

GENERAL READING THE OSTRICH.

The popular and traditional notions respecting the ostrich in his native habitat are scarcely sustained by the observation of those who have, in modern times, made his acquaintance. This is especially true in respect to two of the supposed habits of these birds, both of which have become proverbial, to their discredit.

Both in the Book of Job and in the Lamentations of Jeremiah, there is a clear intimation that the ostrich is wholly careless of its young, leaving its eggs to be hatched by the heat of the sun, and its young to care for themselves.

FLOODING THE SAHARA.

Two plans have been set before the public with regard to the great project of flooding the immense basin of Sahara, known as El Juf, which is now generally conceded to be the bed of a former inland sea.

The other plan is that of reopening the ancient outlet of the inland sea to the Atlantic at a place called Boca Grande, or Great Mouth, and thus filling with water the vast depression of El Juf, which lies far below the level of the ocean.

have successively been brought under the influence of Carthaginian, Roman, Egyptian, and Mohammedan civilization. They have formed themselves into independent states, and possess numerous walled towns of commercial importance.

The distance from Cape Juby to Timbuctoo, on the Upper Niger, is about 800 miles of almost level country, this being 1,200 miles shorter than the present route.

With the Sahara flooded, direct navigation with Europe would be established. And thus will also be opened a more extensive market for American goods.

WOMAN.

Great indeed is the task assigned to woman. Who can elevate its dignity? Not to make laws, not to lead armies, not to govern enterprises, but to form those by whom laws are made, armies are led, empires are governed.

Riches would be little esteemed if they did not furnish vanity with the pleasure of having what others have not.

A good conscience is better than two witnesses. It melts sorrow as the sun does ice. It is a spring when we are thirsty, a staff when we are faint, a shelter when the sun strikes us, a pillow in the hour of death.

A distinguished merchant, long accustomed to extensive observation and experience, and who had gained an uncommon knowledge of men, said: "When I see one of my apprentices or clerks riding out on the Sabbath, on Monday morning I dismiss him. Such a youth cannot be trusted."

NERVES AND LITERARY WORK.

Literary composition of any kind very frequently exercises a most depressing influence upon the mind of the writer, independent of any effect it may have upon the reader.

FAMILY READING

JESUS ONLY!

Thou one staid Rock in life's tempestuous sea, To Thee I come! Henceforth—all else unstable—but in Thee I find my home.

Though all should cast me out, yet still in Thee I'll put my trust; Mine is a treasure time and tide defy.

O Jesus! fix Thine image on my soul, That there I may Gaze on Thy beauty till I am made whole;

AT THE DOOR.

O Jesus, Thou art standing Outside the fast closed door, In lowly patience waiting 'To pass the threshold o'er;

O Jesu, Thou art knocking, And lo! that hand is scarred, And thorns Thy brow encircle, And tears Thy face have marred.

O Jesu, Thou art pleading, In accents meek and low, "I died for you, my children, And will ye treat Me so?"

THE OVERCOAT DOXOLOGY.

"Praise God from whom"—and all through the congregation there is a general stir to find hats and draw on overcoats, so that by the time those who have nothing more important to do than to join in the singing have come—

Praise him all creatures here below, a number of these creatures are in wrestle with sleeves and lining by a backward measurement of arms.

What is a doxology for, if not to express gratitude to God? And if this gratitude be felt by only a few, had not the pastor better preach a series of sermons on "The Duty of Thankfulness," or in some way awake those who are careless to a sense of their irreverence?

gratitude be felt by only a few, had not the pastor better preach a series of sermons on "The Duty of Thankfulness," or in some way awake those who are careless to a sense of their irreverence?

We believe it to be thoughtlessness principally. The devil has gained some advantage in the souls of believers, and from making them wander in their prayers toward the last, finally gets behind begging to assist them on with their overcoats!

MR. WESLEY'S CONSECRATION.

"Lo I come; if this soul and body may be useful to do anything, to do Thy will, O God; and if it please Thee to use the power Thou hast over dust and ashes, over weak flesh and blood, over a little vessel of clay, lo! here they are, to suffer also Thy good pleasure.

A man who takes the place which God puts him in, and sticks to it, and fights it through, and stands a man every inch, has awaiting him an estate of glory such as has not been known in this world.

BESOTTING SINS.

Every man has some peculiar and plaguing and persistent sinful tendency. Many men are grand and strong in many places. Every man is weak in some single place—signally, specially weak.

In the world of mythology Achilles, dipped in the waters of a certain river, became invulnerable. The only trouble was that when his mother dipped him in, she, in holding him by the heel, kept the head dry, and henceforward he was vulnerable there.

It is not true, in the king's sense, that every man can be bribed; but it is too sadly true that in every man there is some weak, and unguarded spot where the assault of evil is peculiarly dangerous.

Now, what was true of men in the old times is true of men in these. The human heart, in its weakness and passion, is much the same, whether it beat in Bible times or in times like ours.

yet such as these are the very persons whom you will find arguing that, because they so crave stimulant, they must have it. Then, too, if a man is naturally slothful, how many reasons he will be able to find for taking his own ease and doing as little as he can.

Ab, this besetting sin! This sin that jumps with our inclinations, with the peculiar set and flow of our nature, is always a specious sin.

And so, of all sins, this besetting sin is, for every one of us, the most dangerous. It is the sin which, at the last, is likeliest to overmaster and lock us prisoners in its own destruction.

Now, since sin thus holds in itself the power of growth and increasing tyranny through yielding to it, and since we are likeliest to yield to that sin which coincides most closely with our inclination—it is surely evident that just the sin fraught with the direct danger to us, is just this peculiar, persistent, desirable, besetting sin.

CALVINISM.

In regard to a call to the ministry, Bishop Simpson says he is Calvinistic; if so, he believes that it was foreordained that he should be a minister; and if so, it must have been foreordained that he should be converted, for certainly none but converted men are called to preach the Gospel; and if so, he is one of the elect; and if that is so how about the thousands converted under his ministry? Are they not elect also?

The above is a nice little run of logic. Suppose we admit it to be true, and run on: And if all these ifs be so, then all converted men are of the elect, and if all, then a part, and as all Arminians are a part of the converted multitude, then Arminians are all elect; for there is no dispute about the experience of conversion.

Now, brother "Herald and Presbyterian," dont pretend that you cant understand this; for if you do, we shall declare in the very next paper that we never did understand you.—Recorder.

THE KN... (R... As two m... after hearin... the one was... "That man... doesn't he?";... cally be said... son of his li... love to Jesu... of his know... speaks of hi... he is in cor... "I know wh... know the d... knowledge: ... and the pow... the fellow... the exalted... all kinds of... How wor... sion! To t... was a more... sion than S... dices of ed... pride of bir... seemed to s... in the way... implacable... the Church... glory from... him, a blow... smites him... ledge of Jesu... consecrated... Paul's kno... sonal thing... ledge of Chr... when they... of religion... and to recou... is the same... But this is a... splendid ad... value of relig... whose hearts... by the fire of... hearts have... power of his... true believer... son of Christ... with the ey... vivid is the... can never be... the Holy Spi... visible God... speaks of Je... with seraphic... "thoughts th... burn." It is worth... many moder... dulged doubt... is no hesitati... his acceptance... with all the... quainted with... ed and talked... manion. He... in his hands... keep that I... against that... precious soul... and he had... Men when in... appearing be... when diseas... the realities... before them... of the tomb... and the icy... on their hea... loses its pow... sions all van... an hope alon... the breath g... and the de... brow of the... of Jesus fill... joy, and he... and be with... ter." Paul's cont... Christ had d... knew him as... the curse o... and brought... righteousness... had done ma... had given hi... ized his wh... powers and... heavenly sup... monument... grace. Hen... had done fo... his power to... ners; and... everywhere... and saw mu... ed brought... truth—a sig... ture. Let us... knowledge o... of salvation... one of per... surest of all... Ages. It's... nal word of... hell cannot... for the uni... whole heart... impeachme... Taking Go... the assur... tion. God... in his pro... looks on... Unbelief... honoring...