

and the rolling prairie; the *abandon* and swirl of the cataract and the rapid. Humor, pathos and wisdom are not seldom combined in a paragraph, and so inimitably, that in spite, oftentimes, of a somewhat nondescript and perchance rugged dress, one cannot fail to detect underneath the disguise the unerring instincts and inspired utterances of genius. Burdette is a master workman in this department, so is Mark Twain, so is Bret Harte. I shall instance but one other name, that of the late lamented Henry W. Shaw, who under the pseudonym of Josh Billings, achieved more fame by his quaint and irregular doctrines, and enshrined more wisdom in bad orthography than have all the so-called spelling reformers of the modern school of English-made-easy put together. With a few examples of his style, inimitable in its way, I shall conclude, first calling attention to the admirable commingling of humor, pathos and sound common sense embodied in the text.

"SAYINGS."

"A man with one idee alwus put me in mind of an old goose a tryin to hatch out a pavin stun."

"A man running for offiss puts me in minde ov a dog that's lost—he smells ov everybody he meets, and wags hisself all over."

"Moral swashun consis in askin a raan tu do what he ought tu do without askin, and then beggin hiz pardon if he refuses to do it."

"ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS."

"Gertrude," "Yure inquiry stumps me. The more i think on it the more i kant tell. Az near az i kan rekolek now, i think i don't kno. Much mite be ced both ways, and neither wa be write. Upon the whole i reckon i wud, or i wuddent, jist az i thought best, or otherwise."

PROVERBS.

"When a man diés the fust thing we talk about iz hiz welth, the nex thing hiz failings, and the last thing hiz vartues."

"There is sum disseazes that kant be kured even by deth, for we often see them brake out in a man's tombstun more violent than ever."

FROM "A SHORT AND VERY AFFEKT- ING ESSA ON MAN."

"Man wuz created tew govern a world ov ruggedness, and he couldn't dew it by being as harmless as a dove; he must have a touch ov a good sized sarpent in him, or he would have lived, he and hiz wife, growing butiful and useless, forever, in the Garden of Eden, he waz only put thare tew see its buty, but not to enjoy it ill he had arnt it; not tew live thare until a weary round had been paced. . . . We awl kno the wa back tew the kradle ov Eden. We awl long tew be thare asleep, but if God don't take us in Hiz arms, as froward children are taken, how few thare will be, who will git hum. Man is the problem, God iz the solution."

THE SEVERN TUNNEL.—The following particulars with regard to the Severn Tunnel, which shortens the distance between the South Wales coal-field and the South and West of England, and which was recently opened for passenger traffic, may be of interest. The first sod was turned in March, 1873. The length of the Tunnel is 7,664 yards, or $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles, of which $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles are

under the river-bed, with a minimum "cover" of 45 feet, and a maximum of 100; all this portion being bored through hard sandstone, conglomerate and red marl, and costing roughly £100 per yard. The works have been flooded by land-springs four times, and the total cost is about two millions sterling. The tunnel is lined throughout with vitrified brick, set in about three feet thickness of cement.—*Swiss Cross*.