

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."

Oft in the lowly walks of life
The tenderest tears are shed,
And oft the sweetest flowers are found
Upon some lowly bed.

—Dr. D. Ambrose Davis.

A delicate thought is the flower of the mind.—Rollin.

The more knowledge we impart, the more we are capacitated to receive.

Never demand an apology unless you are sure the supply is equal to the demand.

It is but one step from companionship to slavery, when one associates with vice.

There is no greater delight than to be conscious of sincerity in self-examination.—Mencius.

Knowledge is not what we read but what we hold, but we are judged by the use we make of it.

God's goodness overshadows all the sorrows and afflictions that beset us on our pilgrimage through time.

Every one's life lies within the present; for the past is spent and done with, and the future is uncertain.

In order to read with profit, the attention must be rendered so firm that it sees ideas just as the eye sees bodies.

If we could get together all the tombstones we have set up over broken resolutions we should have material enough to erect a marble palace.

Power and liberty are like heat and moisture, where they are well mixed, everything prospers; where they are single, they are destructive.—Saville.

In the training of children, a mother's every movement word, look or tone, is a vital lesson given. A child may be schooled in a room with benches and rod, but his training goes on at home.

Both wit and understanding are trifles without integrity. The English peasant without faults is greater than the philosopher with many. What is genius or courage without a heart! —Goldsmith.

Men have commonly more pleasure in the criticism which hurts than in that which is innocuous; and are more tolerant of the severity which breaks hearts and ruins fortunes than of that which falls impotently on the grave.—Ruskin.

Learn to say "no." If a man makes a request of you which you cannot grant, tell him so at once. Don't deceive him. It may make him feel unpleasant toward you for the moment only. If you deceive him, he will hate you all his life, if he does not despise you.

Where a true wife comes, home is always around her. The stars may be over her head; the glow-worms in the night-cold grass may be the fire at her foot; but home is where she is; and for a noble woman it stretches far around her, better than houses ceiled with cedar or painted with vermillion, shedding its quiet light far for those who else are homeless. —J. Ruskin.

Liberal minds are open to conviction. Liberal doctrines are capable of improvement. There are proselytes from atheism, but none from superstition. I have known folks who have never committed a blunder whose hearts are as dry as dust; and others, who have constantly transgressed, whose sympathies were as warm and as quick as those of an angel. —Celia Burleigh.

Against slander there is no defence. Hell cannot boast so foul a fiend, nor man deplore so foul a foe. It stabs with a word, with a nod, with a shrug, with a look, with a smile. It is the pestilence walking in darkness, spreading contagion far and wide, which the most wary traveler cannot avoid. It is the heart-searching dagger of the assassin. It is the poisoned arrow whose wound is incurable. It is as mortal as the sting of the deadly arrow; murder is its employment, innocence its prey, and ruin its sport.

CURIOUS AND SCIENTIFIC.

Fanatics.

The visitor to Jerusalem may see the young Rabbi, who believes himself to be the true Jewish Messiah, walking unhurt in the streets, although he has not yet succeeded in gathering disciples of his own. Some years since he might watch the poor sailor (once lightning-struck) who, dressed in white, and staggering beneath a wooden cross, some fifteen feet high, announced himself as Jesus of Nazareth, and inscribed men's names in his book of life; but that troubled brain now lies at peace in the English graveyard, while at the grave-head the cross he carried has been fixed with touching propriety, and is surrounded with that crown of thorns which he at one time actually wore. An American prophet driving a wagon, and married to an Arab wife to the disgust of his lawful spouse, who has appeared unexpectedly to claim him, has taken the place of the Englishman, and is equally tolerated by the Moslem population. Within the city itself, close to the Moslem quarter, fifteen American devotees await the appearance of the Messiah on Olivet, and pass their time in prayer and song. Yet these people are suffered to live unmolested, and can walk the streets without fear of being stoned.

Paved with Extinct Stars.

Our earth is but one of at least 75,000,000 worlds; and we cannot doubt there are countless others, invisible to us from distance, small size, or feeble light; indeed, we know there are many dark bodies which now emit no light. Thus in the case of Procyon, the existence of an invisible body is proved by the movement of the visible star. Again, we may refer to the phenomena presented by Algol, a bright star in Medusa's head. This star shines without change for two days and thirteen hours; then, in three and one-half hours, dwindles from a star of the second to one of the fourth magnitude; and then, in another three and one-half hours, resumes its original brilliancy. These changes indicate an opaque body, which intercepts at regular intervals part of the light of Algol. Thus the heavens are studded with extinct stars—once probably as brilliant as our own sun, but now dead cold, as Humboldt tells that our sun itself will be, some 17,000,000 years hence.

For Bruises etc.

The *Shaker Manifesto* gives the following as a superior remedy for fresh wounds sprains and bruises:—Procure a mild coal fire. Sprinkle it with drops of any kind of animal oil, or grease, or tallow. Hold the affected part over the smoke say thirty minutes, as hot as can be borne.

A good way is to use a large tin tunnel inverted, as it gathers the smoke into a small compass. Hold the wound directly over the tunnel.

Whoever will apply this to wounds, sprains, or bruises two, three, or more times, say once in twelve hours will find it invaluable to allay pain, to prevent soreness and taking cold, and the recovery will be rapid.

This remedy has been practiced in the United Society of Shakers for more than thirty years, with most astonishing success.

Dr. Denker, of St. Petersburg, treats diphtheria by first giving the patient a laxative, and when its operation has ceased he gives cold drinks acidulated with hydrochloric acid, and then gargle of lime water and hot milk in equal parts every two hours. His method has been very successful.

From Sydney is reported the discovery of a new building material at Suva, on one of the Fiji Islands. It is known as fossil coral, and when cut from a mass is soft, but on exposure to the air it looks and is very much like brick. During the short time it has been known it has satisfactorily stood the tests that have been applied to it. Orders have already been received for quantities of it to be used in building.

In Sweden they are now manufacturing thread for crochet and sewing purposes from pine timber. The process is secret and very profitable, and the thread is already in good demand for export.