

Family Reading.

A DOLLAR ON THE CONSCIENCE.

Fifty-five cents a yard, I believe you said? The customer was opening her purse.

Now fifty cents a yard was the price of the goods, and so Mr. Levering had informed the lady. She misunderstood him, however.

In the community, Mr. Levering had the reputation of being a conscientious, high-minded man. He knew that he was thus esteemed, and self complacently appropriated the good opinion as clearly his due.

It came instantly to the lip of Mr. Levering to say, "Yes, fifty-five." The love of gain was strong in his mind, and ever ready to accede to new plans for adding dollar to dollar.

"I wish twenty yards," said the customer, taking it for granted that fifty-five cents was the price of the goods.

Mr. Levering was still silent; though he commenced promptly to measure off the goods.

"Not dear at that price," remarked the lady.

"I think not," said the store-keeper. "I bought the case of goods, from which this piece was taken, low."

"Twenty yards at fifty-five cents! Just eleven dollars!" The customer opened her purse as she thus spoke, and counted out the sum in glittering gold dollars.

"That is right, I believe," and she pushed the money toward Mr. Levering, who, with a kind of automatic movement of his hand, drew forward the coin and swept it into the till.

"Send the bundle to No. 300 Argyle St.," said the lady, with a bland smile, as she turned from the counter and the half-bewildered store-keeper.

"Stay, madam! there is a slight mistake!" The words were in Mr. Levering's thoughts, and on the point of gaining utterance, but he had not the courage to speak.

He had gained a dollar in the transaction beyond his due, and already it was lying heavily on his conscience. Willingly would he have thrown it off; but when about to do so, the quick suggestion came, that in acknowledging to the lady the fact of her having paid five cents a yard too much, he might fight in his explanation, and thus betray his attempt to do her a wrong.

Anything gained at the price of virtuous self-respect, is acquired at too large a cost. A single dollar on the conscience may press so heavily as to bear down a man's spirits, and rob him of all the delights of life.

It was so in the present case. Vain was it that Mr. Levering sought self-justification. Argue the matter as he would, he found it impossible to escape the smarting conviction that he had unjustly exacted a dollar from one of his customers.

Many times through the day he found himself in a musing abstracted state, and on rousing himself therefrom, became conscious in his external thought that it was the dollar by which he was troubled.

"I'm very foolish," said he mentally, as he walked homeward, after closing his store for the evening.

"Yes, yes, that was it!" The article came to six dollars and sixty-five cents, I believe?"

"Then three dollars and thirty-five cents will be my right change," said the lady, placing a small gold coin on the counter.

"You gave me too much." The customer turned away, and retired from the store, leaving that dollar still on the conscience of Mr. Levering.

"I'll throw it into the street," said he to himself, impatiently, "or give it to the first beggar that comes along." But conscience whispered that the dollar wasn't his, either to give away or to throw away.

Such prodigality or impulsive benevolence, would be at the expense of another, and would not mend the matter.

"This is all squeamishness," said Mr. Levering, trying to argue against his convictions. But it was of no avail. His convictions remained as clear and rebuking as ever.

The next day was the Sabbath, and Mr. Levering went to church, as usual, with his family. Scarcely had he taken a seat in his pew, when, on raising his eyes, he sat in unthoughted silence.

"I'm perfectly well," he replied, rousing himself, and forcing a smile.

"It must have been dreadful for his poor mother," Mr. Levering ventured to remark.

"But more dreadful for him," said Mrs. Levering. Will he ever forget his crime and disgrace? Will the pressure of that dollar on his conscience ever be removed?

How rebukingly fell all these words on the ear of Mr. Levering! Ah! what would he not then have given to have the weight of that dollar removed? Its pressure was so great as almost to suffocate him.

It was all in vain that he tried to be cheerful, or take an interest in what was passing immediately around him.

The innocent prattle of his children had lost its wonted charm, and there seemed an accusing expression in the eye of his wife, as in the concern his changed aspect had occasioned, she looked soberly upon him.

Unable to bear all this, Mr. Levering went out, something unusual for him, and walked the streets for an hour.

On his return, the children were in bed, and he had regained sufficient self-control to meet his wife with a less disturbed appearance.

On the next morning, Mr. Levering felt something better. Sleep had left his mind more tranquil. Still there was a pressure on his feelings, which thought could trace back to that unlucky dollar.

About an hour after going to his store, Mr. Levering saw his customer of the day previous enter, and move along towards the place where he stood behind his counter.

His heart gave a sudden bound, and the color rose to his face. An accusing conscience was quick to conclude as to the object of her visit. But he soon saw that no suspicion of wrong dealing was in the lady's mind.

With a pleasant, half recognition, she asked to look at certain articles, from which she made purchases, and in paying for them, placed a ten dollar bill in the hand of the store-keeper.

"That weight shall be off my conscience," said Mr. Levering to himself, as he began counting out the change due to his customer; and, purposely, he gave her one dollar more than was justly hers in that transaction.

The lady glanced her eyes over the money, and seemed slightly bewildered. Then, much to the store-keeper's relief, opened her purse, and dropped it therein.

"All right again!" was the mental ejaculation of Mr. Levering, as he saw the purse disappear in the lady's pocket, while his breast expanded with a sense of relief.

The customer turned from the counter, and had nearly gained the door, when she paused, drew out her purse, and emptying the contents of one end into her hand, carefully noted the amount.

Then, with a thoughtful air—"I think you've made a mistake in the change, Mr. Levering."

"I presume not, madam. I gave you four dollars and thirty-five," was the quick reply.

"Four thirty-five," said the lady, musingly. "Yes, here is just four thirty-five."

"That's right; yes, that's right," Mr. Levering spoke, somewhat nervously.

"The article came to six dollars and sixty-five cents, I believe?"

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the record. Though obscured by the accumulating dust of time, now and then a hand sweeps unexpectedly over the page, and the writing is revealed.

Though that hand has been removed from his conscience, and he is now guiltless of wrong, yet there are times when the old pressure is felt with painful distinctness.

Earnest seeker after this world's goods, take warning by Mr. Levering, and beware how, in a moment of weak yielding, you get a dollar on your conscience.

One of two evils must follow. It will give you pain and trouble, or callous the spot where it rests. And the latter of these evils is that which is most to be deplored.—Godey's Lady's Book.

From our English Files.

STATE OF TRADE IN LANCASHIRE.—There appears little prospect of speedy resumption of work at Preston. During the week the number of applicants for work has amounted to about 200, but they have no connection with the present agitation.

The funds, notwithstanding the large demands upon them, still present a relief since the commencement of the strike amounted last week to nearly £27,000.

The Burnley mills having been opened with success for four days in the week, likewise at the other mills, but only for three days in the week. At first the workmen did not return freely, but more have since offered themselves, and it is expected that labour generally will be resumed.

At Bury the operatives do not seem disposed to be so speedily re-employed as at the other mills, as they are supported by the many artisans in that town engaged in other employments. A strike is anticipated among the miners in the employ of Messrs. Swire and Lees, of Dukinfield. It is a fact cheerfully indicative of the still general prosperity that the deposits in the Leeds Savings Bank exhibit.

The present year show an increase of £19,135; the number of depositors has increased by 725.

BERNING FOR WITCHCRAFT.—Query: When and where was the last person burned to death for witchcraft in England?—We believe the case of burning for witchcraft at Bury St. Edmund's in 1684, tried by Sir Matthew Hale, among some accounts state that the victims, Alice Dunn and Rose Callender, were burnt at York for having received 10s. at a time from his Satanic Majesty. The last case of burning in Scotland was in Sutherland, A.D. 1722; the judge was Captain David Ross, of Little Dean.

At Girar, in Ireland, a servant-girl was burnt alive in 1770. The last burning in Great Britain as far as we know, occurred in 1845, and is quoted by Mr. Sternberg, from a Northampton Mercury of that year: "A poor woman, named Sarah Bradshaw, of Meers Ashby, who was accused of being a witch, in order to prove her innocence submitted to the ordeal, and, alas! she died, when the title-page is emblazoned by the imperial arms, consisting of two birds of paradise paying court to the sun, and supported by two winged dragons rising out of the water on either side."

Another side: over the whole of the world, the new edition, published by the Rev. J. G. Gifford, and his public, is a remarkable work, and, in fact, the title-page is emblazoned by the imperial arms, consisting of two birds of paradise paying court to the sun, and supported by two winged dragons rising out of the water on either side.

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On Thursday the annual meeting of the subscribers, &c., to the School for the Indigent Blind was held at the London Coffee-house. The Rev. John Evans in the chair, when 300 gentlemen, stated that Her Majesty had granted 300 guineas to give the Prince of Wales the right of always having one pupil in the Institution. The number of pupils now in the Institution are 77 males and 69 females. The total receipts for the past year were £9,245, and the balance in hand at the close of the year £2893.

AUSTRALIA.—The following extraordinary intelligence (says the Bristol Journal) is contained in a letter received by Mr. Joseph Abraham, of Bristol, from a relative in Hobart Town, and kindly handed to us by the latter gentleman.

Hobart Town, September 8, 1853.—Knowing how interesting any news respecting Australia must be to you, I write to inform you of a great discovery that has again been made on the Geelong side, about fifty-six miles from the town. They have been digging very deep, and have come on a very rich vein of gold. I can tell you respecting it, that the people's minds are partly turned from the immense discovery. Every tubful of earth they raise from these holes contains pounds weight of gold. The more they dig the more they find. It appears as if the diggers, the Government has sent up all the military to quell the disturbances, and the marines of Her Majesty's ship Electra are mounting guard at the Treasury, and the sailors of the above-mentioned vessels are sent to the military. The military is sent to Melbourne to aid the military already there. Goodness only knows how all this will end.—Hobart Town, September 8.

By the steamer from Geelong this day, I find that a gold quarry has been discovered near Geelong, 100 to 120 feet from the surface of the earth, and the first part only has fallen into the hands of the insurgents; or perhaps they are intending to print the whole, and this is the first part that was ready when the Hermes visited Nanking. There is one circumstance connected with this publication, which is very remarkable, and which, the title-page is emblazoned by the imperial arms, consisting of two birds of paradise paying court to the sun, and supported by two winged dragons rising out of the water on either side.

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BREAD MAKING.—I baked 7 lb. of flour with-out rice, and 7 lb. with the addition of 1 lb. according to the recipe in the E. C. The results were as follows: 7 lb. of flour produced \$12. of bread. The same quantity of flour, with 1 lb. of rice, produced 11 lb. of bread. The rice bread was beautifully light and spongy, and of improved flavor. My whole household decided in its favor. Our whole household recommend it to all our friends. On each occasion I used one pennyworth of German yeast, and what is called the best country flour. The difference in the results of the corresponding experiments, has proved without a doubt, to be interesting and important, too, to institute a series of experiments, using different prescriptions of flour. At any rate, the addition of rice we all acknowledge to be a decided improvement, and intend continuing its use.

A SUBSCRIBER.—English Churchman.

CHRISTIAN NATION SAIL CANOE.—The Christian Nation publishes a singular story received by a missionary in this country from a military officer. A man had arrived at Peshawar, who declared that he belonged to a Christian nation about eighteen marches distant from Cabool. They inhabit a fertile valley, each containing 200 soldiers, and a Bishop. The people are as fair as Europeans, and the man was exceedingly anxious for controversial tracts against the Mussulmans, with whom his people live in continual war. The figures are apparently exaggerated, but it is not improbable that one of the Nestorian Churches still exists in Tartary. It is not impossible, either, that an entire tribe may have been converted by the Russian missionaries, though the absence of the sacraments is opposed to this hypothesis.

—Atlas's Indian Mail.

PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL.—A Christian pastor, signing himself "less than the least," has sent the magnificent sum of £5000 to the fund for Propagating the Gospel in China.

The "Baltic" brought little local news of any importance from either England or France. It was said that the Emperor Napoleon would soon send one of his personal friends to the dignity of Princes of the Empire. The ministerial nominations for the present year had been published in Paris.

The rumours respecting the prospects of peace are confused and unavourable. While some persons maintain that the Emperor of Russia has consented to send a plenipotentiary to the Congress of Vienna, letters from St. Petersburg state positively that the Czar insists that the religious question shall be arranged between himself and the Sultan without the intervention of the other Powers. It is added that the Emperor has no objection to send a representative to the conference, but that he reserves to himself the right to treat directly with the Porte on all that relates to the prerogative of the Greek subjects.

On the 22nd ult. the French government received official intelligence that the combined fleets had entered the Black Sea. It was accordingly probable that the Russian ambassador would demand, if he had not already demanded, an explanation with reference to the entry of the fleets, and whether it meant as a hostile demonstration on the part of France against Russia.

The answer is expected to be that the policy of the French government has undergone no change, and that it is still the object it desires of preventing the recurrence of an act that which has recently taken place. It is stated, however, that on the resignation of Lord Palmerston, the Emperor Napoleon caused a note, written in very plain terms, to be sent to the Earl of Aberdeen, asking to be that the fleets in the Black Sea should stand by Turkey, or desert her in her hour of need.

Advertisements.

FEMALE EDUCATION. A CLERGYMAN, who is anxious to secure for his own child the advantages of home education under the superintendance of an accomplished lady, is induced to offer to receive one young lady into his family, to be treated in all respects as a member of it.

For further particulars, apply (if by letter, postpaid) to the Rev. the Secretary of the Church Society, Toronto, 26, 1853.

NEW BOOKS. The Christian's Manual of Faith and Devotion, containing a complete and accurate explanation of the various exercises of Christian life, by John Henry Hobart, D.D. 20 3 9

Sacra Fidei et Sacrae Theologie Exercitia, or Prayers and Prayers of the Right Rev. T. Wilson, D.D. 0 3 9

The Institution of Clergy, by F. A. Kemp, 0 3 9

Prayers and Offices of Devotion for families and private persons, by Benjamin Jenks, edited by Rev. Chas. Simcox, 0 3 9

A Series of Sermons, by the Rev. J. G. Gifford, 0 3 9

The Epistle to the Romans in Greek and English, with an Analysis and Exegetical Commentary, by the Rev. J. G. Gifford, 0 7 6

Sermons upon Religious Education and Filial Duty, by the Rev. J. G. Gifford, 0 3 9

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Author of Peep of Day, &c. &c. 0 1 6

The Duty of the Christian, by the Rev. J. G. Gifford, 0 1 6

The Sermons of the Rev. Richard Cecil, 0 5 0

Christian Retention of Spiritual Exercises, by the Rev. J. G. Gifford, 0 3 9

The Crook in the Lot, or a display of the Sovereignty and Wisdom of God in the misfortune of the Christian, by the Rev. J. G. Gifford, 0 1 6

Water from the Well Spring for the Sinner, by the Rev. J. G. Gifford, 0 1 6

WILLIAM HODGINS, ARCHITECT AND CIVIL ENGINEER, CITY ENGINEER'S OFFICE, HAMILTON, C. W.

BELLS! BELLS! BELLS! THE Subscribers manufacture and keep constantly on hand, a very large assortment of Church, Factory, Steamboat, Steamship, Locomotive, School House, and Plantation Bells, made in an entirely new way recently adopted by us. We have 14 Gold and Silver Medals awarded for "the best Bells, for sonorosity and purity of tone." Nearly 10,000 Bells have been cast and sold from this foundry. We can cast and send in four hours, and by Canal and Railroads in every direction, to all parts of the world. Mathematical Instruments of the most approved construction on hand. Address: A. MENEELY'S SONS, West Troy, N. Y.

AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL For the Cure of Coughs, Colds, Hoarseness, Bronchitis, Whooping-cough, croup, Asthma and Consumption.

AMONG the numerous discoveries of Science made in this generation to facilitate and even prolong the term of human existence, none has been named of more real value to mankind, than this Contribution of Chemistry to the Healing Art. A vast trial of its virtues, throughout this broad country, has proved without a doubt, that no medicine or combination of medicines yet known, can so surely control and cure the numerous varieties of pulmonary disease which have hitherto swept from our midst thousands and thousands every year. Indeed, there is no abundant reason to believe, that a Remedy has been found, which can be relied on to cure the most dangerous affections of the lungs. Our space here will not permit us to publish any proportion of the cures effected by its use, but we would present the following opinions of eminent men, and refer further enquiry to the circular, which the Agent below named will always be pleased to furnish free, wherein are full particulars, and indisputable proof of these facts.

From the President of Amherst College