

the confidence with which this knowledge inspires him the more likely he is to succeed. It is some sort of recognition of this, perhaps, that often unconsciously inclines us to take a man, at least for a time, at his own estimate.

Vanity and conceit are, of course, especially observable when displayed in connection with feebleness and incapacity, and hence they are often spoken of as peculiar to the feeble and incapable. This, however, is a mistake. As a mere matter of fact a very large proportion of men of real power—men who have proved their power by their doings—have been full of conceit to overflowing. And when it has not exactly overflowed, its existence has been unquestionable. From "Great Cæsar," with his bombastic "*veni, vidi, vici*," down to men of such homely experience and strong common sense as William Cobbett, who rose to make his first speech in the House of Commons embarrassed mainly by the conviction that the people of the three kingdoms were looking to him as the only man who could save the country—from Julius Cæsar and Charles V., down to Cobbett and Dr. Parr, Lord Brougham and Charles Dickens—men of mark of every type and calibre have proved themselves fully conscious of their own exceptional powers. Indeed, in a general way it must be so.

Self-confidence, as we have said, is usually essential to success. It may be generally assumed, therefore, that any man who attains success by the exercise of his own talents is perfectly cognisant of those talents. A man can no more be blind to his own tried and proved abilities than he can be blind to those of a friend in whom he may be deeply interested, and a wise man would not be if he could. There is nothing in the nature of weakness in a strong man being conscious of his strength, and even a somewhat exaggerated estimate of it need be regarded as nothing more than an error of judgment, which may, it is true, sometimes be mischievous, but will also sometimes lead him to dare and to do that which otherwise he might have thought beyond him. To have a strong self-confidence is to have a perennial source of strength. To be perpetually displaying it to the world is a proof and a source of weakness. To have a reasonable self-conceit is legitimate and necessary to a man's own stimulus and support; to make a reasonable display of it may be necessary to secure the confidence of others. Anything beyond these points is, at least, error of judgment in the one case, and petty and contemptible weakness in the other. Yet it is astonishing how often men have not only combined in themselves the loftiness of genius, the dignity of learning, and the pride of exalted station with an extravagant estimate of themselves, but have habitually paraded that estimate before the world.

It is amazing to find a man of the profound learning and Herculean mental strength of Dr. Parr, for instance, or Buffon displaying vanity and stilted conceit of which any sensible schoolboy might be well ashamed. Nobody could be surprised that a man of Lord Brougham's encyclopædic powers should have a high opinion of himself as compared with the majority of those with whom he came in contact. But it is amazing that a man possessing those talents should not have perceived the folly of egotism which continually made him ridiculous with his endowments, and which on one occasion led him to perpetrate the petty and undignified hoax of disseminating a report of his own death that he might have an opportunity of revelling in the panegyrics with which the newspapers were immediately filled. Without his conceit Lord Brougham never could have achieved what he did; without the weakness that led him to be always displaying it, his character would now have stood immeasurably higher.—*London Globe*.

THINGS IN GENERAL.

THE REVIVAL.

The *Money Market Review* thinks there is "good reason to believe that, although the depression of the agricultural interest must necessarily cause a black mark to be placed against the present season, 1879 will prove to be the last year of manufacturing stagnation. We seem to have reached the turning point as regards the business of the country generally. The lessons of the past, however, will not be lightly forgotten. Economy and retrenchment are still, and must long continue to be, the order of the day, alike in the household, the office, the warehouse, and in joint-stock business. There will be no heart for the old scale of expenditure for a long time to come. All trade will be sounder, for it will depend relatively less upon credit and more upon ready money. Certain old-fashioned business virtues have once more been impressed upon us, and probably we shall be well inclined to recognise, some time hence, when the good times have fully returned, that 'sweet are the uses of adversity.'"

FORESTS AND LAWS OF METEOROLOGY.

According to a paper in *Polybiblion*, the following are the laws of meteorology as affected by forests:—1. It rains more abundantly, under identical circumstances, over forests than over non-wooded ground, and most abundantly over forests with trees in a green condition. 2. The degree of saturation of the air by moisture is greater above forests than over non-wooded ground, and much greater over masses of *Pinus sylvestris* than over masses of

leaved species. 3. The leafage and branches of leaved trees intercept one-third, and those of resinous trees the half, of the rain-water, which afterwards returns to the atmosphere by evaporation. On the other hand, these same leaves and branches restrain the evaporation of the water which reaches the ground, and that evaporation is nearly four times less under a mass of leaved forest than in the open, and two and one-third times only under a mass of pines. 4. The laws of the change of temperature out of and under wood are similar to those which result from the observations of M. Mathieu. The general conclusion seems to be that forests regulate the function of water, and exercise on the temperature, as on the atmosphere, an effect of "ponderation" and equilibrium.

MONTH DAY AND WEEK DAY.

We copy the following old couplet, which, if committed to memory, affords an easy rule for ascertaining without reference to an almanac on what day of the week any day of a month will fall:—

"At Dover Dwells George Brown, Esquire,
Good Christian Friend, and David Friar."

Explanation.—The couplet contains 12 words, one for each month in order, beginning with January. The initial letter of each word corresponds with the letter in the calendar for the 1st of the month represented by the word. The key to the use of the rule is the knowledge of the Sunday letter for the year, which this year is E.

Example 1.—On what day of the week did March 16 fall this year? Answer.—D, the first letter of "Dwells," stands for March 1. But D is the letter or day before E—that is, D, the 1st of March, was a Saturday. The calculation is instantaneous that March 16 was the third Sunday in the month.

Example 2.—On what day in the week will December 3 fall? Answer.—F is December 1. But F is the day after E—i.e., Monday; therefore December 3 will be on a Wednesday.

No little inconvenience has been already caused and hardships suffered in the matter of education, as well as of other interests, by the present dead-lock in the Province of Quebec. The meeting of the Protestant Committee of the Council of Public Instruction, which should have been held on the 4th September, for the appropriation of the annual grants to Universities, Colleges, Academies and Model Schools, had to be indefinitely put off, because the Legislative Council refused to pass the Supply Bill. The grants from the Fund for Superior Education are made annually, in each year. The annual returns from such Institutions for the Scholastic year ending 1st July are laid before the Committee of the Council of Public Instruction, and after a careful examination of these as well as of the Inspectors' returns the grants to the several Institutions for the past year up to said date are determined by the respective Committee, Catholic and Protestant. The grants for Superior Education have of late years been paid about the 1st November, but in the present state of matters there is reason to fear that the payments cannot be made before the new year. The Common Schools are similarly affected by the dead-lock.—*Canada School Journal*.

TOSsing FOR A VERDICT.—On Saturday the enquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Margaret Collier, 23 years of age, of Gaol Street, Hereford, was resumed. The jury asked to be allowed to retire. The Coroner instructed the Major-at-mace to keep them without "meat, drink, or fire." A jurymen: "Do I understand that we are to stop there without meat, drink, or fire?" The Coroner: "Yes." The jurymen: "Then I think we are agreed." They were then locked up, and in half an hour a jurymen said eleven were agreed, but one was not. The eleven wished to bring in a verdict condemnatory of the husband of the deceased, but the dissentient jurymen would not agree to it. The jury were brought in, and the Coroner went through the evidence again. The Coroner threatened to bind them over to appear at the assizes. Mr. Mill: "We have decided it by a majority before in this room." Mr. Hart: "It has been done by tossing." The jury attempted to get their dissentient brother over, but he was firm. They then abused him, when he said, "There were eleven dogs and one bone." The eleven finally gave way to the one, and brought in a verdict that deceased died from spinal apoplexy, caused by excitement, but the eleven added a rider to the verdict, that the excitement was caused by the husband.—*South Wales Daily News*.

JOSH BILLINGS says:—"Before you can have an honest boat race, you must have an honest human race."

The *Hindoo*, a native newspaper published at Madras, India, says, "The last days of Hindooism are evidently fast approaching."

The *Whitehall Times* says: "If looking-glasses would show us our faults, we would not look into them any oftener than we do our Bibles."

At an inquest on the body of a child drowned in the Dearne, at Darfield, it was stated that a person described as a "second-hand" gentleman, had passed the child struggling in the water, and meeting the father told him that if he made haste he might be in time to save the child. It was, however, too late. The person, whose name did not transpire, gave as his reason for not rescuing the child that he was going a long way, and did not want to get his feet wet.