

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

CHEERFULNESS.—Men seldom give pleasure when they are not pleased themselves; it is necessary, therefore, to cultivate an habitual alacrity and cheerfulness, that, in whatever state we may be placed by nature—whether we are appointed to confer or receive benefits, to implore or afford protection—we may secure the love of those with whom we have dealings. For, though it is generally imagined that he who grants favors may spare any attention to his behavior, and that usefulness will always procure friends, yet it has been found that there is an art of granting requests—an art very difficult of attainment.

AN AWKWARD OCCASION.—The most awkward occasion in a young woman's career, says Biklins, is when she returns from the wedding trip, and for the first time invites her friends to breakfast in her own house. She feels that all eyes are upon her, and that inquiring minds are busy sifting the sweet mysteries of her new life. In the tumult of her emotions she pours the hot water in the sugar bowl, sweetens John's coffee with salt, scalps the butter with the sleeves of her morning gown, waters the toast from the waste bowl, burns her finger against the coffee urn, gets red in the face, and finally, unless she is a female of cast-iron resolution, bursts into a flood of tears, which all the pangs of several days' accumulated hunger are impotent to assuage.

WORTH RECORDING.—"My daughter keeps my farm-accounts, sir; and she is as systematic and particular as ever my son was, who kept them before he left home. I tell you it does girls" (and he might have added boys also) "good to give them some responsibility, and set them to watching things about the farm and household. They learn, I find, economy by it, and soon discover that their old father is not, necessarily, a crabbed old curmudgeon, because he doesn't loosen his purse-string whenever they see something they happen to fancy; for they discover the real reason why the purse should not be opened." So said a progressive Kilkenny farmer, a kind, appreciative, proud father, and a big-hearted man on general principles. What he said is worth recording.

INDEX OF CHARACTER.—All the features give a hint concerning their owners' character, and the teeth should be studied in connection with the features. Regular white teeth, seen at once upon the mouth opening, but not projecting, nor always entirely seen, denote acuteness, truth, and goodness. Small, short teeth, which are seldom of pure white, denote strength; long teeth always imply weakness and want of spirit. Those which are firm and strong, whatever the color, denote strength and firmness. Foul teeth, traceable to uncleanness, show, therefore, a negligence of character. If the upper gum is much seen immediately on opening the mouth, it generally denotes dullness and coldness. In judging of teeth, however, we must remember that ill-health, the use of acid medicines, and smoking, materially alter and discolor teeth otherwise indicative of good qualities.

METHOD IN WORK.—Do instantly whatever is to be done; take the hours of reflection or recreation after business and never before it. When a regiment is under march, the rear is often thrown into confusion because the front do not move steadily and without interruption. It is the same thing with business. If that which is first in hand is not instantly, steadily and regularly despatched other things accumulate behind, till affairs begin to press all at once, and no human brain can stand the confusion; pray, mind this—it is one of your weak points, a habit of mind it is that is very apt to beset men of intellect and talent, especially when their time is not filled up regularly, but is left to their own arrangement. But it is like the ivy round the oak and ends by limbing, if it does not destroy, the power of manly and necessary exertion.

A FITTING REBUKE.—There are many men in existence who deem it no harm to speak alightingly of women; according to their idea, it is quite meet that the strong should assail the weak. One of these robbers of reputation received a severe rebuke on a recent occasion. At a dinner of which no ladies were present, this man, in responding to a toast, "Women" dwelt almost safely on the frailty of the sex, claiming that the best among them were little better than the worst, the chief difference being their surroundings. At the conclusion of the speech, a gentleman present rose to his feet and said, "I trust the gentleman, in the application of his remarks, refers to his own mother and sisters, not ours." The effect of this most just and timely rebuke was overwhelming; and the maligner of women was covered with confusion and shame.

PROHIBITION NEEDED.—Sing Sing convicts do not lack ingenuity, as has been proven by the discovery of a whisky still within the prison. For some time past convicts have occasionally been noticed to be under the influence of strong drink, but all efforts on the part of the official failed to elicit from them where the liquor had been obtained. A few nights since one of the convicts was found drunk, and in possession of a bottle partially filled with whisky. Next morning, to escape punishment, he revealed the fact that he obtained the liquor from one of the convicts named John Short, who was employed in one of the marble quarries. On searching the quarry, an ingeniously contrived still was found, where whisky was manufactured from potatoes, scraps of bread, tomatoes, corn and coarse meal collected from the stables. On searching Short, some six hundred dollars were

found upon his person, which he had collected from the sale of his whisky.

A PRECIOUS VASE.—The famous onyx vase, which Geneva feared had disappeared from the treasures of the late Duke of Brunswick, has at length been found. The executors were examining the contents of a case of jewelry, when their attention was attracted by two vases of gilded metal which seemed to be of little value. But, on examining these, it was found that one of them was much heavier than the other, and a joint in the stem had allowed some threads of flannel to pass. A longitudinal division was found to run down the whole length of this vase, which thus appeared to be merely a case for concealing something else. On the slit being widened, there appeared an onyx vase of marvellous beauty, in form like a tall urn, its slightly swelling body adorned with drinking scenes and women in long robes conducting animals in chains. Material and workmanship make this vase a wonderful masterpiece. It is known to antiquaries as the "Vase of Mantua," and is regarded by them as a Semitic production, nothing less than the holy vial employed in the consecration of the Hebrew Kings.

THE ETIQUETTE OF BOWING.—The *Home Journal* says that the etiquette of bowing is so simple that one would scarcely suppose it possible that difference of opinion could exist, and yet there are some who think it a breach of politeness if one neglect to bow, although meeting half a dozen times on a promenade or in driving. Custom has made it necessary to bow only the first time in passing. After that exchange of salutations is very properly not expected. The difference between a courteous and a familiar bow should be remembered by gentlemen who wish to make a favorable impression. A lady dislikes to receive from a man with whom she has but a slight acquaintance a bow, accompanied by a broad smile as though he were on the most familiar terms with her. It is far better to err on the other side and give one of those stiff, ungracious bows which some men indulge in. Those gentlemen who smile with their eyes instead of their mouths, give the most charming bows. As for men who bow charmingly at one time and with excessive hauteur at others, according as they feel in a good or bad humor, they need never be surprised if the person thus treated should cease speaking altogether. A man should also always lift his hat to a lady.

LIFE IS FULL OF SAD SURPRISES, especially to romantic people. It is so natural to expect poetical justice in this world, to believe that love wins love and kindness gratitude. In early life we stand waiting for these things to happen, as though they were fixed laws of nature, especially if we are brought up on poetry and take to romance as naturally as we do to bread and milk.

This waiting time is life's brightest part, for, alas! we generally wait in vain. We see the hero fall in the fight, though "God and the right" be written on his banner. We learn what Judas kisses mean, and see Love's sweetness, Heaven-born as it seems, turn to a curse upon the lips of the best and purest. Years of devotion have for their wages treachery and coldness. The wolf in sheep's clothing stands revealed to us. We learn that we must hide our best feelings, and repress our truest instincts, or be the laughing-stock of grinning fiends.

At last we turn and fly as best we can from the delusive hopes that led us onward once so gaily. Our surprises no longer come in those moments when we meet Treachery, Falsehood, Cruelty and Hypocrisy, but when Faith and Truth and Tenderness show their sweet faces; and, alas! they are but few. A tragedy is Life; a play that, when the curtain falls, leaves none unwounded.

UNNECESSARY MAJESTY.—Some women are constitutionally incapable of understanding anything like playfulness, and who can make no distinction between fun and impertinence, a laughing humor and taking liberties. They wrap themselves up in a robe of majesty, and resent as rudeness any homely touch which ignores their stately drapery. They are women about whose affairs you know absolutely nothing, though you may be their friend of a lifetime. You never hear them tell the most harmless anecdote frankly, but always with a severe air of mystery and something hidden; you never hear them discuss the least important subject freely. You would not dare to ask them, friends as you are, things which you would ask a comparative stranger without hesitation, and they never volunteer information. They would consider it a liberty, if you wanted particulars as to the treatment they had pursued in such or such a case of illness; and they are far too dignified to help the inexperience of their youngsters by their own acquired store. One often wonders what these women are as mothers with young daughters to instruct; and whether their dignity can unbend so far as to give lessons to girls who have everything to learn. They are so grim, so far removed from any of the kindly familiarities, the maternal tenderness of ordinary women, that it is hard to believe there can ever be moments in which, or persons to whom, they can condescend to be natural. Woe to the luckless man who has fallen into the power of such a woman! He has to expiate by a life of self-suppression for the one part, and of perpetual stumbling offence for the other, the terrible mistake he made in early youth, when a girl's cold self-possession was called by a finer word, and no account taken of the time when a just endurable characteristic would have become exaggerated.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

THE ATLANTIC CABLES.—The attempt of the Great Eastern steamer to lift and repair the Atlantic ocean cable of 1868 has failed, owing to stormy weather, and the great ship has returned to England. The work is postponed until next year. The fault has been located at a point not far eastward of the banks of Newfoundland. The cable was successfully grappled and lifted several times. A portion of the original cable, that of 1858, was brought up during the grappling operation and found to be in a fair state of preservation.

NICOTINE IN TOBACCO.—The *Centralblatt* gives a detailed account of Dr. Emile Heubel's experiments with nicotine. He asserts that nicotine is without doubt contained in tobacco smoke—its presence can be proved as well by chemical analysis as by physiological experiment; that during slow combustion the nicotine is to be constantly found in the smoke, a quantity of the alkaloid arising as the tobacco is or is not rich in nicotine, passing over in the smoke. This nicotine, says Dr. Heubel exists in tobacco smoke—for the most part, at all events—as a salt of the alkaloid; and the fact that nicotine spite of its volatility and easy solubility, is during the process of smoking by no means entirely or even for the most part, dissipated or dissolved, appears to have its solution in the circumstance that in tobacco smoke, as well as in tobacco leaves, that nicotine exists, not as a free alkaloid, but as a staple salt of nicotine.

THE LIFE OF MAN.—How graphically the varied aspects of the leaf picture the various seasons of man's life. The tenderness of its budding and blooming in spring, when that rich golden green glints on it that comes holy once a year, represents the bright beauty and innocence of youth, when every sunrise brings its fresh, glad hopes, and every night its holy, trustful calm. The dark greenness and lush vigour of the summer season portray the strength and self reliance of manhood; while its fading hues on the trees, and its rustling heaps on the ground, typify the decay and feebleness of old age, and that strange, mysterious passing away which is the doom of every mortal. The autumn leaf is gorgeous in colour, but it lacks the balmy scent and dewy freshness of hopeful spring; and life is rich and bright in its meridian splendour; deep are the hues of maturity, and noble is the beauty of success; but who would not give it all for the tender sweetness and promise of life's morning hours? Happy they who keep the child's heart warm and soft over the experiences of old age.

THE EFFECTS OF WORRY.—That the effects of worry are more to be dreaded than those of simple hard work is evident from noting the classes of persons who suffer most from the effects of mental over-strain. The casebook of the physician shows that it is the speculator, the betting man, the railway manager, the great merchant, the superintendent of large manufacturing or commercial works, who most frequently exhibits the symptoms of cerebral exhaustion. Mental cares accompanied with suppressed emotion, occupations liable to great vicissitudes of fortune, and those which involve the bearing on the mind of a multiplicity of intricate details, eventually break down the lives of the strongest. In estimating what may be called the staying powers of different minds under hard work, it is always necessary to take early training into account. A young man, cast suddenly into a position involving great care and responsibility, will break down in circumstances in which, had he been gradually habituated to the position, he would have performed its duties without difficulty. It is probably for this reason that the professional classes generally suffer less from the effects of overstrain than others. They have a long course of preliminary training, and their work comes on them by degrees; therefore when it does come in excessive quantity, it finds them prepared for it. Those, on the other hand, who suddenly vault into a position requiring severe mental toil, generally die before their time.—*Chambers Journal*.

TWO INTERESTING DISCOVERIES.—A journal of Bogota, publishes a letter of Don Joaquin Alvez da Costa, in which he states that his slaves while working upon the plantation of Porto Alto, Parahyba district, Peru, have discovered a monumental stone, erected by a small colony of Phoenicians who had wandered thither from their native country in the ninth or tenth year in the reign of Hiram, a monarch contemporary with Solomon and who flourished about ten centuries before the Christian era. The monolith bears an inscription of eight lines, written in clear Phoenician characters, without punctuation marks or any visible separation of the words. This has been imperfectly deciphered, but enough has been made out to learn that a party of Canaanites left the port of Aziongaher (Boya-Akaba) and navigated about the coast of Egypt for twelve moons (one year), but were drawn by currents off their course and eventually carried to the present site of Guayaquil, Peru. The stone gives the names of these unfortunate travellers, both male and female, and probably further investigations will shed more light on the records they have left. Another and more astonishing discovery, we find announced in *Les Mondes*. It appears that some Russian colonists, having penetrated into hitherto unexplored parts of Siberia, have found three living mastodons, identical with those heretofore dug up in that country from frozen sand. No particulars are given as to this, we fear, somewhat questionable find. From the statements of M. Dupont, of the Brussels Royal Academy, it would seem that, like the reindeer, the mastodon should

not now be extinct, and that the animal is naturally the contemporary of the horse, sheep and pig. Hence the announcement is not without some shadow of probability.

HUMOROUS SCRAPS.

WHAT is that from which, if you take the whole, some will remain? Wholesome.
THE man most likely to make his mark in the world—One who cannot write his own name.

THE daughter of an Indiana Congressman eloped recently, taking the old gentleman's back pay along with her.

WHAT is the difference between a sailor and a beer-drinker? One puts his sail up and the other puts his ale down.

SYDNEY SMITH being ill his physician advised him to take a walk upon an empty stomach. "Whose stomach?" asked the wit.

THERE is a strike among the doctors in one of the Swiss Cantons. The people are exceedingly rejoiced, and at last accounts all of them were in perfect health.

To hold in a postmortem examination on a horse who afterwards recovered \$1.50, was one of the items in a horse-doctor's bill paid by an Oregon stock-owner.

"How does your husband get along?" inquired a friend of an undertaker's wife. "Nothing to complain of, thank the Lord, he had twelve funerals yesterday."

A BACHELOR at a banquet in Newcastle gave the following toast: "The women and coal of Durham county—O how desolate would the fireside be without them!"

A DUTCH Congressman remarked, "Ven I was elected I thought I would find all Solomons down here; but I found dere was some as pick fools here as I was mineseelf."

A WESTERN genius has an idea which is an idea. He proposes to arrange church seats on pivots so the devout may more conveniently examine the toilets of those in the back seats.

WHAT relation is bread to a sewing machine?—The mother.—Why the mother?—Because bread is a necessity and a sewing machine is an invention, and necessity is the mother of invention.

AN editor, who indulged in a heavy life insurance, is said to be followed, whenever he goes a fishing, by several insurance agents, affectionately bearing life-preservers and sun umbrellas.

NINETEEN of every twenty persons who write a family letter, after closing with an injunction to "write again as soon as you can," tilt back and devoutly exclaim, "Thank heaven, that job is done!"

SERENADING is carried to such an extent in Bloomington, Ill., that the old people never think of going to bed without taking a loaded shot gun with them, and stuffing their ears full of cotton.

"DOCTOR" said a man to Abernethy, "my daughter had a fit and continued for half an hour without knowledge." "Oh," replied the doctor, "never mind that, many people continue so all their lives."

THE young man who went West a few months ago has only sent one letter home. It came on Friday. It said, "Send me a wig;" and his fond parents don't know whether he is married or scalped.

To see how eagerly a human being will catch at a straw, it is not necessary to witness a drowning. The phenomenon is now manifested chiefly within bars, where one end of a straw is immersed in a tumbler.

"UNCLE JAMES, won't you perform some of those juggling tricks for us, to-night, that you learned in China?"—"No, my dear; I'm not in the vein."—"What vein, uncle?"—"Why the juggler vein, of course."

"I WISH you had been Eve," said an urchin to a stingy old aunt, proverbial for her meanness—"Why so?"—"Because," said the aggravating nephew, "you would have eaten all the apples instead of dividing 'em."

"WHAT'S your business?" asked a judge of a prisoner at the bar. "Well, I s'pose you might call me a lock-smith." "When did you last work at your trade?" "Last night; when I heard a call for the perlice, I made a bolt for the front door."

"PA, what is the interest of a kiss?" asked sweet sixteen of her sire.—"Why, really I don't know. Why do you ask?"—"Because Cousin John borrowed a kiss last night from me, and said he'd pay me back some time with interest."

"MISS," said a gentleman, proffering his arm and umbrella to a young lady in a shower, "permit me to be your beau." "Thank you for your politeness," was the reply, "and as I have plenty of fair weather beaux, I will call you my rain beau."

OLD DEACON N—, having occasion to spend the night at an hotel, was assigned a room in which there were three single beds, two of which already contained occupants. Soon after the light was extinguished a man in one of the other beds began to snore so loudly as to prevent the deacon from falling asleep. The tumult increased as the night wore away, until it became absolutely fearful. Some two or three hours after midnight the snorer turned himself in bed, and gave a hideous groan—and became silent. The deacon had thought the third person asleep until at this juncture he heard him exclaim, "He's dead! thank heaven, he's dead!"