

CHAPTER OF PIC NICS.

Affection and Fidelity.—“A fire was burning near the water, and at it sat a black child of about seven or eight years old, quite blind. All the others had fled save one poor little girl still younger; who, notwithstanding the appearance of such strange beings as we must have seemed to her, and the terror of those who fled, had nevertheless lingered about the bushes, and at length took her seat behind the blind boy. A large supply of the balyan root lay beside them, and a dog, so lean as scarcely to be able to stand, drew his feeble body close up beside the two children, as if desirous to defend them. They formed indeed a miserable group; exhibiting, nevertheless, instances of affection and fidelity creditable both to the human and canine species.”

Australian Hardihood.—“At this camp, where we lay shivering for want of fire, the different habits of the aborigines and us strangers from the North were strongly contrasted. On that freezing night, the natives stripped off all their clothes, (their usual custom,) previous to lying down to sleep in the open air; their bodies being doubled round a few burning reeds. We could not understand how they bore the cold thus naked, when the earth was white with hoar frost; and they were equally at a loss to know how we could sleep in our tents without having a bit of fire beside us to keep our bodies warm. For the support of animal heat, fire and smoke are almost as necessary to them as clothes are to us; and the naked savage is not without some reason on his side, for with fire to warm his body he has all the comfort he ever knows; whereas we require both fire and clothing, and can therefore have no conception of the intensity of enjoyment imparted to the naked body of a savage by the glowing embrace of a cloud of smoke in winter, or in summer the luxury of a bath which he may enjoy in any pool, when not content with the refreshing breeze that fans his sensitive body during the intense heat. Amidst all this exposure, the skin of the Australian native remains as soft and smooth as velvet; and it is not improbable that the obstructions of drapery would constitute the greatest of his objections in such a climate to the permanent adoption of a civilized life.”

A Fortunate Escape.—In 1751, the following affair happened at Bedlam. Several patients, who were suffered to walk about the house, being in the kitchen one morning when the doctor was there, complained to him of the badness of their broth; and said that they were determined not to suffer it any longer, for, as the cook was absent, they would rectify it themselves; and immediately seized him, and were going to put him into the boiling copper. The doctor told them, with great presence of mind, that his clothes would spoil the broth, and desired leave to strip; which was granted, and he was accordingly reduced to his breeches and shirt, when some person knocked at the door, which the madmen had fastened. The doctor called out, that no one could be admitted, as he was undressing to get into the copper to be made broth of. The person outside immediately comprehended the doctor's situation, and roared out—fire, fire; at which the patients were so terrified that they opened the door, and ran up stairs, by which means the doctor escaped.

Premiums have been awarded by various learned Ladies to the following:—

To Henry Broom, for the application of the crab motion, and the “do-as-little-as-possible” principle, to the state engine. To Lord Durham, in conjunction with the above, for an improved mode of progression for the said engine, namely, by each pulling the opposite way. To Signor Paganini, for an improved mode of extracting gold from catgut scrapings, and of skinning flints. To Miss Harriet Martineau, for a new preventive check-string for the regulation of the fare (*fair*). To the proprietor of Morison's Pills for the discovery of the perpetual motion. To the Society for the Confusion of useful Knowledge, for their successful endeavours in be-Knight-ing the public intellect.

Advertisements Extraordinary.—British Humbug College of Health.—The wonderful efficacy of the MORISING PILLS becomes every day more perspicuous. The discerning Public swallows 'em like winking; and we defy all opposition, and the Weekly attempts of our enemies, to Dispatch us. We tell those as calls us quacks, that, under the blessing of Divine Providence, we glorify in our ignorance; and takes every opportunity of exposing it, for the benefit of our suffering fellow-creatures. And we have found them a sovereign remedy for ourselves; having, for a long while, been afflicted with an emptiness of the chest, and a great deficiency of the yellow stuff, all which terrible symptoms have speedily disappeared; so we feel in duty bound to propagate our pills to the remotest prosperity.

Here is a most sensible letter, to prove the never-to-be-enough-wondered-at wonderful efficacy of the Hy-gee-wo-ian Medicines.

Most Respected Sir,—Having been appointed your agent, and, therefore, influenced, like yourself, by the most disinterested motives, I make it a point to recommend them on all occasions, and always in sufficiently large doses, on which I observe you lay peculiar stress; and very justly; for does it not follow, as a matter of course, that if six pills do a certain quantity of good, six thousand must, as a natural consequence, do six thousand times as much more good, and the patient must be six thousand times

the better for them? There are some censorious folks who insinuate, that the more pills I sell, the more money I get by them; but I need not assure you, that, in this respect, my motives are quite as disinterested as your own. Yours, ever to command.

FRANCIS FLEECE'EM.

P. S.—Please to send me a dozen wagon loads of No. 1 Pills, and the same of No. 2 Pills, as early as possible.

Pious Names.—The Puritans, in the period of the Commonwealth, dropped their Christian names, such as Edward, William, John, etc., and adopted words of holier import. The following is the list of a Sussex jury; and their descendants are still living in the country:—

Approved—Fiewen of Northiam.
Be-thankful—Maynard of Brightling.
Be-courteous—Cole of Pevensy.
Safely-on-high—Snat of Uckfield.
Search-the-Scripture—Moreton of Salehurst.
More-fruit—Fowler of Heathleye.
Free-gift—Mubbs of Chiddingly.
Increase—Weeks of Cuckfield.
Restore—Weeks of ditto.
Kill-sin—Pemble of Westham.
Elected—Mitchell of Heathfield.
Faint-not—Hurst of ditto.
Renewed—Wisbery of Hailsham.
Return—Mulward of Hellingly.
Fly-debate—Smart of Waldrom.
Fly-fornication—Richardson of ditto.
Seek-wisdom—Wood of ditto.
Much-mercy—Cryer of ditto.
Fight-the-good-fight-of-Faith—White of Ewhurst.
Small-hope—Biggs of Rye.
Earth—Adams of Warbleton.
Repentance—Avis of Shoreham.

Stammering and its Cure.—The whole art consists in the following rules:—The stammerer is to press the tip of his tongue, as hard as he can, against the upper row of teeth; is to draw a deep breath every six minutes, and is to keep perfect silence for three days, during which this pressing of the tongue and the deep inspirations are to be continued without intermission. During the night small rolls of linen are placed under the tongue in order to give it the required direction even during sleep. When the three days have expired, the patient is to read aloud slowly to his physician for an hour. During this exercise, care is to be taken that the stammerer is never in want of breath, and he must therefore, be made to stop frequently, and inspire deeply. The patient is to be admonished to keep the tip of the tongue floating when he speaks, and never to allow it to sink into the anterior cavity of the lower jaw.—*Athenæum*.

Fashions.—In part of Tartary the widows of rank are distinguished by wearing a full blown ox bladder slung round their necks. The Ischutki beaux think that their dress is complete when they have a tail of the feathers of birds, the wings, or the tail of some animal. In the reign of Charles the Sixth of France, Queen Isabel, of Bavaria, young and beautiful, displayed a luxury unknown to former times; no queen had ever before appeared so richly dressed. She first introduced the fashion of naked shoulders and neck, heart-shaped bonnets were then in vogue; the two uppermost extremities of this heart were gradually lengthened, till, at last, they formed a kind of horns. Juvenal des Ursins says, on this subject, “the women ran into great excesses in dress, and wore horns of wonderful length and size, having, on either side, ears of such monstrous dimensions that it was impossible for them to pass through a door with them on. About this time the Carmelite, Cenare, a celebrated preacher, exercised his talents against these horns. The size of the horns continued increasing, and, to accommodate the fair wearers, the door-ways were widened and heightened.

Intemperance.—The Ninth Anniversary of the New York State Temperance Society, was held at the Second Dutch Reformed Church, in Albany, Feb. 8, 1838. One hundred and fifty-six delegates attended from twenty-eight counties, all but one of whom were total abstinent. The President, Chancellor Walworth, presided. The report says—“There are fifty-six counties, in fifteen of which every clergyman is a total abstinent. In five counties all are but six in each; in six, all but five in each; in two, all but four in each; and in two others, all but three in each; in five, all but two in each; and in one, all but one. Of the whole twenty-two hundred and sixty-one clergymen in the state of New-York, nineteen hundred and fifty-two are total abstinent, being more than eight-ninths of the whole. There have been reclaimed within our bounds full 3,500 drunkards, of whom about 1,600 have made a profession of religion. In 1837, the board of excise in 121 towns have not granted license to sell intoxicating drink. We have 1,178 societies on the comprehensive pledge—132,161 members—84,403 of whom were added the last year.

Extraordinary Circumstance.—The chaplain in Lady Ware's family had dreamed that on such a day he should die; but being by all the family laughed out of the belief of it, he had almost forgotten it, till the evening before at supper. There being thirteen at table, according to an old conceit, that one of the family must soon die, one of the young ladies pointed to him, that he

was the person. Upon this he recollected his dream, and became disconcerted, and Lady Ware reproving him for his superstition, he said he was assured that he was to die before morning; but being perfectly well, he was not attended to. It was Saturday night, and he was to preach next day. He retired to his room, and sat up late, as it appeared by the burning of his candle; he had been preparing notes for his sermon, but was found dead in his bed the next morning.

Witchcraft.—In the year 1663, an old dame, named Julian Cox, was convicted of witchcraft, chiefly on the evidence of a huntsman, who declared on his oath that he laid his greyhounds on a hare, and coming up to the spot where he saw them maul her, there he found on the other side of the bush Julian Cox, lying panting and breathless, in such a manner as to convince him that she had been the creature which afforded him the course. The unhappy woman was accordingly executed.

War.—In 1784 an ancient tobacco-pipe was found sticking between the teeth of a human skull, at Brannockstown, county of Kildare; and on digging in an elevated field, near the banks of the river Liffey, the labourers found an entrenchment filled with human bones; under the bones lay a number of stone coffins, formed of flag stones, without cement; in each coffin was a skeleton. A battle was fought here between the Irish and Danes in the tenth century.

The Right of Precedence.—The wives of the two presidents of the court of justice and revenue at Cleves, were continually disputing about their respective ranks; and the lady of the president of the court of justice insisted that, in all public places, she was entitled to a rank superior to the other. This provoked her rival so much that she wrote to the king, Frederick the Great, and prayed that he would be graciously pleased to decide which of the two ladies had a right to go first. The king wrote back to her the following answer.

“The greatest fool goes first.”

“FREDERICK.”

Was this decision remembered it would prevent many angry disputes on the same subject, which seems a never ending source of heart-burnings, etc.

Movable Melon Beds.—In the valley of Cashmeer there are movable beds of melons, which, in some degree, may be considered in the light of islands. The ingenious people of that valley spread a thick mat on the surface of their lake, and sprinkle it over with soil: it soon acquires a consistency, from the grass growing upon it. On the following year they sow melons and cucumbers, and reap the harvest from a boat; and thus turn to account the very surface of the lake in their rich country.

Bonaparte.—The following brief epitome of his victories and reverses, all that our space will permit us to give, will afford a tolerably correct idea of his extraordinary career through life:—He gained 41 victories; captured 6 strong towns that stood sieges; entered 12 capitals; subjugated the Continent of Europe; created 9 new sovereigns; made 3 retreats; raised 1 siege; suffered 28 defeats; married two wives, both alive at the same time; in 1814, abdicated the throne of France, and became emperor of Eiba; in 1815, returned from Eiba; entered Paris after a triumphal progress; held the *Champ-de-Mai*; advanced to the Netherlands; captured Charleroi; obtained a victory at Ligny; was defeated at Quatre Bras and Waterloo; returned to Paris; abdicated the government; repaired to Rochfort; surrendered to an English man-of-war; arrived in a British port; and was transported to St. Helena, where he died in 1821.

Summer and Winter.—Those who are observers of the season say that the last three days of the moon between April and May are infallible presages what summer will be: to know how the winter will turn out, observe the twenty-fourth day of November, and according to it the winter will prove; also observe whether the pigs grub the earth with their heads turned to the north, which foretels a hard and long winter.

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