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Miscellaneous.

LATE INTERESTING DISCOVERIES.

AT JERUSALEM.—An account of Signor Pierotti's discoveries in the subterranean topography of Jerusalem has been published. Employed by the Pacha as an engineer, he has discovered that the modern city of Jerusalem stands on several layers of ruined masonry, the undermost of which composed of deeply bevelled and enormous stones, he attributes to the age of Solomon, the next to that of Zorobabel, the next to that of Herod, the next to that of Justinian, and so on till the times of the Saracens and Crusaders. He has traced a series of conduits and sewers leading from the "dome of the rock," a mosque standing on the very site of the altar of sacrifice in the Temple, to the Valley of Jehoshaphat, by means of which the priests were enabled to flood the whole temple area with water, and thus to carry off the blood and offal of the sacrifices to the brook Kedron. The manner of his explorations was very interesting. He got an Arab to walk up through these immense sewers, ringing a bell and blowing a trumpet, while he himself by following the sound was able to trace the exact course they took.—About two years ago he accidentally discovered a fountain at the pool of Bethesda, and, on his opening it, a copious stream of water immediately began to flow, and has flowed ever since. No one knows from whence it came or whether it goes. This caused the greatest excitement among the Jews, who flocked in crowds to drink and bathe themselves in it. They fancied that it was one of the signs of Messiah's coming and portended the speedy restoration of their commonwealth. This fountain, which has a peculiar taste, like that of milk-and-water; is identified by Signor Pierotti with the fountain which Hezekiah built, and which is described by Josephus. The measurements and position of most of these remains accord exactly with the Jewish historian's description.—Some of the Signor's conclusions are disputed, but no one has succeeded in so disinterring the relics of the Holy City.—*English Paper.*

AT ROME.—Interesting discoveries have recently been made in Rome.—Signor Fortunati, whose name became celebrated three or four years ago by the discovery of the ancient Basilic of St. Stefano, has been again fortunate in archeological researches in a vineyard adjoining the ancient Prætorian camp, having brought to light, among other relics of the past, twelve inscriptions of monuments erected to Prætorian soldiers. These epigrams are highly prized, as illustrative of historical and geographical details interesting to the antiquary, and demonstrative of the fact that the Prætorian Guards were levied in distant provinces, such as Pannonia, Media and Thracia, of which the provinces, cities, boroughs and streets are exactly specified.

AT POMPEII.—An important archeological discovery has just been made at Pompeii, of a mill with a great quantity of corn in excellent preservation, and an oven with 81 loaves, arranged in rows, and but slightly affected by the heat of the lava, having been protected by a quantity of ashes which had covered the iron door fitted to the mouth of the oven. These loaves have all been got out entire; a large iron shovel for introducing loaves into the oven has also been found on the spot, with a remnant of its wooden handle. This is the first discovery of the kind on record.—*Galignani.*

IN ENGLAND.—A curious fresco was recently discovered at Blunham church, Bedfordshire, England, representing the Descent from the Cross. It displays certain exaggerations of style and feeling which may indicate it to be a work of about the end of the fifteenth century. The drawing is said to be excellent.

CURIOSITIES OF THE EARTH.

At the city of Medina, in Italy, and about four miles around it wherever the earth is dug when the workmen arrive at the distance of sixty-three feet, they come to a bed of chalk which they bore with an auger, five feet deep. They then remove from the pit before the auger is removed, and upon its extrication the water bursts up through the aperture with great violence, and soon fills the new made well, which is affected neither by rains nor drought. But what is most remarkable in this operation is the layers of the earth as we descend.—At the depth of fourteen feet are found the ruins of an ancient city, paved streets, houses, floors and different pieces of masonry work. Under this is found soft, oozy earth, made up of vegetables, and at twenty-six feet large trees entire, such as walnut trees, with the walnuts sticking to the stems, and the leaves and branches in a perfect state of preservation. At twenty-eight feet deep a soft chalk is found, mixed with a vast quantity of shells, and the bed is eleven feet deep. Under this vegetables are found again.

TERRIBLE SCENES AT SEA.

NARRATIVE OF A SURVIVOR FROM THE GOLDEN GATE.

Mr. A. Bates, a steerage passenger on board the California steamer, Golden Gate, furnishes a San Francisco paper the following interesting narrative of the scene on board that vessel when she was burned at sea:—"The day was very warm, and I was sitting on deck forward. This was about half-past four o'clock in the afternoon; all was quiet. I suddenly saw smoke issuing from the deck, about midships, and near the smoke stack. I watched it a moment, when, becoming convinced there was fire, I cried out. Just at this moment others saw the smoke too, and we all rushed toward the pumps or brakes, forward, which were chiefly used for cleaning the deck.

"We used the pumps as best we could. We took turns working. I worked a few minutes, when, seeing it would do no good, I went forward. All then began to crowd forward, and had no life-preservers, for they could go through the fire after them. In about five minutes from the time I saw the smoke, the flames burst through the decks. It seemed as if the means for extinguishing a fire had been neglected, for the pumps would not work.

"The flames kept coming forward every minute, and all pressed still closer to the bows. Ropes were now attached to the vessel and thrown over the sides, to hold on to. Some were so frightened that the moment the fire came near them they plunged wildly overboard and were drowned. Others climbed over and held on to the ropes as long as they could.—They got exhausted, and dropped off, singly and in pairs, and were lost.

"There were ten boats on board—enough to save every soul on board—but only three of them could be got at, two of these, loaded chiefly with the crew, got safely to the shore. The other sailed away for Manzanilla, and has not been heard from. The men that got into the boats leaped overboard, and were picked up. The officers seemed to do very well, and the men were not insubordinate, but appeared to obey orders and work well.

"I secured a rope, and determined to stay aboard to the last moment, and then swim for the shore. I am a very good swimmer. I had stripped myself of everything but my shirt. I had about my waist a belt with some money; but a large sum which I had in my trunks was lost.

"While thus standing at the bows, grasping my rope"—continued Mr. Bates—"a little girl, a lovely child of about eight years of age, came up to me and asked me to save her. Her name was Addie Manchester, and her father lives in San Francisco. She said:—"O, mister, can you swim?"

"I told her I could. She begged me so hard to save her that I determined to try to do so anyhow. I told her I would try to save her if she would do just as I told her. She said:—"I will do just as you tell me.—Save me, do, please—I don't want to be drowned."

"I showed her how to act—to get on my back and grasp me tightly, but that she must not choke me. She promised to do just as I told her.—She was quite cool. Just as the fire got up to us, the vessel struck the bar. I got over, taking Addie with me. She held on to me tight, as I told her to do. I struck for the beach, not far off. The breakers ran very high. I got past the first one in safety with my burden. I got past the second one also. After I passed the third one, I found that Addie was gone. I turned round and saw her going down behind me. A man on a plank, who was passing, grasped her by her hair and pulled her on his plank. I saw she was safer than with me, so I continued on, and was dragged on the beach.—I lay on the beach insensible for about half an hour. When I came to, I saw Addie, she was lively.

"I dug a hole in the sand to keep warm in. We buried the dead each in a separate grave, which we scraped out with our hands and pieces of board.

A GHOST STORY.

In all ages persons of weak intellect have believed in apparitions; yet we may confidently affirm that stories of ghosts are mistakes, or impositions, and that they may always be detected by a proper exercise of the mental faculty. In all relations of this kind there is manifestly an endeavor to make the events as supernatural as possible, to prevent the suspicion of trick, and to silence all objections which might be made to their credibility. In compliance with this custom, we will recount a story of a ghost, which seems to possess all the desired requisites.

At a town in the West of England twenty-four persons were accustomed to assemble once a week, to drink, smoke tobacco, and talk politics. Like the academy of Rubens, at Antwerp, each member had his peculiar chair, and the president's was more elevated than the rest.—As one of the members had been in a dying state for some time, his chair, whilst he was absent, remained vacant.

When the Club met on the usual night, inquiries were naturally made after their associate. As he lived in the adjoining house, a particular friend went to inquire after him, and returned with the melancholy intelligence that he could not survive the night. This threw a gloom on the company, and all efforts to turn the conversation from the sad subject before them were ineffectual. About midnight the door opened, and the form, in white, of the dying or the dead man, walked into the room, and took his seat in his accustomed chair. There he remained in silence, and in silence he was gazed at. The apparition continued a sufficient time in the chair to assure all who were present of the reality of the vision. At length he arose, and stalked towards the door, while he opened as if living; went out, and shut the door after him. After a pause some one, at last, had the resolution to say,—"If only one of us had seen this, he would not have been believed; but it is impossible so many of us can have been deceived." The company, by degrees, recovered their speech, and the whole conversation, as may be imagined, was upon the dreadful object which had engaged their attention. They broke up, and went home. In the morning, inquiry was made after their sick friend. It was answered by an account of his death, which happened nearly about the time of his appearance in the club room. There could be little doubt before; but, now, nothing could be more certain than the reality of the apparition, which had been simultaneously seen by so many persons. It is unnecessary to say that such a story spread over the country, and found credit even from infidels; for in this case, all reasoning became superfluous, when opposed to a plain fact, attested by three and twenty witnesses. To assert the doctrine of the fixed laws of nature was ridiculous, when there was so many people of credit to prove that they might be unfixed. Years rolled on, and the story was almost forgotten.

One of the club was an apothecary. In the course of his practice he was called to an old woman, whose business it was to attend sick persons.—She told him that she could leave the world with a quiet conscience, but for one thing, which lay upon her mind.—"Do you not remember Mr.—, whose ghost has been so much talked of?"

"He was his nurse. On the night of his death, I left his room for something I wanted. I am sure I had not been absent long; but, at my return, I found the bed without my patient! He was delirious, and I feared that he had thrown himself out of the window. I was so frightened that I had no power to stir; but, after some time, to my great astonishment, he entered the room, shivering, and his teeth chattering, laid himself down on the bed, and died! Considering my negligence as the cause of his death, I kept this a secret, for fear of what might be done to me. Though I could have contradicted all the story of the ghost, I dared not do it. I knew by what had happened, that it was he himself who had been in the club-room, (perhaps recollecting it was the night of meeting); but I hope God and the poor gentleman's friends will forgive me, and I shall die contented."

THE FINISHED GARMENT.—A Christian man's life is laid in the loom of time to a pattern which he does not see, but God does; and his heart is a shuttle. On one side of the loom is sorrow, and on the other is joy; and the shuttle, struck alternately by each, flies back and forth, carrying the thread, which is white or black as the pattern needs; and in the end, when God shall lift up the finished garment, and all its changing hues shall glance out, it will then appear that the deep and dark colors were as needful to perfection and beauty as the bright and high colors.

There is no readier way for a man to bring his own worth into question than by endeavoring to detract from the worth of other men.

As nothing can be more conducive to security, so nothing can be better to insure a quiet and pleasant life, than to live innocently, and upon no occasion to violate the common covenants of peace and propriety.

Health is another word for temperance and exercise.

DESCRIPTION OF PEKIN.

BY AN ENGLISH MISSIONARY.

An opportunity was afforded me of seeing Pekin early in the present month, a little before the relaxation of the restrictions on passports. I send you this brief account of some of the things I saw.

The streets and gates are singular. The Tartar city is square. There are two gates in each wall, placed opposite to each other; but the south wall has three gates instead of two, the middle one being in front of the Imperial Palace. Conceive of walls from forty to sixty feet high, and thirty-five feet wide, crowned with lofty towers of several stories, over the nine gates and at the corners.—Had not the Chinese Government yielded, our troops would have found no little difficulty in forcing an entrance through such bulwarks. So said a colonel of one of our regiments to me lately, and with reason.

The Tartar city is three miles and a half across. In its centre is the Imperial city, which, within a triple wall, incloses the palace. The approaches to the top of the walls consist of gradually rising slopes, suitable for cavalry to mount, and close to the gates. Some of them are open and invite the visitor to ascend them. From the wall in the vicinity of the south central gate, there is a fine view of the palace. A succession of yellow tiled roofs are seen stretching far to the north. Beyond them is "Prospect Hill," or "Hill of Beauty," an artificial mound made to beautify the palace.

Let the reader suppose himself to be walking from this spot of the handsome terre-plain to the eastward; he will observe the English and French flags waving on his left over gay, green-tiled roofs which once protected princes of the Imperial family. He will also notice the Russian church near them, and nearer yet to the wall he may observe a street where a crowd of Coreans are congregated. Their clothes are of white cotton, manufactured by themselves. A handkerchief is tied round their unshaven heads. They wear laced shoes. In all these points differing from the Chinese, they exhibit also a bustling, disputatious, quarrelsome disposition, which scandalizes those who watch them. But this may wear off on better acquaintance. They drive bargains with *ginseng*, the root whose tonic virtues are so celebrated in China, in stout paper and strong calico, all of them products of their peninsula.

After turning the angle of the wall, the Astronomical Observatory comes into view. It is an open terrace where are displayed the beautifully cast observing instruments of Verbiest.—They are of bronze, and appear to have been executed with great accuracy. The large celestial globe is feet in diameter. After a century and a half of exposure to skyey influences, they look fresh and capable of being used to advantage. Below this "terrace for observing the stars," there are seen lying on a slight elevation at the bottom, the astronomical instruments made in the Mongolian dynasty, nearly six hundred years ago, by the Chinese mathematician Kwo-shen-king.

Near the Observatory is the Examination Hall, where thousand of students gather to acquire distinction in a struggle for literary honors. I met several candidates who had just arrived by steamer from Canton. Lower degrees are granted in the provinces; but that of Doctor in Literature is only given in the capital. They were Masters of Arts who had braved the inconveniences of a sea voyage rather than be checked by the disordered state of the intermediate provinces in their purpose of reaching Pekin. Only 200 out of 5000, they told me, can receive the coveted honor. Their own chance was not a bad one, because, coming from remote provinces, twelve or fifteen hundred miles distant, they would share in the advantage gained by the equitable distribution which the Emperor makes of the 200 diplomas among the provinces to which candidates belong.

COULD BE RECONCILED.—The Duke de Roquelaure was one day told that two ladies of the court had quarreled and very much abused each other.

"Have they called each other ugly?" he asked.

"No."

"Very well," said he, "I can reconcile them."

An eminent physician has discovered that the night mare, in nine cases out of ten, is produced by owing a bill for a newspaper.

Slang phrases especially when made use of by women, which they often are, are disgraceful—not to say disgusting.

When some people make a great deal of you—you may be sure they mean to make a deal out of you.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT IRELAND.

LAND.

Ireland has of late years been undergoing greater economic changes than any other portion of the kingdom. When I tell you that, within the short period of nineteen years—since the period of the Disruption—£30,000,000 worth of land have changed hands in the Encumbered and Landed Estates Court, involving a change of property, and introducing an immense amount of capital, energy, and agricultural skill, that are telling confessedly upon the aspect of the country—assimilating Ireland more to Scotland and England than in former times; and that these changes like those which Dr. Begg brought out so admirably the other evening in his "Report on Houses for the Working Classes," will naturally tell upon the people—you will easily see that they give us facilities of a peculiar character for the introduction of the Gospel concurrent with these economic changes. Changes as great in the population have been going on no less extensive. Two tides have been streaming over Ireland—one in the direction of Australia and America, to some extent also to Scotland and England, going out of Ireland; and another, chiefly coming into Ireland from Scotland; and I trust in its character and consequences, like the gulf streams, which bring fertility and health.—Generally speaking, the outgoing element has been a Roman Catholic element, the incoming a Protestant element, and especially a Presbyterian element from Scotland. We have no doubt that these two changes together, the outgoing and the incoming, will tend to make the South and West of Ireland somewhat like Ulster, and like changes which took place some years ago in our own beloved land. In 1848, the population of Ireland was in round numbers eight millions and a quarter; in 1861, it was five and three-fourth millions, making a decrease on the gross population of two and a half millions, or nearly the entire population of Scotland, if you except Edinburgh and Glasgow. You may thus have an idea, from the decrease of the population on the one hand, and the introduction of capital on the other, of the economic changes that are going on in Ireland. The great mass of the population who have left home consisted, as I have said, of the Romish element; while of those who have come to Ireland, there have been hundreds from Scotland, tending to change still more the relative proportions of Roman Catholic and Protestant, giving accessions that constitute centres of light and influence to the Protestant Churches in that dark land. I have here a map drawn up by Mr. Miller, Prince's Street, Edinburgh, with red dots showing upon it the places where Scotchmen had settled and I put it into the hands of the Moderator for information. This map is indicative at once of the migratory and also the gregarious character of our Scottish countrymen. You will observe that a large number have come from Scotland, and that wherever a Scotchman has fixed himself others have come and settled down beside him.—*Rev. Mr. McNaughton's Address.*

DO THE RIGHT THING.

Whenever you are in doubt which of two things to do, let your decision be for that which is right. Do not fear, do not parley; but go square up to the mark, and do the right thing, when you divide that apple with your little sister, be careful not to keep the largest half for yourself. Young man! do not sneak out of the casement door because you wish to escape your father's eyes. Maiden! do not the most trifling deceit pass current in those little acts which make up the sum of your life.

No matter who you are, what your lot, or where you live, you cannot afford to do that which is wrong.—The only way to obtain happiness yourself is, to do the right thing. You may not always hit the mark; but you should, nevertheless, always aim at it, and with every trial your skill will increase. Whether you are to be praised or blamed for it by others; whether it will seemingly make you richer or poorer, or whether no other person than yourself knows of your action, still always, and in all cases, do the right thing. Your first lessons in this will grow easier, until finally doing the right thing will become a habit; and to do a wrong, will seem an absolute impossibility.

RESIGNATION.—No man can be happy who does not stand firm against all contingencies, and cannot say, "I should have been content if it might have been so or so; but since it is otherwise, God's will be done! for His dispensations are unquestionable, and His decrees not to be resisted."—*Seneca.*

TEACHING CHILDREN.—Do all in your power to teach children self-government. If a child is passionate, teach him by gentle and patient means, to curb his temper. If he is greedy, cultivate liberality in him. If he is sulky, charm it out of him by encouraging frank, good humor. If he is indolent, accustom him to exertion. If pride makes his obedience reluctant, subdue him by counsel or discipline. In short, give your children a habit of overcoming their besetting sin.

A COMPREHENSIVE PRAYER.—On the fly leaf of Rev. Dr. Bethune's Bible, was found written the following:—
Lord pardon what I have been;
Sanctify what I am;
Order what I shall be;
That thine may be the glory,
And mine the eternal salvation.
For Christ's sake.

A soldier, who was in all the battles before Richmond, remarks that "it is astonishing how indifferent to danger a man becomes in action, after being in a short time. While supporting the battery some of our men lay down on the ground and slept soundly, utterly regardless of the shells that were bursting around them. If I had not seen this, I certainly never would have believed it."

KNOWLEDGE.

How shall we estimate the value of knowledge? What arithmetic can calculate the advantages possessed by educated over uneducated mind? The great philosopher, who seems to have perfectly analyzed human nature, declares:—"Ignorance is the curse of God; Knowledge the wing by which we fly to heaven."

They who dwell in ignorance are in the region and shadow of death. Ignorance puts man in subjection to nature, causes him to tremble at the elements, and renders him the sport of the wildest superstition. Knowledge puts nature in subjection to man, renders all its powers the ministers of good, enabling man to control, direct, and combine them at his will.—Knowledge invests man with his proper dignity and gives him actual dominion over the earth on which he treads. In ignorance, he is in slavish bondage to earth, air and sky.

About four hundred years before Christ, the Athenians, in the days of their prosperity, made war upon the inhabitants of Syracuse. After an unsuccessful battle, it was manifest that safety could be found only in hasty retreat. Preparation was made with all possible speed, but when the moment for departure arrived, to their utter consternation, the sun grew dark, and night fell upon the earth. "It is an ill omen," said the sooth-sayers, "and we must remain until the next full moon." They attempted to remain, but the result was the almost utter destruction of the army, and the fall of the supremacy and glory of Athens. They could have escaped a hostile army, but superstition's grasp was the grasp of death. They perished through ignorance of an Eclipse.

What is meant by the Dark Age? A long night of a thousand years of the darkness of ignorance and superstition. A period in which there was

"No light; but rather, darkness visible

Served to discover scenes of woe,

Regions of horror, doleful shades."

In 1476, a large comet appeared. Of course it was sent to destroy the earth.—All believed the day of Judgment at hand. Pope Calixtus ordered all the church bells to be rung daily at twelve o'clock, and that to the usual form of prayer should be added, "Lord save us from the Devil, the Turk and the Comet."

No longer ago than the beginning of the eighteenth century, more than one hundred persons were imprisoned or executed in Massachusetts under the charge of being "bewitched." Man has ever mourned, and the earth has been drenched with blood and tears, through the reign of ignorance and superstition.

Great advance has been made. Man has not only ceased to regard the elements with superstitious terror, but begins to look upon them as placed at his control for the most beneficent ends by the All-wise Creator. Intellectually, he is "clothed and in his right mind." The fountain of knowledge is unsealed, and its healing streams, in this land, bear blessings to every hamlet. And yet, even here, there are many to speak against books and schools, and who are so stupid in their ignorance, as to think it would be better for society if the whole system of education were swept out of existence.

Knowledge is a good thing, but knowledge is not righteousness. Education is good, but education is not religion. Man has a head and also a heart. His moral nature must furnish the motives and principles to govern him as an intellectual being. Without this divinely appointed regulation and subordination of his powers, his existence is a failure so far as relates to the accomplishment of good. Ambition as proud and unholly as that which reigned in the breast of Satan who drew a part of heaven's hosts into rebellion, may reign in the breasts of the most gifted ones of earth. Such has too often been the case. Such is now the case. We have a practical demonstration of it.—*C. Prea.*

TEACHING CHILDREN.—Do all in your power to teach children self-government. If a child is passionate, teach him by gentle and patient means, to curb his temper. If he is greedy, cultivate liberality in him. If he is sulky, charm it out of him by encouraging frank, good humor. If he is indolent, accustom him to exertion. If pride makes his obedience reluctant, subdue him by counsel or discipline. In short, give your children a habit of overcoming their besetting sin.

A COMPREHENSIVE PRAYER.—On the fly leaf of Rev. Dr. Bethune's Bible, was found written the following:—
Lord pardon what I have been;
Sanctify what I am;
Order what I shall be;
That thine may be the glory,
And mine the eternal salvation.
For Christ's sake.

A soldier, who was in all the battles before Richmond, remarks that "it is astonishing how indifferent to danger a man becomes in action, after being in a short time. While supporting the battery some of our men lay down on the ground and slept soundly, utterly regardless of the shells that were bursting around them. If I had not seen this, I certainly never would have believed it."