

MOTHER'S GROWING OLD.

Her steps are slow and weary; Her hands unsteady now...

Her days of strength are over; Her earthly joys depart; Her peace and holy heart...

My thoughts flow back to childhood; When fondled on her knee; I poured out all my sorrows...

I think of all her counsel, Precious to my youth; How faithfully she taught me...

The path of duty duty Was ever her delight; She walked by faith and patience...

Ah! these hands so skillful, Which toiled with loving grace; To make me blessed with comfort...

Yet, though her earthly temple Fast-fading day by day; Her soul with faith increasing...

O mother, fond and faithful, Thou truest earthly friend; May I be near to soothe thee...

GENEVA AND ITS BISHOP.

The recent attempt of the Jesuitical faction of the Papal Church to impose a bishop upon the city of Calvin calls up anew the memory of the heroic courage with which its people drove out the last of their Papal prelates...

Such was the last Bishop of Geneva, the predecessor of Mermillod. Yet among the courageous and virtuous portion of the citizens were many who had resolved to expel the infamous prelate, throw off the papal rule, and unite their city to the national league...

friends and fellow-countrymen whom he had inspired with his own love of freedom. Yet the example and the eloquence of Doulouard had not been lost. The Genevise had formed an alliance with the cantons of Fribourg and Bern...

OUR YOUNG AND OUR OLD MEN.

There is the more need of bringing students out of their dens to study the life of nature, now that a certain superficial study of nature tends so often to blind them to the life and soul of things, and to put mechanism in the place of mind...

WHO WAS ST. PATRICK?

Who was the real Patrick? He was a very devoted and very useful missionary, who labored in Ireland with earnest apostolic zeal and eminent success, who left behind him certain writings, for example, "The Confession of Patrick, and "The Letter to Coroticus," which throw a clear light on his Christian character...

gistrate and a counsellor in the colonies, the office conferring a high rank on those who held it, and implying the possession of property and influence. Whence came their religion, and how long had it prevailed in Scotland? It is possible that missioners may have fallen...

DARWIN'S TREATMENT OF FACTS

Darwin's method of dealing with the facts is so characteristic that it well deserves a word or two of special comment. It indicates the presence and active working of a strong preconception in the author's mind. Mr. Darwin tells us that the principle of evolution had occurred to him upwards of thirty years ago...

RELIGION IN BRAZIL.

Rev. J. Rockwell Smith, missionary to Pernambuco, Brazil, from the Southern Presbyterian church, describes the religious destitution there, and indeed the absence of all religious sentiment, as follows, in an interesting letter to the "Southwestern Presbyterian": "This city knows but little about evangelical Christianity, notwithstanding its many churches..."

AN UNHEALTHY BUSINESS.

No business is so fatal to life as that of selling liquor, because those who sell usually drink. A recent report in England on the influence of occupation on health proves that even those who work in mines in the bowels of the earth live longer than liquor-sellers...

DECISION.

It has been truly said that the great moral victories and defeats of the world often turn on minutes. Fortune is proverbially a fickle jade, and there is nothing like promptness of action, — the timing of things at the lucky moment, to force her to surrender her favors. Crises come, the seizing of which is triumph, the neglecting of which is ruin...

FLIES.

FLIES! Considered individually, the subject is small, but it is very numerous. In fact, of all small creatures not absolutely vicious, the common fly is the most vexatious. Mosquitoes bite. They must get their living. Bees sting — to defend themselves. Cockroaches run away when you attack them; they are afraid. But flies nibble upon you in an aggravating manner, never getting enough, and nothing will drive them away...

The Baptists claim a membership in Rome, and other prominent points in Italy, of 700,000, and a netty—two congregations in Rome itself.

Dr. Schenkel, of Heidelberg, the great luminary of rationalism, has eight students. The daughter of the ecclesiastical pianist, the Abbe Liszt, has just received from Rome turned Protestant and married a German composer.

Since 1841 the children of English Wesleyan churches have raised for Missionary purposes 204,200 pounds—more than 7 million dollars. See what little hands can do with a good organization.

Scientific and Useful.

POLISH FOR FURNITURE.

One third of spirits of wine, one third of vinegar, and one third of sweet oil or rather more of the last. Shake the bottle well daily for three weeks, it is then fit for use, but the longer it is kept the better it is. The furniture must be rubbed till the polish is dry, use every two or three months, and rub the furniture over daily when dusted. For dining-room tables and sideboards use it every week; it makes them beautifully bright.

GENUINE BOSTON BROWN-BREAD.

Four coffee-cups full of sifted Indian meal, two cups coarse flour, either wheat or rye, one teaspoonful salt, one tea-cup molasses, and boiling water enough to make it as thick as griddle-cake batter. When nearly cool, add half a tea-cup yeast, either home-made or disillery. Put the mixture into an iron baking dish, cover tightly, and let it stand in a warm place till it cracks over the top (which should be smoothed over with wet hands before it is placed to rise). Bake it five or six hours in a moderate oven which will not bake the crust to a cinder.

PAPER FOR WARMTH.

A thin shawl may be made warm by folding a newspaper inside of it. The paper is impervious to the cold wind and air from outside, and prevents the rapid escape of the warm air beneath it. If you suffer from cold feet on a journey, fold a piece of newspaper over your stockings; this is better than rubbers. If you are cold in bed, newspapers spread under the upper cover, will serve as an additional blanket.

A STRONG CEMENT FOR GLASS AND PORCELAIN.

Two parts of isinglass are soaked in water until well swollen; the water is then poured off, and the isinglass is dissolved in alcohol, by the aid of heat. One part of mastic is then dissolved in three parts of alcohol and added to the above solution; then one part of gum ammoniacum. The solution is well shaken and evaporated to the consistency of strong glue, when it solidifies on cooling. For use, the cement and the articles must be warmed.—New England Farmer.

CHEAP DISINFECTANTS.

One pound of green copperas, costing seven cents, dissolved in one quart of water, and poured down a water closet, will effectually destroy the foulest smells. On board ships and steamboats, about hotels and other places, there is nothing so nice to purify the air. Simple green copperas dissolved under the bed in anything that will hold water will render a hospital, or other place for the sick, free from unpleasant smells. For butchers' stalls, fish markets, slaughter-houses, sinks, and wherever there are offensive putrid gases, dissolve copperas and sprinkle it about, and in a few days the smell will pass away. If a cat, rat, or mouse dies about the house and sends forth an offensive gas, place some dissolved copperas in an open vessel near the place where the nuisance is, and it will soon purify the atmosphere.—Herald of Health.

HOW LONG SHALL WE SLEEP?

The fact is, that as life becomes a necessity, and its pursuits more eager, short sleep and early rising becomes impossible. We take more sleep than our ancestors, and we take more because we want more. Six hours' sleep will do very well for a ploughman or bricklayer, or any other man who has no exhaustion but that produced by manual labor, and the sooner he takes it after his labor is over the better. But for a man whose labor is mental, the stress of work is on his brain and nervous system, and for him who is tired in the evening with a day of mental application, neither early to bed nor early to rise is wholesome. He needs letting down to the level of repose. The longer the interval between the active use of the brain and his retirement to bed, the better his chance of sleep and refreshment. To him an hour after midnight is probably as good as two hours before it, and even then his sleep will not so completely and quickly restore him as it will his neighbor who is physically tired. He must not only go to bed later, but he must sleep longer. His best sleep probably lies in the early morning hours, when all the nervous excitement has passed away, and he is in absolute rest.

THE ORIGIN OF METEORS AND COMETS.

Proctor has recently advanced an idea as to the origin of comets and meteors that may seem to be but the revival of an old opinion, and one supposed to have been exploded. The researches of Schiaparelli and Newton and others, in that they showed the meteors to be regular members of the solar system seem to have temporarily satisfied the inquiry as to the remote origin of these bodies. The former astronomer assumes them to exist generally throughout the interstellar spaces, and to be successively drawn to one and then to another sun, while Proctor reasons that these bodies are now found to travel in groups or streams, that it is difficult to see how our sun could draw a concentrated stream of meteors to itself at any given epoch, and that if these were ejected from the sun luminous stars, they may with equal plausibility suppose similar bodies to have been ejected from the planets of our own system when they were in a similar condition. He accordingly shows the very moderate degree of force required to eject a meteor from the surface of outer planets, and examines the orbits of such pre-geological comets and meteors as are at present known. In accordance with the suggestion of A. S. Herschel, he indicates the interesting conclusion that the comets expelled from Jupiter would mostly have a direct motion, or one in the same direction as his own, while those ejected from Neptune would be as likely to have a retrograde as a direct motion. Proctor includes that many comets have sprung from Jupiter and Neptune, and at least one from Uranus, the latter being the well-known November meteor stream, or the Leonides, which Lind has shown to be connected with Tempel's comet.—Harper's Magazine for August.