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Poetry.

MINNIE'S PRAYER.

Five years old was little Minnie—
Gay as humming bird, and wild;
Rocking always mid the flowers,
She was pure and undefiled.

All the birds loved little Minnie,
And it seemed they sought her way,
In the garden, where played Minnie,
They would sing the live long day.

When flower buds and the birdlings
Nestled in their leafy bed,
Minnie singing for her playmates,
Drooped her little tired head.

I dressed the sleepy darling,
(How I miss those little cares!)
With her eyes half-closed, saying,
She knelt down to say her prayers.

"Our Father"—then, the bright curls
Almond rested on my knee,
"Now I lay me," sweet lips whispered—
Nothing was our busy bee.

"Mother darling," Minnie muttered,
"I can't pray long prayers to-night,"
"Baby," said I, "pray that death
Will make all our darkness light."

Half undressed the slumbering child,
From her eyes the love-light beamed;
Spoke the child with inspiration,
And the brow with glory gleamed.

"I love all men. I love Jesus.
O, my father, I love thee,
I am sinful—make me better;
And O, my father, please love me."

Miscellany.

Solomon's Throne.

The following account of this remarkable piece of antiquity purports to be taken from Persian manuscript, called "The History of Jerusalem."

The sides of it were of pure gold, the feet of emeralds and interlarded with pearls, each of which were as large as an ostrich's egg. The throne had seven sides. On each side were delineated orchards full of trees, the branches of which were precious stones, representing fruit, ripe and unique; on the tops of the trees were to be seen figures of plumed birds, eagles and kites. All these birds were hollowed within artificially, so as to occasionally utter melodious sounds, such as ear of mortal never heard. On the first step were delineated vine branches, having bunches of grapes, composed of precious stones of various kinds, fashioned in such a manner as to represent the various colors of purple, violet, green and red, so as to render the appearance of real fruit. On the second step, on each side of the throne, were two lions of terrible aspect, large as life, and formed of cast gold.

The nature of this remarkable throne was such that when Solomon placed his foot on the first step, the lions spread their wings and made a fluttering sound in the air. On his reaching the third step the whole assemblage of demons, and spirits, and men, repeated the praises of the Deity. When he arrived at the fourth step, voices were heard addressing him in the following manner: "Son of David, be thankful for the blessings which the Almighty has bestowed upon us." The same was repeated on his reaching the fifth step. On his reaching the sixth, all of the children of Israel joined them and on his arrival at the seventh, all the birds and animals became silent, and ceased not until he had placed himself on the royal seat, when the lions, and other animals, by secret springs, discharged a shower of the most precious perfumes on Solomon, after which two of the largest deacons descended and placed the golden crown upon his head.

Before the throne was a column of burnished gold, on the top of which was a golden dove, which held in its beak a volume bound in silver. In this book were written the Psalms of David, and the dove having presented the book to the king, he read aloud a portion of it to the children of Israel. It is further related that on the approach of evil persons to the throne, the lions were wont to set up a terrible roar, and to lash their tails with violence, the lions also, and the demons and genii uttered horrid cries; so, for fear of them, not one dared be guilty of falsehood, but all confessed their crimes. Such was the throne of Solomon, the son of David.

When a Boston man has been on longer than usual on an evening, his wife makes him pronounce the word "Pantetheopetition." If he makes a mistake or a hic, she takes him

across her knees at once. So says a Washington editor.

SELF-MADE MEN.

THOMAS SPENSER, THE ELECTROTYPIST—
GALVANI AND VOLTA—NEY AND
NAPOLION.

BY DR. R. SHELTON MACENZIE.

Phrases are sometimes differently interpreted in different countries. For example, there is the term, "A self-made man," which means rather a man who has done something great, something to benefit mankind, than merely to have built up a fortune. Many great inventions have been far from profitable to their ingenious discoverers, who, nevertheless, were "self-made men." I am personally acquainted with one remarkable instance of this, which appears to have escaped the notice of other writers.

I resided in Liverpool, in the year 1833, and for several subsequent years. Part of that time, until I leased a house, I had lodgings in a dwelling, the lower part of which was a shop belonging to Mr. Thomas Spenser, a carver and gilder. He was a skilled artist, was constantly making experiments in chemistry, and excelled in cutting the moulds, in box-wood, from which picture-frames-makers take the raised ornaments for the frames. As long as I knew him, he was constantly talking of gilding and plating in gold and silver, by chemical means. At that time there were various ways of gilding metals. Water-gilding and German gilding were most used; picture-frames were gilded by putting leaf-gold on places which had been coated with gold-size, the burnishing having been done by rubbing the parts, when dry, with a burnisher of flint or agate. Metals were "water-gilded" by putting a thin coat of amalgam of gold on the place, subjecting it to heat, which drove off the volatile mercury, and left the gold firmly attached to the surface. It would then have a brownish-yellow hue, but the true color and lustre of the gold is restored by burnishing. The mercurial fumes are most unwholesome. Iron and steel cannot be gilded by this process, which is nearly played out, though still applied to buttons and cheap jewelry, one ounce of gold gilding three thousand buttons, each an inch in diameter.

"German gilding" is made by dipping the metal in a solution of gold, nitro-muriatic acid, which slowly eats away the surface, depositing on it an equivalent of gold.

Electro-plating electro-gilding is the separation of metals from their solutions, and depositing them in solid form, by means of the electric current excited by the Voltaic battery. This deposit must not be upon metal, but on a cast taken from metal, or even wood.

Galvanism was discovered in the last year of the eighteenth century. In 1801, Doctor Volta, an English chemist, coated metals by its aid, with gold, silver, and copper. In following years other experiments were made, and in 1837 Thomas Spenser discovered the art of electrotyping, by noticing that a solution of zinc vitriol (sulphate of zinc) left a layer of copper upon a penny piece, which he had used as the negative plate of the battery. He covered part of the coin with a varnish, and there was no deposit of metal on the parts thus protected. Here the discovery became practical; cover the object with varnish, remove such parts of the varnish as you please, down to the metal, dip the object in a saturated solution of the metal you desire to be deposited, decompose the solution by electricity, and gold, silver, or copper is deposited in a state of the utmost purity.

Spenser communicated his discovery to the public, but Professor Jacob, of St. Petersburg, claimed to have simultaneously made it. An account of his experiments was published in England, in 1839. Others, including Messrs. Elkington, of Birmingham, followed in Spenser's path. He was too poor to go to the expense of patenting his discovery, and was glad, I have heard to accept a situation in the manufactory of Messrs. Elkington. I believe he is still in their employ as poor as ever. At this time, he must be considerably over sixty. Here is a self-made man of whose reputation as an inventor Fame will speak loudly, one day, for it is generally conceded that Electro-deposition was first observed and applied by him.

Doctor Galvani, an Italian physiologist, accidentally noticed when experimenting on the nervous irritability of cold-blooded animals, that the leg of a recently-killed frog twitched when placed in simultaneous contact with two different metals—convulsively contracting at the recurrence of each spark from an electric machine. He concluded that there was either electricity existing in the limb, or produced in the conducting arc of metal, and adopted the former theory. Professor Volta, of Pavia, whom Napoleon made a count, followed, attributing the source of electricity to the plating of two metals in contact. Put a silver coin and a bit of zinc together to your lips, and touch them simultaneously with the tongue, and a acid taste is perceptible in the mouth at

once. He constructed what is sometimes called the Voltaic pile, sometimes the Galvanic battery, and thus converted a quantity of science into a great operator. But for the Voltaic pile, we should not have possessed Spenser's electrotype process, nor the Atlantic Cable. Professor Morse, who first set up a working telegraph, is a more fortunate "self-made man" than poor Thomas Spenser, the carver and gilder.

Let me conclude with a couple of anecdotes of two self-made men, Marshal Ney and Napoleon the First. Charles Napier, an English officer serving under Wellington during the Peninsular War, early in the present century, was desperately wounded and taken prisoner at Corunna. His family, only knowing that he was "missing," sent out a frigate from England, with a special messenger to seek him. When the flag of truce arrived, Ney gave instructions to Baron Clouet, who received it, to let Napier see his friends, that they might see him doing well and well-treated. Clouet lingered. Ney asked, "What more?" The answer, "The lad has a mother, old, blind, and a widow." Then, Ney responded, "let him go himself, and tell her he is alive."

At that time the exchange of prisoners was not allowed, and Ney risked the Emperor's displeasure, by thus liberating the young officer; but Napoleon thanked him for this exercise of a free impulse of humanity. Many years later, this officer, a "self-made" soldier, achieved a reputation in the Indian wars equal to that of Clive, Wellington and Havelock. It was a fine act on the part of Napoleon to order the creation of a monument over the remains of the English general, Sir John Moore killed at Corunna. There was a chivalric feeling in thus honoring the illustrious dead—a foe no longer—for all strife should be buried in the grave.

An Ingenious Defence.

Mr. Sergeant Vaughn, as a barrister, occasionally performed some generous actions. Several years ago, while on his way to the Chelmsford assize, he went with an intelligent fellow traveller on the coach. The Sergeant, who was on such occasions very fond of what he usually called an agreeable little chat with any talkative person he chanced to meet, soon drew his travelling companion into a lively conversation with him.

Having always had a sprinkling of Yankee curiosity, he generally contrived to worm out, by a process imperceptible to the party himself, what he wished to hear regarding him.

On the occasion alluded to, Mr. Vaughn was not long in ascertaining from his companion that he was also going to Chelmsford, whither, which were to be held the following day. The traveller said:

"About six weeks since a respectable car dealer in London, when on his way to Chelmsford, met on the coach with two persons who were perfect strangers to him. So the strangers soon entered into conversation with him, and having learned the object of his visit to Chelmsford, said they were also going there on a precisely similar errand—namely, to purchase some coin. After further conversation together, it was suggested by one of the parties that it would be much better for all three if they came to an understanding to get together, as to what amount of purchase they should make, and under what peculiar circumstances these purchases should be made; for if they went into the market separately, the result would be that in so small a place as Chelmsford they would raise the prices, whereas, by operating slowly, and in concert, this would be avoided."

"The second party pretended to approve highly of the suggestion, and further proposed, in order to show that neither had the start of the other, that they should deposit the same sum of money in the hands of the respectable landlord of the principal inn—taking care that they did it in the presence of witnesses, and that special instructions should be given to the landlord not to give up a farthing of either until all three returned to receive the whole, adding that if he did he would be held responsible. The London merchant, knowing the landlord of the inn to be a man of undoubted responsibility, at once assented to the proposal, and each of the three parties accordingly placed in his hands, under the circumstances stated, £250, said Sergeant Vaughn, "well you certainly do interest me in your story. And what was the result?"

Why, this—that scarcely had the three parties left the inn a minute, when one of the two strangers came running back and said that on a second thought they had come to the conclusion that it would be better to make their purchases as early in the day as possible, and that consequently the other two had decided him to return and get the money."

"And the landlord gave him the whole sum at once?" interposed Mr. Vaughn.

He did, indeed, unfortunately for himself and me, answered the other.

And what followed? inquired the learned gentleman, eagerly.

Why, the other stranger and the London

merchant returned in about an hour, and demanded their money.

When the landlord, of course, told them he had given it to the other?

He did!

On which, I suppose, they bring an action against the landlord?

Precisely so, and seeing that the defence was useless, inasmuch as he delivered up the money to one, when his instructions were peremptorily not to deliver it until all three were present, my friend has allowed the action to go unfounded. The money must be paid to the sharper—for both strangers as the event proved were sharper—and also the London merchant in chaise.

And you have really made up your mind to pay it?

Oh, certainly, because there is no help for it.

I am a barrister; I am Mr. Sergeant Vaughn, and I will defend the case gratuitously.

Everything proceeded so favorably for the prosecution for sometime that, though every person in the court deeply sympathized with the unfortunate landlord, they saw no possibility of any other result than a decision against him. Mr. Sergeant Vaughn, when the case for the prosecution closed, arose and said:

"Now, gentlemen of the jury, you have heard the evidence adduced. You have seen it produced. You have seen it proved by unexceptionable witnesses that the defendant received the money in full payment from all three not to deliver the money or any part of it to either of the parties except in the presence of all the gentlemen. My client has the money in his possession and is ready to give it up when all three parties come to demand it. Let the absent party be brought to his house, in company with the other two, and every one will have his money refunded to him."

The defence was equally ingenious and complete. The jury looked as amazed at each other as though some world had burst upon their astonished gaze. So did all the spectators in court. The verdict was, of course, for the defendant.

It is unnecessary to add that the one who absconded with the money never returned, and the poor landlord never had a farthing of the amount to pay.

The Rothschilds Robbed of Several Millions Sterling.

An employee of the Rothschilds, of Paris, has just robbed these bankers of a very large amount. Details of the case, though not complete, are still sufficiently clear. It is stated that a careful scrutiny of the accounts and books of the banking department has shown a loss exceeding £500,000, or £100,000. The perpetrator of the robbery is Charles Tassius, a man of forty-nine years of age, of German birth, but long resident in France. He is said to have been at one time, a great lover of music and of beer. He was President of the Liederkreis, a musical association, and a partner in a brewery. His position at Messrs. Rothschilds was that of a manager of the banking department, and in that capacity it was his duty to purchase and sign the precious metals which were offered for sale.

The discovery of his frauds were accidentally made in consequence of his delay in forwarding a bulk of 1,000 English sovereigns, for which a customer had paid in 25,000 francs. Upon his failure to reappear at the bank, his till and chests were searched, and it was discovered that neither the 1,000 sovereigns nor the 25,000 francs were there. The police were immediately informed, and they succeeded in arresting Tassius, who is partially paralyzed, at the house of a relative. A search was also made at his own residence, and a sum of about 20,000 francs was found as also some correspondence, which proved that the prisoner had been concerned with a Prussian physician in Bourse speculations which had not been profitable. The Prussian doctor has also been arrested on a charge of complicity in the frauds committed by Tassius, and both prisoners awaited judicial examination when the mail left—Paris letter, April 8.

ELECTRICITY promises not only to make our clothes, but in due time, to keep us warm, and for aught we know, to cook our food. It is stated that electricity has been applied successfully as a heating medium at the Hotel Dieu hospital in Paris, and also that the other large hospitals of that city will be warmed by it instead of coal. Quite recently some experiments were performed in Washington by Dr. Leigh Barton, which clearly demonstrated that electricity could be successfully employed as a heating agent. His experiments were made with reference to warming railroad cars. The invention consists of a chain made up of alternate conductors and non-conductors arranged compactly, and the apparatus covered by a metallic plate and placed in front of each seat, in order that the feet of passengers may rest on them. With a current of electricity is sent through these heaters, it is obstructed by the intervening non-conductors, and the

evolution of heat is the result; and after the chain has become warmed the heat is radiated to the metallic plate. The advantages of such a method of heating cars are apparent. In case of a train being thrown from the track, the passengers escape the horrible peril of being burned to death—a danger always to be feared when stoves are used.

MAGNETIC TRAVELLING STONES.—They have walking stones in Australia, and, we are informed they have travelling stones in Nevada. Here is a description:—They were almost perfectly round, the majority of them as large as a walnut, and of an iron nature. When distributed about on the floor table or other level surface, within two or three feet of each other, they immediately begin travelling toward a common centre, and there huddle up in a bunch like a lot of eggs in a nest. A single stone removed to a distance of three and a half feet, upon being released, at once started off with wonderful and somewhat comical celerity to join its fellows, taken away four or five feet, it remained motionless. They are found in a region that, although comparatively level, is nothing but barren rock. Scattered over this barren region are little basins, from a few feet to a rod in diameter, and it is found they are from the size of a pea to five or six inches in diameter. The cause of these stones rolling together is doubtless to be found in the material of which they are composed, which appears to be lode stone or magnetic iron ore.

HOW A LAWYER WAS REPAID FOR A KINDNESS.—About twelve years ago a well known member of the bar of Milwaukee, upon opening his mail one day, found a bright looking \$10 bill in a letter. The letter was not signed, but simply said that the money rightfully belonged to the lawyer, and he must use it as his own and ask no questions. The lawyer did so. Next year about the same time another new bright \$10 bill and the same request came; and every year since that time a similar bill has reached the lawyer. Naturally, he has felt some anxiety to know who the donor is, but all his attempts failed, until a few days ago he was in ignorance. At that time a letter came with \$10 and an explanation. It seems that over twelve years ago the sender was in Milwaukee, got into trouble and could get no one to defend him because he had no money. The lawyer in question learned of the case, felt interested in it, defended the man and got him clear. His bill would have been \$10, and the client was so grateful that every year he sent as a present the amount of the defence.

Human Actions.

Poor humanity is like a crow's nest up a high tree in a wind day—how long any of the sticks remain is the wonder, not that a few of them snap, or get in such shape we don't know where they have been lying before. I have long noted down practical rules for life, as they came evidenced to my mind, either from wise books or the conversation of men of experience or what had been forced upon me by my own convictions. One is simple, but carries us far—to put the best construction on every human action till a bad is proved, and that no bad, no worse than it is proved to be. [Lough Luan.]

THE HEARTSEASE.—There is a good fable, told about King's garden, in which all at once the trees and flowers began to wither away, the oak, because it could not yield any fair flowers, the rosebush, because it could bear no fruit; the vine, because it had to cling to wall, and could cast no cool shadow.

"I am of no use in the world, said the oak. "I might as well die," said the rosebush.

"What good can I do?" murmured the vine.

Then thinking saw a little heartsease, which all the time held up its little cheerful face, while all the rest were sad.

And the king said, "What makes you so bright and blooming when all the rest are fading?"

"I thought," said the little heartsease, "you wanted me here, because you planted me, and so I thought I would try and be the best little heartsease that could be."

Little reader you are like the oak, and the vine, doing nothing because you cannot do as much as others are doing? Or will you be like the heartsease, and do your very best in the little corner of the vineyard in which God's hand has put you?

The tune of the smiler—Sift tea.

New Shakespearean reading—Watson—a name.

Have confidence, but be cautious in whom you place it.

A young lady was seen to go into a pawnshop, and in town the other day to pledge her troth.

"Spring's delights are now returning," as the lady said, when she turned her silk for the third time.

The recent north easter—Mamma? "A— you cold, Georgie, No, ma! but the wind is."