

SELECTIONS.

NEWSPAPER WRITING.—Newspaper writing has grown to be an art of itself. Many a literary man who thought, because the 'greater includes the less,' every author is *ex-officio* qualified to be an editor, has sunk back into the rear place of the press, after some smart writings had shown his bookish talent and his inability to deal with facts. Others, who could pour forth volumes, have failed, because they could not cope with hydraulic pressure, or prompt selection of salient points needed for the space and rapid comments of the journal. Take the best papers of London or Paris, different as the circumstances of the case may be, and you must allow that it is not everybody that could seize the moral spirit of passing history. The same may be said, with equal justice, of the American press. People of some little talent fancy they can edit a newspaper, if they can do nothing else; but they essentially find their mistake. Not only is intellect, but a knowledge of the world, miscellaneous information, tact, industry, rapidity of thought, a nervous style, and a capacity at once to catch the strong and weak points of every subject, are required for a good editor.—*London Paper.*

TAKE CARE OF THE WOOD.—There are few evils more to be lamented than the destruction of the growing wood. In an able speech delivered a few years since before the French House of Commons, M. Thuan, in relation to this subject, remarked, "That war, pestilence and famine are less terrible afflictions than the destruction of wood." "France," observed the statesman, "will disappear as many flourishing countries have, if she does not follow the example of Cyrus, who planted forests in Asia Minor. It is only the abundance of forests and water that enables China to support her three hundred millions of population, because in this empire, there are more trees planted than destroyed. Spain so highly cultivated, and so densely populated, in the time of the Romans, the Moors, and even Charles the Fifth, owes her desolate aspect at present, to this waste of wood." The same is the case with most of the countries in Asia, and the same unquestionably, ere long, will be the case in this country, unless efficient and speedy measures are adopted to prevent it. It is indeed a painful contemplation to behold the useless and wanton destruction so inveterately waged against our native forests.—*American Paper.*

DANGERS OF YOUTH.—Says a graphic writer, "The history of many a wreck, if written, would read something like this: *I was my father's son*; tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother. They indulged my whims, and pampered my appetites, instead of teaching me to control them. My career of indulgence began with sweetmeats and confections. At twelve or thirteen I put away these childish things for the manly indulgence of the cigar, and social glass, —from these the way was short to the card table, the billiard-room, the bowling alley, and the play-house. And, behold in the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night, there met me a woman in the attire of a harlot, and subtle of heart, who with much fair speech caused me to yield; with the flattering of her lips she forced me. I went after her straightway as the ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks, till a dart struck through my liver—as a bird hasteth to the snare and knoweth not that it is for his life."

"O the heart may mourn o'er a close link torn,
And scalding tears may roll,
But 'tis better to weep o'er the grave so deep
Than the wreck of a living soul."

OVERWHELMING ARGUMENT.—Dr. Lathrope in one of his sermons says, "If it were true that there is no God, what evidence can the Atheist have, that he shall not exist and be miserable after death? How came he to exist at all? Whatever was the cause of his existence here, may be the cause of his existence hereafter. Or, if there is no cause, he may exist without a cause in another state, as well as in this. And if his corrupt heart and abominable works make him so unhappy here, that he had rather be annihilated, than run the hazard of a future existence, what hinders but he may be unhappy for ever? The man, then, is a fool, who wishes there was no God, hoping thus to be secure from future misery; for, admitting there is no God, still he may exist hereafter as well as here: if he does exist, his corruptions and vices may render him miserable eternally, as well as for the present."

BE YE ALSO READY.—Let it be our constant care to be ready for heaven, and let us leave it with God to order the circumstances of our removal thither, and that with so much deference to his wisdom that if He should refer it to us to choose, we would refer it to him again. Grace teaches us in the midst of life's greatest comforts to be willing to die, and in the midst of its greatest crosses to be willing to live. The Saviour was acquainted with grief and we must expect to be so too.—*Matthew Henry.*

DEALING WITH CAVALIERS.—A company of infidels, not long since challenged their neighbours to a debate. One of the friends of the Bible carried to the meeting a plain, serious Tract, addressed to sceptics, and occupied the time allotted to him in reading it to the company. This conduct evinced modesty, and a desire not to gain reputation for himself, but to make known the truth. In dealing with such as oppose themselves, great responsibility is incurred. He who takes such an occasion to make a fierce exhibition of himself as a disputant, will be likely to do more harm than good. But he who mildly brings forward Bible truth, and occupies the attention as much as possible in

that way, may preach to great purpose in such conversations. All ambition to make a conquest, for one's own honour, is to be put away. A friend who is called to converse much with Universalists, informs us that his usual method is to occupy as much of the time as possible in reading passages of Scripture, thus presenting them not with human argumentation, but with the word of God. A subduing influence is thus to be hoped for. But we are not unfrequently pained at hearing debates, especially in public conveyances, hotels, &c., in which it seems to us that the advocates of the Bible speak with a want of wisdom and humility which must be unhappy in its influence on the opposers, and on all concerned in the discussion. A simple and unambitious presentation of the great truths of the Bible, in their own majesty and power, is a safe method for all. The weak are thus strong, and the undisciplined judicious and wise.—*Evangelist.*

INTERESTING ANTIQUARIAN DISCOVERY.—On Friday the 19th January, the excavators on the Caledonian Railway, working in the Avon valley, discovered, a few miles above Benlock, some highly interesting relics of antiquity. The first object which attracted attention was the remains of what appeared to have been the foundations of a house. Some copper coins were next turned up, about the size of our half-pennies; on one side there is a male head, probably of one of the emperors, and on the obverse "Cæsar Romæ." A sword was next discovered, which appears to be formed of brass. By far the most interesting discovery, however, was that of a small stone trough, inverted and placed upon a flat block of the same material, which was found to contain a brazen or bronze case, round in its form, two feet in length, and six inches in diameter. Within this case was a manuscript, or rather book, written on vellum, in rolls, as was the Roman custom, and each roll connected with the other by a slip of the same material. In length it is altogether about thirty feet, and two in breadth. The writing is beautifully executed, in the Latin language, and at the top the words "Historia Romæ," in large characters, are quite distinct. A cursory examination has led some to suppose that it is a copy of part of Livy's celebrated history; and as it is expected that the whole of the manuscript can be deciphered, perchance some of the lost books of the Roman historian may be now restored to the literary world. A small manuscript was also found in the case, also written on parchment, and about a foot square in size, but the writing of this is very illegible; on the back are the words "Ad Agricolum." These interesting relics, which probably owe their good preservation to the close manner in which their case was sealed up, have been, in the meantime, carefully taken to Moffat Manse.—*Dumfries Courier.*

ECONOMY IN THE SCARCITY.—If those of the inhabitants of Great Britain and Ireland who are in the habit of using bread newly baked were to use old baked bread, they would find that three old baked loaves would go as far as five new ones. Were all to adopt this practice, immensely more would be added to the general stock for the supply of the public than can possibly be brought from America. Old baked bread being much more wholesome than new, the general health of the community would by this plan be promoted.

BROWN BREAD.—It has been calculated that the people might produce for themselves 5,000,000 quarters of wheat before next harvest, simply by eating brown bread. It is well known that out of 112lbs. of wheat 28lbs. are taken in the shape of bran and coarse flour, leaving only 84lbs. of fine flour. Now, if the brans only were taken out, which would in no case exceed 7lbs., there would be left 104lbs. of nutritious flour, more wholesome, and more digestible, as every medical man can testify, than the fine flour now in use; so that as 104 exceeds 84 by one fourth, 20,000,000 quarters, which is believed to be about our consumption, would, if dressed in this way, produce as much flour as 25,000,000.—*Sherborne Mercury.*

HOW TO COUGH.—A writer in the *New York Sun*, says, it is injurious to cough leaning forward, as it serves to compress the lungs and makes the irritation greater. Persons prone to the enjoyment, should keep the neck straight and throw out the chest. By these means the lungs expand and the windpipe is kept free and clear. There is an art in everything, and the art of coughing is perhaps as important in its way as any other.

A CIRCULATING LIE.—During a speech on the Wilmot Proviso, Mr. Brinkerhoff, of Ohio, paused and drew a half a dollar from his pocket, and holding it up so that every member of the House could see what it was, said: Sir! look at this, sir—look at it, and see its inscription. "Liberty" is stamped upon it. Shall we strike it out and insert slavery, or shall we hereafter, in the face of the world, continue to use it as a circulating lie? Yes, for a circulating lie—or shall we make it tell the truth?

SHOCKING WASTE OF HUMAN LIFE.—A writer in the *National Intelligencer*, whose intelligence and candour are vouched for by the editors of that paper, states that he has "heard it said that of the twenty-four thousand troops which we have had for the last eight months on the Rio Grande, eight thousand have died, or been disabled by disease and wounds, and have been sent home."

LONG VOYAGES.—Some of the packets from London and Liverpool are making long voyages. The *Wellington*, which left Portsmouth on the 24th December, had not reached New York on Wednesday, being then in the sixty-ninth day. The *Hendrick Hudson* has been out sixty-one days. The *Hottinguer*, from Liverpool, fifty-six days.

HORRIBLY PUTAL.—A wealthy man here, says the *St. Louis Gazette*, has a boy named "Reuben," almost white, whom he has caused to be branded in the face with the words, "A Slave for Life." The man who perpetrated this act is an Englishman.