

Miscellaneous.

CHARLES LAMB.

One morning, in the year 1792, a young clerk took his place in the office of the East India Company, in London, and there, day after day, for thirty-three years, he might have been seen at his post. He was a timid, thoughtful man, rendered more timid by incurable stuttering. This clerk was Charles Lamb. He was seventeen years old when he took his place in the East India Company's office. When he was twenty-one, he began a life of cheerful, loving self-sacrifice. His sister Mary had become insane, and one day had snatched a knife from the dinner-table, and had given her mother a blow with it, which killed her. After his father's death, Charles took his poor sister from the asylum in which she had been placed, made a home for her, and devoted his life to her comfort. She recovered her reason, but she was insane several times again during her life. Charles watched over her with the tenderest care.

He gave his leisure moments to writing. He wrote some essays, and signed them with the name of "Elia." They are called the "Elia Essays," and are admired by all who love whatever is simple and truthful in man and in books. His name stands first among those of English humorists.

With a sister mournfully afflicted, with a small salary, with a life of drudgery, Charles Lamb bore a gentle, cheerful heart. His wit made him famous. He was a Londoner, and he loved the streets of London, as other men love the forest and the mountain. He studied the men and women that thronged those crowded streets, and found in them material for beautiful thought, and gave to them warm and gentle sympathies. His kindly heart won for him many warm friends.

No one who saw that silent clerk, patiently doing his monotonous work would have thought that he was one of England's men of genius. No one who met him taking his daily walk in the streets of London, would have thought that under his worn coat beat one of England's most noble hearts—a heart full of the glory of self-sacrifice.

When Charles Lamb was fifty years old, he received a pension which enabled him to leave the office where he had spent so many years. He could make his sister happier now by his constant presence. When he went home "for ever," as he said, he wrote to a friend that it was "like passing from time to eternity." From "*Personal Traits of British Authors.*"

THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

What the slave trade in Africa really is, even at the present day, may be conceived from the following description given by Mr. Stanley in a lecture on the Lower Congo:—"In a small camp 300 fighting men kept in manacles and fetters, 2,500 naked women and children, their poor bodies incrustated with dirt, all emaciated and weary through much misery. Here was the net result of the burning of 118 villages, and the devastation of forty-three districts, to glut the avaricious soul of a man who had constituted himself chief of a district some 200 miles higher up. Though over seventy-five years old, here he was prosecuting his murderous business, having shed so much human blood in three months that, if collected in a tank, it might have sufficed to drown him and all his thirty wives and concubines. Those 2,500 slaves would have to be transported over 200 miles in canoes, and such as could not be fed would die, and perhaps 800—perhaps 900—of all the number would ever reach their destination."

NEW DISCOVERIES.

Several more ruined cave and cliff cities have been discovered in Arizona by the Western Geological Survey. The most remarkable was a village of sixty-five underground dwellings situated near the summit of one of the volcanic foot-hills in the San Juan region. The surface stratum of the hill had become hardened by exposure, and formed the common roof for the entire community. The dwellings were all alike. They had no intercommunication beneath the surface, and were only accessible by means of square holes leading from the surface by a vertical shaft to the floor of the main room of the dwelling. Foot-rests—holes at convenient distance—along the sides of the shaft served the purposes of a stair-way. Descending the shaft, the explorers found themselves at the side of an oval-shaped, arched-roofed room, about twenty feet in its smallest diameter. At the ends in the side opposite the entrance, low doorways connected the main room with smaller rooms, the whole suit or dwelling consisting of four apartments. One of the smaller rooms had its floor excavated to a depth of two or three feet below those of the other rooms, and is supposed to have served the purpose of a store-room or cellar. A shaft about eighteen inches square, extending to the surface of the ground, formed the chimney. Many domestic utensils were found.—*Selected.*

John G. Saxe, the poet, lives at Albany with his eldest and only remaining son. For more than a year past he has not left his bed-chamber where he is confined by the sufferings of an accident received some years since. The poet receives no visitors, and no one is permitted to converse with him save his son and the faithful house-keeper who has been with him for a score of years.

A clever detective proved that a note was fraudulent in New York, the other day, by showing that the blank on which it was made bore the address 64 Nassau Street, whereas the printers who made the blank had not moved into that place at the time the note was dated. This recalls the case of an ancient deed of the time of George I. It was shown to be fraudulent by the fact that in legal phraseology it set forth the fact that it was executed "In the reign of George I." Of course that monarch was never known as "George I." until George II. ascended the throne.

Question Drawer.

Another answer to clock question in JOURNAL, of Feb. 5:—

The hands must be 5 minutes space apart for the mistake to make 55 minutes difference in time. The hands will be together at 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ minutes after 2 o'clock. At 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ minutes previous the hands would be 5 minutes apart: the time was 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ minutes after two o'clock.

JOHN MOSER.

Fay Falls, York County, N. B.

Mr. Moser also sends a solution of the labour question in the same number of the JOURNAL, but fails to make the steps of the process clear enough for our purpose.—ED.

A DISCOVERY.

Suppose we have a right angled triangle whose base is 2 and perpendicular 1. I have, to-day the 5th of March, proved that a quantity can be found, (indeed I have found it) such, that if it be added to the base and to the perpendicular, the new hypotenuse will be rational; also, if the same quantity be subtracted from the base and from the perpendicular, the second new hypotenuse will be rational.

Briefly, $(2+z)^2 + (1+z)^2 = q^2/2 - z^2 + (1-z)^2 = q^2$.

My work is large and extremely difficult, but I am quite pleased with my success. I will exchange solutions if any one should work it out.

JOHN IRELAND, Fergus.