

take the razor so, I hold my head this way—takes five years to learn it, and two and a half years steady practice to learn the keys—and then I hold the razor so. Seats free, gentlemen; reserved seats free. Before I swallow the razor let me sell you this package for your wife; pen, thimble, pins, buttons,—now she'll never leave your shirt buttons off, to say nothing of fastening on your galluses with a nail—paper, a spool of thread,—all for ten cents—worth a fortune.

Not long after this I met Ned going home to supper, and walked along with him. "Well, Ned," I asked, "how does the street selling suit you?"

"It went pretty hard at first, ma'am; I'd rather by half have toiled boxes, or carried a hod, or worked in a foundry; but there was nothing of that kind to do, and though I felt ashamed like, as if I was a beggar, I said to myself, 'Ned, here's the only way to keep mother and Kitty out of the alms-house, it would be a disgrace to see 'em there,' and so I stood up to it like a man, and if you'll believe it, I make more money by that chaffing on the walk and selling those bits of things than I did in the foundry. Why, I'm laying up money. It is true, ma'am, the world is full of fools, and there must be some one to humour 'em, and it's better by half for them to spend their money on a bit of thing to amuse the children at home, than to lay it out on a glass of grog and go home cross, or treat some lubber with it who'll maybe pick their pocket in pay. I always give all I promise in the parcel and more than other folks give."

"And where do you get your pens, pencils, paper, envelopes?"

"Kitty and mother make the big envelopes out of paper that I buy by the pound, cheap. As for the other things—you have hardly an idea, ma'am, how cheap they come, of this medium quality, when one goes to the wholesale houses and buys to sell. I get half a gross of pens and pencils, and a box of letter envelopes and a ream of paper, and they are stock in trade for a long while. You mind Miss Help lent me money for the first outfit."

"I should think the police would interfere with you, you have so many admirers."

"Well, ma'am, I think they're easy with me, knowing I'm a decent fellow driven to the wall. I change my beat, too, and if I see a beak coming, I often move along. Sometimes they do say to the crowd, 'Move on,' but I've no fault to find with the beaks."

"And how about the keys?"

"Why you know, ma'am, I've got a magnet in the chip, but they won't see it,—they don't want to see it—they like to be fooled. It is amazin' how they'll stand staring at it."

"And the razor?"

"Why, ma'am, that razor makes me think of a line out of a poetry book I'm fond of readin'—'Man never is, but always to be blest.' You see I'm always just going to swallow that razor, and before I do it I'll sell a few more packages. I never tell 'em that they will see me do it, but that they *hav'n't* seen me. I might go on and say that moreover they ain't likely to see me, but if they enjoy the other way of putting it, I don't feel bound to stand in their light."

"And so you like to read, Ned?"

"Yes, ma'am; sometimes I buy a second-hand book, and sometimes when there's a neighbour in to cheer up mother and Kitty, I go to a free library and rear the evening. Since I began to save money at this, and Kitty is so bright in making things, I've been wondering *could* I ever lay up enough to hire a cabin and a couple of acres out in the country and till that and do day's work? Maybe I could get Kitty and the old lady moved there, and I think Kitty would enjoy it, and as it don't seem the Lord's way that I'm to have a wife and children, seeing I have Kitty and my old lady to mind, I would like to live where I could keep animals, and raise flowers and corn enough to buy books for the evenings."

A friend of mine who was weeding out a large library, soon after sent Ned a parcel of books, and finding a young damsel mourning for something to do, I bid her take a roll of pretty fragments and some patterns, and go and instruct Kitty in making rabbits, elephants and dogs of flannel; work baskets and chair baskets and slaving-paper cases and tissue lamp mats. My young friend became interested, and continued her instruction for several days.

This was late in the autumn, and being out of town, it was spring before I again called at Ned's home. The sunshine poured into the upper room, and Kitty propped up in bed was the manager of a manufactory! Her mother, with a very pretty young woman and a little girl, was busily employed in making fancy work of a simple sort, dolls, balls, cloth animals, mats, wind-mills, etc. The boy who collected waste was driving a good trade, and came in while I was there with a basket of material. Not only was Ned selling dozens of packages and separate articles, enlivening his trade by the razor, the keys, and the fainting Khan of Tartary, but the little working girl's mother had opened a large street stand, purchasing her stock in trade from Kitty, and supporting herself better on the percentage than she ever had on slop sewing. The report was still that they were laying up money, and Kitty announced that perhaps they could earn enough to get into the country, and have a bit of a place to themselves while Ned did day's work and she sent toys to town. Her mother knit many trifles for the stand, and Rhoda, the pretty girl, was "a wonderful hand at paper dolls."

That was three years ago, and six months since Ned was able to carry out his cherished plan. He had hired a four-roomed house and an acre of ground, and retiring from the key and razor and Khan business, was to do day's work while Kitty carried on her manufactory.

It was only yesterday that all this story of my humble hero was brought to my mind by his calling on me, with Rhoda dressed in her best, and stating that they had just come from the minister's, and were on their wedding journey, which was to extend from my house to the Bureau, and from the Bureau—home. "You see, ma'am," said Ned in blushing apology for this new departure, "Rhoda is so smart I thought I had better get her to take care of me, while I took care of the rest of them."

POWER OF MUSIC.

Many of us, most of us, have aspirations and emotions for the expression of which in words it is as if we were voiceless and dumb, but which find full and ready expression in music; even though, I have sometimes thought, the words which we freight with them might be mere jargon. Under the right circumstances, and given only a touch, a tone, a sudden remembrance, anything to unlock the emotions, and the song goes forth, telling for every individual singer a different story. Perhaps this is most noticeable in the midst of sympathetic numbers, as in the crowds who used to meet together and sing out all their secret feelings in the strange, unreal light of the Chicago Tabernacle. I shall never forget a face which I saw there one stormy winter afternoon; one which touched me more than any other of the many expressive faces which I used to see there full of emotion day after day. It was only an every-day face, that of a worn old woman dressed in deep mourning; and, with family and friendly groups on every side of her, seeming so alone in her loneliness and old age. Was there anything in the words of the song, in the singing of which she joined with her tremulous tones, which could fitly express the emotion that filled her face and voice. The song was only one of the most commonplace of the many changes rung on the dear old themes, yet the words came to my ear freighted with her loneliness and yearning until I longed to place gently my own in her poor, tired, empty hands, if haply mine could in any measure fill their emptiness; to say a word which might brighten the poor, withered, old face, so utterly pathetic in its far-off look of longing. Such a strangely far-away look it was, as if the yearning eyes had sent their gaze over the ocean in search of the lost ones, to where, mayhap, their graves were made in "the old country," and failing to find them there had gone straight on into the heavenly land.

Did she find them? Who knows? But the song whose musical strains gave voice that day to her longing for the dear, dead faces, will always be to her in very truth a "sacred song." To one heart, at least, a cool, critical analysis of its composition would be sacrilege. To one or another of us perhaps this would be true in regard to every one of the familiar old songs. It is too late; we could not criticise them if we would. Love is blind, and we love them every one!—*Sunday Afternoon.*

ADVANTAGES OF A BOOK.

Of all the amusements which can possibly be imagined for a hard-working man, after his daily toil, or in its intervals, there is nothing like reading an entertaining book—supposing him to have a taste for it, and supposing him to have a book to read. It calls for no bodily exertion, of which he has had enough or too much. It relieves his home of its dullness and sameness which, in nine cases out of ten, is what drives him to the ale-house, to his own ruin and his family's. It transports him to a livelier and gayer and more diversified and interesting scene; and while he enjoys himself there, he may forget the evils of the present moment fully as much as if he were ever so drunk, with the great advantages of finding himself next day with his money in his pocket, or at least laid out in real necessities and comforts for himself and his family, and without a headache. Nay, it accompanies him to his next day's work; and if the book he has been reading be anything above the very idlest and lightest, gives him something to think of besides the mere mechanical drudgery of his every-day occupation—something he can enjoy while absent, and look forward with pleasure to return to. But supposing him to have been fortunate in the choice of his book, and to have alighted upon one really good and of a good class, what a source of domestic enjoyment is laid open! what a bond of family union! He may read it aloud, or make his wife read it, or his eldest boy or girl, or pass it round from hand to hand. All have the benefit of it, all contribute to the gratification of the rest, and a feeling of common interest and pleasure is excited. Nothing unites people like companionship in intellectual enjoyment. It does more—it gives them mutual respect, and to each among them self-respect, that cornerstone of all virtue. It furnishes to each the master-key by which he may avail himself of his privilege as an intellectual being, to

"Enter the sacred temple of his breast,
And gaze and wander where a ravished guest—
Wander through all the glories of the mind,
Gaze upon all the treasures he shall find."

And while thus leading him to look within his own bosom for the ultimate source of his happiness, warns him at the same time to be cautious how he defiles and desecrates that inward and most glorious of temples.—*Sir John Herschel.*

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THAT THE PHONOGRAPH can "bottle up" the voice and pass it down to future ages is indeed a wonder, but is not the restoration of a lost voice more wonderful? And yet Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery speedily restores a lost voice, cures hoarseness, sore throat, bronchitis and consumption. Many ministers who had abandoned the pulpit, by reason of sore throat and general debility, have, by the use of the Discovery, been restored to perfect health and strength. Sold by druggists.

Hats for gentlemen at popular prices. Current styles ready. Fine silk hats \$3.25. Coxwell, hatter, 146 Yonge street, four doors north of Temperance street.

THE Rev. Dr. Cumming has officially retired from his pastorate. His congregation are endeavoring to raise a fund of \$5,000 in order to purchase him an annuity.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

THE Irish Methodist Conference met in Dublin on the 17th instant.

ANDOVER Theological Seminary has received \$150,000 from the Stone Estate.

A MOTION for abolishing flogging in the army has been rejected in the Commons by 239 to 56.

It is estimated that there are 7,000,000 people in France who have renounced the Roman Catholic religion.

MR. J. H. GOUT has been laying the foundation stone of a coffee palace in Sandgate, England, his native town.

THE Irish Presbyterian Synod met in Belfast on the 2nd inst. Rev. Professor Watt, D.D., was elected moderator.

THE Baptist College in Pontypool, South Wales, has celebrated its seventy-second anniversary.

DR. MORLEY PENSION has been in France recently, attending the district meetings of the English Methodists in that country.

MRS. HARRIET BECHER STOWE is not an Episcopalian. She is a member of Plymouth Church, Brooklyn. So the "Christian Union" says.

OF the Cardinals recently created by Pope Leo XIII. the Cardinal Zigliara is the youngest man now wearing the purple. He is the son of a poor sailor and is but forty-five years old.

A SERIES of resolutions was adopted by the General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church, expressing firm adherence to the principle of united non-sectarian as opposed to denominational education.

THE rect. of a Reformed Episcopal Church at Chicago has announced that hereafter the sermon will only last twenty minutes. The music, which occupies nearly an hour, is not, however, to be abridged.

Huddersfield Magistrates ordered the destruction of 200,000 small bills and 150,000 pamphlets alleged to be of an indecent and immoral character, which the police had seized on the premises of a quack doctor or herbalist.

BY 215 votes against 157, the General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church has refused to appoint a committee to prepare a selection of hymns. The Assembly by 313 to 273 votes also refused to sanction the use of instrumental music.

MR. SPURGEON has resolved on establishing an orphanage for girls on the same plan as the institution for boys, which he so successfully carries on at Stockwell. Already a great part of the necessary endowment is in hand, and Mr. Spurgeon has devoted a portion of his recent testimonial fund to the object.

THERE was a stormy scene in the French Chamber of Deputies on Monday. Cassagnac accused Ferry of uttering calumnies against religious orders and with falsifying documents. He refused to retract, and on the Left voting censure of Cassagnac the confusion became so great that Gambetta left the chair, temporarily closing the session.

A GREAT movement has just been inaugurated against intemperance. It is the formation of a joint-stock company with a million of capital in shares of one pound each, to provide temperance coffee-houses and temperance places all over the kingdom. The Archbishop of Canterbury is at the top of the list of clergy, and as many names followed in the prospectus, as advertised in the "Times" as nearly fill a column. The coffee-houses already established have done well, and it is quite expected that this new scheme will pay.

POLITICAL offenders are being summarily arrested and dealt with by the Russian military tribunals. The fact that at Kieff there was recently discovered a large store of materials necessary for constructing infernal machines, has not, of course, tended to lull the suspicions of the authorities. Accounts continue to be received of the outbreak of fires in different parts of the country, and at Warsaw an order has been issued to the effect that all persons over fourteen years of age must provide themselves with certificates of residence.

A CHINESE mission is at present in Spain on the subject of coolie emigration to the West Indies, which is much in need of regulation. By the convention agreed to at Peking some months ago, which the mission now desires to ratify, it is provided that the coolies shall be taken only from the population of the southern provinces of the Empire as being most fit to resist a tropical climate. The coolies will be engaged for five years and not for seven years, and at the expiration of their terms they will be taken home at the expense of the Chinese Government.

ON Friday, June 20th, Queen Victoria reigned forty-two years, a period longer than any English-Queen since Elizabeth. Since she ascended the throne there have been eight prime ministers, and there have taken place some notable historical events in connection with the English people—the repeal of the Corn Laws; the Irish Famine and Emigration; the Chartist agitation; the Crimean War; the Indian Mutiny; the assumption of the direct government of India; the Confederation of British America; the disestablishment of the Irish Church; the Alabama Claims Treaty; the introduction of the Ballot; the Abyssinian and Ashantee Wars; and the assumption of the title of Empress of India.

THE seventy-first annual report of the London Society for Promoting Christianity Among the Jews shows that the society employs 138 agents, about one-half of whom are converts. Many of these agents are ordained; others are lay missionaries, medical missionaries, school-teachers, Scripture readers and colporteurs. The number of stations is thirty-six. Of these, four are in England, twenty-three upon the Continent of Europe, three in Asia and six in Africa. The society's agents have distributed during the year 10,258 Bibles, 8,671 New Testaments, 51,388 missionary tracts and books, 326,332 periodicals, and 54,905 home tracts and appeals. In the Episcopal Jews' Chapel and Hebrew schools, nine Jewish adults and ten children were baptized, making a total of 1,414—689 adults and 725 children—since the opening of the chapel.