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# WEEKLY MISCELLANY.

Devoted to the Intellectual and Moral Improvement of the Young.

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HALIFAX, N. S. DECEMBER 10, 1863.

## BOOKSELLING BEFORE THE INVENTION OF PRINTING.

Very few are aware of, and few of these few give a thought to the invaluable advantages enjoyed in our day in comparison with the circumstances of the time before the invention of Printing.—Then books were scarce and dear, all were written in manuscript, and learning was confined to the clergy and a small number of the first classes in Society. Many noblemen could not sign their names.

From the writings of a German Professor we have some account of the arrangements of the trade in books, from the eleventh to the fifteenth century, in France and Italy. From these we arrange our notices under the four heads of—Transcribers; the material upon which they write; dealers in books; and the prices of books.

The business of transcriber was an important one whenever there was a demand for books. At Bologna the number was very great, and among them were many females. The last mentioned were compelled by law to find caution for the safe return of the books left with them. Rich people spent immense sums in the ornaments of their books. No one was allowed to enter into a contract with a transcriber who was, at the time, working for another; and the student was required to take the transcriber's oath on this point before he concluded his bargain with him. The latter, if he perjured himself was expelled, and so was every student who was found to have further dealings with him.

The materials most commonly made use of in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries were parchment and a kind of paper made of cotton. Paper made of linen

did not come into use until the latter end of the fourteenth century. Parchment was the favorite; and there was a law in Bologna (apparently made to prevent a scarcity) enacting that every manufacturer of parchment should find caution that two-thirds of what he made should be of the kind used in making books.

The circumstances of the period were unfavourable to any trade in books approximating in the most distant degree to that of our days; but it was not so inconsiderable as one might imagine. New books, it is true, were only made to order; and whoever wanted a copy of a book had to make his bargain with a transcriber.

There was a class of men called *Stationarii*—mentioned in the statutes of Bologna in the year 1259—who were enjoined to keep correct copies of books; not to sell them to any person out of the university; nor to raise their hire; nor to enter into any combinations with the teachers to substitute new glosses for such as were already received. They were obliged to take an oath of fidelity and find securities. Each was obliged to have by him copies of works enumerated in a specific list, and the remuneration for lending these books varied according to the size, the importance, and the scarcity of the work.

Another occupation of the *Stationarii* was the sale of books upon commission; and at Paris the trade of lending books to transcribers, and that of selling them upon commission, seems, as at Bologna, to have been originally united in the same person, to whom sometimes the name of *Stationarius*, and sometimes that of *Librarius*, was given. But a law of 1323 distinguishes between the trade of book-lender (*Stationarius*) and that of the commission salesman (*Librarius*). The former were forbidden to sell books without an express permission from the university, while to the latter the trade was left quite free.

As there were so many trades extensively devoted to the manufacture of books, they could neither have been so very scarce nor so dear as has been sup-

posed. Paris and Bologna were the towns in which the trade in books was most active during the middle ages; but no antiquary has directed his investigations in the way of prices.

## A RECIPE FOR HAPPINESS.

It is simply, when you rise in the morning, to form a resolution to make the day a happy one to a fellow-creature. It is easily done—a left-off garment to the man who needs it; a kind word to the sorrowful; an encouraging expression to the striving—trifles, in themselves, light as air—will do it, at least for the twenty-four hours; and if you are young, depend upon it, it will tell when you are old; and if you are old, rest assured it will send you gently and happily down the stream of time to eternity. Look at the result; you send one person—only one, happily through the day; that is, three hundred and sixty-five in the course of the year—and supposing you live forty years only, after you commence this course, you have made fourteen thousand six hundred human beings happy, at all events, for a time. Now, worthy reader, is this not simple? and is it not worth accomplishing? This is so small a pill, that one needs no red currant jelly to disguise its flavor, and requires to be taken but once in a day; and we feel warranted in prescribing it—it is most excellent for digestion.

## THE FOOL'S REPROOF.

There was a certain nobleman, says Bishop Hall, who kept a fool, to whom he one day gave a staff, with a charge to keep it until he should meet with one who was a greater fool than himself. Not many years after the nobleman fell sick, even unto death. The fool came to see him; his sick lord said to him, "I must shortly leave you."—"And whither art thou going?" said the fool. "Into another world," replied his lordship. "And when will you come again?" asked the fool; "within a month?"—"No," replied the nobleman. "Within a year?" said the fool. "No," was again the reply. "When then?" asked the fool. "Never," said the nobleman. "Never!" repeated the fool; "and what provision hast thou made for thy entertainment there, whither thou goest?"—"None at all!" replied the nobleman. "No!" said the fool; "none at all! Here, take my staff, for with all my folly I am not guilty of such folly as this."

## THE SPIRIT OF INDUSTRY.

## A TALE OF HUMBLE LIFE.

Tom Rayland was one of the five children of an industrious carpenter. When he was about five years old, he fell ill of a complaint in the hip, which, after two years of great suffering, was at length cured, but left him lame for life, with one leg shorter than the other. During the tedious period of his illness, Hannah Rayland, his mother, was the most unremitting of nurses. She not only attended on him with the tenderest care, but toiled early and late that she might procure for him medical attendance, as well as the wine and supporting food proper for his complaint. Nor did she confine her care to his bodily wants: she paid what attention she could to his mind.

Tom was a child of amiable temper and good capacity, and profited well by his mother's instructions. He bore all his sufferings with patience, and showed a resignation and cheerfulness under them that might have been a lesson to many older persons. He had also a great aptitude for learning, and many were the weary hours of pain and langour that he beguiled by repeating the prayers and hymns his mother had taught him. Long after he was pronounced to be well, his weakness continued to be very delicate. The weakness of his frame, which prevented him from joining in the robust exercises of other children, gave him a precocity, and an unusual sensitiveness; and the care and tenderness with which he was treated, instead of spoiling his temper, and making him selfish, only increased the affectionateness of his disposition. His brothers and sisters, instead of being jealous of him, as one who absorbed more than his share of the parental fondness, felt that his infirmity was a double claim on their affection—so that lame Tom was the cherished darling of the family; and not only of his family, but also of the whole neighbourhood. Tom was a general favourite, and every one was glad to show a kindness to the little lame boy, who was always blithe and good-natured.

But time will run on, and children, if they live, will cease to be children: and the time came when it was necessary for Tom to be thinking how he could gain his own living. His brother Dick was working with a blacksmith, and was earning good wages; and Joe, only a year older

than himself, was learning to be a carpenter under his father, and was already able to pay his parents for his board. Even his sisters could earn something by needlework, and by assisting their mother, who took in washing. But poor Tom could do nothing; he had neither strength nor agility for any laborious active work; and although he was fifteen, he was still so short that he looked like a boy of twelve. His secret ambition was to be a schoolmaster; but he plainly saw that the difficulties in the way were quite insurmountable, and that it was, therefore, necessary for him to turn his mind to something else. But what was there, except the being a shoemaker, to which he could turn? His hard fortune seemed to have shaped him for nothing else. A shoemaker, therefore, he was to be; and his parents thought themselves fortunate in finding a neighbour who would teach him his trade for a trifle; and who promised, that, at the end of the first year, he would pay him wages for his work.

Tom worked with his master, but continued to live with his parents; and a proud and happy fellow was Tom. He had now something to do. He had a station, though a lowly one, in society. He was no longer a lounge and a loiterer, eating the bread of idleness, while his brothers, like industrious bees, were gathering honey from the hive. To be sure, he was not as yet gathering much honey, but still he was in the way to do so. And during the year of his novitiate, how he would reckon up his wages for the year to come, and expatiate in imagination on the happiness he should feel in bringing his earnings home to his mother! He, moreover, built castles in the air, and saw, in his mind's eye, the large shop-window well filled with boots and shoes; the neat back parlour, with his old father and mother sitting one on each side the snug fireplace; his sisters—in short, nobody was forgot, and Tom's castle was well filled with his friends. But he did not sit still to build his castles. On the contrary, he applied himself the more earnestly to his business. His heart was in his work; and when at last he had achieved the mighty feat of making an entire shoe, who so elated as Tom? The shoe was brought home to be shown and admired, and Hannah, in the pride of her heart, exclaimed, "Well, who would have thought lame Tom was half so clever?"

The young carpenter and blacksmith gave their meed of approbation; and the latter declared, that "although he had made many hundred shoes, yet none of them came up to Tom's." Before the year was out, Tom was become an expert workman. He was now to reap the fruits of his diligence, and to enter on his wages; and out of these he was to pay his parents for his board. What a consequential person now was Tom, living on his own means! He held his head so erect, that the neighbours said one to another, "Really, Tom Rayland is beginning to grow a little."

Tom, however, did not relax in his steady industrious habits. The only extravagance he allowed himself was the purchase of a canvass bag to hold his money, when he should get it. Quarter-day at last came; but Tom's ardour was a little checked: his master had not the money ready to pay him—he must wait till next quarter-day. But before that arrived, his master ran off, leaving the debt to poor Tom, with many others, unpaid.

Here was, indeed, a blow! For the last six months he had sat down to his dinner in the happy consciousness that he was earning his meals. But now he was as penniless as ever, and still dependent on the kindness of his friends. He entered the house just as the family were beginning to partake of their frugal meal; and his father, not perhaps understanding the state of Tom's feelings, said something on the subject of the loss of his wages, which Tom felt as a tacit reproach to himself for being still a burden on his parents. His heart rose in his throat; he could scarcely breathe, much less swallow; and getting up from table, he said he was not hungry, and would go into the workshop. In a short time he returned for his hat, which he had left in the room. His mother marked the extreme dejection of his countenance.—"Come, come," said she, "don't take on about the loss of your wages: thank God we are able to afford you your meals as before; so sit down and take a bit."

"I cannot eat, indeed, mother," he replied; "I never was less hungry in my life." She saw that his heart was full of grief, and urged him no more, and he went out of the house.

At the end of an hour, when he did not return, Hannah began to be uneasy, and asked some of her neighbours if they had

seen him; and was told that he had been seen on the road to Norwich, walking with hasty steps, with a bundle slung across a stick over his shoulder. The family were overwhelmed with grief and consternation at the news; and Joe, unable to bear the sight of his mother's sorrow, or, indeed, his own anxiety, exclaimed, "Don't grieve, mother; I'll set out after him and bring him back." And without waiting to put on his coat or his hat, he ran out of the house just as he was, in his working jacket and his paper cap upon his head. Tom had had so long a start, that though his most hasty steps were a snail's pace compared with Joe's rapid strides, still he had advanced above two miles before his brother came up with him; when the following conversation took place:—

"I say, Tom, what have you got your bundle for? and what is in your head now?" "I am going to Norwich." "To Norwich! and what are you to do there?" "To get work." "Get work! why you know nobody at Norwich. You can do nothing there. Come, come, you had better go back with me." "No, that I'll not do," said Tom courageously; "I'll beg my bread rather than go back home." "Why, how now! surely you have not taken offence at any of us. You don't fancy any one means unkindly to you?" "No, no; you are all kind and good to me—too good, and that is why I won't go home; I've been a burden at home long enough." "You wouldn't think so, Tom, if you saw how father frets; and mother is breaking her heart for you." Here Tom's voice faltered, but he recovered himself and replied, "Tell them not to fret about me; my courage is up, and I don't care for hardships; but give my duty to them, and tell 'em I shall think of them night and day, and pray God to bless them for all they have done for me. So now, don't keep me here any longer; my resolution is taken; I mean to be at Norwich to-night." "And how can you think to go so far, and you such a bad walker?" inquired Joe. "Never you mind," said Tom; "where there's a will there's a way. I shall take my time, and I shall get there sooner or later; so don't let that concern you." "Well, I wish I had not left home in this trim," answered Joe, "and had staid to put my hat on; and then I'd have gone with you to have seen you safe. And, what is worst, I've

not got a farthing of money with me; and I doubt you have none. But I've got five shillings in my box at home, which you shall have, if I can find how to get it to you. Now don't be going to say you don't want it, and won't have it; for I know you can't do without it, so you must have it. And I have just bethought me, I can send it by the guard of the coach to-morrow. So do you be at the Black Bull at Norwich when the coach comes in; and be sure and send us word back how you got on."

The brothers here parted, Joe, with a heavy heart, turned his steps homewards; and Tom, with a heart as heavy, pursued his way. The high courage with which he had been buoyed up began to sink, and when he had proceeded a few more miles, his strength sadly flagged, and he felt the effects of his long fast, and of the fatigue of the unaccustomed length of his walk. Still his resolution did not waver. He felt, though he did not so express it, that he had passed the Rubicon; and he continued to walk on, though with a slackened pace.

*Concluded in next No.*

#### OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY.

Did you ever notice, gentle reader, that the discontented and grumbling members of society are invariably those who are in such circumstances in life that they are not compelled to be industrious, in order to gain a livelihood? Persons who have little or nothing to do, are invariably uneasy or discontented, while the industrious have not time for such thoughts. Time glides to those who toil—it is the toiler's privilege. Heaven designed us all to work, each in his peculiar sphere, some with the hands, and some with the brain. There is not a man or a thing alive that has not tools to work with! Has not the spider a power-loom within his head?—and that most stupid of animated substances, the oyster, has a Papin's digester, with a stone-and-lime house to hold it in. Man is happy only when employed, for laziness begets vice, vice begets crime; then, who would not avoid laziness? Especially is an industrious spirit desirable in woman; life is so uncertain, the freaks of fortune so variable, that the young man who takes to his bosom a partner whose domestic habits and education have been averse to this essential requisite, to say the least of it, runs a fearful

risk. Yet how many there are wholly ignorant of the ordinary wants of life, or the means of supplying them!—how many that have been brought up to think it degrading to enter a kitchen, or to perform for themselves any necessary service! Let your children, good mothers—you who read these pages—be brought up endowed with both domestic knowledge and that of the schools; thus shall you plant and rear a flower for the circles of society which shall be equally valuable for its fragrance and its intrinsic worth.

#### RIDING IN A CIRCLE.

The Archbishop of Dublin tells us of a horseman who, having lost his way, made a complete circle. When the first round was finished, seeing the marks of a horse's hoofs, and never dreaming that they were those of his own beast, he rejoiced and said, "This, at least, shows me that I am in some track." When the second circuit was finished, the signs of travel were doubled, and he said "Now surely, I am in a beaten way;" and with the conclusion of every round the marks increased, till he was certain he must be in some frequented thoroughfare, and approaching a populous town; but all the while he was riding after his horse's tail, and deceived by the track of his own error. So it may be with great men.

#### MEANLINESS.

God made man, and designed him to be all that was noble, honorable, and good, and endowed him with faculties that he might become so. Opposed to these faculties, however, are those of the animal nature. A man can be a splendid animal, perfect as far as his physical development goes, but be entirely destitute of true manliness. It is only so far as he practices the virtues and cultivates the intellect—so far does he become a true man. To become a true man one must be self-sacrificing, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and plead the cause of the oppressed, and, if need be, lay down his life for his country. Any one to become this must begin in early life. It is shown in obedience to parents, strict regard for the truth, perfect honesty, conscientiousness in little things, kindness to animals, and liberality to the poor.

To be manly, a person must be afraid of *nothing*, except to do *wrong*. This is true manliness.

### News of the Week.

Tuesday, as a day of public Thanksgiving, was very generally observed in this city. All the Churches, we understand, were well attended; and the favorable state of the weather enabled many to avail themselves of the opportunity to indulge in out door exercises and amusements.

We learn from the Citizen that seven sailors belonging to H. M. S. Phaeton were seriously injured on Thursday last. The slings of the fore yard gave way, and the yard on which they were working at the time fell to the deck.

An Ordinance has been passed by the City Council, relative to Dogs. It ordains—that owners or keepers of dogs within the City are required to report to the City Clerk the name of each dog, in order that they may be registered; a tax of one dollar shall be annually paid for each dog; owners are required to affix a collar to every dog so taxed, with the name of the owner and registered number thereon; and that all dogs found at large after the 1st February next, without a collar, may be destroyed by any constable, peace officer or citizen.

On Thursday last ninety head of fat cattle were shipped on board the brig. Cupid, for Bermuda.

On Sunday evening last a man named James Foley was beaten nearly to death by an individual named James Burns. The latter was servant man with J. W. Ritchie, Esq., and the former with Mr. Hare. It seems that some time ago the man had a quarrel, and on Sunday, Foley met Burns and proposed to make friends. Foley was driving a waggon toward Mr. Hare's, and Burns got in, and when at Artz's corner the latter attacked the former, threw him from the waggon, bruised his head against the ground, jumped upon him, and lacerated his throat with his hands. Upon some persons approaching the spot, Burns ran away, and it was found that Foley lay upon the road in a state of insensibility and bleeding profusely. He was taken up and conveyed home, and at last accounts was in a precarious state. Burns was subsequently arrested and will be handed over to the Crown Officers. Burns says that he and Foley were fighting, and that he acted only in self-defence, but this story does not seem probable.—*Chron.*

A gale commenced in Charlottetown, P. E. I., on the morning of the 2nd, and continued 15 hours. Much damage was done to the shipping at the wharves, by vessels breaking from their moorings and driving against each other. The steamer Heather Bell got considerably damaged at the head of Reddin's wharf, no less than three vessels having drifted down on to her at one time. The iron steamer Regios Ferreos, which arrived there on the

1st inst., for a load of oats, drifted on to Prince Street wharf, but got off again without sustaining much damage, if any. Several vessels were driven ashore up the harbor. The weather has been very cold, and it is thought that, should it continue, dozens of vessels laden with produce, outward bound, will be frozen up in the different rivers.—*Id.*

Important gold discoveries, principally washings, are reported from Victoria, C.B.

Agents have been busy in St. John, procuring horses for the Federal Cavalry.

The Recorder of Saturday says that J. Parker, Esq. has obtained the Contract for supplying the Army and Navy with Fresh Beef, Mutton, &c., during the ensuing year, commencing from the 1st Jan.

The steamer Kedar arrived here on Saturday last, from Liverpool; G. B., bound to New York, in want of coal.—The steamer had 325 passengers, and was 16 days on the passage, and after coaling at Cunard's wharf, proceeded to her port of destination.

Accounts from the several gold diggings continue to be very satisfactory. A letter from Isaac's Harbour, of recent date, says the Newfoundland Company took out, in less than a fortnight, one hundred and thirty seven and one hundred and thirty two and a half ounces of gold,—the latter from sixteen and a half tons of quartz, or about eight and a half ounces per ton.

The Committee of the City Council on Mr. Spence's claim for damages, reported against granting any pecuniary remuneration.

About \$800 worth of gold was received last week by Mr. A. Forsyth, Sec'y of the Metropolitan Gold Mining Company, from the claims of the company at Sherbrooke.

The Morning News is informed that the Right Rev. Dr. Sweeney, R. C. Bishop of St. John, is making preparations for the erection of a Reformatory for the reclamation of those of the juvenile offenders against the laws who can claim connection with the denomination over which he presides.

The Chronicle says—we were shown yesterday three specimens of gold bearing quartz, obtained by the Atlantic Company, of Boston, from their property, on the Ferguson lead, Tangier.

A few days ago a family of (or company) of gypsies arrived in Yarmouth, it is said they have established their winter quarters, subsisting by fortune telling, and we presume, other gypsy practices, against which will be no harm for the community to be on its guard. The party (which is encamped about a mile from town) consists of a man, woman and four or five children.—*Herald.*

It is stated in the St. John papers that a number of gentlemen of different rank in the Confederate Army have recently

come from Quebec, via Woodstock, and have passed through St. John to Halifax.

The Quebec Mercury contains the following sad announcement: "The steamer Water Witch, a small propeller chartered by the Grand Trunk Railway, and which has been anxiously looked for some time, appears to have been blown up, and probably all hands on board, numbering over 20, have perished. There do not appear to have been any passengers on board."

### EUROPEAN NEWS.

New York, Dec. 1.—The steamship City of New York, from Liverpool, 18th, via Queenstown, 19th, arrived at 2 A. M.

The Russian ambassador has communicated Gortschakoff's reply, in substance that Russia will take part in the Congress, but not until after the pacification of Poland.

It is reported that Portugal has resolved to accept conditionally.

The Ducal Government of Gotha had recognized the hereditary Prince of Augustinberg as Duke of Schleswig Holstein, and called on the German Diet to maintain his against the Danish pretensions.

### TWO DAYS LATER.

St. John's, N. F., Dec. 5.—The steamship Columbia, from Galway, Nov. 25th, for New York, arrived here at 6 o'clock this evening.

The London Spectator announced, on first rate authority, that Earl Russell is to retire from the Cabinet, Lord Clarendon being his successor. No other journal confirms the rumor, and the Herald, which is the only journal that notices it, says it cannot trace the report to any reliable source.

The Government has decided to stop the steamer Pampero on the Clyde. Her owners allege that she differs little, if at all, from numerous merchant ships regularly fitted out on the Clyde, but the authorities are not satisfied with this. They had moored a gunboat close to the Pampero, to prevent her escape.

THE CONGRESS.—The Memoria Diplomatique says 15 of the 20 powers invited to the Congress have replied in the affirmative.

The same journal says the French Government, in reply to England's application for a programme, had replied that without trenching upon the prerogative of Congress, it was impossible for the Emperor to lay down the preliminaries, but when the replies are all received the Emperor will hasten to afford all the explanation in his power.

The Patrie publishes a statement, under reserve, that the Emperor without wishing to draw up a programme for the Congress, has expressed an opinion that it should be chiefly occupied with con-

sidering the questions of Poland, Germany, the Duchies, Rome and Venice.

Reforms are to be introduced in the Principalities of Romania.

The Paris correspondent of the London Times asserts, that the believers in the Congress grow fewer every day.

**DENMARK AND GERMANY.**—Active warlike preparations are being made in Denmark. Eleven thousand soldiers had been called out and six war vessels are being fitted out.

All hostile officials have received an order from Copenhagen to take the oath of allegiance to the new King of Denmark. Large numbers refused to do so.

Prince Frederick, of Augustenburg, has given notice of his assumption of the Dukedom of Schleswig-Holstein to all the Germanic Governments. A large meeting was also held at Hanover on the same day to urge the enforcement of the Federal Constitution at once in Schleswig-Holstein.

**POLAND.**—Affairs remain unchanged. Numerous arrests continued to be made in Warsaw.

The other Continental news is unimportant.

#### Latest by Telegraph to Galway.

The London Morning Post says there is no truth whatever in the reported resignation of Earl Russell.

The same journal announces that the English Government is, we regret, about to decline to give adherence to the proposed Congress. The purpose of the Emperor is regarded with admiration, but the means proposed are not considered effective.

It was reported at Madrid that two American ships with arms for the St. Domingo insurgents, had been destroyed by a Spanish vessel off that Island.

The German and Polish questions still looked threatening. The Polish insurgents continue active.

The arguments in the Alexandra case have been concluded. The Court will take time to consider its judgment.

### AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE.

By Telegraph to Morning & Evening Papers.

St. John, Dec. 3.—News from the army of Potomac states that no General engagement had occurred up to that time. The field is 40 miles from Rappahannock station, both armies are confronting each other, Lee being protected by entrenchments.

Chattanooga despatches report the campaign against Bragg as closed. Hooker evacuated Ringold, first destroying the railroad to Chickamauga mills, depots, etc. The total number of the prisoners will reach 7000. The mountains are filled with Kentucky and Tennessee deserters.

Bragg with a skeleton of an army is retreating Southward.

Scouts report that large cavalry force, supposed to be the flanking column of Longstreet's main body, are advancing on Maynardsville.

General Banks reports that on the 18th Nov. he was in occupation of Brasher's Island, Fort Isabella, and Brownsville, and that his most sanguine expectations were more than realized.

Three revolutions occurred in Mattamoras respecting the government of Tamalipas.—Everything now favorable.

Gen. Stone took Avangos city, 100 prisoners, and 3 guns.

Guccrillas are again troublesome on the Mississippi, erecting a battery below Vicksburg and firing into steamers.

Wheeler repulsed at Kingston on the 25th and retired towards Knoxville. This probably originated the report of the capture of Wheeler's division.

Dec. 4.—Campaign in Virginia closed.

The army of the Potomac in consequence of the strong position of Gen. Lee on Mine river, and the difficulty of supplying the army over bad roads, the intense cold, and other prudential reasons, have retrograded to their old base along the Orange and Alexandria railroad, Branly station, and Rappahannock bridge.—The movement was made in safety with interference by Confederates. The whole loss in the advance is 700, in killed, wounded, &c.—Meade will probably be superceded.

Burnside routed Longstreet in his attack last Sunday. Gen. Foster left Cumberland Gap to intercept Longstreet's retreat, which must require over 100 miles to connect with Railroad to Richmond.

Evening.—Longstreet's loss in Sunday assault on Burnside's works, is stated at about seven hundred in killed, wounded and prisoners. Union loss small.

Deserters and citizens report that General John C. Breckenridge died of wounds received at Ringold. His son and cousins are prisoners.

Dec. 5.—The bombardment of Fort Sumter ceased, and attention has been turned to the other forts in the harbor.

Refugees from St. John's River, Florida, represent the people of that state to be in a starving condition.

Secretary Chase, without further legislation has at his command eleven hundred million dollars.

Charleston advices to Thursday report that Gilmore is throwing about 20 shells per day into the city, causing considerable damage. The inhabitants are being removed to the rear of the city.

Evening.—Fighting between Foster's and Longstreet's cavalry. In attempting to cross Clinch river, the Federals were repulsed with fifty loss, but captured four guns.

Refugees report reign of terror in Southern Georgia. General conscription of men and supplies,—citizens escaped

to mountains. Hardee relieved Bragg and endeavouring to patch up shattered army to resume the offensive.

Dec. 7.—Herald's despatch says that the loss of Army of Potomac in recent campaign will reach thirteen hundred.

Letters from Gen. Banks, officers report large quantities of cotton being discovered daily by reconnoitring parties, and preponderating sentiment where army has traversed represented Union.

Hooker's battle at Ringold was a hardly contested one.

Breckenridge's death further affirmed.

Particulars of the fight before Knoxville represent it to have been a most desperate and bloody assault by Longstreet's veterans. Not twenty of the storming party on Fort Saunders escaped.

Richmond Examiner, in deploring the reverses in East Tennessee, is gratified in the magical spring up of Confederate army in West Tennessee to relieve that locality, West Kentucky and Northern Mississippi.

Little Rock papers mention Union developments on considerable scale in Arkansas—a convention representing twenty counties in West Arkansas voted that Arkansas be declared a free state after the war.

Guccrillas were troubling Mississippi navigation.

Dec. 8.—A despatch from Chattanooga says that Sherman's cavalry reached Knoxville on the 3rd inst, and that Longstreet raised the siege on the 4th, retreating toward Bristol, along both banks of the Holston river. Eoster's cavalry pursuing vigorously along the South, and Sherman's along the North side of the river. Longstreet had thereby 36 hours of the start. Foster engaged the Confederates in a pass of Clinch mountains.

President Lincoln recommends public thanks giving for the safety of East Tennessee.

A despatch from Cairo say a report from Columbus, Kentucky, states that 3,000 Confederates are advancing on Mayfield, Ky.

An arrival from Port Royal reports, in passing Charleston, no cannonading, but dense smoke, visible over the city.

Gen. Grant captured since the war began 472 cannon, and 90,000 prisoners.

Collax elected Speaker of the House.

Dec. 9.—Despatch to the New York Times says that rumor last night represented Lee's whole arm on the north side of the Rapidan and it was believed that a portion of Longstreet's army has reinforced it.

A despatch to the New York Herald says, that Lee is putting his army into winter quarters, on the south side of the Rapidan.

New Orleans advices report Gen. Washburn moving in the direction of Mabagorda, with every prospect of capturing it.

## SKATING.

It is winter now, and I can see from my window the smooth ice sheeting the face of the bay, as if to say to the ships, You have had your day, now let these waters be quiet. A great warm cloak for the waves is this sheet of ice, and, without it, I hardly know what would become of the thousands and thousands of fishes who live in the dark water depths. When the winds blow, and the waves curl and dash about, so that no ice can form, the water is far colder; and then you can never catch fish

But these great ice-sheets are useful in another way, too. In very cold countries, such as Lapland and parts of Sweden and Russia, the smooth ice on the rivers and lakes serves as a road, which is better, in its way, than our plank-roads, and almost as good as a railroad. Sledges fly over it with gaily ringing bells; ice-boats dash from side to side like the wind; and women go to market with their eggs and frozen milk, and men perform very long journeys, indeed, on skates.

In America, people do not travel on skates. Even in Canada, where it is far colder than here, they have railroads and sleighs, which are more convenient than skates, as vehicles for travel. But here, as in Europe, skating is a favorite amusement for men and boys. I do not know of any pastime that is more healthful and pleasant; and if you have never skated, I advise you by all means to learn.

The first thing to be decided is the form of skate to be worn. The Dutch and Laplanders wear very long skates, which project a foot or so beyond the foot, and curl up half way to the knee; the object of this great size being to help the skaters over the lumps of ice and snow which they may meet on their way. Here, in the United States, we use a much smaller skate, either of wood or of iron. The iron skate is made with a spring, and is a pretty contrivance; some people prefer it to any other. For my own part, I like the wooden skate, with a blade about a quarter of an inch thick, and three-quarters of an inch high, and no longer than the foot. It should have a screw in the heel, to screw to the boot of the skater; and one long strap, passing through two slits in the wooden part

of the skate. If you can skate already, a fluted skate will answer best; but for beginners the plain skate is safer.

When you have got your skates, and are upon the ice, take the strap out altogether, and screw each skate to your boot. You will find a strong, heavy laced boot the best, as the strain upon the ankle is severe. Screw the skate as long as it will turn; then fasten your strap firmly but not too tightly. Some people use a heel strap, but if the screw be good, and the boot-heel sound, this is not needed.

Your skates secure, stand upright; and, leaning slightly forward, strike out with each foot alternately. You will find a stick a great help to you, if you hold it in both hands. At first you will find that your feet travel a great deal faster than your body, and the consequence will be that you will come down with a heavy bump. This is the fate of all beginners. Be careful to laugh louder than any one else when you fall, and go ahead. A good way of learning confidence is to get some friend who can skate to take you in tow, and scud over the ice. But without this you will soon learn that it is, in reality, very easy to balance your body on your skates. By leaning forward and to the side on which you are striking out, you will rarely lose your centre of gravity; and the quicker you go, the steadier you will be.

If you have a long river to skate on, straight traveling is good exercise. You will be surprised yourself at the rate at which you can travel. Good skaters can keep up with a fleet horse; in the north of Europe, men sometimes skate fifty and sixty miles in a day. I have heard of much longer distances being traveled on skates. But these long journeys cannot often be made, from the rarity of long smooth sheets of ice.

If you skate on a lake or pond, you will learn to perform the various skating figures. First, you must acquire the art of skating backward, which seems much harder to do than it really is. You have only to lean the body backward instead of forward, and kick out each foot alternately, and the rest will come naturally. Then, you will learn to describe circles, backward and forward, with one foot; to do "the outer edge," to make all sorts of flourishes on the ice. Some good

skaters can write their names on the ice with their skates; others can draw a figure of a cow, a horse, a dog, or a human face. These accomplishments require long practice. I have danced a quadrille on skates, each figure being performed much more carefully than is done in drawing-rooms at balls. This recollection reminds me that skating is good exercise for ladies as well as boys or men. I wish it were more common. I have seen many ladies skate admirably in America, and I am sure they never looked prettier than when they were whirling over the ice, like snow-fairies.

There are a few rules which you will do well to bear in mind in skating. After you have been on the ice some time, sit down and look to your skates: the screws and straps sometimes get loose and require tightening. Always look a long way ahead in skating. A stone, a nail, or even a hard snowdrift may cause you a heavy fall. If the ice cracks under you, keep cool, and skate gently away. If it breaks, spread your arms out as widely as possible, and do not scramble violently to climb the edge, for it is sure to break with your weight. You must keep your head above water, and wait till your friends throw you a rope or plank. Always wear warm flannels next the skin in skating; and when you take your skates off, put on a warm great-coat. Many boys have died of cold caught while skating.—*New York Periodical.*

## SPELLING THE DICTIONARY.

One teacher who wielded the hickory sceptre awhile in the old brown school-house on the corner, where the rudiments of learning were worked into my head, had a daily exercise in spelling somewhat out of the common course. Each member of our class selected from the dictionary any word he pleased, taking care to learn both how to spell it and how to define it. At the close of the ordinary spelling lesson, the scholar who stood at the head of the class spelled the word he had selected, and then the next below gave the definition of it, if he could.— If he could not, the word was passed down farther, till it came to some one able to tell its meaning. Whoever did this took his place in the class above as many as had failed. Then the second from the head spelled his word, and

the definition of it was called for along down the line in a similar manner. And so on till all had given out their selections.

That was not a bad plan, was it?—Many a worse thing may be done in school than learning the dictionary.—Have you never heard how Daniel Webster answered one who inquired in what way he could become skillful and fluent in the use of language? “Read dictionaries,” said he; “I read dictionaries.” Are such books too dry to read, think you? There is great benefit in reading them, nevertheless; I know that from my own experience. Anybody might know as much from his own common sense. Why, just think a minute. A good English Dictionary, for instance, contains all the words in our language, together with an exhibition of their meaning and use. What readier way, then, can one take, to form an acquaintance with our language, and to gain a full command of it, than to study the dictionary, and transfer its treasures to the mind?

This, though, is not what I set out to say, exactly. I had in mind a little incident connected with our spelling and defining, that amused us prodigiously one day. A certain scholar, remarkable for nothing in particular, except for a quantity of sense a little less than common, when his turn came to deliver the word he had selected, roared out with considerable vigor, “*b-u-t, but.*” Instantly we all put on a broad grin, and turned our eyes to the teacher to see what turn affairs would take. We had to wait but a short time for that. Mr. Brownjohn soon began, as usual, to call for the definition of the word. I suspect he did so just for form’s sake. If he really thought we could give the meaning of such a word as *but*, he must have had a pretty high opinion of our abilities, or, at least, of our acquaintance with the niceties of language. Had we thought of it, we might, indeed, have referred to Noah Webster’s famous old spelling-book, where, next to “*butt, a barrel,*” stood “*but, except.*” In fact, however, none of us thought of it; nor would that account of the matter have thrown much light into our minds, had some one chanced to have refreshed our memories with it.

Down went the word along the class, one frankly owning that he could tell nothing about it, and another shaking his head in sign of ignorance; till at length a fellow who stood away toward the foot, began to show symptoms of having caught the idea. His eye twinkled, a smile of satisfaction beamed in his face, and he stood with one foot advanced, ready for a movement along up the line. His whole look and manner thus declared to us, about as plainly as his tongue could, “Ah! now I have it.” He seemed impatient to deliver himself, and the instant his turn came he sounded out boldly—“*but end of a log;*” and before the word was fairly out of his mouth, he made a spring for a considerably higher place in the class. Mr. Brownjohn gave him a check, however, and told him that his definition of the word would hardly do. If we had not then a hearty laugh all round, then we never had one in that old brown school-house.

“Did not that fellow pass among his companions for a genius?” I rather think not. I never heard anything of the kind. If I remember right, we considered him remarkable for nothing but this: he had a way, both in speaking and in reading, of putting what we called a *hook* on to the end of a word; as, for example, “All men think all men mortal but themselves—*eh.*” It may be, though, that he had genius, and that it began to bud on that very day when that little incident happened. At any rate, I know that he grew to something afterward. Only three or four of those who attended our school at that time ever got a liberal education; and he was one of them.

After leaving college, he worked himself up in the world to—I can’t tell you where. The last time I heard of him, which was several years ago, he was labouring as a teacher in a high-school.—You see there is no telling beforehand what a boy will make. Sometimes dull scholars, and those who are despised and laughed at, yet wake up and outstrip their fellows, and come to shine as lights in the world.

#### SNAKE CHARMING.

Our incredulity on this subject was entirely put to flight not long since. While riding on the post road between

Tower Hill and Kingston, England, our attention was suddenly attracted by the fluttering of a robin, which appeared to try “each fond endearment,” to distract the attention of something. Looking over the wall, the mystery was solved at once. About a rod from the first bird in such distress, raised, a foot or more above the grass, we saw the head of an enormous black snake. His “arrowy tongue” was flickering back and forth—his head waved gently to and fro, and all the time his basilisk eyes glittering like little diamonds with their fatal fascination. The other robin hovered over him, flying round and round in a circle, and drawing nearer and nearer, every stroke of its wing, to open destruction. Our astonishment was broken by the still piping of the mate, endeavoring to break the spell, and not without some reluctance did we interrupt the scene. The bird, joined by its faithful companion, sprang away like Noah’s dove, while his snakeship, angry and sullen, crawled away to look for some ignoble game.

#### INFLUENCE OF TREES UPON CLIMATE.

Joachim Frederic Sahouw, Professor of Botany at Copenhagen, speaks as follows of the influence of forests upon the atmosphere: “We find the most evident signs of it in the torrid zone. The forests increase the rain and moisture, and produce springs and running streams. Tracts destitute of woods become very strongly heated, the air above them ascends perpendicularly, and thus prevents the clouds from sinking, and the constant winds (trade winds or monsoons), where they can blow uninterruptedly over large surfaces, do not allow the transition of vapors into the form of drops. In the forests, on the contrary, the clothed soil does not become so heated, and, besides the evaporation from the trees, favors cooling; therefore, when the currents of air loaded with vapors reach the forests, they meet with that which condenses them and change into rain. Since, moreover, evaporation of the earth goes on more slowly beneath the trees, and since these also evaporate very copiously in a hot climate, the atmosphere in those forests has a high degree of humidity, this great humidity at the same time producing many springs and streams.



For the Weekly Miscellany.

## NIGHT.

"Tis night—the winds are whistling drear,  
No mother's gentle voice I hear;  
Long since she's passed from earth away,  
We trust to realms of endless day.

"Tis night—and while the murmuring  
breeze  
Is rattling through yon lofty trees,  
How often am I led to moan  
To feel that I am all alone.

"Tis night—the moon is shining clear;  
The silvery clouds beneath appear;  
But yet my bosom heaves the sigh,  
To feel no earthly friend is nigh.

"Tis night—but yet from Heaven above  
God sends some tokens of His love,—  
He gives us day, and gives us night,  
And all those glorious orbs of light.

"Tis night—we hear the ocean roar,  
Glad tidings spread from shore to shore;  
We hear from friends, where'er they be,  
In distant lands beyond the sea.

"Tis night—and all is lonely here;  
But yet, my brother, do not fear:  
There is a land all fair and bright,  
Beyond those gloomy shades of night.

"Tis night—deep anguish fills the soul,  
Waves after waves of sorrow roll;  
May some kind spirit speed our flight  
To yon bright realms of endless light.

"Tis night—but hark! I hear a voice  
That bids the aching heart rejoice;  
It says, while o'er the earth we roam,  
Child your Father calls you home.

"Tis night—but soon the day will break;  
The child of God shall then awake,—  
And all who feel their sins forgiven  
Shall sleep in Death, and rest in Heaven.

Lower Canning, Dec. 4, 1863.

## WINTER.

Who does not love the winter,  
When all on earth below,  
The houses, streams, the trees and rocks,  
Are covered o'er with snow—  
When all is fair which once was bare,  
And all is bright and gay,  
When down the hillside rush the sleds  
Nor stop till far away?

And then the noise of all the boys,  
When snow-balls fly around—  
The snow-king in the meadow-field,  
With icy jewels crowned—  
And sparkling as the purest gold,  
The sceptre in his hand,  
While icy courtiers, grim and still,  
Await his high command.

And then when evening closes in,  
Around the household hearth  
We love to sit, while jokes pass round,  
And all is joy and mirth.

And then recount, with ready tongues,  
The mishaps of the day,  
Of plunges in the deep snow-drifts  
When at our joyous play.

And though the Spring may boast its  
flowers,  
And all its green-clad trees;  
Though Summer with its healthy showers,  
Brings many a cooling breeze;  
And though in Autumn with the crops  
Of grain and fruit we're blest,  
Yet still I cannot help but say,  
I love the Winter best.

## MENTAL RECREATIONS.

SOLUTIONS OF QUESTIONS IN LAST NO.

Enigma.—TIME.

Charade.—StILO; ExcEL; VerONa;  
IlmeN; LimbuRG; LeE; EmS.—SE-  
VILLE; ORANGES.

Arithmetical Question.—The number  
of Oxen bought would be 16.

## VARIETIES.

The net income of the Prince and  
Princess of Wales (whose town residence  
is freehold) is £304. 2s. 2d. a-day.

In Pekin, a weekly newspaper of ex-  
traordinary dimensions is published on  
silk. It is said to have been started  
more than a thousand years.

The memory of good and worthy ac-  
tions gives a quicker relish to the soul  
than it could ever possibly take in the  
highest enjoyment of youth.

"Boy, what is your name?"—"Ro-  
bert, sir."—"Yes, that is your Chris-  
tian name; but what is your other  
name?"—"Bob, sir."

The great condition of all pure enjoy-  
ment is to have the heart free from every  
root of bitterness, every feeling of envy  
and discontent.

"You don't look a-miss," as the young  
lady said to her beau when he had got  
her bonnet on.

On hearing a clergyman remark, "the  
world is full of change," Mrs. Partington  
said she could hardly bring her mind to  
believe it, so little found its way into her  
pocket.

Why is the letter "o" the most chari-  
table letter?—Because it is found often-  
er than any other in "doing good."

"Come, go to bed, Eddie," said an  
anxious aunt; "you see the sun has set  
and the little chickens all go to roost at  
that time."—"Yes, aunty," said Edwin;  
"but the old hen goes with them."

"Your horse seems to make faces at  
having that thing put into his mouth,"  
said a youngster who saw Mr. Cummings  
put his bridle on his horse after feeding  
him. "Oh, no," said Mr. Cummings,  
"he doesn't mind it a-bit."

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.—St. John,  
Dec. 9. Gen. T. Francis Meagher visit-  
ing the army in citizens dress is reported  
to have been captured in a recent engage-  
ment, and is now in the hands of the  
Confederates.

Impression prevails at Washington  
that army of Potomac will hibernate on  
the line of the Orange and Alexandria  
railroad, some distance this side of the  
Rappahannock.

The Secretary of the Treasury's esti-  
mate for the present fiscal year is eight  
hundred and two millions.

Dec. 9.—The Steamer Chesapeake,  
plying between Portland and New York,  
was seized on Monday evening off Cape  
Cod, by sixteen Southerners, who had  
taken passage at New York. The se-  
cond engineer was killed and the mate  
wounded, and the crew, numbering six-  
teen, and six passengers, were landed  
here, (St. John, N. B.) this morning by  
a pilot boat. The Chesapeake came too  
off Partridge Island about midnight, and  
sailed soon after. She is commanded by  
a Mr. Braine, and the second in command  
is Lieut. Parr, one of Morgan's men.  
The ship and cargo is valued at \$180,000.

Evening. Times despatch says Gen.  
French will be relieved of command, and  
to be court martialed on charges connect-  
ed with abortive affair at Nine River.

It is generally credited that Gen. Plea-  
santon will relieve Meade in command of  
Army of Potomac.

Richmond Enquirer has despatch that  
Gen. Johnston has been ordered to per-  
manent command of Bragg's army.

Reported that President's message con-  
siders the Emancipation Proclamation a  
fixed fact; he will not adopt any policy  
which fails to give the slave vested right  
in himself.

St. Louis Republican's Vicksburg cor-  
respondent says Gen. Polk has been or-  
dered to command in Confederate depart-  
ment of Southern Mississippi, with head-  
quarters at Brandon.

Gov. Bramlett, of Kentucky, pledges  
the entire service of State for defence of  
the Government. He coincides that Sla-  
very is not essential to life of State or  
Nation, but the Union is.

Richmond Whig calls on President  
Davis to reconstruct his Cabinet with  
best materials in Confederacy. It says:  
"We are getting to deep water and a feel-  
ing of dread is shaking the souls of the  
people." It admits the sorely necessitous  
and exigent condition of the Confederacy.

Vote of thanks by Congress to be engrossed  
on parchment, to present, with medals,  
to Gen. Grant, in the name of the people  
of the United States.

Revenue from internal sources falls be-  
low sixty millions. The Secretary of the  
Treasury recommends increased taxation  
on whiskey and tobacco.