

THE ANTIDOTE

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OUR PRIZE LIST

TO any one obtaining for us One Thousand new annual subscribers before 1st January, 1893, we will send one first-class Upright Seven Octave Piano-forte; for Five Hundred subscribers we will give one first-class ticket to Europe and return; for Two Hundred and Fifty subscribers, one first-class Sewing Machine; for One Hundred subscribers, a Gold Watch; or Fifty subscribers, a New Webster's Dictionary, Unabridged; and for Twenty-five a Silver Watch.

HABIT.

The force of habit has often been expatiated upon, but we think that people are sometimes apt to forget the intensity of that force. There is a power in habit, which constantly overrides everything, that one would suppose could upset it or throw it off its balance.

We have known a man, noted for being particular in his appearance, who, when his wife—to whom he was fondly attached—died, spoiled three neckties, in dressing for the funeral. It was not that he was thinking of how he should look, or that he did not feel his loss, but simply the force of habit. We have heard of a condemned criminal, who, on the eve of his execution, has thrown himself on his bed, and fallen asleep almost instantaneously, which has been put down to callousness, when in fact it was because for years it had been his custom to drop off to sleep as soon as his head was on the pillow. Have you never seen a woman decking with flowers the room of her sick child? Her thoughts are engrossed with the patient, and yet not a color is misplaced, as she mechanically arranges the bouquet. Paley truly remarks "Mankind act more from habit than reflection" and thus we should always endeavour to acquire good habits and eschew those that are bad. Virtues as well as vices become habits by constant repetition, so that in the end, it is as easy and

natural to be courteous and kind, as rude and cruel. One constantly meets with those, who apologize for the wounds they inflict, saying they meant nothing, it being only a habit they have. We no doubt all have laughed at Mr. Chick in "Dombey and Son" who was ever unconsciously whistling lively airs upon the most solemn occasions, from the mere force of habit. We made the acquaintance of a man once, who had acquired such a habit of "drawing the long bow," as it is called, that he could not help garnishing his conversation with one or two tremendous "whoppers," although he had not the slightest intention of deceiving his hearers,—which, we may add, he never did with those who knew him, and people would say "Oh so-and-so's 'corkers' are entirely harmless, it is only a habit he has."

We can make truth justice, and love, habitual by practise, as we can the opposites of those virtues, such being under our control, but there is a very old habit, which none of us can resist, which came in with our first parents and will continue with our last children, namely, the habit of dying. We all have to cross a certain narrow stream, and only those will pass it with a smile, whose "habit" shall be bright and untarnished.

GEOGRAPHICAL IGNORANCE

One of our contemporaries observes that a railroad from Burma to China would "make the Dominion more than ever the connecting link between England and India," from which it would seem that people in this country have quite as hazy notions of geography and distances in the East as those in Great Britain have regarding Canada.

In the first place we are not aware that the Dominion at present is any "connecting link between England and India" so that the expression "more than ever" is both incorrect and premature. The Canadian Pacific Railway has certainly opened a route, which brings England as near or nearer to Japan and China, than the old one via the Suez canal, but Japan and China are not India, and while tourists or travellers not pressed for time, may choose to pass through Canada on their

way to or from India, such route can never be used for ordinary trade or mail purposes, for the reason that, not only is the distance more than twice as long as the Suez canal route, but the numerous transshipments and the time which, even with the projected railway it would take to reach the most Eastern portion of India, by way of Canada and China, would make it utterly out of the question for that road entering into mercantile competition with the Mediterranean route. Under the most favorable circumstances, the quickest delivery of the mails from Yokohama to London has been twenty-one days which is the usual time occupied between London and Calcutta via Brindisi and the Red sea, and about three days less between London and Bombay. Merchandise by steamers sailing through the straits of Gibraltar reaches London from Bombay or the reverse in twenty-eight or thirty days, and this, be it understood, without employing ocean greyhounds as carriers.

Those who write about the C. P. R. and Canada being the future highway to Hindoostan, must imagine that Yokohama and Hongkong are within a few hundred miles of Calcutta, and it would be better if they would first study their atlas before they commit themselves to such a blunder.

So far from the projected Burma-China railway adding to the "connecting link," we believe it would become part of a route to China which we should find a powerful competitor to our own, for the distance would be much less to land goods in Hongkong via Calcutta and the new railway than by way of Canada. The present mileage from Liverpool to Calcutta through the Dominion and across the Pacific is about 15,000, while from London to Bombay via Gibraltar and the Red sea is under 6,500! So much for the "connecting link."

Queen's, Oct., 3rd, for one week "My Jack."

FAITH AND BELIEF.

Professor Potterby—Will you illustrate the difference between belief and faith, Mr. Binks?

Binks—Yes, sir. The father believes that his children are the smartest in the neighborhood while the mother knows they are.—Indianapolis Journal.