

SABBATH READING.

"Swear not at all."

Passing up from Mobile for Montgomery by one of the steamers on the Alabama river some time since, the water was low and the sand bars obstructed the navigation so as to demand frequent resort to the peculiar expedients by which boats are forced over them. A score of negroes were put to the assistance of the boatmen in the gainly craft, propelled by steam, muscle and oars. The captain and mate applied the oar-power, and ears that had been stung by English, French, German, and Italian blasphemy, never listened to utterances so wickedly profane as were poured forth by the captain of that boat.

Awaiting an opportunity when Captain was on the upper deck disengaged, I remonstrated kindly but firmly against such profanity as was going to his men, a disreputable and unchristianlike proceeding.

It happened that he was a native of the State of Maine, and that he had been all his life an early convert to the Christian faith, and that he was in this trifling with the name and authority of God. Availing myself of this opportunity, I sought to convince him of the futility of his practice. He refused, however, to the necessities of the case and the difficulties of the service as a sort of justification.

I replied that I had crossed the Atlantic with the captain of the steamship "Asia," without hearing a profane word from captain, officers, crew or passengers; and that the captain on being recommended for this remarkable state of facts, replied, that he did not use profane language neither did he suffer his crew.

"Oh," said my Alabama captain, "that's nothing; the navigation of the Atlantic is a trifle to that of the Alabama river."

After correcting his notions on this point by relating the incidents of a thirty years' life, as seen through the eyes of the captain of the "Asia," I rejoined, "Perhaps, captain, you have a new version of the Scripture, suited to your particular latitude; and the third precept of your decalogue reads, 'Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain—except on the Alabama river.'"

Such an Alabama version of the Bible seems to have made its way into very common use of late. In the army and the navy, at recruiting stations, and at camps of instruction, in the bar-rooms, and public conveyances—everywhere the ear is greeted with imprecations and oaths so blasphemous as to curdle the veins of one accustomed only to reverent speech. The practice admits of no justification or excuse.

1. It has not the approval of a motive or temptation. Most sins proffer some gratification of the senses or some habit of advantage, but the profane swearer secures no pleasure, gains no respect, even from his wicked companions, exerts no influence, exercises no authority by interlarding his speech or supplementing his commands with an irreverent appeal to the divine Being. As some quaint writer says, "The devil catches men with a bare hook when prompting them to profanity." But,

2. It is acting directly in the face of all motive by which self-respecting men are influenced, to indulge in profane oaths—All men desire the approval of their fellows. We have the authority of Washington for saying that "the foolish and wicked practice of profane cursing and swearing is a voice so low and mean, that every man of sense and character detests and despises it." Military officers are supposed to be ambitious to secure the respect and obedience of their commands; but no man can or does respect one who fails in self-respect, or who wantonly outrages the acknowledged principles of public morality. A known thief is shunned and despised. Where is it proclaimed that disregard of the rights of property is more dishonorable than contempt for the divine name?

3. The use of profane language is strictly forbidden by the "Articles of War," and punishable by court-martial, as it is forbidden by the laws of every state of the Union, and of all civilized countries. A lax state of public morals may prevent the enforcement of penalties for this crime, but it is a crime against military discipline and against society. On what principle can one in authority over his fellows expect subordination and discipline when setting the example of habitual disregard for a wholesome military and civil statute? And how can he employ his very profanity as an instrument of discipline, with the consciousness of inconsistency and wrong doing?

4. The very fact of profane cursing and swearing is a renunciation of dependence on the Being whose aid alone gives success to our arms. A soldier may better set fire to his magazine, or spike his cannon on the eve of battle, than wantonly cast off the support of him with whom are the issues of the conflict. Every soldier who will live itself, for any and all the combatants, brings it. It is the very thought that Washington urged on the officers and men of the Revolutionary army, when, dissuading them from the use of profane language, he wished them to "reflect that we can have little help from the blessing of God, unless we are insured by our impiety and folly."

And what is true of the soldier may be said of all others. The way of cursing is not the way of blessing. Irreverent speech leads to universal irreverence and godlessness. Contempt for the third commandment leads to disrespect for the fourth or fifth, and all other precepts of the great law of love and so the judgments and penalties inseparably connected, with the violation of the commandments of God. Every swearer invites or appreciates these judgments on his own or on another's head. They will be visited at least on his head who invokes them. Every man who will live itself, for any and all the combatants, brings it. It is the very thought that Washington urged on the officers and men of the Revolutionary army, when, dissuading them from the use of profane language, he wished them to "reflect that we can have little help from the blessing of God, unless we are insured by our impiety and folly."

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MISCELLANEOUS.

The Barometer as an Indicator of the Weather.

Messrs. EYRE & Dr. Comstock, in his "System of Natural Philosophy, designed for the use of Schools and Academies," says:—
"The following indications of the weather, may be depended on as correct, being tested by the observations of the author:—
"1. In calm weather, when the wind, clouds or sun, indicate approaching rain, the mercury in the barometer is low.
"2. In serene, fine, settled weather, the mercury is high, and often remains so for days.
"3. Before great winds and during their continuance, from whatever quarter they come, the mercury sinks lowest, and especially if they come from the south.
"4. During the coldest, clear days, when a gentle wind from the north or west prevails, the mercury stands highest.
"5. After great storms, when the mercury has been lowest, it rises most rapidly.
"6. It often requires considerable time for the mercury to gain its wonted elevation after a storm; and, on the contrary, it sometimes rains without the usual corresponding change in its altitude.
"7. In general, whether there are any appearances of change in the horizons or not, we may prognosticate rain whenever the mercury sinks during the forenoon.
"8. When it rains with the mercury high, we may be sure that it will soon be fair."
I also find an article copied from *Chambers' Journal*, as follows:—
"Many private persons consult the barometer, and even set it daily, and are surprised to find that they cannot rely on its indications, especially on those of the unscientific wheel barometer, with a face like an underdone cock. The fault, however, is not with the instrument, but with those who use it improperly. 'The apparatus,' as Salem Selden observes, 'can't lie. A few words on the practical use of the weather-glass may be found useful. It is an invaluable fact, and too often overlooked, that the state of the air does not show the present, but coming weather; and that the longer the interval between the barometric signs of change and the change itself, the longer and more strongly will the altered weather prevail; so the more violent an impending storm, the longer warning does it give of its approach. Indications of approaching change of weather are shown less by the height of the barometer, than by the rising or falling. Thus, though the barometer begins to rise considerably before the conclusion of a gale, and foretells an improvement in the weather, the mercury may still stand low. Nevertheless, a steady height of 30 inches is mostly indicative of fine weather and moderate wind. Either steadiness or gradual rising of the mercury, indicates settled weather, and continued steadiness and dryness, foretells very fine weather."
The Essex Record says a couple of enterprising geniuses have recently established themselves in business near the Town Hall. One of them places a twenty-five cent piece upon a piece of wood like a skittle pin, which stands in the middle of the room, and for the small sum of five cents the public are allowed to throw three other pins at it, with the promise that if the twenty-five cent piece is knocked out of the ring it becomes the property of the lucky man. The chances are about ninety to one against the player. The other one has a piece of board about eighteen inches square, studded with nails about three inches apart. The operator throws five iron rings, for every one of which he puts upon a nail he receives ten cents; but the chances here also are very small. Yet many are found ready their shillings in the speculation.

Our Homes.

What a rich blessing is a happy home. Alas! how often we forget to thank our Father in heaven for the comfort and peace we experience there. In our approaches to the throne of grace, our common every-day blessings are apt to be lost sight of; we regard them to much as things of course and not as the kind gifts in the happiness of his children. Surely the quiet enjoyment of domestic comfort demanded thanksgiving. It is a wise and precious arrangement of Providence that the light of earthy love does so much to illumine our pathway through this life of sin and trial. It matters not how dark, wide, and cheerless the great world about us sometimes appears, if only one hallowed spot be ours, to which the surcharged heart can confidently turn for sympathy and love. How surely and sweetly is grief soothed, and grief robbed of half its weight, when shared by those we love. Then let us prize these earthly homes; let us guard them as something sacred. We who are wives and mothers, should pray God to grant his grace to make them what he designs they shall be—spots of heaven. Much as we love them now, let us strive to love them more. Let us ask of God strength and wisdom to enable us to exercise an elevating and refining influence upon all who share our fraternal privileges and joys. Could we but awaken to a deeper sense of the mighty trust reposed in us, as the stars in our domestic circles, then would our influence go out from Christian homes broad as the world, and ever widening and deepening throughout the cycles of eternity.

Strong Character.

Strength of character consists of two things: power of will, and power of self-restraint. It requires two things, therefore, to give us a strong character, a strong command over them. Now it is here we make the great mistake; we make strong feelings for strong character. A man who bears all before him, before whose frowns domestic trouble, and whose bursts of fury make the household quake, because he will let his own will be his own will in all his actions, we call him a "strong man." The truth is he is the weak man, his passions are strong, he, mastered by them is weak. You must measure the strength of a man by the power of feeling he subdues, not by the power of those which subdue him. And hence compare the very often the highest degree of strength. Did we never see a man receive a flagrant insult, and only grow a little pale, and then reply quietly? That is a man spiritually strong. Or did we ever see a man in anguish stand as if carved out of a solid rock, mastering himself? Or one bearing a hopeless daily trial remain silent, and never let the world what canker his mind? That is strength. He who, with strong passions, remains chaste; who, keenly sensitive, with manly powers of indignation in him, can be provoked and yet restrain himself and forgive—these are the strong men.

We are building a soul house for eternity.

We are building a soul house for eternity, yet with what different architecture and what various care? What if a man should see his neighbor getting workmen and building materials together, and should say to him, "What are you building?" and he should answer, "I don't exactly know. I am waiting to see what shall become of it." And so will the man who is added to room, while the man looks idly on, and all the bystanders exclaim, "What a fool he is!" Yet this is the way many men are building their characters for eternity, adding room to room without plan or aim, and thoughtlessly see what the effect will be. Such builders will never dwell in the house of God, many men build as cathedrals were built, part nearest the ground finished; but that part which soars towards heaven, the towers and the spires forever incomplete. A kitchen, a cellar, a bar, and a bedroom; these are the whole of some men, the only apartments in their soul house, and the only merchandise—the head, the heart, are staffed with goods. Like those houses in the lower streets of the city which were once family dwellings, but are now used for commercial purposes, there are apartments in their souls which were once tenanted by taste and love and joy, and worship, but they are all deserted now, and the rooms are filled with earthly, and material things.

What if the leaves were to fall a-wooping, and say, "It will be so painful for us to be pulled from our stalks when autumn comes?" Foolish fears, autumn goes and summer succeeds. The glory of death is upon the leaves; and the gentle breeze that blows takes them softly and silently from the bough, and they float slowly down like fiery sparks upon the moss.

It is hard to die when the time is not ripe. When it is it will be easy. We need not die while we are living. Heaven will be inherited by every man who has heaven in his soul. "The kingdom of God is within you." Some men spend their lives in picking off dead leaves from the tree of their being. They think they are growing better because they saw and then take their will, like pruning knives to cut off this and that bough. They imagine they are self-donating because they dust themselves over with unpleasant sulphur; but all the while they never go to the root where the worm of selfishness is working. All true ambition and aspirations are with-out comparisons.

The Learned.

By the list which we published in our issue of the 21st inst., it appears that of the candidates for the office of professional men, who were admitted to study—made a total of 100 for one term. It is a matter of great interest to our community, that the number of our professional men, who are admitted to study, is so large. It is a matter of great interest to our community, that the number of our professional men, who are admitted to study, is so large. It is a matter of great interest to our community, that the number of our professional men, who are admitted to study, is so large.

Admaston Council.

The Municipal Council of the Township of Admaston assembled in the Town Hall the 3rd of August pursuant to adjournment. Present, Messrs. Gorman, Brown and Cardiff, councillors, and the Reeve in the chair. The minutes of the preceding meeting of council were read, approved, and signed by the Reeve. A petition from the Trustees of school section No. 1, praying that the township collector be instructed the balance of taxes due the said school section for 1862, be assessed on the rateable property in the said school section, and collected by the Township Collector for the purpose of liquidating the liabilities of the said school section for the present year. Another petition from the said Trustees, requiring the council to cause \$144 to be assessed on the rateable property in the said school section, and collected by the Township Collector for the purpose of liquidating the liabilities of the said school section for the present year. A letter from the Treasurer of the Provisional Council requiring the county tax to be paid into his hands within one month. A letter from the clerk of the Provisional Council instructing that the said council requires this Township to collect \$536.23 on the Provisional County tax for the current year. A letter from the Asst. Commissioner of Crown Lands in reference to the Land Improvement fund. An account from James Poole, editor of the *Carleton Place Herald* for publishing the minutes of Council Meetings, &c. A report of the survey of a road by the Township Surveyor. Mr. Gorman moved, seconded by Mr. Cardiff, that the collector be instructed to call for the arrears of school taxes due in school section No. 1 for 1862, and pay the same into the hands of James O'Connor, the Secy. & Treasurer of the said Township. Mr. Gorman moved, seconded by Mr. Brown, that a By-law establishing a line of Road in this Township in accordance with the report of the survey of the said line of Road now before the council be introduced and passed at a meeting of this council to be held in this place on Monday the 21st day of September next, and that the clerk be instructed to send the necessary notice to the editor of the *Carleton Place Herald*. Mr. Gorman moved, seconded by Mr. Cardiff, that the Tavern Inspector for this Municipality be instructed to inquire into and proceed against all parties who have not yet taken out their Licenses for the sale of wine, brandy, and other spirituous liquors, and who are selling the same contrary to law, so that the fines imposed for such offence by the By-laws of this Township may be adjudged against them, and that the said inspector be to report his proceeding in this matter to this council at their next meeting in this place on the 21st day of September next. Mr. Gorman moved, seconded by Mr. Cardiff, that this council do now adjourn for one hour. Carried.

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Sir Hugh Cairns. Sir Hugh Cairns is a Conservative great-great-grandson of the illustrious Sir Hugh Cairns...

Notice. THE NORTH RIDING OF LANARK County, Agricultural Society, will hold its Annual Exhibition...

Notice. A Black Horse which came to this neighborhood about twenty years ago has been put up for sale...

Tea Tasting. Few of our readers will be surprised that tea drinking is reduced to a regular profession...

Ventilating Hay Mows. A correspondent (H. Walker) of the Country Gentleman, writes following as his experience with hay mows...

THE EYES vs. BLACK. Among the subscribers of the Wounded Volunteer Meeting this bit of information has reached...

Great Sale of Stoves. THE SUBSCRIBER will sell by Auction on the 26th day of September...

Notice. ALL those indebted to the Subscriber are hereby requested to make immediate payment...

NOTICE. THE Provisional Council of the Corporation of the County of Renfrew...

Notice. THE Municipal Council of the Township of Westmeath, intend, at a meeting to be held by them in the Township Hall...

Mortgage Sale. WHEREAS DEFAULT has been made in the payment of certain moneys secured to be paid by an Indenture of Mortgage...

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Notice. THE above is a true copy of a proposed By-law to be taken into consideration by the Provisional Municipality of the County of Renfrew...

Notice. THE Municipal Council of the township of Amos will, at a meeting to be held by them in the Township Hall...

Notice. ALL those indebted to the Subscriber are hereby requested to make immediate payment...

1863. Brookville to the West. THE Northern Transportation Company will, during the present season, run their line of First Class Upper Cabin Steamers...

1863. Tailoring. THE SUBSCRIBER hereby notifies the public that he has commenced the tailoring business in that house known as Mrs. Beck's building...

1863. Seeds, Seeds, Seeds. JUST ARRIVED FROM ENGLAND, per steamer Jura, Fresh GARDEN and FIELD SEEDS...

1863. Great Bargains at the Store of W. Tennant & Co. SPRING AND SUMMER GOODS. All on hand, and will be sold at the smallest profits...

1863. FARMERS LOOK HERE! ROBERT CRAMPTON thankful for the very liberal patronage extended to him since commencing business in Carleton Place...

1863. Hardware. HARDWARE. Blood's grass and grain Scythes, Snaths, Cradles and Rakes...

1863. Notice. THE SUBSCRIBER doing a strictly Cash Business, and being satisfied with small profits, parties in want of any description of HARDWARE...

1863. Notice of Removal! THE undersigned having fallen into a poor state of health has come to the determination of closing up his business...

1863. Notice. THE SUBSCRIBER hereby notifies the public that he has commenced the tailoring business in that house known as Mrs. Beck's building...

1863. Land Surveying. THE SUBSCRIBER is now furnished with new improved and very accurate instruments...

1863. FURNITURE WAREHOUSE. C. P. FURNITURE. THE undersigned has just opened a DRUG STORE in the above mentioned place...

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