Family Reading.

Religion's all!—descending from the skies,
To wretched man, the angel in her left
Holds out this world, and in her right the next.
Religion! the sole voucher man is man!
Supporter sole of man above himself!
Even in this night of frailty, change, and death,
She gives the soul, a soul that acts a god.
Young's Night Thoughts.

ON THE POSITION OF FIRE-PLACES.

By Dr. Neil Arnott, F.R.S.*

This is the fit place for remarking on the fashion lately introduced in this country of placing the fire-grates much lower than formerly—in some cases, on the very hearth—the reasons usually assigned being, that a lower fire burns better, or gives out more heat from the same quantity of fuel than a higher; and, because lower and nearer the floor, that it must warm the carpet better, and so lessen the evil of cold feet. Now, both these suppositions are curious errors or delusions, having their origin in popular misconceptions respecting heat, and particularly respecting the radiation of heat.

Radius is the Latin word for the spoke of a wheel, and anything which diverges or spreads around from a centre in some degree like spokes, is said to radiate. Light and heat are of this nature; the portion of either which passes in a straight line from the centre is called a ray.

The simplest observation teaches all that a lamp placed in the middle of a room radiates its light nearly equally in all directions; and most persons are aware that if an opaque mirror be placed close to a lamp on one side, it not only intercepts all the rays that fall upon it—and that means nearly half of the light given out—but it returns or reflects these rays back in contrary directions, and nearly doubles the illumination in these directions.

Most persons also have observed that if a fire, or a red-hot mass of metal, be placed in free space, it radiates its heat as well as its light nearly equally in all directions; but many do not learn by their unaided observation that if a surface of any substance, like fire-brick, which strongly resists the passage of heat through it, be placed near a fire, it not only intercepts the heat-rays falling on it, but after absorbing them and so becoming heated, often to redness, it then reflects and radiates back the greater part of the heat, almost as if it were additional hot fuel in the fire, and thereby nearly doubles the warmth felt in directions away from the surface.

Neither does common observation make persons aware of the truth that of the heat produced by combustion in a common fire, one part—being somewhat more than half—is diffused, like the light, by radiation, into the open space around, and the remainder is given, by contact and conduction, to the air which supports the combustion, and to the solid material of the fire-place. Thus, with a common open fire-place, it is the radiant heat almost alone which warms the room, the remainder either at once combining with the burned air or smoke, and passing up the chimney, or being given by the heated grate to pure air, which touches that, then passing into the chimney with the smoke.

And, lastly, many persons do not at first learn the truth, that the rays of heat passing through pure or transparent air do not at all warm the air, but warm only the solid or opaque bodies by which the rays are intercepted, and that thus the air of a room is warmed only at second-hand, by contact with the solid walls and furniture, which having intercepted the heat rays, have themselves first become heated. Yet most educated persons know similar facts, such as that the sun-beams, bringing both light and heat to the earth, as they descend to warm the hottest valleys or plains of the earth, pass through the upper strata of the atmosphere, which are always of a temperature much below freezing. This is proved by the fact that all lofty mountains, even under the equator are capped with never-melting snows, and that the higher the peaks are—and, therefore, the nearer to the sun—the colder they are. Thus, also, all persons who have attended to the subject know that aeronauts, in their baloon-car, if they mount very high, would be frozen to death, but that they are protected by very warm clothing. Another fact of the same kind is, that a glass globe, filled with cold water, or even ice, may in the sun's ray be used as a burning-glass.

These explanations being premised, the two popular delusions respecting the low fires become at once apparent.

1st. The supposition that fuel burnt in a low fire gives out more heat, has arisen from the experimenter not reflecting that his hand held over the low fire feels not only the heat radiated from the fire itself, but also that reflected from the hearth close beneath it, which second portion, if the grate were high, would have room to spread or radiate downwards and outwards to the more distant floor or carpet, and to warm them.

2nd. The notion that the fire, because near the floor, must warm the carpet more, springs from what may be called an error in the logic of the reasoner, who is assuming that the hearth, floor, and carpet being parts of the same level, are in the same predicament—the truth being, however, that in such a case the hearth within the fender gets nearly all the downward rays, and the carpet almost none—as a candle held before a looking-glass at a moderate distance diffuses its heat pretty uniformly over the whole, but if moved close to one part of the glass it overheats and probably cracks that part, leaving the rest unaffected. A low fire on a heated hearth is to the general floor or carpet of a room nearly what the sun, at the moment of rising or setting, is to the surface of a field. The rays are nearly all shooting upwards from the surface, and the few which approach it slant obliquely along or nearly parallel to the surface, without touching, and therefore without warming it.

Striking proof of the facts here set forth is obtained by laying thermometers on the floors of a room with a low fire, and of a room with the fire, as usual of old, at a height of about 15 or 16 inches above the hearth. An experiment, tried in two such rooms, in both of which thermometers on the pianofortes, four feet above the floor, stood at 92°, shewed the carpet, not far from the hearth, to be at 56° with the low and at 73° with the high fire.

As would be anticipated by a person understanding the subject aright, low fires make cold feet very common, unless to those who sit near the fire with their feet on the fender; but, deceived by their fallacious reasoning, the advocates are disposed to blame the state of their health or the weather as the cause, and they rejoice at having the low fire, which can quickly warm their feet when placed near it. A company of such persons seen sitting close around their fire with thankfulness for its warmth near their feet, might suggest the case of a party of good-natured people duped out of their property by a swindler, and afterwards gratefully accepting as charity from him a part of their own property.

Many persons have been prevented from detecting the truth connected with slow fire by the fact, that where the chimney breast or opening is also made low, the mass or stratum of comparatively stagnant warm air in the room is deeper or descends lower than where the chimney opening is high, and the room thus arranged may be, except near the floor, warmer than before. But advantages from this arrangement is often missed by the chimney throat being left too wide, causing strong cold draughts below: and where there are many persons in the room, the possible good is more than counterbalanced by the ventilation above being rendered in proportion more faulty. In the new smokeless grate, there is the advantage of a low chimney opening, although with a high fire, and yet the ventilation is maintained perfect for any amount of crowd by the ventilating valve, placed near the ceiling of the room.

It may be observed here, that the smoke-consuming grate exhibited in the Hall of the Society of Arts is of small size, fitted for a room of moderate dimensions, and was originally intended to be placed for inspection on the table, merely to show the principle; but the Secretary, judging that it would be more interesting if seen in action, desired it, although so disproportionate, to be fixed for the time in the fire-place of the large Hall. That grate was constructed by Messrs. Bailey, of Holborn; but the deviser hopes, as the whole arrangment is so simple, that intelligent manufacturers everywhere will be able to make it perfectly. He deems himself bound to publish, soon, any further instruction with regard to it which further and more varied experience may suggest.—*Journal of the Society of Arts.*

* The subject of this article was referred to by Dr. Arnott, during the reading of his paper on the Smoke-consuming Fire-grate, on the 10th of May last before the Society of Arts; and as it has been deemed important, he has been good enough to give his remarks in writing, which may be taken as forming part of his original paper.

MATERIALS FOR PAPER-MAKING.—PAPER FROM COW-DUNG.

By Alfred Coleman, Journal of the Society of Arts.

At the present moment, when we have every occasion to feel alarm at the serious position in which the manufacture of paper is placed, from the scarcity of the materials usually employed for making it, any suggestion, however simple, will not, I deem, be disregarded; especially when we consider how nearly this question is connected with the intellectual welfare of all classes. It is clear that should the present scarcity of rags continue, and no new substances be found applicable to supply their place, the publication of many useful periodicals must be discontinued, and the price of literature greatly enhanced.

Remembering the valuable paper printed in the Journal of the Society of Arts, about this period last year, upon the manufacture of paper from cow-dung, in which the author (Dr. Lloyd) stated he obtained a fibre from the dung of cattle, fed, or partially fed, upon flax-grass, I was induced to try a series of experiments, in order to ascertain whether the fibrous portion of common cow-dung, when the animals had been fed upon grass, hay, &c., were not applicable for the same purpose, believing that were a greater tenacity required than this article would afford, it could be more readily and more cheaply supplied by mixing with it a small portion of fibre from other substances, as from old mail-bags, &c, I am happy to report that these experiments have proved, to my mind, most successful, and that this mixture is well qualified for the manufacture of paper for printing purposes. I may also add that this opinion is confirmed by experienced paper-makers.

We have here, then, an almost inexhaustible source of material to supply the place of rags, and one which must necessarily increase with the increase of population. Nor would the use of this substance prove injurious to agriculture, as the fibrous portions of the manure are the least valuable for that purpose, and as the other portions could be returned to the land in the form best adapted to the requirements of plants.

It is not, however, in the present instance of so much importance to show from what substances paper can be made, as almost any fibrous substance is applicable for this purpose, as to point out one that will supply the place of rags, and at a much lower cost. This I believe would be the case with the substance in question, and by supplying a very simple machine to farmers, cow-keepers, and stable-keepers (for horse-dung may also be used), a very large amount of fibre might thus be obtained; it might also be collected from the fields, &c., when more of the soluble portions have sunk into the ground, leaving the fibrous portions upon the surface, affording employment to a class, unfortunately too frequently to be found, whose deficiences of intellect unqualify them from following more profitable pursuits.

As the results of several experiments, I find that 1lb. of cow-dung yields about 1oz. of dried fibre, and this of course requiring a much smaller amount of mechanical labor to reduce it to the state of pulp than is the case with rags. Though I have made no very close calculations, I am induced to believe that it may be obtained at a very much lower price than that of rags at the present time. I have found no difficulty in bleaching it, and shall be happy to forward samples of the unbleached and bleached fibre, also, if possible, of some paper made from it, in the course of a few days.

MATERIALS FOR PAPER-MAKING.

The growing importance of this subject is attracting general attention in the United Kingdom, and has already secured a corner in the public mind by the recent increase in price of many newspapers and periodicals, solely on account of the scarcity of materials for making paper.

For centuries past by far the greater part of the paper consumed has been made from rags. They are the best, because they are as yet the cheapest. It is, however, a question not yet solved, whether they are artistically best adapted for making paper. For many years paper has been made from hop-vines, wood-shavings, straw, plantain, the under bark of trees, and even from cow-dung. Among the lists of patents recently published in the *Canada Gazette*, is one for the manufacture of paper from Cudweed, or Everlasting. We have good reason for believing that the search for paper-making materials is very assiduously pursued in Canada West. We had recently an opportunity of examining a raw material from the banks of St. Clair, which appeared from its fibrous nature to give fair promise of successful application. The new material can be obtained in vast quantities, and without much labor or expense. No paper has yet been made from it, but we understand that Frederick Widder, Esq., Chief Commissioner of the Canada Company, has made arrangements for procuring a supply of the fibre, and placing it in the hands of competent persons to examine its fitness for the important manufacture it is desirable to promote.—*Canadian Art Journal.*

SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH WIRES.

The possibility of sending electric telegraph messages across or through a body of water, without the aid of the submarine wires, has been satisfactorily tested at Portsmouth. The place selected for the experiment was the Mill-dam, at its widest part, and where it is some 500 feet across. Two portions of the apparatus were placed on the opposite sides of the water, and terminating in a plate constructed for the purpose, and several messages were actually conveyed across, or rather through the entire width of the mill-dam with accuracy and instantaneous rapidity. There appeared every possibility that this could be done as easily with regard to the British Channel as the mill-dam at Portsmouth. The inventor is a gentleman of scientific attainments, residing at Edinburgh, and who has been described as the original inventor of the electric telegraph, but who from circumstances was unable to turn the invention to his own advantage.—*Canadian Art Journal.*

Preaching on Charity.—"Why can't you do as our fathers used to do?" said a good old deacon to the pastor of one of our country churches. The pastor had been preaching for the church through the year, once a month, for which they agreed to give about seventy dollars. His year was out, and the church was about to call him for another year. "How do you mean?" said the preacher. "Why, preach on charity; and let nothing be said about salary or money, any way; let each one give what he feels like giving, without letting the right hand know what the left hand doeth. That's what I call preaching on charity; it's the way our fathers did, and the preachers were supported well." The pastor agreed to it. The year passed on. At the close he found he had received one dollar and seventy-five cents for his year's labor, to perform which he had to ride five hundred miles. This was what he called preaching on charity; and the members' left hands never knew what the right hands did.—*Western Recorder.*

Apples for Milch Cows.—Five minutes ago a gentleman, who deals in facts and figures, as well as fine cattle, informed us that he had fed out last winter more than two hundred barrels of sweet apples to his milch cows, and that the increased quantity and richness in quality of the milk paid him better than any other use to which he could have applied them. He states that he is raising trees annually, for the purpose of raising apples for stock. Another important statement of his, is, that since he has fed apples to his cows, there has not been a case of milk fever among them.—*Anglo American Magazine.*

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Toronto, July 19, 1854. 51

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I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
(Signed) H. MIDDLETON.

Dated Jan. 1st, 1853.

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I remain, dear Sir, yours truly,
(Signed) J. GAMIS.

Nov. 23rd, 1852.

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I am, Sir, your obliged servant,
(Signed) W. MOON.

Oct. 8th, 1852.

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The Children of the New Testament: by Stork.	0	4	4½
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The Music of the Church: by Wainwright	0	5	0
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