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ARTEMUS WARD'S SERENADE.

Things in our town is working. The other day, "Lucy Ann," called in on the other day and reported all quiet on the Wash. The "Lucy Ann" has adopted a new style of Binnacle Light, in the shape of a red headed gal who sits up over the compass. It works well.

The artist I spoke of in my last has returned to Philadelphia. Before he left I took a little white hand in mine. I suggested to him that if he could induce the citizens of Philadelphia to believe it would be a good idea to have white winter shutters on their houses and white door knobs, he might make a fortune. "It's a novelty," I added, "and may startle 'em at first, but they may come to it to adopt it."

As several of our public men are constantly being surprised with serenades, I could hardly be surprised in the same way, so I made arrangements accordingly. I asked the brass band how much they'd take to take me entirely by surprise with a serenade. They said they'd overtake me with a new expect honor for seven dollars, which I accepted.

I wrote my impromptu speech several days before hand, being very careful to exchange all ingratiations, and pay particular attention to the punctuation. It was, if I may say it without egotism, a mainly effort, but alas! I never delivered it as the angel will show you. I paced up and down the kitchen speaking it over over so as to be entirely perfect. My charming young daughter, Sarah Ann, bothered me incessantly by singing, "Why do summer roses fade?"

"Because," said I, after hearing her sing about fourteen times, "because it's their life! Let 'em fade!"

"Because," said I, again in the middle of the room, and letting my eagle eye wander from the manuscript; "because, on the night of this serenade I desire you to appear at the window dressed in white, and wear a little white handkercher. Dye her!"

"If I appear," said that remarkable female, "I shall wear a little white handkercher, but I shall not wear a white dress, and somebody will be awed. One baldheaded old fool will get his share."

She referred to her husband—no doubt about it. But for fear she might exasperate me I said nothing.

The expected night came. At nine o'clock precisely there was a sound of footsteps in the yard, and the band struck up a lively air, which when they did finish it, there was a cry of "Ward! Ward!" I stepped out onto the piazza. A half of a glance showed me that the assemblage was somewhat mixed. There was a great many ragged boys, and there was quite a number of grown-up persons evidently under the influence of the intoxicating bowl. The band was also drunk. Dr. Schwaeszy, who was holding up a post, was patting drunk so much so that it had got into his spectacles, which were a sagger's wildly over his nose. But I was in for it, and I commenced thus:

"Feller-citizens: For this unexpected money now or wait till you get through?"

To this painful and disgusting interruption I paid no attention.

—for this unexpected honor I thank you.

Leader of the band—"But you said you'd give us seven dollars if we'd play two choons."

Again I didn't notice him, but resumed as follows: "I say I thank you warmly. When I look at this crowd of true Americans, my heart swells."

Dr. Schwaeszy—"So do I!"

A voice—"We all do!"

—my heart swells.

A voice—"Three cheers for the swells."

"We live," said I, "in troublous times, but I hope we shall again resume our former proud position, and go on in our glorious career!"

Dr. Schwaeszy—"I'm willing for one to go on in our glorious career. Will you join me, fellow-citizens, in a glorious career, when he finds himself?"

"Dr. Schwaeszy," said I sternly, "you are drunk. You're disturbing the music."

Dr. Schwaeszy—"Have you a banquet spread in the house? I should like a hippopotamus on a toast, or a horse and wagon roasted whole. Anything that's handy. Don't put yourself out on my account."

At this point the band began to make hideous noises with their brass horns, and an exceedingly ragged boy was led to know it there wasn't to be some whistles where the concern broke up? I didn't exactly know what to do, and was just on the point of doing it, when a upper window suddenly opened, and a stream of hot water was poured to bear on the assembly crowd, who took the hint and retired at once.

When I am taken by surprise with another serenade, I shall, among other arrangements, have a respectable company on hand, so more from to-day. When this you remember me—Vanity Fair.

THE "GREAT EASTERN."

This, the greatest ship of ancient or modern times has been in some instances very unfortunate, but all the mishaps which have befallen her, have proven beyond a doubt that in the principles of her construction she is matchless, and in strength she is unequalled by any steamer afloat. She has now been lying in Flushing Bay, near this city, for several months, undergoing repairs caused by an accident, not from mismanagement of her officers, but by striking a rock not laid down in the chart, when she was "holed" for a pilot off Montauk Point. It was stated, at the time this took place, that the amount of damage was small, but upon a thorough examination it was found that 85 feet in length of the plating was fractured, and in some places it was four feet in width. This accident has demonstrated her superiority of construction. It will be remembered that she has an outside and inside skin, and is like one vessel built inside of another, with a space of two feet between the skin. Now, although the outside plating was so much injured, the inside skin was untouched, and she carried one thousand passengers and two thousand tons of merchandise to their destination without damage. No other vessel in the world, we think, could have done this. It is even believed by several persons, that she could have recrossed the Atlantic without repairs, but it was thought best not to run any risk.

The Great Eastern has not yet been fully repaired, as a peculiar coffer-dam had to be constructed to get under her bottom; but the chief cause of delay has been the inability to obtain proper plating, on account of all the rolling mills being engaged on Government work. A submarine lamp, which gives a clear light at a considerable depth under water, has been used, with much satisfaction, in surveying the bottom of the Great Eastern. The last two voyages of this noble steamship between Liverpool and New York were quite successful, and remunerative and they were the most regular ever accomplished by any one steamer. In an early number we shall give fuller details of the means used to repair this vessel. We hope she has yet a long and prosperous career before her.—Scientific American.

Thoughts on Composition

The first essential of all good composition is thought. An earnest man with a subject in which he feels a deep interest will nearly always be an acceptable speaker. There are exceptions to this rule; but generally to have something to say is essential, if we wish to say it. The art of seeming to say something when we mean nothing is for the most part an attainment and not a gift. Eloquence is the speaking out of something within. If there is nothing within we call it loquacity, a poor power, froth, indeed, without substance. The man who wishes to write must have something to write of; and that substance must be at once a feeling and a thought. The next stage in composition is to define, in our minds at least, what we intend to prove or illustrate. If an argument is to be set forth, it must be shaped into proportions; if an illustration, the details must be carefully grouped and clearly described. Unless this is done, we shall write or speak without force. Before we commence a journey it is necessary to decide where we go, especially when it is part of our business to show others how to get there, and to convince them that we are on the road. If the books and chapters of books that have been written in violation of this rule could be set forth in a visible, architectural form, there would scarcely be room for the "foibles" which would abound on all sides. Having resolved what it is we intend to prove or illustrate, the next concern of a writer should be to mark in a general way the successive stages of his progress. These may not be clearly marked; some of them will, and of the rest the writer will have a general impression, hereafter to be modified or confirmed. Chapters and paragraphs will indicate these stages; and the writer will take care that the whole be connected either in logical sequence or in such order as shall make the narrative or the argument consecutive, impressive, and complete.—Angus's Handbook of the English Tongue.

IMPORTANT MARINE INVENTION.—In the "Naval and Military Intelligence" column of the London Times of the 14th November last, we find the following:—

"The decided and extraordinary success of the Florio, double screw steamer, in her power of turning in a small space, as shown during her trial trip on the Thames on the 21st inst., will prove to be the first step in the adoption of a new system of applying steam power to ships' propulsion."

THE JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT, as we learn from the Telegraph, are agreed among themselves to hold a monthly sitting

of the Supreme Court in this City and County of St. John, for the trial of criminal business.

Arrival of the "Arabia."

HALIFAX, Dec. 9th 1862. Arabia left Liverpool 29th; Queenstown 30th; arrived at Halifax at 7.30 A. M. 9th. She has 45 passengers for Boston and 462,000 sig. for Halifax. No specie for Boston. Bohemian reached Liverpool on morning of 28th. Glasgow at Queenstown evening of 27th. Hammonia was at Southampton on morning of 28th. Scotia was at Queenstown early on morning of 29th.

Daily News devotes editorial in refutation of idea that the Democratic party can be called Conservative; it reviews the course of party in past to show that assumption of Conservatism is absurd.

Morning Post points out that virtual want of confidence in Government which recent elections indicate, and would furnish government with plausible pretext of retreating from its position with semblance of dignity. It fears, however, that until Government is forcibly ejected, no hope can be entertained of the War being brought to conclusion.

Army and Navy Gazette says Burnside's change of base to Aqueduct Creek gives it but little confidence in plans of Federal leaders. It does not believe Confederates will quietly submit to movement.

At a meeting of the Great Ship Company it was stated that if £1750 were not immediately provided, the Great Eastern must pass into other hands, and it would require £5000 to bring her home. The Directors proposed to raise £100,000 on mortgage for three years. Scott Russell censured general management. Proposal adopted.

Contributions for relief of Lancashire Distress continued on most magnificent scale.—American Chamber of commerce of Liverpool voted £1000 sig. to the fund.

Extraordinary general meeting of Atlantic Telegraph Company called for 12th December for the purpose of considering proposition for issue of £600,000 new capital in preference shares of five pounds each, bearing eight per cent, guaranteed by British Government in event of success, any further profits to be first applied to pay four per cent on old capital, and surplus to equal division between old and new shares and formation of reserve fund.

FRANCE.—Bourse firm—70 40. Greek question continued prominent topic. Great demonstrations in favor of Prince Alfred continued in various parts of Greece. Rumored that Russian Government intends to address a communication to English Government seriously objecting to candidature of Prince Alfred.

French journals represent England had assembled 12 war vessels in Piræus, but Glouce pronounces the statement utterly devoid of foundation.

BELOGIUM.—Parliament voted a half million francs for public works in relief of distressed non-operatives. Italy.—Chamber continued to debate Roman question. Among other propositions was one that the Parliamentary Session for 1863 should assemble at Naples.

FROM THE STATES.

BANGOR, Dec. 9.

Philadelphia Press has Nashville despatch, says that battle occurred between federal advance and Morgan's guerrillas. Col. Morris's brigade was several times repulsed and finally captured.

Federals left 60 killed and wounded on the field.

Morgan attacked Gen. Fry some p. m. at Gallatin and was repulsed with heavy loss. Fry in pursuit. Federal despatch from exposure in army of Potomac many statements respecting non-operatives reported.

Confederates intend abandoning immediately all North Carolina, going eastward of Weldon and Wilmington Railroad, North Carolina Legislature resolves strong in favor of Confederacy.

Native North Carolina Union troops are strenuous for enforcement of confiscation and emancipation act.

Hickman offered Bill in Congress for enlisting 100 negro regiments.

Dec. 10.

Gen. Herron's forces, seven thousand strong, en route to force Gen. Blunt were attacked on Sunday on Crawford's prairie, ten miles from Fayetteville, Arkansas, by Hindham's army of twenty-four thousand.

Later were flanking Blunt's position and attacking Herron to prevent junction.

Battle commenced at ten o'clock Federals keeping overwhelming numbers at bay. At four o'clock Gen. Blunt, with five thousand attacked the enemy in the rear.

Federals held whole field till dark, and at nine o'clock the entire Confederate force began to retreat over Boston mountains.

Federal loss in killed, wounded and missing 6 hundred; Confederate 15 hundred, only 4 prisoners.

Col. Dickey's Cavalry had an engagement with Confederates near Coffville. Missing hundred and twenty, enemy three hundred.

Light, Heat and Motion.

The scientific doctrine is now very generally inculcated and believed, that heat is the result of motion, and that light is also due to an undulatory motion. Some confusion of ideas has been experienced by many persons with respect to a correct understanding of this subject. It should be understood, when the statement is made, that heat is caused by motion or is developed by motion; that these are simply expressions to convey an idea of the operations of nature. Motion means the relative change in place position or condition of bodies. The expression, "force is the cause of motion," is also frequently used. But this is also a simple statement for the operations of matter, and is equivalent to saying "an apple falls by gravitation." In this use of the term, gravity is the understood cause of the motion; it is a force of nature, but the great First Cause is beyond the comprehension of man's limited intellect.—Scientific American.

CURIOUS RAILWAY STATISTICS.—It is estimated that the railways in England, Ireland and Scotland annually carry six times in number the population of Great Britain. It is an average day's work of its railways to carry 300,000 passengers, 238,000 tons of minerals and merchandise, 35,000 cattle, 1,100 dogs and 740 horses. The trains—passengers and goods trains added together—travelled 2,897,748 miles more in 1861 than 1860, which is equivalent to going around the world 118 times more last year than in the year before. 8,881,990 trains run in the course of the year. The length of the lines open is 10,869 miles; and the gross receipts of the year, £28,565,355, considerably exceeded the interest of the national debt, and amounted to about 8 per cent on the capital. About one passenger in every 300,000 carried annually is injured.

Is it not a Hard Life?

If an editor omits anything, he is lazy. If he speaks of things as they are he is mad. If he glosses over and smooths down the rough points he is bribed. If he calls things by their proper names he is unfit for the position of an editor. If he does not furnish his readers with jokes he is a mule. If he does he is a rattle head, lacking stability. If he condemns the wrong he is a good fellow, but lacks discretion. If he lets wrong and injuries go unmentioned he is a coward. If he upholds a public man he does it to gratify spite—is a tool of a clique, or belongs to the "outs." If he indulges in personalities he is a blackguard; if he does not, his paper is dull and insipid.

The editor of the "Canadian News and New Brunswick Herald," published in London, acknowledges with courtesy in a private letter, the receipt of the specimen of New Brunswick Cotton which we forwarded him two months ago, and which he has since alluded to in his paper. He says that numbers of persons have called at his office to examine it, and he went up to forward some of the seeds which he will see we have done, with the p.d. by the first mail. We are not at all surprised at the notoriety which the subject is at present commanding in New Brunswick; for since Mr. Bradley of this city made the egg stand on its end, every one knows how the thing is done; but we really think it somewhat uncourteous that Mr. Bradley's name, as we first brought it forward, has never been alluded to in the Press, except in our own original announcement, and the acknowledgment of the "Canadian Sentinel." We believe the plant will be cultivated sufficiently in this part of the Province to give it a fair trial next season.

HAPPY WIT.—"Our children shall be as olive branches stood out table," said a husband to his wife. "Yes said a little bright eyed branch," and our mother shall be as a fruitful vine, whose branches run over the wall." Was there ever a happier given.

The Halifax Reporter of Tuesday contains the startling announcement, that it is reported there are now, at least, between 300 and 300 cases of Diphtheria within two limits of that City.

A man named John Barrett was killed, and two other men named respectively Robert Kink and Henry Burden, were severely injured on the Nova Scotia Railroad, on Tuesday evening last.

THE NEW LORD MAYOR OF LONDON.

Mr. Alderman Rose, the new Lord Mayor of London, is probably the youngest man who has reached the civic chair. Born in 1820 he is only forty-two. He is of Scotch descent, a scion of one of the oldest families in Great Britain, the Roses of Kilrayock Castle, Nairnshire, North Britain. The present Commander-in-Chief of India, Sir Hugh Rose, is descended from the same family, as was the right Hon. George Rose whose interesting Correspondence has been lately published. Alderman Rose is another instance of a self-made man, having attained his present position by his own unshaded exertions—by industry, perseverance and energy. Very early in life he commenced business on his own account in the yard where he is now Alderman, and on a portion of the site of his present warehouses, of which he is now the freeholder.

It may not be without interest to our juvenile, and perhaps older readers, to mention that when the present Lord Mayor was five years of age he promised a faithful servant of his family a silk gown if ever he became Lord Mayor of London. It is also scarcely less interesting to relate that the faithful domestic has remained in his place up to the present time, has carefully treasured in her memory the motto—perseverance and now claims not only the silk gown, but the full honor of its personal presentation to her in due form by the Lord Mayor of London.

In 1855 6 Alderman Rose served the office of Sheriff of London and Middlesex, and during this short-reign the trial of William Palmer took place. He lasted twelve days, and created an amount of excitement quite unparalleled by any trial we have any account of. The Sheriff presided, the highest dignitaries, alike from the judges, the Corporation of London, the press, and the public in general, for the admirable arrangement then made for the conduct of the trial, and the preservation of order.

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THE LORD MAYOR'S BANQUET.

In the evening, the customary banquet took place in Guildhall. The decorations of the hall bore special reference to the subject, which peculiarly distinguished the day, viz. the coming of age of the Prince of Wales. There were 1100 guests present on the occasion. After the toast of the Queen, the Lord Mayor gave the "Prince of Wales" in a suitable speech. The Duke of Cambridge, the Duke of Somerset, and Col. McMurdo, respectively responded on behalf of the Army, Navy, and Volunteers. The last toast proposed—"The health of her Majesty's Ministers," which was received with loud cheers. Viscount Palmerston, who was seated with Lord Mayor, responded. After some allusions to the given banquet, typical of the British nation, their common feeling of brotherhood, and pride of patriotism, his Lordship in reference to the distress in the north said—"My Lord Mayor has adverted to a topic which must excite the deepest feelings of sorrow on the part of every man and every woman in this country—I mean the distress which unfortunately prevails in a part of our manufacturing districts. We may trust, and it is to be hoped, that the causes of that distress may not be long continued, although it must be owned that there is not at present any immediate prospect that more humane feelings and more kindly sentiments are likely to prevail between the contending parties on the American Continent, but we may trust India will, to a certain degree, supply that raw material which is essential to the industry of our manufacturing districts, and if this product that India produces, we shall be sedulously used in this country, and if we are not tempted by the wants of other nations to send that cotton away as fast as it arrives, I trust that India may find the means of supplying in some degree the want which has been created by the civil war in America. In other respects the country is in a satisfactory condition to know that the country is in a good and sound condition."—(Loud News.)

Mr. Gladstone presided at a Volunteer banquet on Tuesday (11th inst.) in London. The right hon. gentleman spoke with enthusiasm of the progress of the Volunteer movement. He urged that the Volunteer force, if it is to retain its true character, must be self-reliant and self-supporting, and it was a matter of some difficulty to determine the extent to which public aid ought to be given. That was a point, however, which should receive the careful attention of Parliament and the Government from time to time.—(Loud News.)