

In the bright blue heavens above us, On the smiling earth below, In the hearts of friends that love us, In the thorny paths we know, There is something good to be found, There is something good to be found, As the gentle winds caress us, As the blossoming flowers appear, As the gentle breezes move us, From some spirit's soul of joy, Who all radiant glances us, With their beautiful smile, In the great world without us, In the spirit-world within, There is something good to be found, Something good for us to win, Then let hope be bright before us, Let us taste joy's fountain brim, Then, as the morning dawns, And our brightest dreams grow dim, From our lamp of spirit's fire, There is still an angel call, To the heart, the truth revealing, There is something good in all.

**Humorous Sketch.**

**Candidate For a Schoolmaster.**

BY HENRIETTA R. WATSON.

A few years ago I chanced to be a member of the superintending school committee, and among the various comical cases that came under my notice, I must relate the following: One afternoon, as I sat at my desk, a wagon rattled up into my doorway, and in a few moments more there came a bump upon my door. I went to see what was wanted, and I found upon my piazza one of the most original specimens of the genius Yankee that it was ever my lot to fall in with. I mean of such Yankees as we read of, but which are seldom seen. He stood about "six feet two," was rather lean, and yet giving evidence of plenty to eat. His dress was evidently his best, though the coat and hat surely came down to him from a gentleman that had passed away. His vest was of a blue, homespun cloth, short, and buttoned with brass buttons; his neckerchief was of checkered gingham, while the web of a dicky which had been pulled up to sight above it, was but a more extended binding of his cotton shirt. His face was open enough, in all conscience; and his hair, which was of several hues, from that of flax to that of a wilted bad, had been treated thoroughly, but it would not stick down. His boots were evidently made for wear, and were visible half way up to the top, the trousers either having shrunk up or mayhap having been made to clear the mud. "Mornin'," he said, in a tone not unlike the grating of a saw mill. "Good day," I returned not wishing to repeat his exact salutation, seeing it was nearer evening than morning. "I kind' thought as how I'd come an' git you to gin me a satisfierkate, bein' as they wanted me to have one afor I commence keepin' school in this town." It was in the fall, and as the day was cool, I asked the applicant to walk in, hinting to him first, that he could wipe his feet on the mat. He gave his boots a wipe and then followed me to my study. He took a seat on my lounge deposited his hat upon the floor, and then took out an old pocket-book from somewhere within his vest. "Ef you're in a hurry, 'squire, don't know as there'll be any need of you're 'zaminin' me, for I've got a satisfierkate from the selemen of our town. I kept schewl that last winter; an' you'd better believe I made the wool fly. Jes' let me tell you 'bout that," he rattled on with as much assurance as man could have, and in a tone of self-esteem, beyond anything I ever suspected from his looks. "You see they have got the all-fired ugly set of boys over there in Perdishun Holler, ye ever hear tell on. Why—they licked the schewlmaster an' lugged him aout of the schewlouse every winter for six winters.—By gimerky, I was mad. Sez I, jest let me keep that schewl." The kommittee hear tell on me, an' they sent for me at wunst. They 'zaminin' me, an' giv me a satisfierkate rite orf. An' I commenced the schewl, sum of the big boys commenced wunst or twist to kick up a row, but apple-sarse an' greens' didn't I wollup 'em. You never seed such a schewl as 'twas. The folks said as how there hadn't been such a schewl thar for forty years." The "schewlmaster" waited a few moments to see if I would express any astonishment, but as I did not he went on. "I seemed' as some of the folks down here in Pordunk hev heard tell how I sukseeded, and they've sent for me to kum an try my hand thar." I remembered now to have heard the agent of the school in the district which was generally known as Paukruk, says that he had sent to try and hire a teacher who kept a school in B—, the previous winter, and I suppose this must be the one. His fame had only reached our town connected with a thrashing exploit, in which he had floored some half dozen big boys. "As I was sayin'," 'squire, thar's no need of your 'zaminin' me. Here's the satisfierkate." And as he thus spoke he handed me a soiled and crumpled paper, which I found to be indeed a bonafide certificate, and signed by two of the school committee of B—.

# THE AGITATOR.

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**Be Diligent in Business.**

Franklin has said that he owned a considerable share of his success in life to the impression made on him, while yet a boy at home, by a passage in the book of Kings that those who were "diligent in business" should stand in the presence of Princes. It is equally well known that few men were more industrious. It is equally well known that, while he began his career as a poor boy, he lived to be an honored ambassador at the Court of the proudest monarch in Christendom. He was an example therefore, of the liberal fulfillment of the text. But he was not the only man who realized its truth. We don't indeed if any man ever succeeded in life who was not diligent in business. The supposed instances to the contrary, so often popularly quoted, invariably prove fallacious when rigidly examined.—Curran, the great Irish orator, was said to have eloquence native born; but, on the contrary, he has left it on record that he took the greatest pains to perfect elocution, his gestures, and his knowledge of law. Burke, the British Cicero, built up the edifice of his fame by slow, persevering, laborious effort.—The late Stephen Girard amassed his colossal fortune by assiduous attention to business. Clay, Webster, and Calhoun all worked hard. And Napoleon the First, who was a born genius, if ever man was, achieved most of what he did by hard labor, often dictating to several secretaries at once, and always tiring out every body about him. If these great men achieved distinction only by their diligence in business, or even if this, as none can deny, was the principal cause of their success, how can those of inferior abilities expect to prosper unless they follow the same example? He who neglects his business will soon find his business neglecting him. Ability, without industry will not do. Men who think to succeed by doing half a day's work must sooner or later go to the wall. There is but one way to rise; it is to be diligent, always diligent. The merchant who leaves his store to take a "social drink" the mechanic who stops work to have a "blue Monday;" the professional man who goes off on parties of pleasure and misses the chances of clients or patients calling—all these either fail utterly in life at last, as is the case in nine examples out of ten, or fall short of that complete success which they might otherwise have obtained. The old fable of a tortoise, who bent the hare to the goal because the latter stopped so often, is realized every day and hour in life. The old adage, "slow but sure," is verified continually by experience. Even genius itself has been said by no less a thinker than Sir James Mackintosh to be only another name for industry. Go and ask of the scores of beggared old men, who once prosperous, now eat the bread of dependence, what it was that ruined them, and they will answer if honest, because we were not diligent." It is young men just starting out in life who should especially lay this truth to heart. They must not foolishly suppose, because they see the rich employers dining in fine houses, dress expensively, doing little hard work, or lavishing time and money in other ways, that they also may do the same. If their superiors had not been diligent in early life they would never have earned the means to live luxuriously. A clerk is not the head of the firm or an apprentice a master mechanic. By "diligence in business" thousands of poor lads have risen to opulence and come at last to have all the leisure they desired; but tens of thousands, who would not wait to enjoy life until they had won the right to it by "diligence in business," have gone hopelessly down in the full meridian of existence, like the crew of a leaky ship sinking in sight of a harbor, because they ate drunk and made merry when they should have been working at the pumps.

**A Laughable Predicament.**

In December, 18—, we were traveling through one of the New England towns, in an old-fashioned stage coach, with a friend, whose powers of making fun from the slightest cause were manifest from any passing object that he chose to attack. It was midnight, and as we approached the village of R—, we espied a large mansion house on the top of a small sugar-loaf hill, close by the road. When we arrived opposite, he asked the driver to stop a few minutes; the request was cheerfully complied with, although we were almost freezing; but what trick he had in view none could guess. The funny gentleman marched directly up to the front door of the mansion and knocked with his cane loud enough to awake all the inhabitants. Immediately a window sash was raised, and out popped a red night cap, containing the head of the proprietor, who exclaimed: "What—what is the matter? What's wanted at this time of night?" "Pardon me sir, for this intrusion; but I have a communication to make to you personally, and as the stage is waiting impatiently for me, please hurry to the door for one moment's interview." The old gentleman's red night cap, with its owner in a garment curtailed of its fair proportions, were almost immediately at the door, politely bowing to the funny stranger, who again apologized for disturbing his slumber and thus exposing him to the chilly winds of a December night. "My dear sir," interrupted Mr. Nightcap, don't mention it, but pardon me for appearing before you in the plight in which you see me." "You are certainly quite excusable, and especially as my great haste prompted this courteous response to my call upon you." "Be pleased to step into the house, as I notice some ladies in the coach are attracted by my appearance." "Never mind them, my dear sir. Your finely located mansion has arrested the attention of us all—it makes a truly beautiful appearance in the bright moonlight. Speaking of the moon, brings to my mind the question which has recently agitated the scientific world, and in which you have undoubtedly been interested, viz: Is this luminary inhabited, or is it not inhabited? The telescope—" "Excuse my interruption, sir, but allow me to get a cloak, for I am almost frozen, and—" "Ten thousand pardons, my dear friend, but the stage is waiting for me, and I must lose no time, for of all things in this world, time, that—" "Allow me to remind you, sir, that you desired to make a communication to me. I am now ready to receive it." "Ah, me! How unmindful I am in the discharge of a duty incumbent upon me, and which has been too long protracted, I most readily acknowledge." "Oblige me sir, by coming directly to the communication you desire to make." "Again, I beg you to forgive my apparent tardiness in doing so. The fact, my dearest sir, which as a scientific man I felt it my duty to divulge to you for your own benefit, for I need not inform you that men endowed with scientific attainments, and—" "But, sir, I demand, without further delay, what is the important fact you desire to communicate?" "It is simply this: Your house being situated on the apex of a hill, with sides sloping sufficiently to allow water to flow therefrom. I have stopped the coach this cold night, and aroused you from your slumbers, to apprise you of the fact that you can with the greatest ease drain your cellar from four different directions!" "You infernal scoundrel!" shrieked the astonished and infuriated madman, "I'll teach you a trick worth a dozen of this," as he seized the funny gentleman's cane, who had commenced a rapid retreat for the coach—the red night-cap and abbreviated white garment after him as fast as two spindle shanks could carry him. But the funny gent gained upon his pursuer, jumped into the coach, which was at once put into full speed up an adjoining hill, with the enraged country gentleman, in curtailed garments flustering in the breeze, in cold pursuit, but whose hot imprecations against us all was enough to stifle the mirth of a live Yankee.

**Communications.**

**Is Party Spirit Beneficial?**

(CONCLUDED.)

If, as we attempted to show in a previous article, parties are necessary for free governments, and if party spirit is identical with and necessary to the existence of a party, then, as a consequence, the liberty any people enjoys, is in proportion to the liberty of its parties, and the liberality of their spirit. Let us glance at the existing governments for the proof. Governments are properly of three kinds, hereditary, mixed and elective. They may be severally represented by Russia, England and America. Russia, Prussia, Austria, Italy, France, Spain and Portugal have no free parties whatever. What the Kings say is law. The people have no means to discuss their principles. They are silent, they are slaves, serfs and beggars; they have no parties, they submit, acquiesce, cringe, till forbearance is no longer a virtue, then break out into open rebellion. Hence the fruitful source of terrible devastating revolutions. If through the influence of parties, men may not express their wishes, they will do it with the sword. Obedience without discussion and slavery without appeal are the edicts of kings. England has parties but they are limited. And it is clearly observable that whatever of liberty the people enjoy comes through them. Her representative system has glaring inequalities; and it cannot escape observation that in the legislation of England, the good of the poor has been sacrificed to the advantage of the rich, and the rights of the majority to the privilege of the few. The consequence is that England at the present day combines the extreme of fortune in her society; and her perils and calamities are equal to her power and her renown. The people rely vastly more upon the Whig than the Tory party for a hope of equality. And it is working a mighty reform, earnestly and urgently presenting the claims of the people in opposition to the Aristocracy. Through this means intelligence is being rapidly diffused; the clouds are dispersing and they begin to catch glimpses of their power and position in society. Already her prominent men point to the United States as a model, and it cannot be many years ere England herself will demand an equal representative government. God hasten the day!—all that is wanted is unrestricted party-spirit, and this principle will diffuse liberty as the sun does light! Look all over Europe, there's a quaking and a hum of rousing fires. The tyrannical systems of government, which successive generations have worshipped as revelations are passing away as dreams. The dawn of universal liberty is rising upon the earth in splendor and in power. Kings are more fearful of party spirit than of a legion of foes. Louis Napoleon, this moment fears the spread of party spirit in France more than all the hordes of Russia. They know full well that by banishing parties and the free discussion of principle, that they surround the people with insurmountable barriers, and build walls of separation between the people, and the great realms of thought and intelligence. Thus they effectually paralyze those intellectual energies, which they know to be the only instruments for working the golden mines of truth. When that 2d Nero—Louis Napoleon—subverted the liberties of a free people, and destroyed the infant Republic of France, why did he banish or behead the leading men of the parties, close every free press, and imprison the noble statesmen and poets? Why did he rear the guillotine, the dungeon and the prison-house? Why did he impose those restraints upon the freedom of thought? Ah! he knew full well that party spirit, which always implies and guarantees the largest liberty, would have shaken the throne under his devoted head, and he too hung up by the neck like the execrable villain that he is! Parties find their truest expression in the United States—because voluntary and acknowledged. If America ever approached that lofty pinnacle of glory to which the proud imagination, and the strong hope of her people had aspired, it was at that moment, when the "Declaration of Independence" was boldly announced, when the constitution was peacefully adopted and the nation flung the "star-spangled banner" to the breeze inscribed with those fraternal words, "E pluribus unum!" The spirit of universal liberty was called up from the darkness and the sleep of ages, and found in our government a true political personality—more glorious than the splendid imagination of Pluto ever pictured or Poet ever sung! Free speech, free thought, and free action expressed themselves naturally, systematically in the form of parties, which form the keystone that binds together the noble and well constructed arch of our country and our constitution. Immediately the country was divided into two parties—the Federal and the Republican—the one tending to limit, the other to extend the power of the people. These are the parties that have successfully moved and controlled our nation, with her

**Hints to Housekeepers.**

The attractiveness of a room does not depend on the richness or expense of its furniture, but on the taste which selects and arranges it. A city parlor is no model for one in the country. That which is suitable for one may be entirely inappropriate to the other. Elegant furniture, rich curtains, showy mirrors, and velvet carpets belong to those who have nothing pleasant to look upon without the walls of their dwelling; but in the country far more simplicity is desirable, and in better taste. I do not like a profusion of gilding anywhere. It always has a tawdry and vulgar look, but in a country house it is shocking. There should be a correspondence in the furniture of a room. People who have never thought of this, would be surprised at the beautiful effect of harmony in color that can be secured by proper attention. They are pleased, but they do not know why they are pleased. I well recollect the impression made upon my mind years ago by a simple parlor furnished in the most economical style. The wood-work was painted cream color. The paper was of a small figure, buff and white. There was a sofa in the room. The chairs had mahogany-colored frames and cane seats. There were various other seats made of soap-boxes and shoe-boxes, covered with brown and buff striped furniture calico. The effect was exceedingly pleasing. "What a pretty room this is," was the exclamation of almost every visitor. There were but two colors in the room, altho' there were various shades of them, brown and buff. These afforded an agreeable contrast, and harmonized admirably together. Another room has often pleased me, where the furniture is all bird's-eye maple. Instead of a stuffed sofa, there is a cane seated one—similar to the chairs. A hair cloth sofa may be comfortable, but where it affords a violent contrast to chairs and tables, it is not so pretty as something more simple. Damask and plush I do not consider at all desirable in most country houses. Where there are curtains, they should be of a color which either corresponds with, or contrasts well with the carpet and paper. Furniture should not be stationed in a row against the wall, as if drawn up in military order, but should be placed where they would most naturally and sociably be used. No particular directions can be given about these things, for each individual's taste must preside in her own house; but hints we often find, to be of value to us.—American Agriculturist.

**THE SLIPPERY CUSTOMER.**

The following anecdote is related of the Emperor Alexander I. of Russia.—Most of the houses in Petersburg are provided with two doors—a circumstance that, unfortunately for the isvotchik (Russian hackney-coachman) furnishes many subjects with the opportunity of bilking them of their fare. Whilst a poor isvotchik, with his humble equipage waits patiently at one door, the customer often walks quietly out at the other. The Emperor, in the course of his incognito excursions, occasionally engaged one of the above named modest vehicles. He one day ordered an isvotchik to drive him to the palace, and, on alighting, desired him to stop an instant, adding, that his fare should be sent to him. "No, no," replied the coachman. "In up to that trick; I've driven many a grand gentleman on this same place, and never seen a sight of him again. Just try your pockets, will ye, and see if you can't find my fare at the bottom?" "I positively have no money," replied the Emperor; "but stay—here is my cloak, which I leave in pledge with you." "I'm satisfied," said the isvotchik; "I see it's new, and therefore you'll be in a hurry to redeem it." The Emperor laughed heartily, and disappeared. In a few minutes a vale-de-chambre of the court was sent to demand "His Majesty's cloak," and at the same time presented a hundred rubles to the amazed isvotchik, to make up for the losses he might have previously sustained. Coachmen retired in the utmost consternation at the idea of having mistaken the "Emperor of all the Russians" for a slippery customer. Joe and Hal were at an evening party, and walked to a window opening to a balcony. "Miss Smithings is very beautiful, is she not," said Hal, in commenting on the company, but with out taking the precaution to look into the balcony. "Very handsome—but has she any brains?" "Nary brain" sighed Hal, as he deeply regretted the deficiency. A scream and a fall on the outside of the balcony—Miss Smithings had heard and fainted. None of the company except Joe and Hal ever knew why.

**JEFFERSON'S Decalogue of Canons for Observation in Practical Life:**

- 1. Never put off till to-morrow what you can do to-day.
- 2. Never trouble another for what you can do yourself.
- 3. Never spend your money before you have it.
- 4. Never buy what you do not want because it is cheap; it will be dear to you.
- 5. Pride costs us more than hunger, thirst, and cold.
- 6. We never repent of having eaten too little.
- 7. Nothing is troublesome that we do willingly.
- 8. How much pain have cost us the evils which never have happened.
- 9. Take things always by their smooth handle.
- 10. When angry, count ten before you speak; if very angry, a hundred.