, passionate energy and appetite! But in his dark eyes were floods of sorrow; and deepest melancholy, sweetness and mystery were all there. Often did they seem to meet in Luther the very opposite poles in man's character. He, for example, of whom Richter had said that his words were half battles; he, when he first began to preach suffered unheard-of agony. "O Dr. Staupitz, Dr. Sterpitz," said he to the Vicar-General of his order, "I cannot do it." Dr. Staupitz, a wise and considerate man, said upon this, "Well, sir Martin, if you must die, you must—but remember that they need good heads up yonder, too. So preach, man, preach—and then live or die, as it happens." So Luther preach and lived, and he became, indeed, one great whirlwind of energy, to work without resting in this world; and also, before he died, he wrote very many books—books in which the true man was—for in the midst of all they denounced and cursed, what touches of tenderness lay! Look at the Table-talk, for example. We see in it a little bird, having slighted at sunset, on the bough of a tree that grew in Luther's garden. Luther looked up at it and said: "That little bird, how it cowers down its wings, sleeps there so still and fearless, though over it are the infinite starry spaces, and the great blue depths of immensity! Yet it fears not—it is at home. The God that made it too is there!" The same gentle spirit of lyrical admiration is in other passages of this book. Coming home from Leipsic in the autumn season, he breaks forth into singing under the fields of corn. "How it stands there," he says, "erect on its beautiful taper stem—and bending its beautiful golden head with bread in it—the bread of man sent to him yet another year!" Such thoughts as these are as windows through which we gaze into the interior of the serene depths of Martin Luther's soul, and see visible across the tempests and clouds, a whole heaven of light and love. He might have painted; he might have sung—could have been beautiful like Raphael, great like Michael Angelo.

AN INCIDENT IN THE CRIMEA.—A private soldier of the allied army relates the following:

"In the heat of the battle, a young Russian officer made his stand very conspicuous, and appeared indifferent to danger. He was young, tall, handsome and indeed beautiful. Twice I had my rifle raised to shoot him; but my heart smote me and I turned it another direction. In an hour I saw him again, but, O how changed! His cheeks, which had flushed with the heart of strife, were now deadly pale. He lay, or half reclined, on the edge of a hillock, and held the handkerchief of a pretty young lady in his hand, which had been tied to his neck by a small gold chain. His eyes were fixed upon it but they were fixed upon death.

"Rachel will cause much excitement here, Mrs P.," said the young doctor, addressing Mrs. Partington, giving the name the foreign pronunciation, "I dare say," replied she, "they are always getting up new nostrums to cause a fermentation among the people, but do you really think, doctor, that this Rochelle is any better than the old fashioned globular salts?" The doctor bit his lips and told her that he preferred Rochelle with a little soda, but the one that he had named was the great tragedienne, Rachel. She looked at him a moment. "Well," says she, smiling, "I believe I am losing all my conscientiousness, and by and by I know nothing." This doctor got up to go taking his seat a little ways with him, as some adhering wax, that Ike had laid down in the chair, pinned him thereto.

—*Boston Post.*

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