

THE STAR AND BANNER.

BY D. A. BUEHLER.

"FEARLESS AND FREE."

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A BACHELOR'S BUTTON.

A celebrated wit once said he had found out a patent "slip button," so that when a bore laid hold of him, and was detaining him with a long story, he had only to slip the button, leaving it in the bore's fingers, and make his escape. The contrivance was an ingenious and valuable one, and had the inventor, as he threatened, taken out a patent, many would doubtless have adopted the useful article.

ly as though it were a tress of my loved one's hair, when something clicked in the skirt pocket. I supposed I had left some money there, for in my perturbation and excitement I omitted to search the coat on taking it off the night before. I thrust my hand into the pocket. Graatious me! What did I behold, what did I take out—a gold chain bracelet!

[From Dickens' Household Words. THE ANGEL'S STORY.

Through the blue and frosty heavens, Christmas stars were shining bright; The glistening lamps of the great City, Almost matched their gleaming light; And the winter snow was lying, And the winter winds were sighing, Long ago one Christmas night.

Wanted a breath of precious perfume To the child who stood outside.

"Against the gate of iron Pressed his wan and wistful face, Gazing with an awe struck pleasure At the glories of the place; Never had his fairest day-dream Shone with half such wondrous grace."

A TALE.

Mr. Choate's miserable and nondescript manuscript has frequently furnished the basis of many a spirited don't mot, the best we ever saw having been penned by the late Major North. But the peculiar illegibility of Mr. Choate's handwriting will be seen by the following incidents:

GALLAS SON OF GINGER BLUE.

The following lines we had floating "floods." Unlike most negro melodies, they have a ring of genuine poetic excellence and harmony in them, worthy of being set to music. We publish them with the hope that some of our musical friends will try their voices upon them. Let us see if some one of readers cannot set the words to music:

PRINTERS AND PARADOXES.

A printer, says Oliver, is the mostvarious being living. He may have a bank and coins, and not be worth a cent; have small caps, and have neither wife nor children. Others may run fast, but he gets along swifter by setting fast. He may be making impressions, without offending; may use the key without offending; and be telling the truth; while others cannot stand while they sit, he sets standing, and does both at the same time; have to use furniture, and yet have no dwelling; may make and put away pi, and never see a pie; much less eat it, during his whole life; be a human being and a rat at the same time; may press a great deal and not ask a favor; may handle a shooting iron, and know nothing about a cannon, gun, or pistol; he may move the letter that moves the world, and yet be as far from moving the globe as a hog under a molehill; spread sheets without being a housewife; he may lay his form on a bed, and yet be obliged to sleep on the floor; he may use the dagger without shedding blood, and from the earth he may handle stars; he may be of a rolling disposition, and yet never desire to travel; he may have a sheep's foot, and not be deformed; never without a cap, and yet know nothing of law or physics; be always correcting his errors, and be growing worse every day; have em-bra-ces, without ever having the arms of a lass thrown around him; have his form locked up, and at the same time be free from jail, watch house, or any other confinement; his office may have a hell in it, and not be a hell place after all; he might be plagued by the devil, and be a Christian of the best kind; and what is stranger still, he may be honest or dishonest, rich or poor, drunk or sober, industrious or lazy, he always stands up to his business.

"E2 REWARD."

"Lost, or stolen, on the night of the concert at the Town Hall, a Gold Chain Bracelet. It is thought to have been taken from the lady's arm by a pickpocket, of gentlemanly appearance, who wore a blue coat with brass buttons, and kept near the lady on her leaving the hall. Any one giving such information as will lead to the recovery of the bracelet, or the above reward, on applying to Cambridge Parade."

A DANDY TRYING IT ON.

"My dear Amelia," said the dandy, on bended knees before his adorable, "I have long wished for this opportunity, but hardly dare speak now for fear you will reject me; but I love you—will you be mine? You will be to me everything desirable—everything my heart could wish. Your smiles would shine."

MR. WEBSTER ON THE DEATH OF HIS WIFE.

"His speeches and writings give no finer indications of the majesty and greatness of Mr. Webster's mind, than is afforded by the following letter. It is commended in his 'private correspondence,' recently published:

A PARALLEL.

"New York State, with thirty-five electoral votes, polled at the late Presidential election 598,180 votes, while twelve other States, having together 83 electoral votes, polled 598,978. These States are Florida, Delaware, Arkansas, Alabama, Maryland, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Vermont, New Hampshire and California."

A NOBLE GIFT.

"At the Farmers' Assembly, Gen. F. St. G. Cooks, on retiring from the office of President of the Agricultural Society, which he has so ably filled, gave to the society his check for twenty thousand dollars as a contribution to a fund for maintaining an Agricultural School in connection with the University of Virginia."—Richmond Dispatch.

WONDERFUL GROWTH OF IOWA.

"Governor Grimes of Iowa, in his annual message, makes the State's indebtedness \$128,000; available revenue \$246,000; received during the year \$260,000; paid out \$219,000. The population of the State in 1836 amounted to only 10,531; up to June 1854 it increased to 326,014, and in June last numbered 508,626 souls. At the present moment it probably reaches 600,000. The assessable property in the State in 1851 was valued at \$28,464,559; in 1855 at \$106,895,800, and in 1856 at \$134,044,419. This is truly a wonderful growth, and shows to what greatness and wealth this young State is rapidly attaining."

A VALUABLE SECRET FOR LADIES.

"With a little neatness, and with taste in selecting the right goods, you can dress three times as well as usual, at about one-third the usual expense."

Philosophers say,

"that shutting the eyes makes the sense of hearing more acute. This may account for the many closed eyes that are seen in our churches."

How to Square the Circle.

"Settle your wife's bill for hoops at a dry goods store."