

EIFFEL'S GREAT TOWER.

Men seem to have an inherent desire to do something great, to do something that will eclipse anything of the kind before attempted, something that will inscribe their names upon the time roll of ages and hand them down to posterity, so long as generation shall succeed generation.

It was, no doubt, with this end in view, that the builders of the Tower of Babel undertook their colossal work; and Egyptologists tell us that the building of the Pyramids was inspired by the same ambitious motive.

The Cathedrals at Cologne, St. Peter's at Rome, St. Paul's in London, and St. Mary's in Halifax, are existing witnesses that the Spirit of the Pyramid builders is by no means dead. Heretofore great and lofty architectural structures have been built of stone, and hence their enormous cost has, in a measure, limited the height to which they could be carried; but in this iron age, in which iron is so largely used as a building material, it might naturally be supposed that some one would endeavor to outdo Philetus and Chlops; and from the information at hand, such a man has come to the front. M. Eiffel, a French engineer, proposes to commemorate the centenary of the capture of the Bastille by erecting an iron tower upon the Paris Exposition grounds.

The tower is to be 984 feet in height, which is nearly double the height of any building now extant. Its cost will be \$1,200,000, one fourth of which sum is to be contributed by the French Government, and the remainder raised by subscription.

From its top it is estimated that observations can be taken of the country for 50 miles in all directions. A novel experiment will be made in the course of a few weeks, through which it is proposed to give intending stockholders an idea of the proportions of the tower. A captive balloon will shortly ascend about 1,000 feet above the Champs de Mars, and from its car there will be let down four cables, which are to be fastened at the four corners of the contemplated building. These cables will represent the curves made by the edges of the tower, and flags fastened to them will indicate the height of the several stories.

In accordance with the concession which the Eiffel Company has obtained, the tower is to remain standing for only 20 years. What is to be done afterwards with it has not even been suggested. It is scarcely likely that it will, after being once taken down, be re-erected elsewhere.

Those who visit the Paris Exposition next summer will have an opportunity of experiencing the sensation of being carried up in one of the four elevators to the top of Eiffel's great tower, but we doubt whether there will be a sufficient number of persons patronize these elevators to ensure a dividend to the stockholders in Eiffel's company. The conception of the tower is certainly grand, and its construction presents no insurmountable architectural difficulties, but as an investment it is likely to prove a magnificent failure.

TOUCHY PEOPLE AND SOCIAL BLUNDERERS.

It is very generally asserted that this is a practical age, an age of common sense, an age in which small and comparatively trifling matters are passed over with complacent indifference; but the assertion is, we think, somewhat too general in its character; for have we not still over-sensitive or touchy persons and social blunderers in our midst, who, through their misapprehensions and mistakes, constantly minimise the modicum of happiness which we can extract from life.

Touchy individuals appear to be always on the lookout for slights, even when none were intended. They appropriate to themselves personally the admonitions of clergymen, and when their names are omitted from the list of guests at any social gathering, they see in the omission an intentional slight, which no assurances to the contrary will ever convince them was not premeditated. The over-sensitiveness of some of these people remind us of the touchiness of Robert, Duke of Normandy, who is said to have starved himself to death in dudgeon at a fancied slight inflicted upon him by his brother, Henry I? According to Holinshed, the King was trying on a new cloak with a hood and finding it too tight for him, directed that the garment should be taken to his brother, who was a smaller man. A slight rent, however, had been made in the garment, and the Duke perceiving it, and hearing that the cloak had been tried on by the King, indignantly exclaimed, "Now I perceive I have lived too long, since my brother clothes me like an almsman in his cast, rent garments," and refusing all food, starved himself to death.

The folly of this Prince is pitiable, but there are instances in which touchiness has rather a humorous aspect, of which the following is an illustration. A Scotch minister, preaching against the evils of falsehood, was interrupted by the parish idiot, who exclaimed in an aggrieved tone, "I dinna see why ye suid be sac hard on me, Mr. —. I'm sure there's mair liars in the parish than me."

Every person has the right to preserve his self-respect; but as a rule, it is better to place a charitable construction on actions or sayings which are capable of a double interpretation.

Social blunderers are unfortunately never over-sensitive, they are rather obtuse and thoughtless, and to their mistakes can be traced many of the difficulties and estrangements which have occurred in society. They refer to insanity being in such and such a family, to the peculiarities of certain persons, to the marriage prospects, abilities, pecuniary circumstances or dispositions of others, and this in a blundering way, without considering whether the persons they are addressing are related to the person spoken of, or are in any way affected by the remarks which are being made. Suddenly recollecting themselves, they begin to make enquiries, the answers to which frequently place them in awkward positions, and then they blunder forth apologies which only make bad matters worse. How many a host or hostess can recall the time when they have used all their energies to coun-

teract the effect of a speech made by one of these blunderers, and remember their feelings, in endeavoring to prevent the saying of something that would be offensive to one or more present. It is probable that few people possess the kindly sense of the French abbé mentioned in the memoirs of Madam Vigée de Brun, the celebrated portrait painter of the last century. This gentleman was, unfortunately, extremely deformed, and, playing at cards with him, Madame de Brun was so struck by his strange figure that she inadvertently hummed a few bars of a tune called "The Hunchback." Immediately recollecting herself, she stopped in confusion, whereupon the abbé turned to her with a kindly smile, "My dear madame, continue your tune. I assure you it does not offend me in the least; the association is so natural a one, that I believe it would have occurred to me in your place."

Had the French abbé been a touchy man, the episode might have created a lifelong estrangement. As it was, he acted the part of a true gentleman, and his soft answer was a keen rebuke to the thoughtless Madame de Brun. We would all do well to remember Sir Walter Scott's advice to his daughters, to beware of a proneness to take, as well as to give, offence.

OUR MILESTONE.

The annual Thanksgiving of a Christian people, which was yesterday observed throughout the chain of provinces extending from ocean to ocean, is another milestone in our national family and individual life. From it we look back over the past year and note the blessings that we have enjoyed as a people, undisturbed by those physical and political disasters which from week to week we have chronicled with respect to other lands. At peace with all mankind, and free from those disturbing elements such as have shaken Charleston to its very foundations and laid in waste a fertile section of New Zealand, our people have been left to follow their customary avocations, and that their industry and skill have been rewarded, is shown by the reports which reach us of bountiful harvests, fair catches of fish, and good returns from our mines. True, the markets have been dull, and business generally depressed, but, taking all in all, we have suffered less than many more populous states; and with each succeeding month, there has been such a decided improvement in the trade outlook, that we may fairly congratulate ourselves that we are at length drawing near to the close of one of the longest and most extended depressions that has ever been recorded.

As families, Thanksgiving Day tends to draw us nearer together in that domestic union upon the inviolability of which the true greatness of all states must depend. If we have suffered afflictions, we have in greater measure enjoyed unlooked for blessings.

As individuals, we can scarcely fail to realize the kind hand of Providence which has guided and directed us throughout the year, and if our acknowledgements of the mercies we have enjoyed are made in a true spirit of thankfulness, we may fairly hope for their continuance throughout the coming year.

Viewed from an individual, family or national standpoint, the observance of Thanksgiving Day should have a beneficial influence, and should tend to foster those christianizing and civilizing influences upon which the welfare of the individual, family and state is based.

THE FUTURE OF GREECE.

There is one element in the population of Southern Turkey, of which sufficient account is not taken by those who endeavor to forecast the final outcome of the Eastern complications. We refer to the Greek inhabitants, whose race sympathies bind them to one another and to Greece, and whose superior intelligence and distinguished ancestry make them despite their feeble and corrupt Ottoman rulers. They look with pride upon the liberation of Greece proper, which their imagination already ranks among the Great Powers of Europe. Taught in their schools to read Homer and Hesiod and Demosthenes, it is little wonder that they are inspired with much of the heroic and patriotic spirit of their ancestors.

Centuries of submission to a corrupt and despotic government have produced their inevitable results upon this naturally fine race. The unenviable reputation which the Greek merchant enjoys, and the too general association of the Greek name with ideas of brigandage are the most striking of these results. But the Greek is not a whit more dishonest than the majority of business men of other European nationalities who have dealings in Turkey; the only difference is, that his efforts at sharp practice are generally more successful than theirs. As for highway robbery, circumstances often render it the only means of earning a respectable living. The patriotic spirits among the people look upon the present, like the forty years' wanderings of the Israelites, as a time of purification, in which the diffusion of education will prepare the Greeks for conflict and for freedom.

The Greeks of Southern Turkey took an active part in the revolt which secured the independence of their brethren to the south of them. The liberated population number only about 1,500,000. There are in the still subject Provinces of Macedonia, Thrace, and Janina, over a million of Greeks, almost one-eighth of the total population of European Turkey. They are all inspired with a hatred of the Turk, and a growing desire for annexation to Greece. In the event of the dismemberment of Turkey, Greece will probably extend her territory up to the Bulgarian and Servian frontiers.

The rumor that the Mounted Police who served in the North-West Rebellion are to be awarded medals, is confirmed. This is as it should be. That gallant force did some hard fighting, and did it in a way that proved that they were made of the right stuff. They deserve the medals, and we are glad to know that their deserts are recognized by the Powers that be.