

## OUR GEM CASKET.

"But words are things, and a small drop of ink  
Falling like dew upon a thought produces  
That which makes thousands, perhaps millions, think."

The dew of compassion is a tear.—Byron.

Little things console us because little things afflict us.

What we learn with pleasure we never forget.—*Alfred Mercer.*

A difference of taste in jokes is a great strain on the affections.—*George Eliot.*

He who cannot forgive others breaks the bridge which he himself must pass.—*George Herbert.*

If evil be said of thee, and if it be true, correct thyself; if it be a lie, laugh at it.—*Epictetus.*

Every man is bound to tolerate the act of which he has himself given the example.—*Phoebus.*

A man's good breeding is the best security against other people's ill manners.—*Lord Chesterfield.*

However things may seem, no evil thing is success and no good thing is failure.—*Samuel Longfellow.*

A sound discretion is not so much indicated by never making a mistake as by never repeating it.—*Bovee.*

We are all more or less echoes, repeating involuntarily the virtues, the defects, the movements and the characters of those among whom we live.—*Joubert.*

Generosity during life is a very different thing from generosity in the hour of death; the one proceeds from genuine liberality and benevolence, the other from pride or fear.—*Horace Mann.*

No longer forward nor behind

I look in hope or fear;

But, grateful, take the good I find;

The best of now and here.

—*Whittier.*

A word that has been said may be unsaid; it is but air. But when a deed is done, it cannot be undone, nor can our thoughts reach out to all the mischiefs that may follow.—*Longfellow.*

Young love is a flame; very pretty, often very hot and fierce, but still only light and flickering. The love of the older and disciplined heart is as coals, deep-burning, unquenchable.—*Beecher.*

To think we are able almost to be so; to determine upon attainment is often attainment itself. Thus earnest resolution has often seemed to have about it a savor of omnipotence.—*Samuel Smiles.*

There are two ways of being happy—we may either diminish our wants or augment our means. The result is the same; and it is for each man to decide for himself and to do that which may happen to be the easier.

The little I have seen of this world, and know of the history of mankind, teaches me to look on the errors of others in sorrow, not in anger. I would fain leave the erring soul of my fellow-man with Him from whose hands it came.—*Longfellow.*

We do not wisely when we vent complaint and censure. Human nature is more sensible of smart in suffering than to pleasure in rejoicing, and the present endurances easily take up our thoughts. We cry out for a little pain when we do but smile for a great deal of contentment.—*Feltham.*

Whenever vanity and gayety, a love of pomp and dress, furniture, equipage, buildings, great company, expensive diversions, and great, elegant entertainments get the better of the principles and judgements of men and women, there is no knowing where they will stop, nor into what evils, natural, moral, or political, they will lead us.—*John Adams.*

The longer I live, the more deeply I am convinced that that which makes the difference between one man and another—between the weak and powerful, the great and insignificant—is energy, invincible determination; a purpose once formed and then death or victory. This quality will do anything that is to be done in the world, and no two-legged creature can become a man without it.—*Charles Buxton.*

## CURIOUS AND SCIENTIFIC.

A fire in an open grate in a sick-room may be replenished without disturbance to the patient by feeding it with paper-bags filled with the coals.

The observations upon tree growth in Mexico made by M. Charney tend to show that in damp tropical climates the concentric rings, from which the tree's age is usually calculated, may form at the rate of one a month, instead of one a year.

Dr. Foote's *Health Monthly* says: Some of the surgical instruments found in the buried ruins of the ancient city of Pompeii, now in the collection of antiquities in the museum of Naples, show that the surgeons of that time were provided with many of the most important instruments now in use. The *Lancet* remarks that the number of instruments found in one house there will bear comparison with those possessed by the average practitioner of the present time.

The self-winding clock which was brought to the public notice at the Paris Exposition of 1878 has been greatly improved, and the inventor, a Belgian, is now supplying them for domestic use. The winding apparatus consists of a small windmill, very ingeniously constructed. They are placed in connection with a chimney, a ventilation pipe, or in some locality where a current of air may be secured, although the mechanism is such that a constant, regular current is not essential.

The peanut is often called ground nut, because its pods, which grow something like the common pea, are ripened in the ground. The vine is a running one, bearing yellow flowers. After these fall off the stems grow longer, bend downwards, and the pod on the end forces itself to the ground. Large forks are used to pull up the vines, and with them the nuts, which are picked off and packed in bags for market. The oil is used for making soap. Peanuts are raised in the Southern United States, in South America, and on the west coast of Africa.

Geological examination of the delta of the Mississippi now shows that for a distance of about three hundred miles there are buried forests of large trees, one over the other, with interspaces of sand. Ten distinct forest growths of this description have been observed, which it is believed must have succeeded each other. Of these trees, known as the bald cypress, some have been found over twenty-five feet in diameter, and one contained 5,700 rings; in some instances, too, huge trees have grown from the stumps of others equally large. From these facts geologists have assumed the antiquity of each forest growth at 10,000 years, or 100,000 for all.

There was recently exhibited at Horticultural Hall, Boston, Mass., a wonderful and complicated piece of mechanism in the form of a clock. It is seventeen feet high, and twelve feet wide, and arranged to represent automatically the scenes in the Passion of our Lord. Nearly two hundred figures are employed. These are about eleven inches in height, and appropriately clad. First comes the Adoration of the Magi and Flight into Egypt. The scenes representing the Passion are, Entry into Jerusalem, Last Supper, Gethsemane, Council Chamber, Aceldama, Hall of Judgment, Pretorium, Crucifixion on Calvary, etc. It is a marvel of mechanical skill, and many of the figures, movements, etc., are said to be startling, so life-like is their appearance.

## How a Whale Breathes.

The windpipe does not communicate with the mouth; a hole is, as it were, bored right through the back of the head. Engineers would do well to copy the action of the valve of the whale's blow-hole; a more perfect piece of structure it is impossible to imagine. Day and night, asleep or awake, the whale works his breathing apparatus in such a manner that not a drop of water ever gets down into the lungs. Again, the whale must of necessity stay a much longer period of time under water than seals; this alone might possibly drown him, inasmuch as the lungs cannot have access to fresh air. We find that this difficulty has been anticipated and obviated by a peculiar reservoir in the venous system, which reservoir is situated at the back of the lungs.—*Frank Buckland.*