

THINGS USEFUL AND AGREEABLE.

SELECTED.

TRUE PIETY is the touchstone of the heart. There is a magic in it that opens the sealed vaults of the soul,—that wakens convulsions in every ray of its holy light, and that calls forth life, and beauty, and harmony from even the marble heart that is shrunk in a miser's breast. Let him "who scoffs at piety and heaven," who ridicules the holy name of Jesus, and bows to the dark idol that his own imagination has created,—let such an one enter the tabernacle of the Almighty, where His worship is set up in the heart, and kindled by the rays of His everlasting love; where forms are forgotten, and fashion has no sway; where the souls of the worshippers become transparent, and he will feel a cord in his own soul thrilled by the magic touch; a chord that may have lain senseless, but not dead—that needs but a constant breath to yield undying melody:

Oh, if heaven be much fairer than the earth, how glorious indeed must it be! If we love better there than here, how tenderly indeed must we love! If its joys greatly surpass in richness the joys of earth, who on earth can estimate the happiness prepared for us there! It is blessed, indeed, to know that not only will every evil of the present life be excluded; but that every joy and beauty will be a thousand-fold more exquisite, and a thousand-fold augmented in heaven.

There is nothing purer than honesty,—nothing sweeter than charity,—nothing warmer than love,—nothing richer than wisdom,—nothing brighter than virtue,—and nothing more steadfast than faith. These united in one mind, form the purest, the sweetest, the warmest, the richest, the brightest, and the most steadfast happiness.

THE GREAT SALT LAKE OF UTAH is situated in a fine open country. Recent surveys made by the United States Government have resulted in bringing many interesting features to light in regard to that region. The lake is an object of great curiosity. The water is about one-third salt, yielding that amount on boiling. Its density is considerably greater than that of the Dead Sea. One can hardly get his whole body below the surface. In a sitting position, the head and shoulders will remain above the water, such is the strength of the brine, and in coming to the shore, the body is covered with an incrustation of salt in fine crystals. The most surprising thing about it, is the fact, that during the summer season the lake throws on shore abundance of salt, while in the winter season it throws up glauber salt in large quantities. The scientific must judge of the reason for this as well as tell what becomes of the enormous quantities of fresh water which are poured into it by three or four rivers, Jordan, Bear, and Wiber, as there is no risible outlet.

A domestic newly engaged, presented to his master one morning a pair of boots, of which the leg of one was much longer than the other. "How comes it, Patrick, that these boots are not of the same length?" "I raly don't know, sir; but what bothers me the most, is, that the pair down stairs are in the same fix!"