



From the Boston Mercantile Journal.
TO WINTER.

Good bye Old Winter, fare thee well,
Mild Spring is now in sight,
No more thy angry blasts will swell,
And roar the long cold night.
No more the cheerful fire will blaze,
To warm thy freezing breath,
Nor men when down himself he lays,
Repose their quilts beneath.

No more contented shall we sit,
Our leisure hours at home;
But seeking pleasure oft shall fret,
When far abroad we roam.
And restlessly the day will pass,
When Summer's sun shines shot;
Then we shall think of thee, alas!
But it will help us not.

Adieu, farewell! I sigh to think
That thou so soon art gone!
For though thy cold had made me shrink,
In peace my hours have flown.
My book, my lamp, my pleasant fire,
With thee their charms have fled;
No more to them shall I retire
At eve, now thou art sped.

VARIETIES.

INTERESTING FACTS.—Gibbon resided many years in Switzerland, where, with the profits of his works, he purchased a considerable estate. This property has descended to a gentleman who, out of his rents, expends a large sum annually in the promulgation of that very gospel which his predecessor insidiously endeavoured to undermine, not having courage openly to assail it. Voltaire boasted that with one hand he would overthrow that edifice of Christianity which required the hands of twelve apostles to build up. At this day the press which he employed at Ferney to print his blasphemies is actually employed at Geneva in printing the Holy Scriptures. Thus the self-same engine which he set to work to destroy the credit of the Bible is engaged in disseminating its truths. It may be also added as a remarkable circumstance, that the first provisional meeting for the re-formation of an Auxiliary Bible Society at Edinburgh, was held in the very room in which Hume died.

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION OF DRUNKARDS.—It appears well authenticated that a confirmed drunkard is as combustible as a powder-house, and is liable every moment of his life to blow up. His safety depends upon the contingency of not coming in contact with some material of ignition. Mr. Hanson, a student of medicine at New-York, lately tried a curious experiment. A fellow who had drunk two gallons of rum in the five preceding days, came staggering into the office, where Mr. H. was a student. Mr. H. told him he was in danger of exploding

by spontaneous combustion, and persuaded him to be bled, in order to avoid such a tragedy. He was bled, and a lighted match being applied, the blood burned blue, and continued to burn freely for thirty seconds. —American Paper.

Measure of Time—Genesis.—"The evening and the morning were the first day."—This phrase is explained by the computations of time still in use among the Jews and Mahomedans. They do not measure the day from midnight to midnight as we do, nor from sunrise to sunrise as some other Oriental people, but from sunset to sunset. Hence the night with the following day, and not the day with the following night, makes their day. Our Friday night is their Saturday night. The ancient inhabitants of western and central Europe, the Gauls, Celts, and Germans, measured the day in the same manner.

AUTHORITY.—"It is my hearty prayer to the Father of light and to the God of truth," says Bishop Chandler, "that all human authority in matters of faith may come to a full end; and that every one who has reason to direct him and a soul to save, may be his own judge from the Bible in every thing that concerns his eternal welfare, without any prevailing regard to the dictates of fallible men, or fear of their peevish and impotent censures."

XEUXIS.—Of this artist an instance is recorded of his having painted a bunch of grapes so "to the life" that the birds came and pecked them; but having afterwards painted a boy holding a bunch of grapes, which the birds also flew to and pecked, he was angry, and ingeniously confessed that his work was not complete; "for," said he, "if I had drawn the boy as well as the grapes, the birds would have been afraid of him."

CAREER OF CRIME.—A few years ago, as I was walking through my native village, on an errand in the dusk of the evening, I saw two young men rush from a shop, one pursuing the other. They were brothers. The oldest had a leathern strap in his hand. He caught his brother, and after a severe struggle, in which many blows were given and received, succeeded in throwing him down, and severely whipping him with a strap. I was then a child, and the scene produced an impression on my mind, which never will pass away. This occurred about fifteen years ago. Since that time I have never seen or heard from these two individuals, till a few days since, I read in a newspaper, that this very person, who then whipt his brother, is sentenced to death for the murder of his wife. The two events I could but connect in my mind, though fifteen years apart.

What a warning to parents to restrain the passions of their children.

What a warning to children to avoid contention, and to check the risings of anger.

MERIT.—It is true that in human society merit is not always rewarded according to its deserts. He who is capable of admirable works, is often too modest to bring himself before the public eye, and is often also thrown into the shade, or run down by more presuming mediocrity, ambitious only to outshine others as a stopping-stone to fortune. The world is thus constituted by the folly and corruption of mankind; and there is little hope that it will greatly change in this respect. Still do not be offended: it is an evil not to be remedied. You may smile, but resign yourself to the course of things. Impress the salutary truth upon your mind, that the important point is, that you should possess merit; not that you are to be recompensed for it by mankind. If they should reward you, it is all well; if not, your merit is the greater, inasmuch as you reserve it entire beyond the least suspicion of interest or of worldly views.

The right of primogeniture to the inheritance of virtue and talents have always appeared to be questionable, if we may draw our conclusions from the Sacred Scriptures. The first-born son of the first man was a murderer; the first born son of Abraham was an out-cast from society; the first born son of Isaac was postponed to his younger brother; the first-born of Jesse was rejected in favour of David; and the first-born of that same David was set aside in favour of Solomon.

"I wish to consult you upon a little project I have formed," said a noodle to his friend, "I have an idea in my head—'Have you?' interposed the friend, with a look of great surprise: "then you shall have my opinion at once: keep it there!—it may be some time before you get another."

A clear and unblemished character comprehends not only the integrity that will not offer, but the spirit that will not submit to, an injury; and whether it belongs to an individual, or to a community, it is the foundation of peace, of independance, and of safety.

WIT.—A gentleman being asked to make a PUN, requested to know on what subject. "The candle," said a lady present. "What, madam," said he, "do you wish to make LIGHT of my puns?"

METHOD.—The likeliest way to thrive is method in business, and never to do that by another that you can conveniently do yourself.