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WEEKLY MISCELLANY.

Devoted to the Intellectual and Moral Improvement of the Young.

Vol. I. Halifax, N. S. Tuesday, September 8, 1863. No. 12.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, AT \$1 PER YEAR
IN ADVANCE, BY
W. Cannabell, 155 Upper Water Street.

Subscriptions received by the Agents, and at the
office of publication.

HALIFAX, N. S. SEPTEMBER 8, 1863.

MINERALS OF NOVA SCOTIA.

A Mineral, correctly speaking, is a substance found in or on the earth which has never possessed animal or vegetable life, and is destitute of organization. But some substances of vegetable origin—such as Coal and Amber—have been classed as Minerals.

It is understood that Nova Scotia is possessed of mineral wealth to a very great extent, but its Government has never yet bestowed upon it the benefit of a geological survey; grudging the expense which it would incur. We are of opinion that the country needs exploring more than surveying; and a few intelligent men, who can handle pick and axe, might be employed to great advantage, and at comparatively small expense, to search at first in the vicinities where indications of minerals have been noticed; and, as they succeed in discoveries, to extend their researches into districts where it may be presumed that useful minerals exist.

Having already discussed Gold, we shall say a few words of Iron, in this article; and take up Coal in our next.

The principal deposit of Iron ore is situated in Londonderry, where the Acadian Mining Company have erected works and begun mining. And further East, between the Great Village and Folly Rivers, indications of iron have been discovered, the different descriptions of which were reported on, in 1846 and 1849, by Professor Dawson, and J. L. Hayes, Esq. of Portsmouth, U. S. It has been proved by experiments that these ores will furnish steel-iron equal to the best Swedish.

Veins of iron of similar character occur in many other districts, though of less magnitude. Conformable veins have been opened at Moose River, Nictaux, and at the East River of Pictou, consisting of

scales of specular iron firmly cemented together, and intermixed with silicious and calcareous matter. At Nictaux the lead is stated to be six feet in thickness, and the ore of excellent quality. At the East River of Pictou the lead appears to be of great magnitude, but the ore is more silicious than at Nictaux. Iron ores also occur near the mouth of the Shubenacadie, and iron ochres with *bag ores* of iron in many of the low grounds of the granite districts, though not in large deposits.

The quantity of iron smelted from the ores in 1851 was 400 tons; but increased in 1861 to 1200 tons—valued at \$80 per ton.

FEEBLE POWER OF THE MOST POWERFUL TELESCOPES.

Prof. Mitchell, in a lecture "On Astronomy," in New York, thus closes his address:—Light traverses space at the rate of twelve million miles a minute, yet the light from the nearest star requires ten years to reach the earth; and Herschel's telescope revealed stars two thousand three hundred times further distant. The great telescope of Lord Rosse pursued these creations of God still deeper into space, and, having resolved the nebule of the Milky Way into stars, discovered other systems of stars—beautiful diamond points, glittering through the black darkness beyond. When he beheld this amazing abyss—when he saw these systems scattered profusely throughout space—when he reflected upon their immense distance, their enormous magnitude, and the countless millions of worlds that belonged to them, it seemed to him as though the wild dream of the German poet was more than realized: "God called man, in dreams, into the vestibule of heaven, saying, 'Come up hither, and I will show thee the glory of my house.'"

And to his angels, who stood about his throne, he said, 'Take him, strip him of his robes of flesh; cleanse his affections; put a new breath into his nostrils; but touch not his human heart—the heart that fears, and hopes, and trembles.' A moment, and it was done, and the man stood

ready for his unknown voyage. Under the guidance of a mighty angel, with sound of flying pinions, they sped away from the battlements of heaven. Some time, on the mighty angel's wings, they fled through the Saharas of darkness—wildernesses of death. At length, from a distance not counted, save in the arithmetic of heaven, light beamed upon them—a sleepless flame, as seen through a heavy cloud. They sped on in their terrible speed to meet the light; the light, with lesser speed, came to meet them. In a moment, the blazing of suns around them—a moment the wheeling of planets; then came long eternities of twilight; then, again, on the right hand and on the left, appeared more constellations. At last the man sank down, crying, 'Angel, I can go no further; let me lie down in the grave, and hide myself from the infinitude of the universe, for end there is none.' 'End is there none?' demanded the angel. And from the glittering stars that shone around there came a choral shout, 'End there is none!' 'End there is none?' demanded the angel again; 'and is it this that awes thy soul? I answer, End there is none to the universe of God! Lo, also, there is no beginning!'"

LABOUR.—It is one of the besetting sins of the young men of this extravagant age to endeavor to get rid of work—to seek for lazy employment—and the consequence is that many of them turn out to be worthless vagabonds. Boys, avoid this whirlpool as you would a plague spot, banish from your mind forever the dangerous desire to live without work. Labour is honourable, dignified; it is the parent of health, wealth and happiness; never consider it a burden and a curse. Shun idleness and sloth; pursue some honest calling, and be not ashamed to be useful.

Fifty pounds of oats are more nourishing, as food for cattle, than one hundred pounds of hay, and twenty-five pounds of peas are equal to double the weight of oats.

When does a clergyman resemble a man who is correct in what he says? When he's a curate (ac-curate).

A THRILLING INCIDENT.

In returning from Philadelphia about the middle of August, 1858, the cars were very crowded, and my companion in the same seat with me I found out to be a locomotive engineer; and in the course of our conversation he made the remark he hoped he had run his last trip upon a locomotive. Upon making bold to ask him his reasons, he gave the following story, and since then I have found it out to be strictly true:—

“Five years since I was running upon the New York Central Railroad. My run was from B— to R—. It was the Lightning Express Train, and it was what its name denotes, for it was fast—a very fast run, if I do say it, the old Tornado could go. I have seen her throw her six foot driver so as to be almost invisible to the eye. And let me here remark, it is supposed by many that railroad engineers are a hard-hearted set of men; their lives are hard, it is true, but I do claim to have as fine feelings, and a heart that can sympathize with the unfortunate, as any man that breathes. But to my story.

“About half a mile from the village of B—, there is a nice little cottage but a few feet from the track. At that time a young married couple lived there. They had one child, a little boy about four years old—a bright, blue-eyed, curly-headed little chap as ever you saw. I had taken a great deal of interest in the little fellow, and had thrown candy and oranges to him from the train, and I was sure to see him peeping through the fence when my train passed.

“One fine sunny afternoon we were behind time and running fast, nor did we stop at B—, and I was to make up one hour before reaching R—. We came up at a tremendous speed, and when sweeping around the curve, my eye following the track, not over two hundred feet ahead sat the little fellow playing with a kitten which he held in his lap. At the sound of our approach he looked up and laughed, clapping his little hands in high glee at the affrighted kitten as it ran off the track. Quicker than the lightning that blasts the tall pine upon the mountain top, I whistled ‘down brakes,’ and reversed the engine, but knew it was impossible to stop. Nobly did the old engine try to save him. The awful straining and writhing of its iron

drivers told but too plainly of the terrific velocity we had attained. I was out of the cab window and down on the cow-catcher in a flash. The little fellow stood still. I motioned him off and shouted; his little blue eyes opened wide with astonishment, and a merry laugh was upon his lips. I held my breath as we rushed upon him; I made a desperate attempt to catch him, but missed; and as his little body passed I heard the feeble cry of ‘Mother,’ and the forward trucks crushed him to death.

“Oh! that moment! I may live, sir; to be an old man, but the agony of that moment can never be erased from my memory. The cars stopped in a few moments, and I ran back as soon as possible. His mother saw the train stop and a fearful foreboding flashed upon her at once. She came rushing frantically to the spot where we stood. Never shall I forget the look she gave me as she beheld her first-born, a mangled corpse. I would have given my whole existence to have avoided that moment!

“I have seen death in all its forms upon railroads. I have seen men, women and children mangled and killed—I have seen all this, but that little innocent boy, as he looked up in my face, and was killed almost in my arms, it unnerved me; and from that day I made a solemn vow never to run a locomotive more.

“That young mother is now in the Utica Lunatic Asylum. From the hour her boy was killed reason had left its throne.”

He stopped and wiped the tears from his eyes, and said,—

“You may think it weak in me to shed tears, but I cannot help it.”

“No,” I replied, “but think it noble; and, sir, would to God every man had a heart as large as yours.”

I have often thought, since, how few are those who give one passing thought to the man of strong nerve and stout arm, who guides them through darkness and storms, with the speed of the wind, safely to their journey's end. They do not, for a moment, turn their attention to the iron monster that is dragging them forward with fearful velocity to meet once more their friends or relatives: They do not realize that the man who guides the fiery monster holds all their precious lives at his command, and that the least negli-

gence upon his part would cause sorrow and mourning in a thousand homes that are now waiting the return of the absent loved ones.

THE YEAR OF NINES.

The present year, 1863, contains some curious combinations in regard to the figure 9.

If you add the first two figures together, thus, 1 8—they equal 9.

If you add the last two, 6 3—they equal 9.

If you set the first two figures, 18, under 63—and then add them together, the result is 81, the figures of which, added together, 8 1—9.

If you subtract the first two from 63—the remainder is 45, the figures of which, if added together, 4 5—9.

If you divide the 63 by 18, the quotient is 3, with 9 remainder.

If you multiply all the figures together, thus, 1x8x6x3, the result is 144, the figures of which, 1 4 4—9.

If you add all the figures of the year together, the sum is 18, and the sum, 1 8—9.

If you divide 1863 by 3, the quotient is 621, and 6 2 1—9.

If you divide 1863 by 9, the quotient is 207, and 2 0 7—9.

If you divide 1863 by 23, the quotient is 81, and 8 1—9.

If you divide 1863 by 59, the quotient is 27, and 2 7—9.

There are other similar results. The year 1881 will prove a large variety of similar combinations.

HINTS ON WASHING HANDS.

Some philosophy is useful even in so simple a matter as washing the hands. If any lady will examine with a microscope the surface to be cleansed by water, she will be interested by the discoveries made. Instead of a smooth surface of skin, presenting when unwashed a dingy appearance, there will be seen a corrugated surface, with deep, irregular furrows, in which the foreign particles are deposited like earth among the rough paving stones of a street. If they lie loosely, it would be an easy matter to dislodge them with a little cold water; but the pores, the waste-pipes of the body, are continually discharging into those open drains perspiration and oil, which by

evaporation becomes a cement to hold the particles of dust, &c., and to remove them requires both chemical and mechanical action. Warm water softens this cement, expands the furrows and makes the skin pliable; so that by rubbing, the soil is disturbed and partially removed. But chemistry must aid a little before the process is complete; soap is therefore added, the alkali of which unites with the oily matters, and the whole is easily disposed of. The towel is useful, because its soft threads of fibres work down among the furrows like so many little brooms, sweeping them out, hence it should be soft and pliable. Flannel is preferable to cotton for this purpose, and a sponge is best of all. Harsh, strong alkaline soap should be avoided, as it abstracts all the oil from the upper layer of the skin, and makes it chap or crack. Cold-cream soap is best, being neutral. Where a sponge is not obtainable, a very neat and serviceable wash cloth may be knit of soft cotton twine, either with a crotchet or white coarse wooden needles, knitting backwards and forwards, as garters are knit. A mitten knit of this cotton with a crotchet needle is very handy for this purpose, and makes a neat article for the washstand.

"IT'S VERY HARD."

"It's very hard to have nothing to eat but porridge, when others have every sort of dainty," muttered Charlie, as he sat with his wooden bowl before him.

"It's very hard to have to get up so early on these bitter cold mornings, and work hard all day, when others can enjoy themselves without an hour of labor.

"It's very hard to have to trudge along through the snow, while others roll about in their coaches."

"It's a great blessing," said his grandmother, as she sat at her knitting, "it's a great blessing to have a roof over one's head, when so many are homeless; it's a great blessing to have sight, and hearing, and strength for daily labor, when so many are blind, deaf, or suffering."

"Why, grandmother, you seem to think that nothing is hard," said the boy, still in a grumbling tone.

"No, Charlie, there is one thing that I think very hard."

"What's that?" cried Charlie, who thought that at last his grandmother had found some cause for complaint.

"Why, boy, I think that heart is very hard that is not thankful for so many blessings."

MOSQUITOES.

The Scientific American describes the origin of these annoying insects as follows:—

These pests of summer proceed from *animalcules*, commonly termed the "wiggle tails." If a bowl of water is placed in the summer's sun for a few days, a number of wiggle-tails will be visible and will continue to increase in size until they reach three-sixteenths of an inch in length, remaining longer on the surface as they approach maturity, as if seeming to live on the influence derived from the two elements of air and water; finally they will assume a chrysalis form, and by an increased specific gravity sink to the bottom; a few hours only will elapse when a short black furze or hair will grow out on every side of each, and it assumes the form of a minute caterpillar. Its specific gravity being thus counteracted, it is wafted to the side of the bowl by the slightest breath of air. In a short time a fly will be hatched and escape, leaving its tiny house on the surface of the waters. Any one who has had a cistern in the yard, has doubtless observed the same effect every summer, although he may be ignorant of the beautiful and simple process of development. If a pitcher or cistern or other water is placed in a close room over night, from which all mosquitoes have been excluded, enough mosquitoes will breed in it during the night, to give any amount of trouble. The necessity of keeping yards and the surface of the ground near houses entirely free from stagnant water, in order to diminish the number of these "night birds," is evident.

THE CEDARS OF LEBANON.

The cedars have diminished from a forest to a grove. The prophecy of Isaiah has long since been fulfilled, and "Lebanon is turned into a fruitful field," "the rest of the trees of his forest are few that a child may write them." The cedars of Lebanon scarcely occupy a space equal to two acres of ground; but Lebanon is a fruitful field—the mulberry tree gives its luscious fruit, and the harvests are spontaneously yielded in autumn.

SIAMESE WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

Up to the age of ten years Siamese children are not troubled with any superabundance of clothing, and it is seldom that a child is seen wearing a garment sufficient to cover its body, except on days of festivals. Jewels, sometimes of great value, are put on children. Among the higher classes, girls and boys, up to the age of twelve, wear a number of gold chains, sometimes four, six or seven at a time, all different, and each having some amulet or ornament attached. The hair is allowed to grow long on the front part of the head, but the rest is kept shaved, leaving this circular patch to be twisted into a knot, which is kept in its place by a long ornamental pin. Often a wreath of white jessamine is twined to fit closely about this knot, and the effect is pretty. Boys and girls are dressed—if their scant measure of clothing may be called dress—exactly alike, so that it is not easy to distinguish them.

At the age of twelve, the lock is cut off, leaving a patch which bears a strong resemblance to a small, black hair brush. This, in a man, is combed back and allowed to grow a degree longer than in the woman; not so much so, however, as to suggest any marked difference to a stranger. The women keep their locks carefully oiled, combed and gunned, to stand upright, and they take infinite pains to keep the top of this brush smooth as velvet.

A Siamese lady's hair is held to be in perfect order when she can plunge into the river, and duck her head many times under the water without disturbing the smoothness and uprightness of her native hair brush. The ceremony of cutting off the lock of hair is kept with entertainments and rejoicings. It is the great event in young Siamese life, and resembles the coming out amongst young ladies in other countries; for in Siam, children are supposed to reach years of discretion rather early.

After a girl marries, she gives up the wearing of ornaments and trinkets. These are set aside and reserved for her children in their turn. Boys have an opportunity of learning to read by entering themselves as roophytes, or attendants on the priests. Whether girls have any schools or persons authorised to teach them, I do not know; but it is not uncommon in Siam to find women able to read and write. F

met with three or four myself, and these were persons of the lower ranks.

The occupations of the females are various and far less circumscribed than in any other part of the East. In fact, the women in Siam occupy a moral position many degrees superior to that of their sisters in neighboring countries. The wife of a Siamese has no unimportant voice in the domestic arrangements of the family. She is cash-keeper and seems to possess the right to claim all her husband's earnings. The women, as a race, are very intelligent and observant; those belonging to the higher classes seem to have pleasing and modest manners.

The Siamese women as well as men are terribly disfigured by the effects of constant and excessive betel chewing. It is carried to a disgusting extent amongst people of all ranks and ages. Even little children may be seen with their lips dyed red, and crimson juice running out of each side. Their mouths are never, by any chance empty, as soon as one quid is disposed of another takes its place, so that a Siamese always speaks as with a pebble in his mouth, and that no small one. The effect of the incessant chewing large quids is so as to enlarge the lips considerably, to dye them a sort of black red, and entirely to alter the shape of the lower part of the face. The Siamese say that the chewing of betel acts as a continual stimulant, and that they could not exist without it. It is highly injurious to the teeth, but I think it don't destroy health to any great extent. Smoking is another habit carried to an extreme in Siam; men, women and children seem to live upon cigarettes and tobacco rolled up in palm-leaf. I was told as a fact by a lady, that she had seen a nursing child of two years old taking whiffs of its mother's cigar, alternately with its own more natural nourishment. For this, however, I will not vouch. But I have frequently watched a very pretty little girl of five years old, smoking a cigarette, while she made mud pies. Most of these inveterate smokers carry a reserve cigar stuck behind each ear, as clerks carry pens.

We have all of us sufficient fortitude to bear the misfortunes of others.

The Halifax Directory.

A few copies of this useful publication for sale at a reduced price at the Weekly Miscellany, 115 Upper Water Street.

News of the Week.

Governor Dundas and Lady, from P. E. Island, are now on a visit to this city.

Letson's (formerly Calkin's) steam mill was burnt down about 11 o'clock on Monday night, 31st ult. The Reporter says, it was supposed the premises were set fire to, as the place has been unoccupied for more than a year.

On Wednesday morning, a man named William Moore, who, it is said, belongs to Windsor, was killed at Waverly, while in the act of endeavouring to start the fly-wheel of the steam engine which drives the Chebucto Mining Company's crusher. An inquest was held before Dr. Weeks, and the jury returned a verdict of accidental death.—Reporter.

A man named Murphy, belonging to Rawdon, foolishly got drunk, and lay down in the road near the coloured settlement beyond Richmond. When he got somewhat sobered he found his pocket minus £22. Two coloured men have been arrested for the theft, and part of the money found on one of them.—Sun.

Admiral Milne left here on Saturday afternoon for St. John, N. B., in the steamer Medea. It is said that His Excellency is about to visit some of the cities of the Northern States.—Express.

Sufficient evidence having been adduced against him, a Sapper by the name of James Baker has been committed to Jail for forging English shillings and half crowns, there to await his examination before the Grand Jury.—Ib.

The Volunteer Firemen have been presented with £10 by Stephen Tobin, Esq. agent of the Queen's Fire Insurance Company.

A Review of the Volunteers took place on the Common, yesterday afternoon, in presence of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, Governor Dundas, of P. E. Island, and the Adjutant General of Militia. The ranks were well filled and their appearance was very satisfactory. The review ended with the customary salute, and a sham fight, in which the Volunteers acquitted themselves in creditable style.

The Chronicle says—It appears that a man, whose name we have not learned, was run over by the cars, between Bedford and the Four Mile House, on Saturday evening, and killed. The body was not found until Sunday afternoon, nor does it appear that, until then, any person was aware of the accident.

Mr. Hutton, Principal of the Deaf and Dumb Institute, has just returned from a visit, with some of his pupils, to the Counties of Guysborough, Sydney, and the Island of Cape Breton. During their tour they travelled between 600 and 700 miles, and visited about 22 localities. Their reception everywhere, as well as the pecuniary results of the mission, are

reported by Mr. Hutton as being of the most gratifying kind.

A fire broke out yesterday morning, between 2 and 5 o'clock, in a dwelling house near the Dartmouth Ferry Landing. The house was nearly destroyed.

The sum of \$660 was realized at the Bazaar held at Maitland, Nants, on Tuesday last, in aid of a new Episcopal Church at that place.

An explosion occurred, on Wednesday last, in Petrie's steam mill, on the Strait shore, Portland, St. John, N. B., by which five men were so badly scalded, that it is feared the injuries will prove fatal to all of them.

EUROPEAN NEWS.

From the Liverpool Mercury of August 22.

The Queen and the Royal Family arrived safely at Roscanau, the birth-place of the late Prince Consort, on Saturday evening.

The Queen will return to Windsor Castle, from Germany, on September 10, and on the following day take her departure for Scotland, accompanied by the Princess Louisa and other members of the royal family. Her Majesty will return to Windsor at the usual time in October. We perceive from several announcements in the Court Circular that her Majesty intends to emerge from the strict privacy she has observed since the death of the Prince Consort.

Prince Arthur is pursuing his studies at Bagshot.

Twenty-nine wrecks were reported last week, making a total for the present year of 1098.

Amongst all classes of the French people, the prevalence of contagious disease and the high rate of mortality in Paris are occasioning alarm.

The result of elections now proceeding in the several departments of France, to supply the places of members of the council who go out by rotation, has shown the hostility which continues to exist against the Government.

It is understood that the question of the recognition of the Confederate States of America was discussed at the Council of French Ministers held at St. Cloud on Monday. Several of the Ministers thought the time had arrived for such an act on the part of France, but the Council was dissolved without any determination being arrived at. It is generally thought in France that the recognition of the Southern States will take place immediately the favourable opportunity presents itself.

Cardinal Antonelli has now positively resigned, in opposition to the wishes of the Pope. Cardinal Alfieri will be his successor.

The official returns show that the horrors of the earthquake at Manilla were not originally over-stated. 8000 persons

have perished, and two-thirds of the buildings, public and private, have been destroyed.

The peasants of Grodno having refused to join the Russian militia because they were wanted to gather in the harvest, the Russian authorities ordered the destruction of the standing crops, which has been executed.

The Emperor Napoleon has repeated his declaration not to undertake any intervention in behalf of Poland if he is not assisted by England and Austria.

Affairs in Mexico are not likely to settle down so quietly as was anticipated. Ortega, the defender of Puebla, is in command of the state of Zacatecas and is open hostility to the French: the abandoned city of Tampico has been occupied by another Mexican general, named Gaxza, whom the French are about to attack; and Juarez, the ex-President of the Republic, lingers about Potosi. These facts show that the work of the French expeditionary corps is not yet completed.

President Juarez (for he still claims to be the ruler of Mexico) has despatched a mission to Washington demanding assistance to expel the audacious invaders who have proclaimed the Archduke Maximilian Emperor.

The Government of Japan has paid the indemnity of \$400,000 demanded by the English Government for the murder of Mr. Richardson, but refused to surrender the murderers.

The natives of New Zealand have been defeated, with considerable loss, at Tarnaki, by a force under General Cameron. Of the 650 British troops engaged, only one was killed and nine wounded.

A NEW INFERNAL MACHINE.—A newly-invented machine for destroying ships has just been successfully tried at Helsingfors. The inventor is Lieutenant Colonel Ramsdort. It is made of glass, and contains about 8lbs. of powder. An old ship with which the experiment was made was completely blown to pieces. The Russian Government has now given an order for a large number of these machines.

REMARKABLY PROLONGED SLEEP.—Dr. Cousins, of Portsmouth, has under his care an extraordinary case of this nature. The subject of it is a farmer, aged forty-three. He has never suffered from any head affection, and his general health has been excellent. At various times during the last twenty years he has been subject to unusually prolonged sleep. The longest period of somnolency is five days and nights; three is not uncommon, and even four, but the average time is about two days. He never dreams; memory is retentive; and when he becomes conscious after these attacks, he remembers everything that happened just before.

The sanitary condition of the French army in certain parts of Mexico is represented as most deplorable. It is stated that not less than 4500 soldiers have perished from yellow fever, and of the Egyptian battalion of 400 men lent by the Pasha only 150 remain.

Accounts from Messina state that the volcano of Mount Etna is vomiting fire and lava. A new eruption is threatened in the direction of Bronte. The inhabitants of Catania are terrified at the formidable noise and the shower of ashes and stones falling in that direction. The population of the mountain have made preparations to quit their dwellings. Their horses are saddled, their cattle gathered together, and all their household furniture packed up to be ready for immediate removal.

EXTRAORDINARY LONGEVITY.—The Hampshire papers record the death of Jane Hoskins, at Romsey, who was 109 years old. She was twice married—first to a hawker and secondly to a wood-cutter. She enjoyed throughout life good health, and her death resulted simply from decay.

A woman named Gainstock has just died in the Marlborough Workhouse, Wilts, at the extraordinary age of 106. She was in the full possession of all her faculties to the last.

A FLYING MAN.—The Journal de Constantinople publishes the following strange story:—"One evening last week, two young men from the Isle of Prinkipo were returning in a caique from a sporting excursion on the coast of Asia, when they suddenly heard a noise for which they could not account; but soon after they perceived over their heads an enormous bird, the sight of which filled them with alarm. Seizing their guns, they both fired at it, and were still more amazed when they heard broken words and cries which could only proceed from human organs. They at once steered for the spot where the supposed bird had fallen, and were struck with stupefaction on finding that what they had taken for a volatile was a man with an immense pair of mechanical wings. They took him into their boat, and were not a little relieved on finding that he had only received a few scratches.

AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune, states—on the authority of a letter he has received from Richmond—that after fifteen days of close conference between the Governors of the Confederate States and the members of the Cabinet, it was decided that the salvation of the country required the arming of the slaves, and that a call of 400,000 blacks, one from every eight inhabitants, should take place forthwith.

APPALLING DISASTER.—A correspondent of the New York Herald gives an account of an appalling disaster at Vicksburg, by which 200 soldiers, citizens and negroes were killed, wounded or drowned. On the 18th ult., a heavy detail of soldiers, numbering 160, was made from one of the regiments, for the purpose of conveying on board the boat City of Madison a quantity of fixed and unfixed ammunition, together with an additional number of projectiles. About 20 negroes were also engaged in the work. One hundred and fifty tons of the terrific but slumbering agent were already delivered; when early in the evening—while some of the men were employed in the hold, others engaged in conveying the dangerous freight on board, and all hastening to complete their labours for the day—a soldier had given a shell into the hands of a negro to be passed down. Unfortunately the negro standing below failed to properly secure in his hands the shell handed him from the one in the hatch above. It slipped, he made an effort to regain his grasp, but it had already struck.

The shock sustained by the fall ignited the irresistible powder within. No sooner came the flash than followed the report. In an instant, as if the first were merely the premonitions of the great terror to succeed, the very city shook to its foundation, window panes fell in by the terrible force of the concussion with a deafening crash, the river boiled violently and spasmodically, and its very bottom was ploughed up by the immense rush of the element.

Then followed all the horrors which ever mutilated the human form and wound it in the writhings of most painful and shocking tortures. Destruction, pain and death lay round in one mass of mangled, singed, and blackened bodies, shattered timbers and the debris of buildings, vehicles and vessels.

A grand Temperance demonstration is announced to take place in New York, on the 29th inst., being the 21st anniversary of the Order of Sons of Temperance. Delegates from the Grand Divisions of the Federal States, Canada and the Lower Provinces will be present.

A Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune says it is rumored among politicians in Richmond that Robert M. T. Hunter will be sent to Mexico as the representative of the Southern Confederacy, in order to prepare the way for an offensive and defensive alliance between the Emperor of that country and the Government at Richmond. Mr. Hunter is now in Paris, where he was sent nearly two months ago by his Government with a special mission to the Emperor of the French. He will leave Europe and will accompany the Emperor of Mexico to his capital as soon as the candidate for that throne shall assume the government of his dominion.

[For later Intelligence, see page 95.]

MUSIC IN SCHOOLS.

SUGGESTION TO TEACHERS.—The utility of music in schools is no longer problematical. All those objections and doubts which found place in many honest minds formerly have vanished in the light of experimental facts. School Teachers and Trustees, almost every where, regard it favorably; not only those who themselves have a practical acquaintance with music, and can sing, but others. It is no uncommon thing to hear teachers say, "I cannot sing myself, but I have found it to be a capital thing among scholars." A little singing diffuses a spirit of cheerfulness which makes pleasant that which otherwise often proves irksome. Harmonious voices inspire harmonious feelings. The school-song makes the school room attractive. When the place is attractive the lessons are easy.

How shall singing be made in the highest degree to fulfil its design? Anything which has the effect to draw out the voices is of importance. All teachers of singing are accustomed to avail themselves more or less of instrumental assistance in imparting instruction. In Germany, from whence we have drawn so much that is valuable in educational matters during years past, musical instruments are considered as indispensable to the complete furnishing of the school-room. If an instrument, say a piano-forte or a melodeon, assists the singing teacher, it may also be made in a degree to supply the place of one. A great deal of early instruction must of course be by imitation. Now if a tune be played over in the hearing of the pupils, they having the words before them, they soon begin to sing it. In almost any place where a school of eighty scholars is in operation, more than one miss can be found among the number capable of playing the tunes in our school singing books. As far as singing of tunes is concerned, an instrument correctly played will insure correct performance without the presence of the living teacher, when the teacher without the instrument would be obliged to leave some things faulty. The pitch of instruments like those named is fixed, and so offers a standard to the ear to which the voices must conform.

Not only the melody may thus be taught, but also accompanying parts. Many a singing-teacher has found himself nonplussed by certain kinds of 'natural

second-singers,' who follow or accompany the melody persistently at the interval of a third, whatever may be the harmonic requirements of the part. If it diverges to a sixth or takes a direct motion, still the third is as inseparable as a man and his shadow. If he attempts to have the pupil learn the part by itself, and sings it with her, she provokingly sings *second to that*. Now an instrument capable of presenting the parts in their true relation remedies this difficulty at once, and makes correct singers at least as far as pitch is concerned.—*Illinois Teacher*.

THE LANGUAGE OF ANIMALS.

"That animals have each a language of their own to one another," says James Hogg, (the Scottish "Ettrick Shepherd,") "there can be no doubt. I know a good deal of their language myself. I know by the voice of the raven when he has discovered one of my flock dead—I know also his prelude to the storm and to fine weather. The moor-fowls call one another from hill to hill. I learned to imitate their language so closely that I could have brought scores of them within the range of my shot of a morning. The blackcock has a call, too, which brings all his motley mates around him, but the females have no call. They are a set of subordinate beings, like the wives of a nabob. They dare not even incubate upon the same hill with their haughty lords. But the partridge, and every mountain bird, have a language to each other, and though rather circumscribed, it is perfectly understood, and, as Wordsworth says, 'not to me unknown.' Even the stupid and silly barn-door hen, when the falcon appears, can, by one single alarm note, make all her chickens hide in a moment. Every hen tells you when she has laid her egg; and lest it should not be well enough heard or understood, the cock exerts the whole power of his lungs in divulging the important secret. The black-faced ewe, on the approach of a fox or a dog, utters a whistle through her nostrils which alarms all her comrades, and immediately puts them upon the look out. Not one of them will take another bite until they discover whence the danger is approaching. If the dog be with a man, sundry of them utter a bleat which I know well, but cannot describe, and begin feeding again. If the dog is by himself, they are more afraid of

him than any other animal, and then you will again hear the whistle repeated through the whole glen.

"But the acuteness of the sheep's ear surpasses all things in nature that I know of. An ewe will distinguish her own lamb's bleat among a hundred lambs, all bleating at the same time, and making a noise. Besides the distinguishment of voice is perfectly reciprocal between the ewe and the lamb, who amid the deafening sound, run to meet one another. There are few things which have ever amused me more than a sheep-shearing, and the sport continues the whole day. We put the flock into a fold, set out all the lambs to the hill, and then send out the ewes to them as they are shorn. The moment that a lamb hears its dam's voice, it rushes from the crowd to meet her, but instead of finding the rough, well-clad, mamma, which it left an hour, or a few hours ago, it meets a poor, naked, shrivelling,—a most deplorable looking creature. It wheels about, and uttering a loud, tremulous bleat of perfect despair, flies from the frightful vision. The mother's voice arrests its flight—it returns—flies, and returns again, generally ten or a dozen times before the recognition is perfect."

PUTTING OFF THINGS.

Among the play-fellows of my boyhood was one Tom Stansell. Let me make you acquainted with one of the most marked features in his character—one which stood out so boldly that nobody could be in his company an hour without noticing it, any more than he could help noticing a huge and ungainly nose on a man's face. This trait in Tom's character was that of *putting off things*. I don't know how early he came by this habit, though he must have been very young when he first took it up. As long ago as I can remember the boys in school used to nickname him Standstill, on account of this unfortunate habit of his.

He was never at his place in the school-house until late. How he always contrived to be systematically behind time was a mystery even to himself. When reproved, as he frequently was, by the schoolmaster, I have known him scratch his head, as if that organ was completely bewildered and puzzled, and declare that he could not, for the life of him, tell how he came to be tardy. It was just so at church. He was never in season, when

he was left by his parents to depend on his own management. Many a time, on a Saturday afternoon, when there was no school, I have waited for him to call and go on a fishing excursion over to Mason's pond, according to his promise—waited, and waited, and waited, until I lost all my patience, as well as most of my good-humor, and went off without him. He was sure to disappoint me as to the time of fulfilling his promises, though he was sure to come some time or other. If he was sent on an errand, with particular instructions to be in haste, something would detain him, so that the errand would not be done in season.

Tom's habit was sometimes very expensive, both to himself and to others. One day, he and his sister were spending the afternoon at my father's. It was during the summer season. Toward night, dark clouds began to gather, and one or two reports of distant thunder were heard. My mother thought her young visitors would do well to start for home, for fear they might be overtaken by the storm. But Tom thought there "would be plenty of time" if they waited a little while longer. They did wait. Finally, however, Tom was ready to start. My mother lent him an umbrella, and begged him to walk as fast as possible. They had not left the door three minutes before the rain began to pour down in torrents, and both Tom and his sister, who had half a mile to walk, were drenched through and through. They reached home as wet as two drowned rats.

I said, a few moments ago, that Tom himself didn't know how he came to be uniformly *out of time* in anything that he did. Now, in this respect, I must give myself credit for being a little wiser than my old school-fellow. I think I do know. It resulted from his systematic and persevering habit of putting off things. Let me show you exactly how he did it. He was not ready to do anything at the instant when it ought to be done. He wanted to *think about it* when he ought to be *doing it*. He lay in bed, lazily and foolishly, when he ought to be getting up and dressing. That was the reason, you see, he was late at breakfast and late at school. It was just so with the lessons he had to learn out of school-hours. He was thinking of getting the books, when he ought to be conning over the lesson. He was absolutely never ready for the

lesson. After tea, at night, his mother, perhaps, would remind him of his task. But the reply would be, "Oh, there's time enough;" and so he would amuse himself with some boyish sport. By-and-by, it wanted only an hour of bed-time. If he was again reminded of his lesson, the same answer would be ready, "There's plenty of time." And so, very likely, the lesson would not be learned until the next morning, and then, of course, hurriedly and imperfectly, if at all.

How true is the sentiment in that line of poetry, with which almost every boy is familiar, "Just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclined!" Tom was never broken of his habit. It followed him all through his boyhood, and after he became a man it stuck to him as closely as if it had been one of his most cherished friends; as, indeed, I half-suspect it was. Tom has never been successful in business, not because he is deficient in industry, or judgment, or foresight, or application—for he has all these qualities—but simply because he is not ready to do things in season, but persistently and invariably puts them off. He can not close a bargain to-day, when everything about it is as plain as the nose on a man's face, but puts it off till to-morrow: "Well, why will not to-morrow do about as well?" *About as well!* The very way you ask the question shows that you don't believe it is *quite* as well. Then why not to-day? But the fact is, to-day is every way better than to-morrow. Perhaps something may occur to prevent its being accomplished after to-day. Besides, let me tell you a secret: "To-morrow," with Tom Stansell, and men of his character, is only another word for "some other time," and that time, "other time," is almost sure never to come.

Now, boys, I have not told you this story because I thought it might entertain you; still less have I told it because I take pleasure in pointing out the defects in people's characters. I have told it for the same reason that lighthouses are erected.

Our government do not put up a lighthouse just because it is a rather handsome structure, and its light is pleasant to behold in a dark night. They build the lighthouse to show the mariner, as he approaches that coast, that there is danger on that shore. When a wise captain

sees that light, he gives it a "wide berth," to use a sailor's phrase—he keeps out of its way. That is precisely the reason I have told you the story, my boy. I have set up Tom Stansell as a lighthouse. So see to it that you do not let your vessel run on to that coast; for it is a dangerous one. There are breakers in that direction. If you strike on them, you are sure to be wrecked. Don't put off things.

ANCIENT ANTIQUITIES.

Nineveh was 15 miles long, and 40 round, with walls 100 feet high, and thick enough for three chariots.—Babylon was 60 miles within the walls, which were 75 feet thick and 300 high, with 100 brazen gates.—The largest of the Pyramids is 481 feet high and 763 feet on the sides; its base covers 13 acres. The stones are about 30 feet in length, and the layers are 206.—Thebes, in Egypt, presents ruins 27 miles round.—Athens was 25 miles round, and contained 25,000 citizens and 100,000 slaves.—The temple of Delphos was so rich in donations that it was once plundered of £10,000 sterling, and Nero carried from it 500 statues.

HEAT FROM THE STARS.

The Rev. Dr. Lardner says: "It is a startling fact, that if the earth were dependent on the sun for heat, it would not get enough to make the existence of animal and vegetable life upon its surface. It results from the researches of Pouillet, that the stars furnish heat enough in the course of a year to melt a crust of ice 75 feet thick—almost as much as is supplied by the sun. This may appear strange when we consider how immeasurably small must be the amount of heat received from any one of these distant bodies. But the surprise vanishes when we remember that the whole firmament is so thickly strewn with stars that in some places thousands are crowded together within a space no greater than that occupied by the full moon."

A HASTY TEMPER.

Fight hard against a hasty temper. Anger will come, but resist it strongly. A spark may set a house on fire. A fit of passion may give you cause to mourn all the days of your life. Never revenge an injury.

HEROES OF INDUSTRY.

Let others write of those forgot
On many a battle field—
Of those whose daring deeds were wrought
With sword, and spear, and shield;
But I will write of heroes bold,
The bravest of the brave,
Who fought for neither fame nor gold—
Who fill an unmarked grave!

Heroes who conquered many a field
Of hard and sterile soil—
Who made the native forest yield
To unremitting toil;
Heroes who did not idly stand,
But dealt such fearful blows,
That acres, broad, of worthless land
Now blossom like the rose.

The heroes of the plough and loom,
The anvil and the forge;
The delvers down among the gloom
Of yonder rocky gorge;
Heroes who built yon lofty tower,
And forged its heavy bell,
Which faithfully proclaims the hour,
And marks its flight so well.

Heroes who brought from every clime
Rich argosies of wealth;
Heroes of thought, and deeds sublime,
Who spurned what came by stealth;
Who won a guerdon fair and bright,
And left no bloody stain—
No breath profaned—no deadly blight—
Upon God's wide domain.

THE SHIRT-TREE.

We have heard of the bread-tree; even of the butter-tree. Perhaps some of us are strangers to the shirt-tree. Yet in the wilds of South America you may see such a tree. It is really a fact that Humboldt discovered trees which produce ready-made shirts. "We saw," says he, "on the slope of the Cerra Duida, shirt-trees fifty feet high. The Indians cut off cylindrical pieces two feet in diameter, from which they peel the red and fibrous bark, without making any longitudinal incision. This bark affords them a sort of garment which resembles a sack of a very coarse texture, and without a seam. The upper opening serves for the head, and two lateral holes are cut to admit the arms. The natives wear these shirts of marina in the rainy season; they have the form of the ponchos and ruanos of cotton which are so common in New Granada, at Quito, and in Peru."

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

By Telegraph to Morning & Evening Papers.
St. John, Sept. 3.—General Ewing orders the removal of citizens from Kansas

city as aids of rebellion. The 1st embraces many leading citizens. Orders for similar removals at Westport and Independence have been made. Gen. Grant endorses the Emancipation proclamation and organization of coloured troops. For 20 miles, both sides of the Mississippi, all the slaves have been run off into the interior. Grant sent out liberating expeditions. Governor Bramlett of Kentucky, in his inaugural, contends for the Union as it was, and the Constitution as it is. He objects to arming negroes, and declares Kentucky always loyal to the Federal Government. Twenty-six trains of conscripts went to the front yesterday from Washington. No Confederate force has crossed the Rappahannock.

Sept. 4.—Opinion prevails among intelligent Federal officers at headquarters, that if Gilmore, Rosecrans and Burnside are successful, Lee will propose terms and bring war to a close.

Sept. 5.—Advices from Charleston to the 1st report that the siege is continuing against Wagner, and that the iron-clads have been withdrawn from the attack on Fort Moultrie and Sullivan's island batteries. Charleston had not been blockaded for ten days. Burnside took Kingston on the 2nd. All Eastern Tennessee except Chattanooga region is free from the enemy.

Sept. 7.—Confederate cavalry and guerrillas reported busily burning cotton. Schre. Blta lately arrived at New York from Nassau, seized yesterday, as being the pirate Retribution. Gilmore's approaches so close to Wagner that combatants throw hand grenades at each other. Recently the Federals drove the enemy from the rifle pits, capturing 78 prisoners. Iron clad, commenced pounding on ruins of Fort Sumter. Reported Fort Wagner was silenced, and iron clads passed by and attacked Moultrie—Results not known.

Sept. 7, P. M.—A great naval and military expedition is about leaving New Orleans. It is understood that the flower of Grant's army will be embarked. Destination given out at New Orleans is Mobile, but confederate sympathisers say Texas, to concentrate a force this month at Rio Grande, in anticipation of a rupture with France. They say a demand has been made of the French Emperor in respect to his Mexican operations, which uncomplained with, will lead to an invasion of that country, and that an understanding exists between President Lincoln and Juarez.

A Washington letter reports that important despatches have been received from Minister Corwin in Mexico, relative to affairs there.

Deserters report that Bragg has been reinforced; undoubtedly from Lee's army.

The Nashville correspondent of the New York Times, in reference to the ne-

groes carried off by the Federals from the Southern plantations, says—

"I regret to hear, from trustworthy sources, that the contrabands in the western part of the State within our lines, and especially those further down on the Mississippi, are suffering much from want of proper food, medicine and sanitary arrangements. The enlisted negroes are doing very well, but the negro camps of refugee slaves—women, old men and children—are in a sad condition; disease and disorder prevailing, and the poor creatures dying by the hundred. No one seems to have any supervision over or concern for them."

The Richmond papers of the 20th state that another brilliant exploit took place last Tuesday, in the Bay of the mouth of the Rappahannock, which resulted in the capture of three Yankee sailing vessels, the Coquette, the Golden Rod and the Twin Brothers. One of the ships was laden with coal and the other two with anchors and chains. The Golden Rod, drawing too much water, was destroyed; the other two were safely towed into a Confederate port.

MENTAL RECREATIONS.

Answers to the following Questions will be given in next No. In the mean time we suggest to our young friends to exercise their ingenuity in solving them; so that they can compare the results of their efforts with the published Answers, when their papers are received. All communications in connection with this Department of the Weekly Miscellany should be sent post paid.

RIDDLE.

What is that, which, if you hold up your hand, you will see what you never did see; what you never can see; and what you never will see?

ENIGMA.

Design'd by fate to guard the crown,
Aloft in air I reign,
Above the monarch's haughty frown,
Or statesman's plotting brain.
In faction feuds, when danger's near,
I'm found amidst alarms;
In crowds, where peaceful beaux appear,
I instant fly to arms.

RIBBON.

Complete, I am a useful article of furniture; sometimes, but by no means always, in the form of a couch; beheaded, I am what you are generally inclined to do when your dinner is ready; curtailed, I am either a mountain or a plain, according to the state of the weather; but though many miles in extent, and can bear heavy burdens, I could not support an infant.

ARITHMETICAL QUESTION.

Benson's cat went up a tree,
Which was sixty feet and three;
Every day she went up eleven,
And every night she came down seven.
How long was the cat in gaining the top?