

Home Reading.

WE CAN MAKE HOME HAPPY.

Though we may not change the cottage, For mansions tall and grand, Or exchange the little grass plot For a boundless stretch of land— Yet there's something brighter, dearer, Than the wealth we'd thus command. Though we have no means to purchase Costly pictures rich and rare— Though we have no silken hangings For the walls so cold and bare, We can hang them o'er with garlands, For flowers bloom every where. We can make home very cheerful If the right course we begin; We can make its inmates happy And their truest blessings win; It will make a small room brighter If we let the sunshine in. We can gather 'round the fireside When the evening hours are long— We can blend our hearts and voices In a happy social song; We can guide some erring brother, Lead him from the path of wrong. We may fill our homes with music And with sunshine brimming o'er, If against all dark intruders We will firmly close the door; Yet should the evil shadow enter, We must love each other more. There are treasures for the lowly, Which the grandest fail to find; There's a chain of sweet affection Bringing friends of kindred mind; We may reap the choicest blessings From the poorest lot assigned.

ABOUT THE OLD FOLKS.

Do young people ever think that they will be old; that they will soon feel that the grasshopper is a burden, and fear is in the way?— Only a few short years ago, that aged man and feeble woman were young, strong, and full of life; their loving hearts were gushing with tenderness and care for the little ones, who now stand in their places. Do not jostle that aged couple out of your pathway, but, rather, lift them with tender care over the rough, declining road. You may have forgotten how carefully they kept your tender feet from stumbling and with what care they watched your advancing steps. But they have not forgotten, and the time will come when you will be reminded of it, by the love you have for your own little ones. Will they ever hand you the same bitter cup to drink that you now pour out for that aged father and stricken mother? Verily, "with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." Think of the anxious days and nights your mother has watched by your sick bed; remember her loving care; her patience and long suffering with your fretfulness, and then let the blush of shame dye your brow that you should be impatient or unkind to her now she is old. Old folks are such a trial!— Yes, they know it; they feel it! and so will you be just such a trial to your children in the days that will surely come; aye, and you will remember too.

SPEAKING OF THE COMMODORE.

The Rochester Democrat says Commodore Vanderbilt is worth \$40,000,000. Daniel Drew says the Commodore is worth \$100,000,000.— The New York Sun says the Commodore is the richest man in America. As a draw back to all this we find the Commodore 82 years of age. Would any poor young man take the Commodore's years for his money? Doubtful. If that be so, stop growling at Fortune. The Commodore with all his wealth, has not been able to purchase one day of perfect health in twenty-two years. Every hod carrier in the State can show a better record than this. To be rich, without having health to match, is very much like owning all the food in the world with only an appetite for oat straw and molasses.

ANOTHER MAN INSIDE.

Only another man inside. The world moves on just the same as ever; The New York Commercial Advertiser remarks: The late A. T. Stewart died April 10th. To-day the same carriage and the same span of bay horses, at the same hour in the afternoon, come down Broadway and circle round the marble store into Chambers street, there to wait at the door precisely as formerly, when the great millionaire was in active life. The only difference is that now another man gets inside and there is another man on the box.— The world moves on as usual. "Another man inside" tells the whole story. Such is life. Absolute, peremptory facts are bullies; and those who keep company with them are apt to get a bullying habit of mind. Drink water. From water Venus was born. It is the mother of beauty, the girle of earth, and the marriage of nations. There are more sorrows of women than of men; just as in heaven, there are more eclipses of the moon than of the sun. Look well into thyself; there is a source which will always spring up if thou wilt always search there. To the old man, there is in the heart of a rose or a violet the fragrant echo of scores of dead springs. Merit readily recognizes merit. Certainly he cannot have it who doesn't know it when he sees it. The moment a man is satisfied with himself, everybody else is dissatisfied with him. Happiness grows at our own firesides, and is not to be picked in a stranger's garden.

VEGETATION AND HEALTH.

The English Gardener's Magazine says: Our instincts lead us to delight in flowers. Their beauty and perfume have irresistible attractions, for us. We have little dreamed that we were thus led to surround ourselves with objects which most powerfully conduce to health. No doubt there are certain members of the vegetable kingdom which are exceedingly deleterious; for, not to speak of the much dreaded opium, the West Indian manchineel, and some species of the American rhus, there are some of our common sweet-scented flowers, such as the meze-ron, which has very injurious properties. But recent investigation has proved that those adornments of our gardens for the presence of which we so crave, are, as a rule, endowed with health preserving qualities. Oxygen, when highly electrified and so rendered especially vitalizing, has in recent times been distinguished by the name of ozone.— This is one of the chief elements of a healthy atmosphere. Now, centuries ago it was known that certain plants acted as powerful disinfectants. Thus Herodian tells us that, when in the second century the plague raged in Italy, the physicians recommended that those who crowded into Rome to go to Laurentum, because there the sweet-bay tree (Laurus nobilis) grew in great abundance, and the inhalation of air impregnated with its odors was a strong preservative against infection. And the disciples of Empedocles were wont to grow waromatic and balsamic herbs around their dwellings, from the belief that they were thus guarding themselves against fevers, agues and such like. Has not, too, among us the tradition of its fever-dispelling power given the name of feverfew to one of the strongest scented of the compositae? Recent investigations, especially those of Prof. Monterazza, of Pagan, and Dr. Cornelius Fox, have shown that these old ideas were based on scientific truth. It is now ascertained that the quality of ozone is materially increased by the exposure to the rays of the sun of various plants, among which the most common are the lavender, musk, cherry, laurel, clove, fennel, narcissus, heliotrope, hyacinth, and mignonette. It is interesting to know that the sunflower, which will grow almost anywhere, and could be turned to various useful purposes, is one of the most valuable of sanitary agents, since not only is it ozoniferous, but also destroys deleterious miasmata. It should be noted, as a further proof of the good influence of plant culture on health, that while the manufacture of ozone is an independent work carried on by the flowers alone, the green leaves are performing their sanitary function by extracting carbonic acid gas from the atmosphere, and helping to reserve that proportion in its elements which makes it healthful. More remarkable, perhaps, than all is the eucalyptus, of which we shall soon know more. Thus the cultivation of flowers is a work not merely delightful and humanizing in itself, but one which, in a way most beautiful and picturesque, confers a positive benefit on society, so great that it can hardly be overrated, especially in large towns, where there must necessarily be so much to poison and deteriorate the air we breathe. It may be added that the sunflower thrives even in the heart of London, and that it is readily propagated from seeds sown in March or April. It is nearly allied to the common Jerusalem artichoke, which also grows in the smokiest of districts.

CONVERSATION.

The fact of a man being a good talker presupposes a good audience, and a good audience is becoming daily more difficult to obtain. The reason may be easily understood by the reader of Boswell: Johnson, we may fairly assume, was the best of all English talkers on record.— Now, Johnson, was surrounded by a little court of familiar friends, each of whom sustained a well understood character. A party such as Johnson, Burke, Reynolds, Goldsmith, Garrick, and so on, was like a company of actors each of whom understands the power of all his colleagues, and is able to co-operate towards the general effect. They could understand each other; the humorist was in no danger of being taken to speak seriously; the man of special information would not have his pet subject snatched out of his mouth; the tender points of the irritable man were thoroughly understood, and his friends could avoid giving him unnecessary offence. On the other hand, there was a sufficient amount of variety to save the members of the little circle from boring each other too much. Some new comer was always turning up: who could introduce new topics from the world of art, or politics, or literature, or travel. And it is on the fortunate balance between these two elements that the power of producing good conversation depends. There should be a nucleus of sufficiently intimate friends who should form, so to speak, an organic body, instead of a mere collection of incoherent atoms, and yet the circulation of its constituent parts should be rapid enough to preserve a certain freshness of interest. Now, the difference between the society of to-day and the society of a century ago is precisely that all these little eddies have been swept into the main stream. The rush of the torrent is too furious to allow of the formation of those pleasant little coteries in which alone good conversation can be originally fostered. There have been great talkers since the days of Johnson, but men like Mackintosh and Macaulay seem to have been rather lecturers than conversers, because they could not come into the same close personal relation with the crowds who were for a time fellow occupants of the same room, and others who have had some talent of the Theodore Hook kind, were rather actors in a private theatre, than, in any proper sense of the word, talkers. Do good for thine own satisfaction, and care not what follows. Curses not gray hairs to any one; nevertheless, for the truth, even gray hairs are to be disregarded. Indians charge nothing for shaving.

ABOUT BEDS.

As we snuggle between the sheets, and lay our heads on a soft pillow some cold winter's night, it sometimes seems as if nothing but a luxurious couch of this sort could be worth calling a bed. Yet a large part of the world could not enjoy it if they had it. Our own ancestors reposed in much less luxurious fashion. In Eastern countries people commonly spread a net on the flat roof of their houses, and make that their bed. In Russia the top of the stove is the bedstead. In both cases the sleepers do not undress themselves. In ancient Egypt—as still in China and Japan—wooden pillows were in vogue, hollowed out to fit the shape of the head. But the ancient Egyptians, while, on account of the heat and vermin, they preferred hard pillows, are said to have considered their comfort at night in the invention of spring mattresses. These were made of strips of bamboo crossed over each other, and must have been as cool, if not quite as soft and yielding, as the webbing of twine, stretched over a frame, on which the natives of India rest. The Israelites used sheep and goat skins stuffed for pillows, and in early times the same for bedding; but their bedsteads, at a later period at least, must have been very costly. The prophet Amos speaks of couches of ivory. Among the Assyrians, and afterward among the Romans, couches of gold and silver were possessed by the rich. The reason for this splendor was partly that the beds were not kept in separate rooms, but in the same room occupied by day, and were used for sitting on, and reclining on at meals. At Roman feasts the guests all reclined, and sometimes each person occupied a separate couch. The Anglo Saxon ancestors were not at all refined in their sleeping arrangements. Their beds consisted of wooden boxes, filled with a bag of straw. In an old illustrated manuscript there is a picture of a king going to bed. He has a crown on his head (a very uncomfortable night cap) but has no night dress. King Henry VIII of England is said to have slept upon a straw bed, while his servants lay upon rushes strewn on the floor of the royal kitchen. The king's bed was not what we should call luxurious, but so much ceremony was used in going to it that seven chamberlains were employed in undressing the royal personage, turning down the bedclothes, etc.— One indispensable practice was to thrust a sword into the straw to see that no person was concealed in it. It may be mentioned in connection with beds, that a strange superstition was once common in the south of England, in a belief that a person cannot die while lying on pigeon's feathers. A living person has often been removed from a feather bed to the bare floor, under the notion that the death struggle was prolonged owing to the presence in the bed of a few pigeon feathers. In England it is still customary to surround the bed with curtains. Americans have adopted the more sensible French fashion of allowing a free circulation of air about the sleeper. OCCUPATION. How many persons there are in this world who entirely ignore the golden search for general occupation! They are almost constantly striving after something which is entirely different from what they are capable of enjoying. We are not opposed to enterprise, but it is the habit of constantly changing from one thing to another against which we protest. There are thousands of men, and women too, who are to-day fast approaching the grave, and who are striving and toiling to keep soul and body together until the last hour, because it has been their habit all through life to be discontented. In their time they have tried perhaps one hundred different things, and all with little or no success; while, if they had chosen one pursuit and devoted their time and attention to it exclusively, they would to-day, in all probability, be spending their declining years in ease, surrounded with all the wants and comforts of life, for there is scarcely a single pursuit that, if followed with some purpose, will not yield a golden future. GLASS. The discovery of glass was no doubt, in the first instance, accidental. Whether credit is given to the statement of Pliny in regard to its origin or not, it is scarcely conceivable that in the manufacture of pottery, and some others known from the earliest periods, the materials of which glass is composed should not have come together and have been fused so as to have become glass. His account is that glass was discovered by mariners, who, compelled to seek the shore as a refuge from a severe tempest discovered glass in the ashes of a fire with which they had cooked their food. Whether this event ever happened or not, it is quite certain that it might have happened, as the sand of many beaches, with the ashes of some kind of fuel, would, when fused together, inevitably form glass, as will be seen upon a consideration of its composition. ORIGIN OF MAHOGANY FURNITURE. About the eighteenth century a West India captain brought some mahogany logs as ballast for his ship, and gave them to his brother, Dr. Gibbons, an eminent physician, who was then building a house. The wood was thrown aside as too hard for the workmen's tools. Some time afterwards his wife wanted a candle box. The doctor thought of the West India wood, and out of that box was made. Its color and polish tempted the doctor to have a bureau made of the same material, and this was thought so beautiful that it was shown to all his friends. The Duchess of Buckingham, who came to look at it, begged wood enough to make another bureau for herself. Then the demand arose for more, and Honduras mahogany became a common article of trade. It was through the feeling of wonder that men now and at first began to philosophize.

16 CHENANGO ST.,

Binghamton, N. Y.

The attention of the readers of the Democrat, is called to the fact that

Ready-cash is taken in exchange for FURNITURE of all kinds,

at the above named place, and also to the fact that goods bought in this way will prove satisfactory because,

THEY CAN BE BOUGHT CHEAP WHEN CASH IS OFFERED.

The long continued depression in business circles call for cash transactions by manufacturers, and goods bought close for cash can be sold at low prices. To satisfy yourselves of this fact, when at Binghamton, call and examine the general stock of Furniture and prices at 16 Chenango Street.

May 31, 1876.

AVERY CROUNSE.

1876.

1876!

1876.

H. & W. T. DICKERMAN,

HAVE A FULL ASSORTMENT OF

SPRING DRY GOODS.

Just Received From New York City!

CLOTHING, HATS, CAPS, and a General Line of GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS.

BOOTS AND SHOES,

WE MAKE A SPECIALTY,

Which will be sold as CHEAP as any fair and honorable competition will warrant.

Our Terms are Cash.

Consequently we have no bad debts to make up for in the way of

extra percentage. Our expenses are light, and

Our Motto, CHEAP! CHEAP!

Please call and see us, and decide for yourselves in regard to Goods and Prices. We also have the agency for Messrs. DEMOREST'S RELIABLE PATTERNS.

H. & W. T. DICKERMAN.

New Milford, May 10, 1876.—1f

GREAT EXCITEMENT IN MONTROSE

AT THE

New Store and New Firm

OF

WEEKS, MELHUISE & CO.

DRY GOODS,

The Largest Stock of

SILVER WARE.

CLOTHING, WATCHES AND JEWELRY,

Hats and Caps, Boots and Shoes.

Kept in Northern Pennsylvania,

And at the Lowest Prices.

TABLE CUTLERY,

POCKET KNIVES, POCKET BOOKS,

VIOLINS, STRINGS, &c., &c.

Watches, Jewelry, &c., repaired by

F. D. MELHUISE.

3600 yards of best prints in market, sold during the past two weeks, at 6¢ per yard, and still there is more to follow.

Don't be deceived by others in trade, who represent our goods of inferior quality but come and examine for yourselves. Prices greatly reduced but quality maintained. Montrose, April 22, 1876.

Practical Watchmaker and Jeweler, successor to Label & Melhuise. We have a large stock of Material, new parts, &c., which enable us to do work more perfect and promptly than ever.

FURNITURE.

MONTROSE

STEAM MILL.

At W. W. Smith & Son's

Extensive Furniture Warehouse you will find the largest stock of

FIRST CLASS AND COMMON

FURNITURE

To be found in this section of the country, of his own manufacture, and at prices that cannot fail to give satisfaction. They make the very best.

EXTENSION TABLES

In the Country, and WARRANT them.

Upholstery Work

Of all kinds done in the neatest manner.

SPRING BEDS

OF VARIOUS KINDS.

PURE NO. 1 MATTRESSES, AND COMMON MATTRESSES

UNDERTAKING

The undersigned will hereafter make the undertaking a specialty in his business. Having just completed a NEW and the most elegant HEARSE in the State, all needing his services will be attended to promptly and at satisfactory charges.

W. W. SMITH & SON.

Montrose, Pa., Jan. 31, 1876.—205—1f.

OATS FOR SALE BY THE LOAD

at the STEAM MILL.

FRESH GROUND GRAHAM FLOUR

for sale at the STEAM MILL.

Any quantity of MEAL & FEED of the

best quality, at the STEAM MILL.

FINE WHEAT MIDDINGS at the

STEAM MILL.

WHEAT BRAN for sale at the

STEAM MILL.

WHEAT FLOUR, FRESH GROUND,

at the STEAM MILL.

OLD WESTERN CORN for sowing.

On account of the poor quality of new

corn, it is necessary to secure good old corn

for seed; 200 bu. at the STEAM MILL.

Anything you can think of, you will find at the STEAM MILL.

Montrose, April 12, 1876.—1f.