

powers of locomotion. Some insects are constructed with limbs that possess enormous powers of spring. The locust leaps with ease 200 times the length of its own body. The Cicada or grasshopper leaps to a distance which is equivalent to a man of ordinary stature vaulting through the air the length of a quarter of a mile. An insect of the genus *Elater*, whose legs are so short, that when placed on its back it cannot turn itself, has a peculiar organization of its body, by which it is enabled to spring up into the air, and turning round, come down on its feet. If it fails in the first attempt, it repeats the spring till it succeeds. This perseverance affords an example which illustrates the lesson of "try try again." "If at first you don't succeed try try again." Probably you are all aware of the tradition, which states that King Robert Bruce imparted this lesson to some effect from the patient perseverance of the spider. Having failed several times in his patriotic efforts for the good of his country, he lay, cast down in mind and desponding, in some obscure hut on the sea shore, considering whether he should not consult his own personal safety, and leave the liberation of his native land to some more auspicious time, or more successful hands.

As he lay, his attention happened to be drawn to a spider, which was endeavoring to connect his web with some distant object; time after time the insect failed, and as the number of times approached the number of his own failures, Bruce began to feel a keen interest in its proceedings. At last the spider gained his object. Bruce took this for a good omen, and, willing to learn from the spider, determined to try again. He succeeded, and his success is a fact, that has often encouraged the desponding, and excited them to renewed and persevering efforts.

There is something very extraordinary in the Engineering faculties of spiders.—The *Scientific American* gives the following instance of the wonderful art of these insects:—"Some few days since, while writing on the primitive machines, I had just finished treating of the cord as one of these, when my attention was directed to a small spider descending from the underside of a table in the corner of the room, where it had stationed itself, unharmed. A large house-fly, many times too large for such a very small spider to manage, had by some means, become disabled, and lay on the floor. The spider descended to the fly, and with some caution, began to entangle it in its web, and soon had it

completely bound. The Spider then ascended to the table, but soon descended again; and thus continued to ascend and descend for some time, fastening the fly more completely each time it returned. I was at a loss to know its object in binding the fly so safely on the floor. Soon however it ceased descending, and appeared to be busily employed at its station near the table. I could not conceive what its intention was in passing about so very actively; but imagine my surprise when, in a short time, I saw the fly leave the floor, and begin to ascend toward the table. This was soon explained. The spider had attached a number of cords to the fly, extending from the table, and by stretching each to its greatest tension, and confining the upper end, the elasticity of all the cords (some 50 or more) was combined in raising the fly.—By continuing the process of tightening one end at a time, in some fifteen or twenty minutes, the fly was raised to the spider's web under the table and then deposited for further use. The principle upon which the spider acted was exactly the principle of the pulley, only somewhat differently applied; in each case the sum of the tension of all the cords equalled the intensity of the force.

(Concluded in our next.)

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.

It may seem a broad assumption, and be condemned as an exaggerated expression, yet we are constrained to believe that if the practice which appears so completely, and fanatically to influence multitudes of mankind to meddle, to pry into and acquaint themselves with other people's business—to comment and judge with freedom and harshness upon their manners and action, when profoundly ignorant of the motive or cause, and report and discuss all their impudent assurance has discovered, no matter at what sacrifice of justice or truth, or how much to the detraction or injury of the person under espionage, were completely wiped out from practice, two-thirds of the sin, the disturbance and malice current in human society would be utterly expunged. Were all the idle regiments now engaged in completing Satan's mischief, to seek some useful employment, and make over them a motto and rule of action, obeying strictly its sentiment: and teaching, would they not soil to much greater profit and pleasure, than to labor where the "wages is death," and a most happy reformatory result? It is almost a universal fact

that each community or neighborhood, however small or retired, numbers among its members a class who find no employment other than tending to the concerns of others, too many of whom profess belief and obedience to the precepts and teachings of that neglected Book of moral code and elevating and ennobling sentiments have never yet been equalled here, utterly ignoring and forgetting its commands and exhortations.

"A little fire kindleth a great matter." So, even one of these Paul Pry's in a community, whose tongue and limbs are never weary in reporting, commenting, and spreading all that his prying curiosity has learned, will stir up strife in brotherhoods, sunder friendships, and destroy the peace of families, and harmony of neighborhoods. And how little peace and quiet, or time to work with their own hands, can one have who is constantly occupied in meddling and studying into the affairs of others? No action or business, however private or personal, is sufficiently sacred or respected, to prevent their Argus eyes from discovering, or their unwearied tongues from publishing, in detail, and criticising and remarking freely, as the mood may find them.

How much of the unhappiness and evils in society may be traced to such a source—innocence blighted, character defamed, friendship made a mockery, and life a burden, by these vampires in human society. There can be no advantage or improvement derived from such a class.—"They have taught their tongues to speak lies, and weary themselves to commit iniquity." Their friendship is the charm of the bewitched—their company the shade of the Uras.

—"like a moral pestilence,
Before his breath, the healthy shoots and
blooms
Of social joy and happiness decay."

Rich and full are promises to the attentive and industrious, and of the hand of the diligent shall bear rule—"while the tale bearer shall be out off, and to the slothful want shall come as an armed man, and though he beg in harvest he shall have nothing.

—The mold on decayed fruit, stale bread, moist wood, &c., is shown by the microscope to be plants, bearing leaves, flowers and seeds; and increasing with incredible rapidity, for in a few hours the seedlings up, arrive at maturity, and bring forth seeds themselves, so that many generations are perfected in a day.