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RELICS OF THE OLDEN TIME.

The curious in regard to ancient art have at present an opportunity of gratifying their taste in an ordinary degree, by paying a visit to the shop of Mr. Crow, Meal Vannel, who has lately raked from the gloomy recesses of some old howlet-haunted bidden, and restored to open day and another age, a heavy elaborately carved, oak bedstead, which, from its ornate configurations, and the style of their execution, appears to have been the regal couch of Scotland's anointed, a century or two at least before she made England a present of her sovereignty. By the antiquary it must be looked upon as a relic of great interest, and the more valuable from the fact of its being complete, and in a state of such perfect preservation, that it would not only not disgrace, but adorn, the sleeping apartment of the most fastidious, provided always that his sympathies consoled, to a considerable extent, with the antique. It is a massive affair—the head and foot pannelled, the cornice and stock heavy, the side boards high, the foot-boards peaked and higher still, while all around on post, stock, cornice &c. The devices are floral; but conspicuous on the roof, the royal arms of Scotland are perceived at once, about 18 inches or so from the head and at an equal distance from the foot the sceptre, sword and regal crown, are as easily distinguished. The space between is occupied by stars, and other decorations emblematical of kingly dignity. Besides the bed, there is a table, evidently equally ancient and asuring in every respect with the bed, having the same devices and tracery, being formed of the same material, and comparatively as massy in its construction. Both were found, we believe, among the old lumber of a cellar, and were, when discovered, so thickly incrust with clay, and other adhesive that the carving was scarcely traceable or but guessed at from the inequalities of the surface. We could wish, for the sake of 'old langsyne,' to see it again the respected property of some one whose fortune would enable him to do it befitting honours.—*Pertshire Advertiser.*

This interesting relic is now in Edinburgh. It is one of the most unique specimens of the royal furniture of Scotland we have seen. In addition to the foregoing description of it, we may add, that the four posts are surmounted with crowns, and that the peaked foot-board contains a device of cupids, in which are blended the rose and the thistle. It is pretty evident, however, that this formed no part of the bed originally, but had been added after the union of the crowns. If we may be permitted to hazard an opinion as to the age of this royal remain, we would say that it may be as the reign of James V. who added the concentric circle to the crown, which the devices on the bedstead display. James VI. is well known to have had a great partiality for the Palace of Falkland, which the ancient bedstead in question no doubt graced at one time, and possibly it may be a relic of his magnificence—the peaked foot-board, with the rose and thistle, being an addition after his advent to the English throne.—*Scottish Journal of Topography, Antiquities, &c.*

The Last Days of Great Men.—In one morning of advanced life, Johnson amused himself by committing to memory eight hundred lines of Virgil. At the age of seventy-three, when staggering under an immediate attack of paralysis, sufficiently severe to render him speechless—he composed a latin prayer, in order to test the loss or retention of his mental faculties. Nor is this a solitary instance. One of the most beautiful sonnets in the English language was composed by Mason on the attainment of his ninety-second birthday. Locke, at seventy-two, and Newton, at eighty-four, retained their faculties in unabated vigor. The feeble frame of the Earl of Chatham, at seventy, sank under the effort to express the conviction of his mind, after a speech so singularly eloquent, bold, ardent, and animated, as to rival, if not out-

vie, the most brilliant outpourings of his youth or early manhood.

A SHORT SERMON.

Perhaps it may not be amiss to remember the printer in my discourse. He is in a very disagreeable situation. He trusts every body—he knows not whom; his money is scattered everywhere, and he hardly knows where to look for it.—His paper, his ink, his type, his journey-men's labor, his living &c. must be punctually paid for. You Mr. —, and You Mr. — and a hundred others I could name, have taken his paper and you and your children, and your neighbours have been amused and informed, and I hope improved by it; if you miss one paper, you think very hard of the printer, would rather go without your best meal than to be deprived of your newspaper. Have you ever complied with the terms of your subscription? Have you taken as much pains to furnish the printer with his money as he has to furnish you with his paper? Have you paid him for his type, his press, his hand work, his head work? If you have not, go and pay him off.—[Dow, Jr.]

AGRICULTURE.

THE SEASON AND CROPS.—April was quite dry, but in other respects was not unfavorable to vegetation; and the rains which set in with the first week of May, brought out more abundant and richer foliage than is unusually seen. Grass and winter grain made a luxuriant growth, though the prevalence of cloudy and damp weather produced too much succulence of the stems to give the strength to support the grain in the best manner. The latter part of May, and fore part of June were remarkable for cold and moisture, as well as for very high winds. Frost occurred in many places on the first of June, and in some places on the thirteenth, though the injury by frost was less than that caused by the cold winds, which had a blighting effect on some tender fruits and plants. On the fifteenth of June, the weather became suddenly hot, the mercury ranging, for several days, from 88° to 96° in the shade. So great a degree of heat, with seasonable rains, has caused a rapid advance of all crops. Hay will be very heavy; winter wheat will be good, if it escapes rust, and has favorable weather to ripen; the same may be said of rye. Oats and barley look well. Indian corn is rather backward. In this vicinity, there is an entire destitution of peaches, plums, and fine cherries; but mid-way between this and New-York, cherries were abundant; and in New-Jersey, we hear peaches are plenty. Apples and pears are generally well set, though there is considerable appearance of blight on the trees, and many fine pears have nearly perished this season.

The wheat crop at the south and west is generally spoken of as good.—*Cultivator.*

HOGS IN THE WEST.—The number of hogs slaughtered in the valley of the Mississippi last year is stated to have been 1,500,000, a fourth of which were put up for market in Cincinnati. The bristles from these hogs are estimated to be worth 50,000 dollars. Eleven millions of pounds of lard from them is calculated to have been run into lard oil. This oil is exported to the Atlantic cities, and to foreign countries. It is used in the Eastern States for the adulteration of sperm oil, and in France it is used to adulterate olive oil, the skill of the chemists being such that they are able to incorporate 65 to 70 per cent of the lard oil with that of the olive.

U. S. CROPS.—The Commissioner of Patents says, the quantity of grain of all kinds exported during the year, ending Sept. 1, 1847, was 41 million bushels. Of this, about 20 million was wheat, 20 million corn, and the rest rye, barley and oats. The whole wheat crop, 114 million of bushels, and corn 540 million bushels.

WASH FOR BUILDINGS.—The following composition is said to be not only protective against fire, but to render brick work impervious to water. Lime is slacked with hot water in a tub to keep in the steam. It is

then passed, in a semi-fluid state, through a fine sieve. Take six quarts of this fine lime, and one quart of clean rock salt, for each gallon of water, the salt to be dissolved by boiling, and the impurities to be skimmed off. To five gallons of this mixture of salt and lime, add one pound of alum, half a pound of copras, three-fourths of a pound of potash added gradually, four quarts of fine sand, or hard wood ashes, and coloring matter to suit the intended purpose. It is applied with a brush. It looks as well as paint, and is as lasting as slate.

The Government of Prince Edward Island have granted 600 barrels of Indian Meal, being 200 for each County, towards relieving the distress which exists in the agricultural districts of that Island.

Failure of the Canal Bank of Albany.—The Canal Bank of Albany has stopped payment, and the probability is that the failure is a bad one. On the 4th of March last, the bank owed the commissioners of the canal fund \$139,819, and its circulation was \$159,356. Its chief indebtedness was to other banks, viz: \$506,603. To depositors, \$76,650. The Canal Bank was a safety fund institution.

By a letter in the *Journal de Quebec* of Saturday last, it appears that the storm which was experienced here on Monday last was felt with still greater severity at St. Paul's Bay. It appears that a very heavy rain fell during the space of twenty-four hours, by which the river *Gouffre* was swelled up to at least twelve feet above its usual level; and the current becoming so strong, that all the mills, bridges, wharves, trees, in fact, everything which could stop its free course, were carried away. Several buildings on the banks of the river, fences, fire-wood, boards, and the boats used in crossing over the river, as also a schooner, have been carried down the river and with no prospects of anything being saved. Several fields of potatoes have been deeply ploughed by the current, and will be totally lost. Some chantiers, full of building timber and boards, have also been completely destroyed.—*Quebec Morning Chronicle.*

How to Make Water Cold.—What is better for a thirsty man, in warm weather, than a hearty drink of pure cold water? We answer—nothing, unless it be two hearty drinks. But as every body can't get ice to make their water cool, we give the following receipt, cut from an old book, to make water cool without ice:

Let the jar or pitcher containing the water be surrounded with one or more folds of coarse cotton, to be constantly wet. The evaporations of the water will carry off the heat from the inside, and reduce it to the freezing point. In India and other tropical regions, where ice cannot be procured, this is common.

God resisteth the proud;—singles out pride for his grand enemy and sets himself in battle array against it. But he giveth grace,—pours it plentifully on humble hearts. His sweet dews and showers of grace slide off the mountains of pride, and fall on the low valleys of humble hearts, and make them pleasant and fertile.—*Leighton.*

A lady complaining to her husband the other day that she had become very thin, remarked that her clothes were getting so large for her that she found she could no longer wear them. 'Perhaps,' replied the good natured husband 'you would wish to have a set of small clothes.'

To make tracing paper, mix six parts (by weight) of spirits of turpentine, one of resin, one of boiled nut oil, and lay on with the brush or sponge. We find this produces a tracing paper that leaves nothing to be desired.

Mark This.—When sinful creatures kneel together before their Almighty Creator, the solemnity of the work in which they are engaged, and the greatness of His majesty, should prevent a rigid observance of each other. Judge not, lest ye be judged.