## Pouth's Corner.

THE FRARFUL THING.

Charles. Here, Peter! My uncle has just been telling me of a fearful thing. What do you think it is?

Peter. Oh, how should I know! There are so many fearful things in the world. Perhaps it is a mid dog. There are very few things worse than that.

C. At first I thought it might be a mad dog, but uncle says that all the mad dogs in England have never done half the mischief that this fearful thing has done, and I do believe that what he says is true.

P. What is it, then? Has a tiger or a lion broken loose from a caravan ?-but if that had been the case, most likely I should have heard of it. Do tell me what it is, Charles.

C. I wanted you to guess it. My uncle says that it has pulled down many a strong man to the ground. He knew a soldier who was at the battle of Waterloo, a very steady man, with a heart like a lion. There was no danger that he would not face, but, for all that he was no match for the fearful thing that I spoke of, for it conquered him as easily as if he had been a

P. There must have been a hard struggle before a man like that could have been conquered.

C. My uncle knew also a sailor, who was with Napier at the taking of Acre, when the gunpowder magazine blew up. He had a broad back, and a stiff neck, and was almost, as people say, as strong as a horse. Oh, he had a the heavenly one in a straight and narrow way. daring spirit; but neither his broad back, nor his daring spirit could protect him; for though tempests and caimon balls could not frighten him, as soon as he was attacked by that fearful thing, he turned coward directly, and was easily overcome.

P. But why do you not tell me what this

fearful thing is? C. Because, as I said, I want you to guess it. which costs us nothing. He made me guess, over and over, and over again, before he would tell me; but when he did tell me, oh, how surprised I was!

P. Well, I really want to know. Is it very fierce, and does it make much noise?

C. Sometimes it is very rude and boisterous indeed; but at others, it is so quiet that you can

hardly hear it. P. Did the soldier or the sailor meet with it

in this country or abroad? C. Oh, in this country, though I believe it is to be met with in every country in the world. The soldier was suddenly attacked by it as he sat at mess with his comrades, urging them to refrain from swearing; and the sailor was quite off his guard, and not dreaming of danger when it sprang upon him. He had just pushed away a glass of grog, which his messmates wanted him to take, when the fearful thing rushed upon him with a loud roar. Jack certainly did make a struggle, but it was useless; in five minutes he was completely over-

come. P. Well, you puzzle me. We have no wild creatures in this country, that I ever heard of, bigger than a fox, except such as are kept in pens made on purpose for them. What is it like?

C. Uncle says that in one respect it is very much like a cat, whose soft, velvet-like paw is armed with talons that will tear you. Many people, he says, would see no harm in the fearful thing, but all at once it bites as a serpent, and stings as an adder.

P. Do tell me, Charles, at once what it is,

for I cannot at all imagine. with herce, hashing eyes, sharp teeth and long but a very different kind of thing indeed. It is, in short, nothing more or less than—a laugh!

P. A laugh! C. Yes, Peter, a laugh!

pulling down many a tall fellow to the ground, es of worsted Damask, and only in very affluand by its attacking and overcoming the brave soldier and sailor?

C. His meaning was this, and I will give it you as near as I can in his very words. "Charles," said he, "they are not the most fearful front, it exposed the bed, and widened the things in the world which are the most frightful to the eye. Where one man breaks his neck by falling down a precipice, ten go down the gentlysloping hill into danger at the bottom. Where one man is torn by a tiger, a hundred are brought play. It had, as well as the settee, a very high to rain by the sparkling glass. Evil things that are frightful, drive us away from them, so that we get out of danger; but evil things which are alluring, draw us towards them, and thereby double our peril."

P. He is right there, certainly. What else

did he say? C. He went on thus. "Take my word, Charles, that a pleasant friend, who lives a careless life, is more dangerous than a disagreeable enemy; but what I wish to warn you against now is, the laugh of thoughtless companions. It is a fearful thing, and few young people can bear up against it. Hundreds, aye thousands, who have stood up bravely against many temptations, have been unable to endure it. Youth and manhood have been overcome by it, and led into evil. Many men can endure being cut to pieces better than they can bear being laughed at by their companions.

 $\hat{P}$ . I do really think your uncle is a wise man. C. And I am sure, too, that he is a good man. He told me that the soldier and sailor of whom he spoke, were steady men, and that they wished to lead sleady lives, but that, being unable to bear the laugh, of their companions, they were led into all kinds of evil, and brought utterly to ruin. Polinever could have thought that a laugh could have done so much mischief.

Charles, you wish to be able to resist this fearful thing, the laugh of a thoughtless and wicked companion, pray for Divine assistance, to lead you to a knowledge of yourself as a weak and sinful being, and to believe in Jesus Christ for pardon and salvation. He is the sure protection of every one, who through grace trusts in him. Moreover, read continually God's holy word, for vithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word!' From the least important truth in Holy Scripture, to that greatest of all truths, 'Christ Jesus came into constant regard. Read it, ponder it, and pray over it, and with God's blessing you will not only find that it will be a solace to you in youth and age, in life and death, but also that it will be the best defence against that fearful thing, the laugh of a thoughtless and wicked companion."-Episcopal Recorder.

## THE INVISIBLE BRIDGE.

If the following dream should lead any one to enter on a new life, by taking the narrow way, and crossing the invisible bridge, the dream will ot have been told in vain. It is related by the Rev. Mr. Baker, in a volume just published.

"A man dreamed once that he was going dong in the broad road, and Satan was dragging him down to hell; alarmed he cried for help, and suddenly one appeared in lovely form, and said, Follow me !? Immediately Satan vanished and in his dream the man thought he followed until he came to a river where he saw no bridge Pointing in a certain direction the angel said, pass over that bridge.2 I see no bridge,? said the man. 'Yes, there is a bridge, and you must pass over it, for there is no other, and heaven is beyond.' Looking more narrowly, the dreamer saw what appeared to be a hair extending from one bank of the river to the other bank. . Pass Uncle says we always think lightly of that said the man; it is too slender, and cannot sustain me.' 'It will sustain you. I am from above, I lie not, and I give you my word it will sustain you. And now whilst the man was trembling and afraid to venture, he thought Satan again seized upon him to draghim down to hell. Urged by necessity, he put his foot upon the bridge, slender as it appeared. and found it solid plank-a substantial bridge; and he went over safely, and entered shouting into the heavenly world. Now the awakened sinner, under divine influence, is brought, so to speak, to the banks of the river. Heaven is beyond. He asks how he can reach that happy world. He is told he must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and he shall be saved; but this promise is not enough; it appears only as the hair extended from one bank of the river to the other bank. The sinner wants something more substantial; but this is the bridge which must take him over, and there is no other. And slender as the bridge of divine promise may appear in his eyes, only let him venture upon it, and he shall know that it is strong enough to bear millions."-Prot. Churchman.

NEW YORK IN OLDEN TIME.

The tide of fashion, which overwhelms everything in its onward course, has almost effaced every trace of what our forefathers possessed in the way of household furniture or travelling equipage. Since the year 1800, the introduction of foreign luxury, caused by the influx of wealth, has been yearly effecting successive changes in those articles which contented, as they equally served the purpose of our foresathers. Such as they were, they had the subject in any temperance speech I ever descended acceptably unchanged from father to heard or read: C. Well then, I will. It is not a wild beast son, and son's son, and presented, at the era of our Independence, precisely the same family claws, as I dare say you have fancied it to be, picture which had been seen in the earliest annals of the town.

Formerly there were no side-boards; and when they were first introduced after the revolution, they were much smaller and less ex-P. Then what did your uncle mean by its pensive than now. Formerly they had couchent families, in lieu of what we now call sofas or lounges. Plain people used settees or set-tles; the latter had a bed concealed in the seat and by folding the top of it outwards to the place for the bed to spread upon it. This homely as it might now be regarded, was a common sitting-room appendage, and was a proof of more attention to comfort than disback of plain boards, and the whole was of white pine, generally unpainted, and whitened well with unsparing scrubbing. Such was in the poet's eyes when plending for his sofa-

"flut restless was the seat, the back creet, Distress'd the weary loins that felt no ease." good houses, and were generally the property of the oldest members of the family of tired boys. They were placed before the guarded from wind and cold. Formerly there were no Windsor chairs; and fancy chairs are still more modern. Their chairs of the genteelest kind, were of mahogany or red walnut, (once a great substitute for mahogany in all kinds of furniture, tables, &c.,) or else they were of rush bottoms, and made of maple posts and slats, with high backs and perpendicular. Instead of japanned waiters as now, they had mahogany tea boards and round teatables, which, being turned on axle underneath the centre, stood upright like an expanded fan or palm leaf, in the corner. Another corner was occupied by a beautet, which was a corner closet with a glass door, in which all the china of the family, and plate, were intended to be displayed for ornament as well as use. A con-

were about half their present size; and China tea-pots and coffee-pots, with silver nozzles, were a mark of superior finery.

The sham of plated ware was not then known, and all who showed a silver surface had the massive metal too. This occurred in the wealthy families in little coffee and teait is a lamp that will light you in darkness, and a pots; and a silver tankard, for good sugared guide that will direct you in difficulty. Where- toddy, was above vulgar entertainment. Where we now use earthen-ware, they then used delfware imported from England; and instead of Queen's ware (then unknown,) pewter-platters and porringers, made to shine along a "dressthe world to save sinners,' it is worthy of our er," were universal. Some, and especially the country people, ate their meals from wooden trenchers. Gilded looking-glasses, and picture frames of golden glare, were unknown; and both much smaller than now, were used. Small pictures painted on glass, with black mouldings for frames, with a scanty touch of gold leaf in the corners, was the adornment of a parlour. The looking glasses, in two plates if large, had either glass frames figured with flowers engraved thereon, or else of scolloped mahogany, or of Dutch wood scolloped-painted white or black, with here and there some touches of gold. Every householder, in that day, deemed it essential to his convenience and comfort, to have an ample chest of drawers in his parlour or sitting-room, in which the linen and clothes of the family were always of ready access. It was no sin to rummage them before company. These drawers were sometimes nearly as high as the ceiling. At other times they had a writing-desk about the centre, with a falling lid to write upon when let down. A great high clock-case, reaching to the ceiling, occupied another corner; and a fourth corner was appropriated to the chimney-place. They then had no carpets on their floors, and no paper on their walls. The silver-sand on the floor was drawn into a variety of fauciful figures and twirls with the sweeping brush, and much skill and even pride was displayed therein in the devices and arrangement. They had then no argand or other lamps in parlours; but dip eaudles, in brass or copper candlesticks, were usually good enough for common use; and those who occasionally used mould candles, made them at home in little tin frames, casting four to six candles in each. A glass lantern, with square sides, furnished the entry lights in the houses of the affluent. Bedsteads were then made, if fine, of carved mahogany, of slender dimensions; but, for common purposes, or for the families of good tradesmen, they were of poplar, and always painted green .-Watson's .Annual.

TEMPERANCE. I recollect one member of Congress, who was always rallying me about our Congressional Temperance Society .- "Briggs," he used to say, I am going to 'line' your temperance society as soon as my demijohn is empty." but just before it became empty, he always filled it again. At one time, towards the close of the session, he said to me, "I am going to sign the pledge when I get home." "Well, you have said so a great many times." "But," he replied, "I am in earnest; my demijohn is nearly empty, and I am not going to fill it again." He spoke with such an air of seriousness as I had not before observed in him. and as impressed me; and I asked him what it meant-what had changed his feelings .-"Why," said he, "I had a short time since a visit from my brother, who stated to me a fact that more deeply impressed and affected me than any thing I recollect to have heard upon

"In my neighbourhood is a gentleman of my quaintance well educated has a beautiful and lovely wife, a lady of cultivation and refinement-and a most charming

"This gentleman had become decidedly intemperate in his habits, and had fully alarmed his friends in regard to him. At one time, when a number of his former associates were together, they counselled as to what could be done for him. Finally, one of them said to him, 'why don't you send your daughter away to-'a certain distinguished school which he named. 'O, I cannot,' said he, 'it is out of the question. I am not able to bear the expense. Poor girl! I wish I could.' 'Well,' said his friend, 'if you will sign the temperance pledge, I will be at all the expense of her attending school for one year.' What does this mean,' said he do you think me in danger of becoming a drunkard?'- 'No matter,' said his friend, about that now, but I will do as I said. And I,' said another, 'will pay the rent of your farm a year, if you will sign the pledge.' 'Well, They were a very common article in very these offers are certainly liberal-but what do they mean? Do you think me in danger of becoming a drunkard? What can it mean? But, unless occasionally to stretch the weary length gentlemen, in view of your liberality, I will of tired boys. They were placed before the make an offer: I will sign if you will!' This fire-places in the winter, to keep the back | was a proposition they had not considered, and were not very well prepared to meet; but for his sake they said 'we will,' and did sign, and he with them.

"And now for the first time the truth poured into his mind, and he saw his condition, and he sat down bathed in tears.

"' Now, said he, 'gentlemen, you must go and communicate these facts to my wife-poor woman, I know sho will be glad to hear it, but I cannot will her.'

"Two of them started for that purpose. The lady met them at the door, pale and trembling with emotion- What, she inquired, is the matter?-what has happened to my husband?!

her they had come to bring her tidings of her

can remember, in the following words: "If, quent and a grateful beverage, for wine was | pledge-yea, signed in good faith." The joyous and reception in this country, carned at least much less in vogue. China tea-cups and saucers | news nearly overcame her-she trembled with excitement-wept freely, and clasping her hands devotionally, she looked up to heaven, and thanked God for the happy change. 'Now,' said she, 'I have a husband, as he once was, in the days of our early love.'

" But this was not what moved me, said the gentleman. 'There was in the same vicinity another gentleman-a generous noble soulmarried young-married well-into a charming family, and the flower of it. His wine-drinking habits had aroused the fears of his friends, and one day, when several of them were together, one said to another, 'let us sign the pledge.' 'I will if you will,' said one and another, till all had agreed to it, and the thing was done.

"This gentleman thought it rather small business, and felt a little sensitive about revealing to his wife what he had done. But on returning home, he said to her-' Mary, my dear, I have done what I fear will displease you. Well, what is it?' 'Why, I have signed the temperance pledge.' 'Have you?' 'Yes, I have certainly.' Watching his manner as he replied, and reading in it sincerity, she entwined her arms around his neck, laid her head upon his bosom, and burst into tears. Her husband was affected deeply by this conduct of his wife, and said- Mary, don't weep, I did not know it would afflict you so, or I would not have done it—I will go and take my name off immediately.' 'Take your name off! said she; 'no, no! let it be there. I shall now have no more solicitude in reference to your becoming a drunkard. I shall spend no more wakeful midnight hours. I shall no more steep my pillow in tears.

"Now for the first time the truth shone upon his mind, and he folded to his bosom his young and beautiful sife, and wept with her. Now, I can't stand these facts, and I am going to sign the pledge."-Speech of Gov. Briggs, at Lowell, Mass.

DISTINCTIONS ON ACCOUNT OF COLOUR.

The tyranny complained of in a letter signed

"FREDERICK DOUGLASS," which appeared in our paper of Tuesday, ought not to be allowed to pass in this country without some public expression of disapprobation and disgust at a proceeding wholly repugnant to our English notions of justice and humanity. A highly respectable gentleman of colour, after visiting England, being about to return to America, had taken and paid for a berth in the steam-ship Cambria, when, on going on board with his uggage, he is informed that the accommodation he had purchased for himself has been allotted to another passenger. On seeking for an explanation of this piece of manifest dishonesty, for it is certainly dishonest to take a sum of money and refuse to perform the condition on which it has been received, the aggrieved person was told that if he wished to go by the ship he must take his meals alone, forego mixing with the company in the saloon, and relinquish to another the berth he had paid to secure .-The plain fact of the matter appears to be, that Mr. Douglass, being a man of colour, was not allowed to go out on an equal footing with the rest of the passengers on board the Cambria. It signifies very little to us how contemptible the Americans may make themselves by the prejudices they act upon in their own country, and it concerns, perhaps, none but themselves, that hey should present the anomaly of a nation talking largely of equality and liberality while practically drawing one of the meanest and most senseless distinctions that it is possible to conceive. The shame is theirs alone of giving the lie to their own boasted theory of freedom both in action and opinion, by the habitual exreise of the most d esnotic restraint over the some property, but now reduced-poor! He former in the case of the coloured population, and the subjugation of the latter in their own case to a most paltry prejudice. We are unfortunately compelled to witness in some points a deviation on the part of America from those general principles of enlightenment which are acknowledged by the people of every other civilized nation in the world. We, however, are not in any way bound to tolerate the introduction into this country of any of the degrading peculiarities of society in the United States, nor can we observe with calm indifference any tendency to import among us prejudices utterly at variance with our feelings and character. We therefore do not refrain from expressing our most intense disgust at the conduct of the agents of the Cambria, in having succumbed to a miserable and unmeaning assumption of skin-deep superiority by the American portion of their passengers. We do not know who the over-sensitive individuals may have been that feared contamination in taking out a person of colour as a fellow-passenger in the Cambria, but we cannot believe them to have been superior either in education, position, or refinement either natural or acquired, to the average run of our English colonial governors. The latteralthough acting as the representatives of HER MAJESTY-do not refuse to receive at their tables the class of gentlemen whom American nicety will not admit even into equal participation of the advantages of a public conveyance, which is free to all, except in the land making special claim to freedom.

It is one of the most inexcusable aggravations of the gross injustice of the case we have been alluding to, that the ship in which Mr. Douglass had paid for the berth he was not allowed to occupy, on account of his colour, belongs to a partly English company, which draws an immense sum of English money annually, for its conveyance, of the mail, and is otherwise greatly indebted to English connexion. "They bid her dismiss her fears, assuring | Common decency should have taught the agents of the Cambrin not to offend our notions of iushusband—but good tidings, such as she would | tice and common sense for the sake of truckling could have done so much mischief.

C. My, uncle finished his remarks, as near, as great china punch bowl, which furnished a fre-

some title to be regarded as not unfit to mix in the society of a vessel accessible to the public in general. The breach of the contract entered into with him seems to us as dishonourable, as the prejudice against him is ignorant and contemptible. - London Times, April 8th,

Nort's Electric Telegraph.-An experiment completely successful, was witnessed on Saturday last, in the Isle of Wight, of the powers of Mr. Nott's electric telegraph. A perfect and rapid communication was established between East and West Cowes by means of a single wire sunk across the channel. The telegraphs were attached, one being placed at the Medina Hotel, and the other at the opposite side of the channel, near the Fountain Hotel. The signal bells were then rung simultaneously, and the telegraphs commenced working and communicating questions and answers with the greatest precision and certainty with a galvanic battery of low power, showing that a single isolated wire immersed in the water could carry the electric current a distance of half a mile. The water brought back the current to its source, without the slightest perceptible dispersion or loss of the dynamic power. This experiment demonstrates the perfect practicability of submarine communication, and the question as to its application may be said to be satisfactorily solved. The consequences can scarcely be as yet appreciated, though they are wonderful to contemplate. Instantaneous communication may be established between places divided by estuaries and channels, and islands and continents brought into immediate proximity of correspondence.

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Quebec, August, 1845.

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