

Miscellaneous.

COURTSHIP.

I sat one night beside a blue-eyed girl— The fire was out, and so, too, was her mother;

Well, I had been to see her every night For thirteen days, and had a sneaking notion

I thought this chance too good now to be lost, I hitched my chair up pretty close beside her;

I didn't know how to begin, or where— I couldn't speak—the words were always choking;

At length I saw a brindle tabby cat Walk purring up, inviting me to pat her.

'T was done at once—the murder was now out— The thing was all explained in half a minute;

THE BIBLE.

The Bible is equally adapted to the wants and infirmities of every human being. It is the vehicle of the most awful truths, and which are at the same time of universal application, and accompanied by the most efficacious sanctions.

The Scriptures, resplendent with these truths, we have good grounds to believe, are to be eventually brought home to the knowledge and acceptance of every people, and to carry with them the inestimable blessings of peace, humanity, purity, and happiness over every part of the habitable globe.

The general diffusion of the Bible is the most effectual way to civilize and humanize mankind; to purify and exalt the general system of public morals; to give efficacy to the just precepts of international and municipal law; to enforce the observance of prudence, temperance, justice, fortitude, and to improve all the relations of social and domestic life.

Human laws labor under many other imperfections. They extend to external actions only. They cannot reach that catalogue of secret crimes which are committed without any witness, save the all-seeing eye of that Being, whose presence is everywhere, and whose laws reach the hidden recesses of vice, and carry their sanctions to the thoughts and intents of the heart.

DAYS WITHOUT NIGHTS.

Dr. Baird, in a lecture recently, gave some interesting facts. There is nothing that strikes a stranger more forcibly, if he visits Sweden at the season of the year when the days are the longest, than the absence of the night.

before ten o'clock. There is a great illumination all night; as the sun passes round the earth towards the north pole, and the refraction of its rays is such that you see to read at midnight.

At the North Cape, latitude 72 degrees, the sun does not set in several days. In June it would be about 25 degrees above the horizon at midnight. The way the people know it is midnight they see the sun rise.

Birds and animals take their accustomed rest at the unusual hours. The Doctor did not know how they learnt the time, but they had, and go to rest whether the sun goes down or not.

HISTORICAL FACTS ABOUT FORKS.

As late as the sixteenth century, the English nobility were entirely innocent of forks, substituting therefore their fingers, with which they helped themselves and their neighbors in a style that would do honor to the noble-born Turk of the present generation.

Nevertheless the English stomach is somewhat strong, and it did not seem necessary to English ingenuity to remedy the evil.

The Italians, were blessed with finer and more delicate preceptions of decency, which led to the invention of the fork. The new instrument and the improvements in eating which it introduced, soon found their way into England; but our ancestors ridiculed the innovation as the result of foreign affectation, and forks did not come into use until the beginning of the eighteenth century.

In Germany the invention was seven times vigorously opposed—some saints, whose godliness seems to have been fully equalled by their filthiness, actually maintaining that the fork was contrary to nature and religion, that it was an insult to the Deity not to use the fingers, and that if Providence intended us to employ such instruments, it would have produced them ready for the hand of man.

The Greeks the most refined race of antiquity seem to be totally unacquainted with the fork. Homer describing a banquet of heroes, says that they divided it with their daggers, but leaves us to infer that they carried it to their mouths with their unassisted digits.

FEIGNED INSANITY.—At Cincinnati, a man named Marshall, under sentence for six years imprisonment for burglary has for weeks been feigning insanity, in the hope of escaping State prison.

HARD OF HEARING.

"I have a small bill against you," said a pertinacious looking collector, as he entered the store of one who had acquired the character of a hard customer.

"Yes, sir, a very fine day indeed," was the reply.

"I am not speaking of the weather, but your bill," replied Peter in a loud key.

"It would be better if we had a little rain." "Confound the rain," continued the collector, and raising his voice—"Have you any money to pay on the bill?"

"Beg your pardon, I'm hard of hearing. I have made it a rule not to loan any funds to strangers, and I really do not recognize your face."

"I'm collector for the Philadelphia Daily Extinguisher, sir, and I have a bill against you," persisted the collector at the top of his voice, producing the bill and thrusting it into the face of his debtor.

"I've determined to endorse for no one; you may put the note back in your pocket-book. I really can't endorse it."

"Confound your endorsement—will you pay it?" "You'll pay it no doubt, sir, but there is always a risk about such matters, you, know so I must decline it."

"The money must be mine to-day."

"O yes—ninety days, but I would not endorse for a week; so clear out of my store. It's seldom that I'm pressed for an endorsement, even by my friends; on the part of a stranger, sir, your conduct is inexplicable.—Do not force me to put you out; leave the premises."

And the bill was returned to the Extinguisher office endorsed—"so confounded deaf that he couldn't understand."—N. O. Picayune.

EXCESSIVELY LITERARY.—How a young lady endeavored to adapt her style of conversation to the character of her guests, is narrated in an Ohio paper. Tom Corwin and Tom Ewing being on a political tour through the State, stopped at the house of a prominent politician at night, but found no one at supper but a young niece, who presided at the table.

"Mr. Ewing, will you take condiments in your tea, sir," inquired the young lady. "Yes, miss, if you please," replied the quondam Salt Boiler. Corwin's eyes twinkled. Herg was fun for him. Gratified at the apparent success of her first trial at talking to big men, the young lady addressed Mr. Corwin in the same manner, "Will you take condiments in your tea?" "Pepper and salt, but no mustard," was the prompt reply of the facetious Tom.

HOW MUCH SUGAR DO WE EAT.—Last year there was consumed in this country about 705,000,000 pounds of cane sugar, and 27,000,000 pounds of maple sugar. This gives more than 25 pounds of cane sugar, and one pound of maple sugar to every man, woman, and child. This does not include molasses or honey.

If this sugar were put into barrels holding 200 pounds, and each barrel occupied the space of three square feet only, it would require 336 acres of land to stand upon. The barrels if placed in a row, would reach 220 miles. If this sugar was put into packages of five pounds each, it would require 146,400,000 sheets of wrapping paper; and if only a yard string was used to each package, there would be required 439,200,000 or 83,000 miles of string—more than three times enough to go round the earth. If every retail clerk sold a hundred pounds of sugar each day, it would require nearly 25,000 clerks in a year. If the dealers wholesale and retail, together made a profit of only two cents a pound on this sugar, their profits alone would amount to nearly \$15,000,000.

SHAMEFUL DISHONESTY.—As a proof of the dishonest adulteration of liquors in this country, the New-York Sun says that more Port Wine is drunk in the United States in one year than passes through the custom-house in ten; that more champagne is consumed in America alone than the whole champagne district produces; that cognac brandy costs four times as much in France, where it is made, than it is retailed for in our grog shops; and that the failure of the whole grape crop in Madeira produced no apparent diminution in quantity or increase in the price of wine.

Certain philosophers have finally concluded that kissing is a good remedy for a scolding wife. The remedy is to be resorted to whenever an attack is threatened, the application continued until the wife is so tired that she falls asleep.

HISTORY OF THE WORD ESQUIRE.—The word is from the French ecuyer, (shield bearer) and originally signified nothing more. It was applied to armor bearers or Knights and barons, who were second in rank to them. The esquire was a gentleman, and had the right of quartering arms on his shield, and also of wearing a sword, which denoted gentility—though he was not girdled with the knightly belt. This was the esquire of chivalry, of whom we have an amusing burlesque in the person of Sancho Panza, the valorous attendant of that famous knight errant, Don Quixotte. Another class, feudal esquires, consisted of those who had a right to claim nighthood, but had not been dubbed. The younger sons of dukes and marquises, the younger sons of viscounts, earls, and barons, and their eldest or with the eldest sons of baronets and knights in all orders are regarded in England as esquires by birth, though their precedence, which differs widely, is regulated by the ranks of their respective ancestors.

POPULAR SIMILES.—Some ingenious rhymers has placed the following sayings in poetic order, the opposites in juxtaposition: As wet as a fish—as dry as a bone. As live as a bird—as dead as a stone; As plump as a partridge—as poor as a rat; As strong as a horse—as weak as a cat; As hard as a flint—as soft as a mole; As white as a lily—as black as a coal; As plain as a pikestaff—as rough as a bear; As tight as a drum—as free as the air; As heavy as lead—as light as a feather; As steady as time—as uncertain as weather; As hot as an oven—as cold as a frog; As gay as a lark—as sick as a dog; As slow as a tortoise—as swift as the wind; As true as the gospel—as false as mankind; As thin as a herring—as fat as a pig; As proud as a peacock—as blue as a dove; As savage as a tiger—as mild as a dove; As stiff as a poker—as limp as a glove; As blind as a bat—as deaf as a post; As cool as a cucumber—as warm as a toast; As red as a cherry—as pale as a ghost.

A MINISTER was once speaking to a brother clergyman of his gratitude for a merciful deliverance he had just experienced: "As I was riding here to-day," said he, "my horse stumbled, and came very near throwing me from a bridge, where the fall would have killed me, but I escaped unhurt."

"I can tell you something more than that," said the other. "As I rode here to-day, my horse did not stumble at all."

We are too apt to forget common mercies.

SCENE IN THE KITCHEN.—A woman making bread—enter little boy. Little Boy—"Mother, it strikes me you are very lazy just now." Indignant Mother—"How dare you say so? Don't you see, I'm making bread?" Little Boy—"True; but that's neither more nor less than loafing."

TOM presented his bill to neighbor Joe for service rendered. The latter looked at it and expressed much surprise at the amount. "Why, Tom, it strikes me that you made out a pretty round bill here, eh?" "I'm sensible it's a round one," quoth Tom, "and I came for the purpose of getting it squared!"

The Mormons continue to make great progress in Europe. All over England they are making converts, and the London Times thinks their religious services ought not to be protected by the laws. The British army in Turkey contains several branches of the church. At Hamburg the authorities have prohibited their meetings. The Mormon emigration of next year to the United States will be large.

A HOTEL THIEF "SOLD."—A scamp at a hotel the other night, says the Boston correspondent of the Independent, stole a clergyman's bag, well filled with sermons. Hope he may find them of the hottest orthodoxy; for a regular universal-salvation manuscript would hardly bring such a fellow to repentance.

TO THE CURIOUS IN GENEALOGY.—If you have no distinct idea of your ancestors their habits, character, principles, and occupations get nominated for some prominent office, and the opposition prints will give you your genealogy to the furthest remove. They will tell you what your great-grand-father preferred for dinner.

A young man meeting an acquaintance, said, "I thought you was dead." "But," said the other, "you see me alive." "I don't know how that may be," replied he; "you are such a notorious liar, and my informant was a person of credit."

So live, that when thy summons come to join In the pale realm of shades, where each shall take His chamber in the silent halls of death. Thou go'st not, like the quarry-slave at night, Seized by his dingy master, whose harsh scold, In the next room, with weary dexterity, Will draw thee from the banquet to unpleasant dreary



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