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Poetry.

"Quod Potis Hic Est."

The following poetic illustration of this proverb, by a famous schoolmaster, may possibly interest some of our temperance friends. It is copied from that rich repository of rare gems—Editor's Drawer in Harper's Magazine:

No plate had John and Joan to hold—
Plain folks in humble plight;
One only tankard crowned their board,
And that was filled each night;

Along whose inner bottom sketched,
In pride of chubby grace,
Some rude engraver's hand had etched
A baby angel's face.

John swallowed first a moderate sup;
But Joan was not like John,
For when her lips once touched the cup,
She swilled till all was gone.

John often urged her to drink fair,
But she ne'er changed a jot;
She loved to see the angel there,
And therefore drained the pot.

When John found all remonstrance vain,
Another card he played,
And where the "angel" stood so plain
He got a "devil" portrayed.

Joan saw the horns, Joan saw the tail,
Yet Joan as stoutly quaffed,
And ever when she seized her ale,
She cleared it at a draught.

John stared; with wonder petrified,
His hair rose on his pate,
And, "Why dost guzzle now," he cried,
"At this enormous rate?"

"Oh, John," said she, "am I to blame?
I can't in conscience stop,
For sure 'twould be a burning shame,
To leave the devil a drop."

THE STANDARD.

We have much pleasure in copying the following notice of an enterprising and respectable firm Messrs. E. PEILER & BRO., Music dealers and importers of the best kinds of Pianos and Organs, and also to recommend their establishment to purchasers in this place.

Ed. Standard: 13 7 1/2

[From the Maritime Trade Review.]

The Music Trade.

This department of business has taken a very decided step in advance since Messrs. E. Peiler & Bro., opened their establishment here in the spring of 1869. Not only that these gentlemen brought with them a thorough knowledge of business, but they introduced instruments of a very high character, and undoubtedly standing in the musical world, such as had formerly been purchased only by people of wealth and taste who were compelled to purchase in New York and Boston. The courage with which they undertook to offer not only undoubtedly good, and for that reason more expensive and therefore less saleable instruments, has been rewarded, and their business has increased from year to year. During the years 1873 & 1874, Messrs. Peiler have imported over 100 pianos, made principally by Steinway & Sons and Chickering & Sons, the two most renowned makers in the world. Although the organ trade has not been pushed with the same vigor, they being intent upon developing one branch of their business to the full extent ere turning their full attention to another, they nevertheless imported far over one hundred instruments of that description during the year. They have just undertaken the representation of perhaps the best manufacturers in that line, Messrs. George Woods & Co., whose organs surpass all that have ever come under our observation. We need not speak more particularly of their business in music and general requisites of art, and only state that in this branch their business has nearly quadrupled since their beginning. Other houses are also doing well; we cannot, however, make a better selection for marking the progress of this department of business than the establishment of Messrs. E. Peiler & Bro., the pioneers in the true sense of the music business in St. John, in its totality and as an art business.

Education in Italy.

Italy is following in the lead of Germany as to her school system. She is separating the schools from the church; making education compulsory; of sitting her schools, &c. &c. At present in the whole kingdom of Italy, the number of pupils under the instruction of lay teachers is about seventy per cent, the rest remaining under the control of the clerical schools. In the cities the increase in

the number of pupils in the public schools has been great in the past few years; but in the rural districts the clergy still retain almost complete control. Italy owes her unity to Germany more than to any European State; hence, it seems perfectly natural for her to copy Germany in many respects.

Improvement in Tanning.

M. R. Pickard reports a new system of tanning skins which is carried through without acid and in a much shorter time than is required by ordinary processes. He first boils the tan down in water, making a complete extract, and then froes the dejection by decantation from all salts and foreign substances. The strength of the essence thus obtained is regulated according to the quality, thickness, etc., of the hide to be treated, weakening it when necessary with pure water. It is placed in the pits in a cold state, and the skins are immediately thrown in. The latter are lifted and their positions changed three times during both the first and second days, twice during the third, and once a day afterwards. Ordinarily, eight days suffices to complete the operation, and the inventor states that the proportion of about 77 pounds of extract to 220 pounds of skins gives excellent results.

The Bermuda Islands.

Within three days' travel from New York it is hardly possible to find so complete a change in government, climate, scenery, and vegetation as Bermuda offers. The voyage may or may not be pleasant, but it is sure to be short. The Gulf Stream which once is obliged to cross, has on many natures a repelling effect, and the sight of land is not generally welcome. The delight is intensified by the beauties which are spread out on every hand. The wonderful transparency of the water, the numerous islands, making new pictures at every turn, the shifting lights on the hills, the flowers, which almost hide houses that perch out here and there from their bowers, make up a scene as rare as it is beautiful.

The general direction of the islands north-east to south-west. They are in the latitude of Charleston, South Carolina, and the nearest point on the continent is Cape Hatteras, five hundred and eighty miles distant. They are of calcareous formation, "due entirely," says Colonel Nelson, "to the action of the wind in blowing up sand made by the disintegration of coral reefs. They present but one mass of animal remains in various stages of comminution and disintegration. The varieties of rock are irregularly associated, and without any order of superposition. Nearly every shell now known in the surrounding sea may be found in the rock, quite perfect, except with regard to color. Along the south shore are sand hills which illustrate the formation of Bermuda. In one instance a cottage has been submerged, trees to the height of several feet, and the sand has even travelled up a hill one hundred and eighty feet high. Nine miles north of the islands are four needle rocks, apparently the remnants of former islands. They are about ten feet above high water mark, and vary from four to eight feet in diameter. They are of limestone, and are stratified like the main land.

There are in all about one hundred islands, though it is usually stated that there are three times as many. Not more than sixteen or twenty are inhabited, and of these the five largest are St. David's, St. George's, Bermuda proper, sometimes styled Continent, Somerset, and Ireland. They are about fifteen miles in length, and the greatest breadth is about five miles. There are no mountains, no rivers, and no, while they are without magnificence in scenery, is a quiet sort of beauty they are unique.

There are about one hundred and fifty miles of good hard roads, which are generally free from dust. In many places deep cuttings have been made, and the rock towers above the carriage even. The scenery is exceedingly picturesque, and changes continually. Now you drive through wide stretches of country, and the landscape bears a striking resemblance to that of New England; then through a narrow road, with high walls of rock on either hand, on the sides of which the maiden-hair fern grows in profusion, and the road is so winding that every new view which bursts suddenly upon you is a surprise; and then there are delightful glimpses of the sea, with its many islands. Walls of stone extend along the road side, and over them clamber the morning-glory, the prickly-pear, and the night-blooming cereus. Great beds of geraniums, which work our hot-houses in their profusion, grow wild. Hedges of elder line the roads or border cultivated patches of land, protect them from the thirteen varieties of it are found here and wherever you go it is one mass of pink and white blossoms. The larkspur also grows wild along all the hedges. The passion flower peeps out from its cover of green leaves, creeping up the branches of tall trees. The profusion of flowers is wonderful, and one can always have a bouquet

for the gathering. The winter is the real time for them. About Christmas the roses, magnificent in size, and of great variety, are in all their glory. One gentleman assured me that he had upward of one hundred and fifty varieties. No great care seems to be taken to cultivate them. Here and there one sees a fine garden, but nothing that even approaches what might be accomplished with such a soil and climate.

The beauty and variety of flowers are fully equalled by the excellence and diversity of fruits. Oranges of superior quality are raised, though their culture is not general. The lemon grows wild. The mango, guava, papaw, pomegranate, fig, avocado pear—whose lovers (for they can be called nothing else) become eloquent in its praise—the custard apple, the banana—the lazy man's delight, bearing its wealth of fruit, and dying as it yields its single bunch, while the new plants springing up about its dead stalk maintain the supply the year round—all these fruits grow readily, and with due effort would grow abundantly. Apples and pears are raised, but lack the flavor they possess with us. Peaches, heretofore excellent, have been destroyed for two years past by an insect—Strawberries ripen from November till July, and Grapes grow luxuriantly.

The most common tree is the Bermudian cedar, with which nearly all the hill-sides are wooded. Occasionally one sees the mountain-palm, white rubber, tamarisk, palmetto, coccoloba, nut, India rubber, mahogany, and calabash trees are quite common.

The Laird of Bonnymoon.

In "Harper's Magazine" for March, a number of interesting literary anecdotes are related by his son, Mr. A. G. Constable, formerly residing in the time of Sir Walter Scott, Francis J. Frey, Sydney Smith, Henry Brougham, and other brilliant lights of Edinburgh, in the early part of the century. There was great need in those days of the praying women of Ohio, as the following incident will show:

The laird of Bonnymoon (pronounced Bonny moon) was about the last of a race of lairds which is now providentially extinct. It is of this laird that the story is told that in returning on horse-back from a convivial party he heard himself fall into the ford he was crossing, and called out to his servant, "John, what was that played upon?" and who, on a similar occasion, when his hat and wig had been blown off, indignantly refused the latter when it was restored to him, exclaiming, "John, this is no my wig; this is a wig wig, until John rejoined, 'There is a wig wig' until John said 'Alas!' and indeed him to resume the dripping covering. It is told of the same worthy that once, when so far gone that he could go no further, his hosts in order to satisfy an uncontrollable homeward instinct, placed him, whip in hand, upon a stone wall, and the faithful John behind him, who after a sufficient time had passed, assisted his master to dismount, and led him off unconsciously to sleep away the effects of his carousal in a strange apartment.

LUNAR CALCULATIONS.—In England the Astronomical Royal has laid before the Astronomical Society the details of an investigation by himself into one of the most important yet most difficult questions of theoretical astronomy, viz, the motion of the moon. This is of all celestial bodies, the one whose movements are most important to the march of geography, and to the students of history. It is by means of the tables of the moon's motion that longitudes are calculated by travellers on land or sea; by these the times and places of the occurrence of eclipses are foretold; and by an inversion of the problem it has been endeavored to determine the exact dates of those events in ancient history that have, by the historians of the time, been associated with solar and lunar eclipses. It is, therefore, with some regret that we read the conclusion of one of the highest authorities on this subject, 'I express my opinion that there is still some serious defect in the lunar theory.' And again, 'My confidence in the certainty of chronological results derived from lunar calculations is in some measure shaken.' Last any, however, should misapprehend the size and nature of the defect alluded to, we hasten to say that the lunar tables, imperfect as they are, enable us to predict for two thousand years forward or backward the place of the moon correctly to within less than one-half of its own diameter.

In further connection with our satellite, Mr. Newton, of the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, has been making some highly interesting investigations as to the probability of the existence of a very rarefied lunar atmosphere having one four hundredth part of the density of our own vapour atmosphere. The bright limb of the moon is a horizontal refraction of light, but in the dark limb one of which second, and the distance of the atmosphere explains the discrepancy between the observations of the moon and the calculations of the astronomers. In "Harper's Magazine" for March,

Louis Agassiz.

No sounder piece of manhood was put to gather in this century. It was a great nature, affluent, genial, overflowing with sympathy, absolutely unselfish, artless and fresh as a child's, with a poetic warmth and tenderness and richness that suggested Burns, while the steadiness, the manly energy, the simple uprightness, the goodness, were all Scott. How welcome he always was and everywhere! How he loved children, and how they loved him! How sympathetic and appreciative of all other talent and aspiration! It was this sense of goodness which impressed and charmed all who met him, and with which he warmed and drew his public audiences. Somehow it was transmitted beyond his personal circle, and every body had a pride in him and a love for him. He was one of the men in whom we all see our own capacities and possibilities. "With large" a high water mark of human nature. The great impression that he made upon the country is more remarkable because there are so very few persons who are capable of really estimating just what he did, or who could follow him in his scientific explanations. In this he was very different from a man who tells a story or writes a poem that every body can enjoy. But we all felt that, if we could not understand him, he was working for us all the time; and whenever, during that life long labor, he looked up with a smile, those who saw in it the sweetest-as of that noble, many-souled, felt it to be a benediction. He was one of those rare men, when death, we do not say, did not seem to him, but when he was among us living and loving, nothing else could be said.—Editor's Easy Chair, in "Harper's Magazine" for March.

Railroading at a high elevation.

The Buenos Ayres "Standard" lately contained the following account of a trip made in a construction train from Arquipa, over the Andes. Among other places reached was Vilcomayo, 14,533 feet above the level of the sea. The newspaper man has reached these high altitudes. "A writer," says the tourist, "there he before me copies of 'El Ciudadano,' a newspaper published at Puno, and of 'El Herald,' a newspaper published at Cuzco, both of them being well printed and well written sheets, and both of them being published more than 12,000 feet above the level of the sea. Nor is either of these the champion climber of the newspaper world. At Cerro de Pasco they issue a very clever gazette devoted to mining and the museum; and Cerro de Pasco is fourteen thousand feet above tide water. Of Vilcomayo, the writer says: 'Here, amid the supreme desolation of the Andes, at a height at which man in Europe does not dream of living, was a genuine railway village. There was an American hotel two stories high, with a piazza, and some forty or fifty rooms for the accommodation of the railway people. There were all the buildings, station houses, machine shops, engine houses, coal yards, required for a large road. There were the engines of the laborers employed on the work, many hundreds of men, Chileans (the Yankies of South America), Bolivians, Peruvians, whites, Indians, a motley multitude, but superior both in respect to capacity and conduct to the average navvies of Europe and the United States. With the early morning a further run of an hour and good speed brought us to the actual summit of the road, at 14,533 feet above the sea level, and we then began to descend the Andean slope."

AGAINST FROST AS PROTECTION AGAINST FROST.—Ebermayr gives, in his recent work on the influence of the forests, a table of observations showing the temperature of the earth covered by snow during the very cold weather of December, 1871, in Bavaria. The fact has been generally known that snow is the best possible protection against the penetration of frost into the earth, and that it is the natural protection of seeds, young plants, and other vegetation against frost. It is, however, satisfactory to be able to refer to the exact observations made on this subject by Ebermayr, and as an indication of the extent to which snow does protect the earth, it may be stated, for instance, that on the 8th and 12th of December, the temperature of the air at Vagnersfeld was 26.8° Fahrenheit, while the temperature of the earth beneath the snow was no lower than plus 33.8°, and 4 feet below it was 42.8°. So long as the snow lies, the variations of temperature under the earth's surface are very slight.

A STRANGE STORY.—A strange story reaches us from India. It will be remembered that the steamer Dhoolla was wrecked in the Red Sea. Among the wreckage, sold for nothing valuable, but afterwards discovered by the Egyptians to contain damaged Indian postage stamps to the value of £40,000. The stamps had been introduced in England by the Indian Post-office, and sent out to carry with no proper description or declaration of value. These stamps are finding their way

into India through various channels; they would be no loss to the country if at the bottom of the ocean, but, being found and sold, are likely to cost the Government of India little short of £40,000. Such is the story, which, if true, shows considerable laxity somewhere in regard to a box of such value.

A NICE ORNAMENT.—A pretty mantelpiece ornament may be obtained by suspending an acorn, by a piece of thread tied around it, within half an inch of the surface of some water contained in a vase, tumbler, or saucer, and allow it to remain undisturbed for several weeks. It will soon burst open, and small roots will seek the water; a straight and tapering stem, with beautiful glossy green leaves, will shoot upward, and present a very pleasing appearance. Chestnut-trees may be grown in the same manner; but their leaves are not so beautiful as those of the oak.

GIVE SHEEP BETTER CARE.—Some farmers claim that there is no profit in keeping sheep of any breed. This is very true, under the rough system that is practiced to a great extent by many owners—they are better without them. But to the farmer who will provide good quarters, and good and sufficient food they will afford both profit and pleasure. There is, perhaps no point in which flock masters more frequently err in the management of their sheep, than allowing them to depend entirely upon pasture for subsistence during the latter part of fall and early winter. Circumstances—the weather included—must be extraordinary favorable, if sheep depend solely upon grass at this season of the year, do not lose flesh. The growth of the grass being checked, the pasture usually becomes short. The frost not only diminishes the nutritive qualities of the grass, but prevents the sheep from grazing for some time in the morning.

Josh Billings says: "Success don't konist in never making blunders, but in never making the same one the second time."

"What comes after 'I'?" asked a teacher of a small pupil, who was learning the alphabet. He received the bewildering reply: "You don't see 'I'?"

A girl, hearing her mistress ask her husband to bring "D-m-bey and Sen" with him when he came home at dinner, set two extra plates for the expected guests.

Mail Contract.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the Postmaster General, and marked "Tender for Mail Service," will be received at Ottawa, until 12 o'clock, noon, on MONDAY, the 7th April, for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mail between St. John and Digby.

St. John and Digby

For the term of four years from the 1st May next, to be performed as follows: viz, four times per week each way between St. John, Digby and Annapolis, and from the 15th December until the 1st April twice per week, each way, between St. John and Digby, extending the trips to Annapolis whenever the navigation of the Annapolis River will permit.

Separate tenders are also invited for the conveyance of Mails between the same points, six times per week, from 1st April until the 15th December, and three times per week from the 15th December until the 1st April. The tenders must be submitted to the approval of the Postmaster General, and must be accompanied by a security of sufficient power and capacity to perform the route, trip in twelve hours, including a reasonable detention at each port of arrival, for the exchange of Mails. The vessel employed in this service to be subject to the approval of the Postmaster General, in regard to safety, accommodation for passengers and rate of speed.

The Mails are to be conveyed to and from the several Post Offices at the expense of the Contractor.

The contract, if satisfactorily executed, will constitute in force for a term not exceeding four years, the Postmaster General reserving the right to terminate the agreement at any time (prior to the expiration of four years) should the public interest in his opinion, require it—upon giving the Contractor six months previous notice of his intention so to do.

It is to be clearly and distinctly understood, persons tendering for the above service that they will not receive any further sum, or subsidy from the Government for the performance of the service beyond that stipulated in the contract to be made by the Post Office Department.

Printed Forms of tender and guarantee may be obtained at the Post Office at St. John, on application of the subscriber.

JOHN McLELLAN,
Post Office Inspector,
Post Office Inspector's Office,
St. John, 23rd Feb. 1874.