

"WELCOME, LITTLE STRANGER."

BY A DISPLACED THREE-YEAR-OLD CHILD.

Mozzer bought a baby, 'Tittle bitsy sing, Sink I mos could put him From my rubber ring. An't he awful ugly? An't he awful pink? 'Just come down from heaven,' 'Tat's a fib, I sink.

Doctor told anozzer Great big awful lie; Nose an't out of joint zen, 'Tat an't why I cry. Manma stays up bedroom - Guess he makes her sick: Frow him in ze gutter, If I can, right quick.

Cuddle him and love him! Call him "Dressed sing!" Don't care if my kite an't Got a bit of string! Send me off with Biddy Every single day. 'Be a good boy, Charlie; Run away and play."

"Sink I ought to love him!" No I won't; so zero! Nassy crying baby, Not got any hair, Got all my nice kisses, Got my place in bed; Mean to take my drum-stick, And hurt him on the head!

HAPPINESS.

Do we not mistake, when we consider happiness, as we sometimes do, as that emotion of joyousness that presents itself as we move in the glitter and glow of social pleasure? It is that enjoyment that we feel when any of the gratifying scenes of life are passing us by to-day, that to-morrow shall be known only in the past.

Nor is real happiness to be found only where it is often sought, where the only aim is our own selfish feelings, the gratifying of the desire to destroy the thought of a hereafter in scenes of present hilarity and mirth. But if we would find happiness that is deep and abiding, that none of the little storms of life can disturb, then let us arouse to some noble and pure work of love, that shall be a benefit to ourselves, to our friends, or to the world at large.

Whenever we yield our will to the wishes of others, we become better, and when we strive to be better, our happiness will certainly increase. Whenever we make a sacrifice, whenever we cultivate and improve ourselves, whenever, by constant watching, or earnest effort, we rid ourselves of a fault, then we find that true happiness that alone is worthy of the name, and that is pure and substantial joy.

We are progressive beings, and live in a world of improvement, and only as our advancement is constant shall we be able to keep our position in society, and, surely, if we see those that have occupied a place by our side, or in some lower walk of life, passing by us to a sphere from which they will look down on us, it will be destructive to our peace of mind if we have any moral ambition or pride. Then let us all, even at the expense of the most laborious effort, and exhausting toil, reach that highest position attainable, and thus wield our greatest power for good, and receive the richest recompense of happiness.

A MARRIAGE CEREMONY INTERRUPTED.

An occurrence, which has caused a considerable amount of excitement and merriment, took place in the neighbourhood of Dumbarton the other day. A young man of respectable appearance and connections has discharged the duties of station-master at one of the small stations on the Helensburgh branch of the North British Railway for nearly two years past, and it seems that during his leisure hours he had wooed and won the affections of a good-looking and respectable woman in service at a public house not far from his station. A purpose of marriage between them was duly proclaimed and the ceremony was fixed to take place in her master's house at 5 o'clock on Monday afternoon. A considerable number of guests were invited, and the marriage feast was duly provided. Matters, however, did not proceed so satisfactorily as might be expected. It appears that the bridegroom was suspended from his duties some eight or ten days ago in consequence of certain irregularities said to have been discovered in his books, and orders had been issued to an inspector of the railway police to apprehend him, and hand him over to the criminal authorities at Dumbarton, in the event of his failing to pay a certain sum of money of which it was alleged he had defrauded the company. The officer found his man, but generously delayed giving him up to the authorities. He accompanied him to a gentleman in the neighbourhood, who, it was alleged, would produce the needful to make him a free man. In this, however, he was unsuccessful, and the officer thereupon proceeded in

a dog-cart to Dumbarton with the bridegroom in custody. On arriving at Dalrooch Junction, the officer took his prisoner into the signal-box in order to despatch a telegram relative to the case, and while in the act of writing the message, he slipped out and took to his heels, and, being a swift runner, was soon out of sight of his pursuers, and has not as yet, we believe, been captured. Of course the marriage could not take place in absence of the bridegroom, but we understand the marriage feast was duly enjoyed by those present.—North British Mail.

HORRIBLE CASE OF DESTITUTION.

A painful case of destitution has been brought to light in the aristocratic burgh of Broughty Ferry. A fisherman named John Lorimer, with his wife and five young children, have been living in a house of one apartment for some time in very indigent circumstances. The wife has been terribly addicted to drinking, and the wages the father obtained are said to have been mostly spent in liquor. The husband sailed one day last week with the East Indian Mangalore, from Dundee. The following night Mrs. Lorimer was seen loitering about the door of the house. Barefooted, barelegged, and with only a short piece of clothing on, she was on the public street. Bad as this was, it was nothing to the state of matters inside the miserable dwelling. The whole of the children—the oldest about 13 years, and the youngest an infant about 8 months old—were running about naked. The eldest, a girl, indeed did, like her mother, have on a piece of frock, but nothing else; and the infant at the breast had a small dirty bit of cloth having the appearance of flannel round its shoulders, but the intermediate three poor creatures were said to be quite naked. The only thing like furniture was an old broken dresser. There was no bed, and the only substitute was a quantity of shavings and rubbish which lay in a corner, while the only covering for it, in room of sheets and blankets, was a piece of an old herring-net. There were no provisions or eatables of any description within the door. When the police entered the house the children ran into corners and hid themselves. The room was in a most filthy condition. The children are described as being in a very emaciated and sickly-looking condition. When asked if they had got any food during the day, they stated they had got some potatoes for dinner, and some tea and bread for breakfast. It is said they have been in a condition bordering upon this for the past six months or more. Now and again sympathizing neighbours have taken pity on the miserable offspring, and supplied them with articles of clothing, but they did not have the comfort of wearing them long, as they were taken and pawned by their mother. Of course their education had never been dreamt of, the eldest of them having never been at school. Mrs. Lorimer was apprehended on a charge of drunkenness and disorderly behaviour, but before she could be taken into custody some clothing had to be obtained for her. The parochial authorities have been informed of the deplorable state of the family, and will forthwith make suitable provision for them.—Dundee Advertiser.

WORKING WITH THE TOES.

As cramped and deformed as the toes of our people are, from the silly habit of wearing tight boots, we can hardly realize that the Japanese, Chinese artisans, and Bedouin Arabs are almost quadrumanal, as from continued practice they use their toes nearly as readily as their fingers. Short and cramped as they are in our stiff leather shoes, we have scarcely any will-power over them. But Chinese and Japanese workmen actually pick up tools with their toes, and work with them thus handled, while other operations are conducted with other instruments in their hands. We have often seen chisels held by a long handle with the left hand, while the toes guided the cutting edge in turning beautiful forms in a lathe, in Constantinople. Workmen there are always seated on the ground, even in planning a board. Arabs braid ropes with their toes and fingers laboring in concert. It is therefore positively certain the toes may be educated to act with rapid movements. By practice they become obedient to volition, and yet wise physiological authors hardly admit the possibility of teaching muscles to act just as millions of mechanics in those distant countries have been exercising their toes through hundreds of Asiatic generations. So much for theoretical science.

THE FASHION.—Why is an old coat more fashionable than a new one?—Because its "worn."

DEATH OF A FARM LABORER FROM STARVATION.

On Tuesday Mr. Wm. Carter held an inquest at the Mitre Hotel; Tooting, on the body of James Sewington, aged thirty-five, a farm laborer, employed at the County Lunatic Asylum, Wandsworth. Ellen Sewington said that the deceased was her husband, and that he frequently complained of pains in the head and stomach. On arriving home on the Friday night he seemed very ill, and on the Saturday morning when she roused him to go to his work, he said that it was no use of his going as he should only be turned back. He attempted to walk across the room, but fell flat on his face. He was then very ill, and he died the same afternoon. His earnings at times were 18s. per week, but when it rained, his wages were decreased, as the weather would not allow him to work, and at times he only earned from 12s. to 13s. a week, out which he had to pay 4s. rent. He had stinted himself very much during the last few days, and the witness and her children had tasted nothing but dry bread and sugar and tea for the last fortnight. He had run very much in arrears with his landlord, and he had been trying his utmost to make up the arrears. She knew that every thing he had to eat he shared with her and the children. He would never make known when he was hungry, and the only thing he had to eat when he left home on Friday morning was a dry crust, and when he returned home in the evening he had another piece of bread. They had not tasted meat for weeks. Mr. Walter Chapman, surgeon, of Tooting, said that he was called to see the deceased, who expired a few minutes after his arrival. He had not made a post-mortem examination, but was of opinion, from the evidence he had heard, that he died from exhaustion. The coroner summed up, and the jury, after consulting, returned a verdict "That the deceased died from exhaustion through want of food and proper nourishment.—Lloyd's Weekly.

ARTS IN JAPAN.

"The artisan of Yeddo," says a late writer, "is a veritable artist. If we except the conventional style to which he represents himself compelled to submit in his representations of the human figure, if we overlook the insufficiency of his knowledge of the rules of perspective, we shall have only praise left for him in all other respects. His works are distinguished from those of Miako by the simplicity of his forms, the sobriety of his decorations, and the exquisite feelings of nature which he exhibits in all subjects of ornamentation drawn from the vegetable or animal kingdom. These are his favorite subjects; flowers and birds have the power of inspiring him with compositions which are charming in their truth, grace, and harmony. In regard to perfection of execution, the works produced in both capitals are equally admirable.

"What is still more remarkable, the Japanese fancy never runs into those aberrations which in China and elsewhere outrage nature by cutting trees into geometrical figures, or training shrubs into the shapes of animals. The taste of the Japanese in their popular arts, remaining independent of the conventional influences at their two courts, has all the freshness of a naturally expanding civilization. Therefore, it is still characterized, by a certain puerility; witness the truly childish passion of all classes of society for enormous flowers and dwarf trees. I have seen aquaria, not much larger than ordinary, where they succeeded in uniting the features of a complete landscape—a lake, islands, rocks, a cabin on the shore, and hills with real woods on their summits, of living bamboos and cedars in miniature. They even sometimes add Lilliputian figures, coming and going, by means of a string which is wound up.

"This sort of childishness is found in a multitude of the details of Japanese life. Sometimes a porcelain junk is set before a dinner-party; it is taken to pieces and proves to be a unique and complete tea-set. Often, part of the repast is served in cups so minute, and porcelain so fine, light and transparent, that one hardly dare touch it. There are cups, called egg-shells, so delicate that they must be protected by a fine envelope of bamboo netting.

"The saloons are adorned with birds and butterfly cages, crowned with vases of flowers, whence depend climbing plants which cause the birds to appear as if nesting in verdure. Under the paper lanterns suspended from the ceilings of the verandas, there are often bells of colored glass, the long, slender clapper of metal supported by a silken thread, or slip of colored or gilded paper. At the least movement of the breeze, these bands of paper move, the metallic tongues, the glass bells, and their vibrations make a vague melody like the sound of an Æolian harp."

RATHER SUSPICIOUS.

A short time since a woman in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, lost her husband; he sickened and died. In due time the funeral took place. The poor woman felt badly of course, but she was not the only one thus situated. After the funeral sermon was over, and a last opportunity was offered to behold the departed, first one woman went to the coffin, then another, till about twenty had pressed their lips to the marble forehead. All this time the weeping widow was looking on; she knew none of the women, and was shocked beyond power to describe for a few moments. When she did get her speech she arose, took off her veil, examined her lost husband's face with circumspection, faced the audience, and said:—

"Until within the last few moments I had supposed that the cold form in this coffin was once my husband, but the kisses and tears of the—to me—strangers who have just paraded before us, have convinced me that he belonged to others a good deal more than he did to me. My part in this funeral is finished."

She gathered up her cloak and stalked out of the room, as mad a woman as has been seen in Oshkosh since the war.

BETTER DAYS.

Whenever a poor, forlorn, threadbare, semi-respectable person intrudes himself upon you in the hours of care and business to sell a cake of soap, lead pencils, Tribune Almanacs, or even a box of matches, if you do not desire his wares, let him down easy. Don't snub him and chill his desolate heart by harsh words and forbidding looks. "Put yourself in his place," and dismiss him gently, even if his frequent importunities annoy you. Fancy yourself a poor friendless wretch, past the meridian of life, buffeting the waves of outrageous fortune, pinched with cold, ill-clad, half starved, bearing your secret griefs and sorrows with resignation, determined to live the remnant of an ill-spent life honestly in a calling so humble that a few pence per day will suffice to succor nature in wearing out the soul case in God's own time—with health and friends gone—"homeless beside a thousand homes," and then ask yourself how you would prize a kind word, a sympathetic look, a helping hand, even a penny bestowed in a kindly spirit; and even such an act, however small, like the "cup of cold water given in the name of a disciple of Him who had not where to lay His head," will make the wheels of your own busy life run smoother—in a word, make yourself more human by being humane to others when sorrow and despair overtake them.

Pere Hyacinthe, the dissenting Catholic priest, is engaged to be married to the only daughter of Count Von Edal, a Bavarian nobleman of considerable wealth. He made the acquaintance of the lady in Rome.

The Field gives the following as the dimensions of a grand old yew tree growing on the Marquis of Bath's estate in Wiltshire: Height 50ft., circumference of branches 164ft., spread of branches from north to south 53ft., and from east to west 60ft., girth of stem at 1ft. from the ground 32ft., smallest girth of stem 24ft. 6in., length of stem 7ft. Under ordinary circumstances, the age of yew trees may be approximately guessed at by allowing a century for every foot in diameter of stem; thus this remarkable old tree may safely be calculated at from 1,100 to 1,200 years old. It is a growing, healthy tree, rather cone-shaped, and is very dense in foliage.

According to the Swiss Times, a very important discovery has just been made by two Austrian marine officers and an engineer. By their united efforts they have devised a plan for conveying away under water the smoke from the funnel of river or ocean steamboats. Double ventilators are employed, the smoke compressed and then forced into the water. These ventilators are propelled either by water power or small steam engines. The advantages of this discovery are at once obvious. In armor-plated vessels, the only vulnerable part, the funnel, can thereby be dispensed with. But in our inland navigation such a method of getting rid of the smoke is almost of incalculable importance. The space now occupied by the passage of the chimney through every deck will be saved, and the most fertile source of fires removed once and forever. It is said that the trials thus far made have been completely successful.

The applications of photography are certainly very various. One of its most recent uses as pointed out by the Journal of the Photographic Society, had been to aid army tailors in cutting the new-fashioned which are to be worn this year by all regi-

ments. Formerly it was the custom to forward to each master tailor of every regiment a pattern card, showing the alterations to be made, together with instructions as to the manner in which the lace and trimmings varied in the uniforms for the different grades. Such a proceeding was necessarily a costly one; for probably some two hundred pattern tunics were required for transmission to every battalion in the service. Instead of this, but one garment of each sort has been made; and this having been photographed in three different positions, copies have been distributed throughout the country. In this way, of course, every information is afforded to the regiment, without any extra expense being incurred.

Sawdust and Chips.

HABEAS CORPUS (No. 2).—The Anatomy Act.

Why is a modest young man like a highway road?—Because he's mild (miled).

To make a thin man appear fat—Call after him, and he will then look round.

Never write secrets with a quill-pen—it might split.

What resemblance is there between an agricultural laborer and a sailor?—A striking resemblance—just at present.

FOOTED-UP.—Men of business often complain that their gas account runs away with a lot of money;—they don't reflect how many feet are represented in the bill!

What is the difference between a sportsman and a prizefighter?—The one marks his game before he strikes it; the other strikes his game before he marks it.

SOMETHING LIKE A BARGAIN.—The following is an advertisement we saw the other day in bold type on an omnibus, "Angel and Bank 2d"—what more could mortal man desire?

ARCADIA ON STRIKE.—If a farmer thrashes his workman what is the literal difference between them?—One's A-laborer, the other B-laborer.

ENTOMOLOGICAL.—1. Why does the ant or emmet belong to no type of existence?—Because it belongs to an anty-type. 2. What effect would that insect have if taken into the human system?—It would act as an emmet-ic.

A LUXURY, IF YOU LIKE.—Sandy: I say, Jock, mon, did ye ever get yer hair brooshed by machinery?—Jock: Naw! What like is't?—Sandy: He, mon, it's awfu' nice. It's near as good as scraffin yer heed!

NOVERCA.—Master Bandersnatch is learning Latin. The other day he declared that a Step-mother must be an idle woman. His reason being demanded, he said that she was no-walker. He was worked off to bed, promptly.

AN EARLY QUIBBLE.—George: "There Aunt Mary! what do you think of that? I drew the Horse, and Ethel drew the Jockey!" Aunt Mary: "H'm! But what would Mamma say to your drawing Jockeys on a Sunday?"—George: "Ah, but Look here! We've Drawn him Riding to Church, you know!"

THE "RED BOOK AT FAULT!"—Mrs. Polshorj (Establishment for Young Ladies, Bellevue House, St. Leonards) solicitous as well for the physical as the mental development of her Pupils, engages a respectable (middle-aged) Non-Commissioned Officer to exercise them in Calisthenics under her own eye.—Ancient Militia Sergeant: "Elbows turned in, and close to the Sides! Palms o' the Hands full to the Front!—Thumbs close to the Fore-Finger!—Little Finger in Line with the Seam of the Trows—Ahem! As you were!"

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