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WEEKLY MISCELLANY.

Devoted to the Intellectual and Moral Improvement of the Young.

Vol. 1.

Halifax, N. S. Tuesday, June 30, 1863.

No. 2.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, AT \$1 PER YEAR
IN ADVANCE, BY

W. Cunnabell, 155 Upper Water Street.

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

HALIFAX, N. S. JUNE 30, 1863.

CELEBRATION OF SETTLEMENT OF HALIFAX.

The origin of some cities is lost in the obscurity of history or of antiquity. Not so concerning Halifax. The reasons of its foundation, the men who founded it, the time when they landed to carry their plans into operation, are all distinctly recorded in comparatively modern documents. A little more than a century ago the settlement of Halifax took place;—the centenary of that event was celebrated with many pleasing formalities, on the 8th June, 1849. The anniversary has been honoured since by display of flags, military reviews, and other modes of expressing public gratulation. For a number of years the 8th day of June was considered the anniversary date, and was kept accordingly. About two years since, T. B. Akins, Esq. who has acquired some celebrity—but not as much as his perseverance deserves—for his taste and skill, in collecting historical records and literary antiquities, brought to the notice of the local government, that the proper anniversary was not the 8th of June, but the 21st;—subsequent to some inquiry, a change was made in accordance with the records, and hence, Monday was observed, as a holiday and for purposes of display and rejoicing; this being the second anniversary of the later date.

A morning salute of 100 guns, was fired by the Volunteer Artillery, on the Parade, commencing at six o'clock. Between 9 and 10 o'clock, companies of the volunteer infantry mustered for some preparatory exercise. At twelve the military of the garrison and the Naval brigade, had assembled on the common,—they were reviewed by the Lieut. Governor and General, attended by a numerous staff. The men under arms numbered, probably, between 3 and 4000. The naval brigade

attracted much attention,—it consisted of marines and sailors, from the ships of war in the harbour, to the number as estimated of about 1500 men,—armed with rifles artillery, &c. Pupils of the National School, in gay uniform, took part in the proceedings.

When the review had been held,—a sham fight commenced, and was conducted with much animation, concluding at about 2 o'clock,—the naval brigade occupying Camphill as their chosen ground, and the regiments of the line and companies of volunteers, manœuvring along the plain of the common and up the base of the hill. The bugles, the bands of music, the roar of musketry and artillery,—and the cheers of the pretended combatants, added much to the excitement of the exercises, although a heavy mist partially obscured the scene, and rather chilled and damped the numerous spectators.

We heard of no damage to life or limb resulting from the volleys or the cannonade,—but one poor fellow, at least, who left his ship in all the pride of the occasion, marching gaily under his world-renowned banners, was rudely handled by his enemy, Rum,—and was borne ingloriously from the field, helplessly dangling his arms and trailing his legs, and far indeed from appearing a champion of the flag which we are told has braved “a thousand years, the battle and the breeze.” Alas, brother, if you allow yourself to be the thrall of strong drink, to be kicked and cuff'd by the tyrant Alcohol, how can you sing with a will, your favorite repudiation of any possibility of Britons ever becoming slaves? A regatta, of sailing and row boats, took place in the afternoon.

The 21st might readily suggest, the very different circumstances which marked the peninsula of Halifax, 114 years ago, when Lord Cornwallis and his band of emigrants landed to commence effective settlement. We may imagine the noble scene of broad bright waters, and forest-clothed shores and islands, which then spread before the gaze of the adventurers;—

the rich foliage-embellished promontories and coves and hills,—giving shelter to wild-fox and moose and bear, and to Indian parties;—while the British group boldly spread their banners to the western breeze, appearing as the centre of an infant civilization, which has grown to the strength of the present day, and promises so much more for the future. May the men who then and since maintained the British name in the land,—be true to their privileges, and to their opportunities, for high moral and religious improvement.

PENNY SAVINGS BANK.

We have received the prospectus of this provident institution, which was opened on Saturday last, and will be continued every succeeding Saturday, at the Inglis School Room, Albemarle Street, from 6 to 7 o'clock. The object of this Bank is “To help the poor to help themselves.” Its affairs are conducted by a Committee of Management consisting of the undermentioned gentlemen:

His Worship the Mayor, P. Carteret Hill, Esq. Chairman.

Capt. Littleton, Dr. McN. Parker.
Major DeHavilland, R. A., Honorary Treasurer.

Deposits of two cents and upwards will be received at each payment. The Rules specified in the prospectus are similar to those of the Provincial Savings Bank, and well adapted to ensure advantages to those who may avail themselves of the accommodation thus provided.

An institution of this kind, in any part of the Province, would afford opportunities for conferring benefits on individuals of limited means, as well as on young persons generally.

On the suggestion of friends in the city, and the request of subscribers in other parts of the Province, we have decided to devote a portion of each number of the *Weekly Miscellany* to a summary of general intelligence. We see no reason why young persons should not feel interested in the events occurring at home and abroad; and therefore introduce this additional department principally for their accommodation.

MUFFLING THE SCHOOL-BELL.

Merrier school-boys than those who occupied the seats in the Brown High School could not be found anywhere. Their shouts of laughter awoke every echo, and old men passing by the school-house would stop and watch the boys in their happy games, and think what a line of years had passed away since they ran and jumped in the same games, on the same spot.

It was a pretty picture. The old brick school-house, two stories high, was ornamented with a cupola, in which hung the school-bell, a clear, sharp-toned instrument which could be heard to the farthest corner of the village. On top of the cupola was a quill, which answered originally for a vane; but as the boys made it a target to throw stones at, it had become stationary, and pointed to neither point of the compass, but almost straight up into the air. One of the boys, who was somewhat of a wag, said the old quill wanted mending.

The Brown High School boys were, for the most part, good boys; but there are black sheep in every flock, and this school was not exempt.

A boy named George Beck was the most mischievous scholar; he had only been there a short time, but his hurtful influence was already noticed by Mr. Cutter, the teacher. He taught the boys a great many tricks which they had been innocent of before, and one or two of the boys had fallen off very much in their studies in consequence of their intimacy with George Beck.

Rufus Blake and Stephen Holt seemed to be most influenced by Beck's good-natured mischief; they liked him because he was so bold and daring; and he liked them because he could make them help him carry out his plans and projects.

One night, after school was dismissed, Beck informed Rufus that he had succeeded in fixing a key to fit the school-house, and he proposed having some fun out of it.

"Agreed," said Rufus; "what fun shall we have?"

"I will tell you a nice game to play," said George. "We will muffle the bell, and then in the morning Mr. Cutter won't hear any bell ring, and he will be late to school."

"But how can we get at the bell? how can we get up to the cupola?" asked Rufus.

"Oh! easy enough; I know where the ladder is, and we can put it up to the trap-door, and go very easily. I will get Steph. Holt to join with us, and he can hold the ladder, while we tie a cloth round the tongue of the old bell," said George.

"Both the boys agreed that it would be a grand trick, and they started down to Stephen Holt's house, to enlist him in the enterprise. They found him in the wood-shed sawing some wood. Stephen was an only son, and inclined to be a very

good boy; but, like most all boys, he was afraid of being laughed at; and Beck knew this, and therefore always laughed at him and called him a coward when he hesitated in joining Beck in his mischievous frolics. Stephen listened to the bell project, and, much to the gratification of his comrades, assented to accompany them on the exploit.

The question then arose as to when the deed should be attempted, and the next evening was suggested as the one; but Rufus thought that they had better take that very night, for something might happen if they delayed. So it was decided to take that evening, and after playing till it was dark, they set out for the school-house. Everything was quiet; the tall elm trees waved their giant arms over the roof, now and then grating harshly against the eaves. Each of the boys felt a thrill of fear as they ascended the steps, but they tried to laugh it off with a joke. The key fitted the lock exactly; they entered, and after securing the door on the inside, they groped their way down cellar, where George had seen the ladder; after stumbling round a great deal, they succeeded in getting hold of it; it was very heavy and quite long, and they were some time in getting it up into the school-room without making a noise.

It required the united strength of the three boys to raise it to the trap-door, but at length it was done, and Rufus and George ascended, leaving Stephen, who was the youngest and smallest, to stand at the foot of the ladder and keep it from slipping.

The boys had never been into the attic before, and were wholly unacquainted with the locality; it was pitch dark, and felt very close and hot; pretty soon they found a flight of steps, and ascending to the top found a heavy scuttle, which they were unable to lift.

"What shall we do now?" said Rufus.

"I guess we shall have to call Steph. to come and help us," replied George.

So Stephen was called to come up, but he said he was afraid to go up such a high ladder, and no one would be at the foot to hold it. At last he was induced to ascend, the two boys in the attic holding the top of the ladder. But it seemed that all three could not raise the scuttle, and then they discovered that it was fastened on one side by a padlock. Here was something they hadn't reckoned on. However, the boys had several keys with them, and they were intent on trying them, when they were startled by a tremendous crash which resounded through the building, frightening the boys half out of their wits. If they could have seen each other's faces, they would have been startled still more, for they were as white as sheets.

"What was that?" asked Stephen, in a tremulous voice.

"I don't know," said the others; "let's go down and see."

They approached the trap-door, when, to their horror and dismay, they found that the ladder was gone. It had slipped from its position and fallen to the floor. By the faint glimmer of moonlight which began to break from the clouds, the boys could see that in its course it had knocked down the stove-pipe, tipped over the teacher's table, and splintered several of the scholar's desks. Here was mischief enough, and, worse than all, they could not run away from it, for there they were in the dark loft, fifteen feet from the floor, and no way of getting down.

"Now we're in a fix!" exclaimed Beck.

Stephen and Rufus thought so too, and the former began to cry and wish he was safe at home.

"Can't we take the bell-rope and go down on that?" suggested Rufus.

It was a happy thought, but was a fruitless one, for on examination they found that the bell-rope was tied fast to a cleat in the school-room, and the other end was made fast to the bell-wheel, which was equally unattainable.

George Beck said he had half a mind to drop down to the floor, but on looking down he saw that a row of desks and chairs ran directly beneath, which would render a fall perilous.

It was growing very late in the evening, and the boys knew that their parents would be anxious about them, and might, perhaps, send out in search of them; but how could they ever find them in such an out-of-the-way hole as that? They saw no escape from remaining in their prison all night. The floor was hard and dusty, and all they had was the old coat which Beck had brought to muffle the bell with. Stephen Holt laid down on this and sobbed himself to sleep. His companions sat up, trying to conceive some method of release, for another difficulty presented itself; the air of the loft was close and oppressive, and they felt almost suffocated. They knew that it was impossible to avoid detection. If they remained till morning they would be discovered, and it would be no worse if they should seek relief then. So Rufus and George resolved to adopt the only mode of release which they could think of; it was a bold one, but the best one.

A small portion of the bell-rope passed through the attic on its way to the bell. Beck cut the rope off close to the floor with his pen-knife, and then waking Stephen, they all three caught hold and rang the old bell with all their might. It was just midnight, and the whole village had retired to rest, when the iron clang of the school-house bell reverberated through the air. A sound so unusual started every one from their slumbers, and windows were pushed up and night-capped heads protruded, asking "What's the matter?" The general idea seemed to be that something was on fire, and very soon this alarming cry ran through

the streets. In a wonderfully short time the streets were filled with curious persons running in all directions: a number started for the school-house, but were surprised to find the door shut and locked; no lights were visible, and yet the bell rang on with its wild clangor, frightening the birds from their nests and the poultry from their roosts.

"What can make the bell ring so?" asked one.

"Somebody run to the master's for the key," said another.

At this moment Mr. Cutter appeared with the key in his hand, and ran hastily up the steps, but, to his surprise; the door would not open; the boys had locked the door on the inner side, and left the key in the lock. The crowd by this time was very large, and in it were the fathers of the three boys who had created all this disturbance.

After a while a small boy was put into a window, and he opened the door. The crowd with lanterns, and armed with sticks and canes, rushed up the stairs; their astonishment increased when they found the school-room empty; but a cry of "help" from above attracted their attention. The ladder was elevated, and in a few moments the three mischief-makers, trembling with fright, and covered with dust and cobwebs, stood among the crowd. They felt cheap enough, and hung their heads for shame. Their fathers chanced to be present, and marched the guilty boys home.

The next day a meeting of the School Commissioners was held, and the matter investigated. The three boys were arraigned and questioned closely, and their previous character was inquired into. The Committee soon discovered that George Beck was the prime mover in all mischief, and the others were led astray by him.

After some deliberation, the Committee reluctantly decided to expel Beck from the school, and suspend Blake and Holt three months each.

It was a severe sentence, but its effect on the school was excellent. Beck was sent to a private teacher, who had directions to give particular attention to his conduct; and by kindness and good advice, it was not long before he was as well behaved as any boy in the town.

Rufus and Stephen studied at home until their term of suspension expired, and then they returned to the Brown High School, wiser and better boys.

THE LOAF.—When a loaf of bread is cut, we see a number of cells of various sizes; how do they come there? The yeast causes a vinous fermentation to take place in the dough, by which an air which is heavier than common air is formed, called carbonic acid gas; this, as the dough warms, expands, and tries to escape; but the dough by its tenacity retains it, and thus the cells are formed.

SMALL HELPS.

I want you to consider what you are doing day by day, in *little* ways, and in *little* things, for the help and comfort of others. I want you to feel like the celebrated Henry Martyn, who after such a simple act as the carrying a bunch of grapes to relieve the burning throat of a dying sailor, exclaimed, "How great is the luxury of doing good!"

A poor man in returning home from work, stooped and picked up a stone that lay in the way of passing wheels, and cast it out of the road. That stone might have been struck by somebody's wheel to the discomfort of the traveller and the injury of his vehicle. It was kind and thoughtful to remove it. Cannot you do as much as *that*?

It is impossible to tell the good which may spring from most trifling causes.

The great Dr. Doddridge was one day walking in the country, in a very depressed state of mind. He felt as if he could no longer bear up under the troubles that surrounded him. As he walked mournfully on, he heard through an open cottage-door a childish voice repeating these words, "As thy days so shall thy strength be." The effect upon him he says was indescribable; it was like life from the dead!

Might not you remind some weary and disconsolate heart of such an invigorating promise as this?

A woman who by her bad conduct had lost all her friends, became so wretched, that she went out one morning with the resolve to throw herself into the river, and thus end her miserable life. She had just turned the corner of the street, when a Christian lady passed her, and said to her kindly, "Good morning, Mary; how are you to-day?" Those few words changed the whole current of that woman's feelings. "Somebody cares for me after all!" she said to herself, "I will take heart once more, and try whether things will mend." She went home, became from that time an altered character, and lived to be a blessing to others.

What a little thing that lady's common salutation seemed! And yet how much good came from it.

THE OAK.

"An oak is not felled with one blow." Of course not, you reply, nobody expects that it will be. Well, dear reader, many people expect things that are quite as unlikely, and as unreasonable. They expect, I mean, to accomplish great purposes with but very little effort. At least, this is what I gather from their actions.

One of my young friends began the other day to learn French. Such knowledge, he thought, would be useful to him in after life. He bought a dictionary, a grammar, and a small, thin volume which

professed to teach him all that he required without the aid of a master; and he talked confidently to me of the rapid progress which he should make.

Well, how has he got on?

Oh, he has already given it up! He was not willing to take the necessary trouble. He had fancied that he should acquire the language almost immediately; but when he found that there was no royal road to learning, and that he must plod on day after day in an ordinary path, he threw aside his books in disgust, and has relinquished all idea of being a "capital French scholar." He wanted, you see, to fell the oak with one blow.

Another acquaintance of mine was desirous to overcome a long-indulged bad habit, which annoyed both herself and others. She supposed she should easily get rid of it. But after some struggles it was still unconquered. "It is of no use trying any longer," she said to me, "I shall never succeed!" "My dear girl," I said, "you must be patient, and hopeful. Such a habit as that cannot be uprooted in a week, nor, perhaps, in a month. The sturdy oak does not fall by a single blow. But if you persevere, you will gain the victory."

Such instances as these might be multiplied without number. I am not in want of any more at present, or else, I have no doubt, dear reader, that you could furnish me with a few out of your own personal history. How often have you imagined that small exertions would achieve great results! How frequently you have fancied that you could attain certain objects much more quickly than any one else could! In your home; in the world; in the Sunday-school; don't you remember how you were going to sweep away in a minute all the obstacles that stood in your path? One vigorous blow from your own hand was to bring down the gigantic oak! But you have failed. And you are disappointed.

Learn to be more humble; more rational, and more moderate in your expectations. You must work if you must win; you must persevere if you would be successful.

THE QUEEN'S DIADEM.—The imperial crown of England comprises one large ruby irregularly polished, one large broad spread sapphire, sixteen sapphires, eleven emeralds, four rubies, 1363 brilliant diamonds, 1273 rose diamonds, 147 table diamonds, four drop-shaped pearls, and 273 pearls.

CORN PAPER.—The manufacture of paper from the leaves of Indian corn is becoming extensive in Austria. The paper is said to be tougher than any ordinary paper made from rags, while it is almost wholly free from silica, which makes paper produced from straw so brittle.

TEMPERANCE DEMONSTRATION.

The National Division, Sons of Temperance, held its Annual Convention in Halifax, during the week ending Tuesday June 23. Delegates from various parts of the United States, Canada, and the Lower Provinces were present. The proceedings were unusually interesting; and members of the Grand and Subordinate Divisions of this Province speak in high terms of the zeal and eloquence of their talented visitors,—while the Delegates have expressed themselves much gratified by their enthusiastic reception. We have much pleasure in placing on record the following appropriate verses written by a resident member of the Convention:—

FAREWELL WORDS,

*To the Members of the National Division,
Sons of Temperance; assembled June,
1863: Halifax, Nova Scotia.*

Farewell Brothers! Homeward wending!
Here have pass'd some happy hours;
Life, alas, has dreary deserts,
But it boasts some blooming bowers.

Grateful, bowery rest we shared in,—
Vivid interchange of thought;
Cares and councils manifold,
All with worthy objects fraught.

Now the pleasures and the toilings
Fade, and Farewells come at last;
But the faithful memory claspeth
Cherished relics of the past.

Farewell Brothers! One great Being
Rules the far-divided lands;
Common Origin we boast of,
Common Cause our love expands.

Homeward bound! We part diversely!
Lov'd-ones South and Westward call;
Briny deep and iron road-way
Lead afar from festive hall.

Some to sister Province hastening;
Some to teeming eastern isle;
May a Providence all gracious
On each welcoming homestead smile.

Though the spangled banner riseth
Honored, o'er some hearth-stones dear—
Though Britannia's meteor standard
Proudly waves above us here—

Brothers still, in pious efforts
Let us e'er united be;
"Faithfulness," our favorite *pass-word*—
And our answer, "Charity."

Long we'll hold your mem'ry sacred;
Genial mind and manly form,—
Hear, in soul, your pilot voices,
Mid the sunshine and the storm.

By your prairie, lake and river,
Deign in evening thoughts to stray,
Backward, to the happy moments,
Pass'd by broad Chebucto Bay.

A MEMBER OF THE N. D.

OUR WORLD'S INHABITANTS.

It has been lately computed that there are at the present time upwards of 3;2 millions of inhabitants in Europe; 720 millions in Asia; 200 millions in America; 89 millions in Africa; 2 millions in Australia; making the total population of the whole world more than thirteen hundred millions of people. It may give an idea of what this number is, to state, that if a person were to count this number of grains of corn—were to count at the rate of 50 a minute, for twelve hours every day—it would take 96 years to count as many grains as there are inhabitants in the world. Assuming, as experience justifies our doing, that, on an average, 25 persons in every thousand die yearly, it follows, that in the whole world 32 millions are dying every year; about 2½ millions every month; 87 thousand every day; 3,650 every hour; and 61 in every minute. Thus, in about 40 years the whole of the enormous number of people, of all nations, religions, languages, and colours, at this time inhabiting our earth, will have passed away into ETERNITY!! Are you helping to send the Bible to those who are in darkness, to show them the way to a brighter world above?

News of the Week.

English papers to the 13th inst. have been received by the R. M. steamship Canada.

The Polish Insurrection continues with unabated vigour. Engagements, terminating favourably for the insurgents, have taken place at Wyszogrod and Balwierzynski in the Kingdom of Poland, and at Horke in Lithuania.

Polish prisoners are treated with unusual barbarity by the Russian officials and their minions.

A frightful accident happened to a railway train conveying a portion of troops from St. Petersburg to Lithuania, caused by the railway giving way. 300 soldiers were killed.

England, France and Austria have united in a joint note to the Emperor of Russia, in which an amnesty of an ample kind is asked for the Poles, together with representative institutions, the admission of the Poles to a share in the Government offices and employment, complete liberty of conscience, and the reception of a Papal Nuncio at St. Petersburg.

TRIUMPHS OF THE CIRCASSIANS.—A letter from Soukum-Kale of the 24th May states that the strife between the Russians and the Circassians continues, and with the balance of success decidedly in favour of the latter:—"The last engagement which took place was at Ambosh, where a column of 5000 Russians returning to the newly-constructed fort on the

River Psach, by the line of the Chagwacha, after being relieved by some fresh troops, were vigorously attacked by the mountaineers. The fight lasted four hours and a half, the Russians losing 500 men killed and wounded. Another division of Imperial troops advanced on Zitzzi, where they were about to construct a fort, and commenced cutting a passage through the forest of Bikanai. They, the Russians, to the number of 4500, were there attacked by the mountaineers and obliged to retire with a loss of 150 men, besides a number of wounded, the Circassians, under Mehemet Ali, only losing about a fourth of that number.

Much political excitement prevails in France; the recent elections have terminated unfavourably to the government. In reference to this result, a popular English Journal remarks—"A defeat of the Government in France means much more than such a circumstance does in this country. There it implies disaffection."

A TERRIBLE BOMB.—A correspondent of the *Independence Belge* says that a Parisian inventor has offered to the Polish committee a new sort of fulminant which will explode even after being an hour under water. These bombs can be made in the midst of the woods, with ordinary materials, and at a low price; and it is said that many persons might be injured by a single discharge.

The King of Prussia has occasioned great commotion in Berlin by attempts to restrict the liberty of the press. The town council of Berlin has sent a deputation to the King, warning him against the unconstitutional character of his proceedings; and whilst the electors have condemned the illegal ordinances, the movement of resistance by legal demonstrations has been commenced in the Prussian provinces.

The crown of Greece is at last formally disposed of. The Greek deputation had an audience of the King of Denmark, on the 6th, and officially announced that the National Assembly of Greece had chosen Prince William George of Denmark as King of the Hellenes, under the title of George I. The new King of the Greeks was much cheered by the people upon leaving the castle of Christiansburg. A banquet was given in the evening by the King of Denmark, which was of an extremely brilliant character.

According to a correspondent of *La France*, King George of Greece will remain for another year in Denmark to complete his studies. At the end of next May his marriage will be celebrated with the third daughter of Queen Victoria, (Princess Helena), and on the 1st of June, 1864, he will set out for the country he is to govern. Until his arrival there the affairs of the nation will be entrusted to a Regency Council.

A most disastrous fire has occurred at

Benha, the point where the railway crosses the Damietta branch of the Nile, which has caused great loss of life and property. Over 250-bodies have been found and more are being constantly dragged out from among the ruins.

Two remarkable and interesting events have taken place in London. On the 8th inst. the Prince and Princess of Wales were sumptuously entertained by London's citizens, and on Wednesday the 10th the much talked-of Memorial of the Great Exhibition of 1851 and of its founder the Prince Consort, was unveiled with stately ceremony in the presence of the heir apparent and his bride. There was no lack of public enthusiasm upon either of those occasions.

The progress of the French forces in Mexico,—although retarded for some time by a more formidable resistance than they had previously apprehended—has been of late successful. The commander of the Garrison of Puebla is said to have surrendered unconditionally with 18,000 men, after a desperate resistance. One division of the French army had started for Mexico.

By advices from Mexico to the 24th ult. the capture of Puebla is confirmed, but it is reported that the number of prisoners did not exceed three or four hundred. President Juarez has taken command of the Mexican troops, and all the French residents have been compelled to leave the city. All the available Mexican troops are being drawn towards the capital; the fortifications are being strengthened, and it is believed a desperate resistance will be made. The French advance had arrived at San Martin des Mulican.

AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE.

Much of the intelligence relating to the movements of Federal and Confederate armies is unreliable; and as opportunities rarely occur for receiving reports from unprejudiced sources, due allowance should be made in regard to the rumours of triumphs or defeats communicated by interested parties.

According to late telegraphic dispatches the Southern army is preparing to assume the offensive, and it is conjectured that the Federal forces will shortly be attacked on Northern territory. From the dispatch of Thursday we learn that great excitement existed at Harrisburg. The Confederates were advancing rapidly in force, and were within a few miles of Carlisle. General Knipe will probably give them battle at that point.

Ewell's whole corps of six brigades is reported to be at Hagerstown.—The Confederates are in full force at Mercersburg.—Generals Couch and Franklin think that the enemy has serious intentions upon Harrisburg.—The Vanderbilt and Alabama are reported to have engaged near Santa Cruz, but the result is

unknown.—The Tacony destroyed a dozen fishing vessels on Tuesday near Martha's Vineyard.—General Banks made an assault on Port Hudson on the 14th, gaining a position from 50 to 100 yards of enemy's works and holding them.

—The Reporter of Saturday evening contains a dispatch to the New York Times from Frederick, dated Wednesday, which says there is no doubt that half of Lee's army is on Maryland soil, advancing into Pennsylvania in three divisions, followed by immense empty waggon trains. Foraging parties are scouring in all directions, and thousands of cattle and horses have been seized.—It is believed in Hagerstown that General Knipe has evacuated Carlisle before the superior advancing column.—General Milroy has been driven out of McConnellville.—General Couch is about declaring martial law.

In a later Telegram, dated St. John, June 27, it is stated that a dispatch from Harrisburg says that the Confederate force which occupied Gettysburg yesterday was Earle's division belonging to Longstreet's corps. Two corps are now supposed to have crossed the Potomac.—Ewell's headquarters is at Chambersburg; he has 12000 under him.—Governor Curtin (of Pennsylvania) has called for 60,000 troops for 60 days.—It is announced that the enemy is in full force within 23 miles of Harrisburg.—A dispatch to the New York Times from Frederick says that the enemy has left Boonesboro, going towards Chambersburg.—Lee and staff are said to be on the North side of the Potomac.—The Washington Star says that the indications are that Lee intends operating with nearly his whole army north of the Potomac.—General Foster has commenced arrangements for embarking troops from North Carolina for Fortress Monroe, with a view of operating against Richmond.—Great enthusiasm prevailed at Newbern, N. C.—Confederate vessels are reported burning American vessels off Cape Sable, Nova Scotia.

Boston papers to the 25th inst. have been received at the Merchants' Exchange. Several more schooners had been captured and burned by the Tacony, off Massachusetts coast, and preparations were being made at Charlestown Navy Yard to send two steamers in search of her. Merchantmen have also been fitted out and sent after Confederate cruisers.

In consequence of the destruction of American fishing vessels by the Tacony, a rise of \$2 per barrel in the price of mackerel has taken place at Boston, New York and Philadelphia.

General Banks has officially stated that an assault had been made on Port Hudson on the 14th, and the Federal forces had gained and held a position within a hundred yards of the enemy's works.

The excitement along the borders of Pennsylvania remains unabated.

A despatch in the Express of yesterday states that a second assault was made on Port Hudson on the 14th inst. which resulted disastrously to the Federal forces, they being repulsed with 700 killed and wounded.—General Magruder is said to be at Attakapas county with 15,000 men, and fortifying at Franklyn to protect the county in the event of Port Hudson falling into the hands of the Federals.—Confederate General Johnston is reported in position at Milliken's Bend, cutting off Grant's supplies.

LATEST.

By Telegraph to Morning Papers.

St. John, June 29—(P. M.)—Harrisburg dispatch of yesterday P. M., announces that Confederate forces were in front of that place, within 3 miles, and throwing shell. Federal troops within entrenchments, and will make a bold stand.—Last of Longstreet's corps passed through Hagerstown on Friday towards Pennsylvania; Hill's corps preceded.—Lee also passed through.—Hooker's army reported moving rapidly.—The crew of the bark Tacony, fearing capture, burnt her and transferred armament, &c., to the schr Archer, which entered Portland Harbour on Friday, intending to burn gunboats building there, &c. During the night, they boarded a cutter, put crew in her, and went to sea, followed by the Archer.—They were all captured by steamers Forest City and Chesapeake, after blowing up cutter.—Other piratical crafts on the coast.

The Anniversary of the Queen's Coronation was observed yesterday by displays of flags, and royal salutes from the Citadel and H. M. Ships.

GALE AND LOSS OF LIFE.—A severe gale was experienced at Barrington on Tuesday 16th. Two sons of Mr. John Dixon, of Cape Island, named Jacob and Willard, who were fishing off the coast, whilst attempting to return, their boat swamped and sank, and, sad to relate, Willard was drowned. Jacob was picked up and his life saved by a neighbor, Mr. Atkins, who was following in another boat. Deceased was about 18 years of age.—*Yarmouth Herald*.

A telegram of the 26th inst. from Yarmouth via St. John, says:—Packet sch. Monitor from Boston, reports at 12 o'clock last night, 30 miles W. by S. off Yarmouth, fell in with a large ship, burned to waters edge. Still burning, name unknown, in tow of two schooners. At 4 o'clock this morning saw a steamer standing southwardly, partially changed course and speed two or three times. Saw similar looking steamer on Wednesday, 70 miles East of Cape Ann standing North East.

ICEBERGS.

I dare say you have heard, even in your short life, of some brave ship which sailed proudly out to sea, in the month of May or June, (1856,) and which was last seen nobly riding over the waves, on its way across the wide Atlantic. And when a long, long time had elapsed, and no news had ever come of the brave ship, and those who had friends on board had waited and hoped, and hoped and waited, till their hearts were weary, I dare say you have heard some wise old man say, shaking his head mournfully, "Ah! she must have met with the ice, and gone down bow foremost, with all on board."

A very terrible thing to think of, but it is the history of the ill-fated Pacific, and many a brave ship besides. I mean, now, to tell you something about this ice, which is so terrible an enemy to meet with.

Far away, in the north, where the summer lasts only six weeks, where the long winter night is from November to February, without a single ray of sunshine, and the cold is so severe that no trees grow, and very few animals can live, the water freezes into lumps like mountains. Near the shore, where it is shallow, the sea is frozen solid from the bottom. Sometimes, where the beach is shelving, the tide and the wind leave a narrow opening between the land and the ice, which grounds in twenty and thirty feet water; this sailors call "the land-water." In other places, where the shore is abrupt, the large ice clings to the rocks. When spring and summer come, and the snow melts on shore, streams of water pour upon these ice-masses. Freeze, and increase their bulk. When it blows, the waves dash up against them, throwing their spray over their sides, and swelling them prodigiously. There are places in the Arctic regions where the beach deepens so gradually that the ice is always aground. That ice never moves. The weak sun just melts the top of it, and makes little pools of water, which soon freeze solid once more; when winter returns, the snows, and rains, and damp winds go to work again to build the mass higher and higher. In one place, the same masses of ice have been known to sailors for twenty years; for aught we know, they may have been there since the creation of the world.

In other places, again, where the water is deep, the ice-lumps float about with the tide and wind. Sometimes they form part of the great continent of ice which covers the polar seas, and which sailors call "the pack," where ships are sometimes caught and held fast for months and months. But often, the greatest and largest of these lumps will break loose from the smaller ice, and sail away on their own account, always making for the southern latitudes, just as a moth makes for a candle. These are called icebergs,

which means, in English, ice mountains. Mountains, indeed, they are. Some of them are more than a mile wide at the water line, and rise into the air far higher than our church steeples. We know, from calculation, that the part of them that is under water is larger than that which is above the surface. They are of all shapes and sizes. Some of them resemble pretty islands, with green slopes and purple hills—for the sun's rays color the ice most beautifully—and even village-like clusters of little mounds and terraces. Others look like grand cathedrals, with lofty towers and spires, and gloomy aisles, and grim windows, with blue gleams of light now and then glancing through them. Others, again, remind you of old turreted castles, with watch-towers, and stern battlements, and port-holes for guns, and a draw-bridge, which the lord of the castle might almost be expected to let down at any moment. And some of them take the shape of monsters, men with scores of hands and a gigantic head, raised fiercely out of the freezing water, and weeping tears of icy spray at being disturbed from their repose; or huge brutes, with a ridge of rough ice by way of mane, and paws on which a man-of-war might conveniently rest.

When icebergs are loose, they move steadily southward. Down past the ice-bound coast of Greenland they sail, buffeted and battered by the waves, which dash their spray insultingly over the mountain monsters, and vainly try to toss them from side to side. They have no rest. Night and day they sail southward, southward; and, when they clear the cape of Greenland, and creep into the warm waters of the Atlantic, oh! then the proud bergs begin to suffer. All day long the sun pours his fiercest rays upon their head, which rups in torrents; the warm ocean water eats its way slowly and treacherously into their base. The sun is no match for the water, though he makes so much more show. Some day, the noiseless, gnawing waves cut off so much of that part of the berg which is under water, that it loses its balance, and topples over with a crash that is heard miles away. Sometimes, two great bergs, sailing southward in company, fall upon each other in their rage, and grind and tear each other with a clatter like thunder. Sometimes—I am afraid—poor, miserable ships, sailing peaceably over the ocean, have been caught between two of these monsters, and crunched in a second.

Other bergs, working out their destiny and sailing slowly and noiselessly to the south, have lain like traitors in a brave ship's path. It is a foggy night; from the stern you cannot see the bowsprit; all the air around is white, and thick, and dull, and sounds can hardly be heard. On the ship goes, through the mist and darkness, the cruel wind driving her smartly

through the water, and the passengers and crew idly counting how many days more of such a breeze would take them to land. All at once, in the muffled stillness, a sailor shrieks. Men look up hurriedly; see, right before them, a great white mass, wrapped in a hazy shroud; the captain shouts; there is a rush—the crash comes, awful, irresistible; the good ship parts, recoils from the berg (which has hardly trembled at so puny a shock), and goes down directly with all hands to the bottom.

MAKE A GEOGRAPHY.

"Can't do it?" Neither could you walk until you had learned how. We know of a boy but little more than twelve years old who has made a Geography. It is not printed, and probably never will be. It is written, and the maps are drawn on a few sheets of foolscap paper. Any one of you can do the same thing, perhaps as well or better than this lad. He did not like this branch of study, and very often neglected his lessons in it, until an ingenious teacher showed him how to make a geography for himself. Then he became much interested, and at this time knows more on the subject than many men who have a college education.

His plan of working was this: At his teacher's request he first made a "geography of the house he lived in—that is, he drew on his slate a plan of the house, showing where the parlour, the sitting-room, kitchen, bed-rooms, &c. were situated. The places for the doors and windows were all marked, and also the situation of the principal articles of furniture of the room. After the plan was drawn, the boy wrote a short description of the principal rooms. He mentioned on which side of the house each was, its size, general appearance, &c. Then his teacher questioned him upon it, just as if it had been a lesson in a book. The little fellow was greatly pleased, and did not miss a single answer.

The next exercise was with a lead pencil upon paper. He drew a plan or map of the yard. The place occupied by each building was shown, and marks were made to represent where each flower-bed and tree stood. The points of the compass were marked, and the pupil thought it real sport to tell in what direction the bee-hives were from the pig-pen, and which way from the pear-tree the quince bush was situated. He was also required to describe the different objects as well as he could, and to speak of the neighbouring fields by which the yard was surrounded. This completed his geography of the yard.

The young student was now ready for a more extensive work. He undertook to draw a map of his father's whole farm, showing its boundaries and how the different fields were located. This caused

him no little labour. He had to walk all around it, and notice in which direction each boundary fence extended; and at first it puzzled him to know how long to make each line on paper to correspond with the length of the farm lines. He first thought of using a long rod to measure each distance, but this was very slow work. His father, who had now become interested from seeing his boy so full of his plans, suggested that he should count his steps as he walked over the ground he wished to measure. This was easily done. He therefore took pains to make his steps as equal in length as possible, and by a little practice could soon measure a distance pretty accurately. His teacher now made him a present of a small pocket compass, and showed him how to use it. With this he could tell exactly which way the lines run. He now worked with much satisfaction. He would take his compass and a pencil and paper with him, and starting early in the morning, would commence operations. Looking at his compass, he noticed that the first boundary fence ran nearly north and south. He walked to where it turned eastward, counting his steps, and found it was one hundred and thirteen steps. Then he marked on his paper, N. 113. The next line he marked N. E. 67, meaning sixty-seven steps in a north-east course. Thus he continues walking and marking until school-time. In a few days he had in this way completed his survey of the boundary lines.

Then came the drawing of them, which was easily done. He had a small pocket-rule, divided into inches and sixteenths, and he made each inch on paper represent sixty-four steps. This gave four steps to each sixteenth of an inch. Then, by drawing a "North and South line," and giving each line its proper direction, according to the notes of his survey, he soon had a pretty accurate outline of the farm. The work of dividing into fields was done in the same way. This occupied him several days longer. He also mapped out the brooks, swamps, and other prominent natural features of the place, and when it was completed, and each field was described, he had a work of which he might well be proud. It was the geography of his father's farm.

The boy was not satisfied until he had made himself a geography of the town in which he lived. This he was enabled to do by copying a map which he procured. In order to be sure that the map was correct, he spent many Saturdays in walking over the different roads laid down upon the map. He also introduced many additions of his own, by marking the situations of the churches, school-houses, mills, &c.

All this was a work of months; but at the end of that time he had become a real enthusiast in the study of geography, and was never better pleased than when

looking over maps, and learning the situation of places about which he read in books and newspapers.

Now, then, you see how easy it will be for you to make a Geography on a small scale for yourself; and if, like the boy we have been writing of, you think this a dry, uninteresting study, you will find, by trying a similar experiment, that it will become a real pleasure. Perhaps you will feel proud enough of your map of the farm, when completed, to send us a copy. It would certainly be to us a pleasing evidence that you had read this article to some purpose.

ATHLETIC EXERCISES.

WALKING, RUNNING AND LEAPING.

In olden time, before there were railroads or steamers, men used to ride and walk far more than they do now. Men thought nothing of travelling twenty miles on foot or on horseback, to go to market, or visit a friend. Boys, too, in those days, took more exercise than they do now. They did not smoke as much as they have since learned to do; but they could run and leap far better than the boys of our time, and they were fond of foot-races, and games in which jumping and running were the secret of success.

Surely a walk of ten miles each day would not be too much for every boy of fourteen and upwards. Perhaps this distance would be too great to begin with. Four miles would fatigue a person not used to walking. One might begin with this, and gradually increase it, till the whole ten miles could be traveled without severe fatigue. It ought not to take over three hours to walk this distance. A good walker at full speed, will travel six miles for the first, and, if he be very strong, for the second hour also; but four miles an hour is a very good pace, and for that one must have a level road. In Europe, it is very common for young men to travel great distances afoot, for the purpose of enjoying themselves, and seeing the country. It is an excellent practice, and one which might be followed very agreeably in some of the beautiful parts of this country.

Running, too, is fine sport. Foot-races have always been famous and popular sports; the old Greeks and Romans thought so much of them that they made them religious exercises, and the swiftest runner was supposed to be a special favorite of the gods. I don't see, myself, that they have anything to do with religion; but I am sure they have much to do with health and strength. The distance to be run in races of this kind should be short, not more than a couple of hundred yards, at most; as boys sometimes do themselves a mischief by overtaxing their strength. But in races where the competitors are bound to keep at a walk, the distance may be a mile or two. In

running and walking, you will find it to your advantage to throw off coat and neck gear of every kind; to buckle a strap round your waist; to wear strong, well-fitting shoes, neither too large nor too small; to throw your head well back; not to swing your arms too much; to resist the tendency to quick and deep breathing, and not to put forth your whole strength at the beginning of a race.

If you walk and run well, you will also be fond of leaping. This, too, is fine exercise for the muscles. Straight leaps, or perpendicular leaps over hurdles, with a run, will bring out the muscles of the legs finely. For these leaps, you should have a run of about twenty yards; your steps should be short, and should increase in rapidity as you approach the object to be leaped. For the straight leap, a trench, increasing in width from ten to twenty feet, will answer very well; you can begin at the narrow end, and practice leaping till you can cross it at a bound near the wide end. A hurdle of twigs, or fence with a loose light cross piece, is the best arrangement for the high leaps. When you try to leap it with a run, be careful to alight on your toes, not your heels. Leaping with a pole exercises the arms and chest; it is fine sport. You ought to have a short run, then plant the pole, and, leaning your body forward, swing round the pole: be careful, in this leap, not to grasp the pole too high, or you may lose your balance in air. Vaulting is another form of leaping which will give you great strength of arm and chest. You should begin with a fence as high as your waist, and resting your hands upon it, swing your body over, keeping your legs straight. With a little practice, you will soon be able to vault a fence as high as your chin. Vaulting may sometimes prove a useful accomplishment; as, for instance, if you are unlucky enough to be chased by a mad bull in a fenced field.

There are many sports in which running and jumping are the essentials; such as Foot-ball, Leap-frog and several other games of the same kind.

To make an end—walking, running, leaping, and all such exercises, are good and useful in their way. Those wise old men who lived a couple of thousand years ago at Rome, used to say that a man's mind could not be sound unless it dwelt in a sound body; and their plan, to make their bodies sound, was to encourage running, leaping, and other athletic exercises.

CURIOUS BIBLES.—There is now in state of good preservation, at Göttingen, a Bible written on palm leaves, containing 5876 leaves. Another copy, of the same material, is at Copenhagen. There were also in Sir Hans Sloane's collection more than twenty manuscripts, in various languages, on the same material.

LITTLE ROSE;

OR, A CHILD'S PORTRAIT.

A bright contented little flower,
Within our home's fair garden blows;
She gladdens many a lonely hour,
And bears the happy name of "Rose."

She opens to the radiant light,
And thus each day more lovely grows;
All that is pure, and true, and right,
Is just like sunshine to our Rose.

By kind and winning words and ways,
Sweet fragrance round our path she throws,
Yet seeks not notice, asks not praise,
Our modest, useful, little Rose.

Untouched by worldly pride, she blooms
Alike for rich and poor; she shows
Her smiles, and gives her soft perfumes
To each, to all,—just like the Rose!

And when—far distant be the day!—
Her charms must fade, her life must close,
Fond memories long with us will stay,
The treasured leaflets of our Rose!

INTERESTING PARAGRAPHS.

MINIATURE OAKS.—If an acorn be suspended by a piece of cord within half an inch of the surface of some water contained in a glass, and permitted so to remain without disturbance for a few months, it will burst, send a root into the water, and shoot upward a straight tapering stem with beautiful little green leaves. In this way a young oak tree may be produced on the mantle-shelf of a room, and become an interesting object. The chestnut will also grow thus, and probably other nut-bearing trees. The water should be often changed when the plant has appeared.

POTATOES were first known in England about the year 1586. For nearly a century they were cultivated only in gardens as a curious exotic, furnishing an expensive luxury for the tables of none but the richest people in the kingdom. The plant which now supplies the poorest with a cheap and abundant article of food, was one time so rare that, as appears from an account of the household expenses of Anne, wife of James I., the price of potatoes was rated at one shilling per pound!

COSTLINESS OF WAR.—At the siege of Sebastopol there were 252,000 rounds of cannon ammunition expended. There were 266 guns and 100 mortars used in the siege, and after the fall of the city, only 41 of the whole number remained serviceable.

ENGLAND.—If we divide the globe into two hemispheres, according to the maximum extent of land and water in earth, we arrive at the curious result of designating England as the centre of the former (or *terrene*) half, and an antipodal point near New Zealand as the centre

of the aqueous hemisphere. The exact position in England is not far from the Land's End, so that if an observer were there raised to such a height as to discern at once the half of the globe, he would see the greatest possible extent of land; if similarly elevated in New Zealand, the greatest possible surface of water.

A. M. AND P. M.—We divide our days for common purposes into forenoon and afternoon. By noon, we mean that moment of time when the sun attains the highest point in the heavens, and the shadows begin to turn. This happens precisely at twelve o'clock. That part of the day between sunrise and noon we call *forenoon*; it is generally expressed by the letters *A. M.* prefixed to the hour. *A. M.* is an abbreviation of *ante meridiem*, two Latin words, signifying before the middle of the day, or before noon. The portion of the day between noon and sunset we call afternoon, and the letters denoting this are *P. M.*, for *post meridiem*, afternoon. *A. M.* is applied to all the hours between midnight and noon, and *P. M.* to all between noon and midnight.

TEMPORAL BLESSINGS.—Wish for them cautiously—ask for them submissively—want them contentedly—obtain them honestly—accept them humbly—manage them prudently—employ them lawfully—impart them liberally—esteem them moderately—increase them virtuously—use them subseviently—forego them easily—resign them willingly.

BET ROOT SUGAR.—The beet-root is now being extensively cultivated in the United States, for the purpose of extracting sugar from it. According to experiments made in Ohio, one thousand pounds of root yielded between seventy and eighty gallons of juice, and one acre yielded nineteen tons of juice. From the expressed juice a good brown sugar was manufactured at a cost of twopence per lb.

VARIETIES.

If I give 2s. 9d. for a fire shovel, what will a ton of coals come to?—Ashes.

A schoolboy being asked by his teacher how he should flog him, replied, "If you please, sir, I should like to have it upon the Italian system of penmanship, the heavy strokes upwards, and the down ones light."

The following amusing bull was lately perpetrated at Bristol. A magistrate asked a prisoner if he were married. "No," replied the man. "Then," rejoined his worship, amid peals of laughter, "it's a good thing for your wife."

A Quaker, upon being asked why he did not venture to go to an election, at which the proceedings were very riotously conducted, and give his vote, replied, "Friend, I do not see why I should endanger my own poll to benefit another man's."

Which is the most dishonest of the vowels?—*B*, because it is always in debt.

The difference between perseverance and obstinacy: the first is a strong *will*, the last a strong *won't*.

Why is Madrid like the letter *S*?—Because it is the *capital* of Spain.

"Paws for a reply," as the cat said when she scratched the dog for barking at her.

When is a window like a star?—When it's a skylight.

The following result of the omission of a comma is rather ludicrous. In an article about the inauguration of a new hospital building in New York, the writer is made to state that an extensive view is presented from the *fourth story of the Hudson River*.

AN AWKWARD SQUAD.—In the days of the old volunteers, Mr. Ker commanded a company, which he duly drilled and paraded; but his recruits were particularly awkward squad—they never could draw up in a straight line, do what he might. "Oh!" he cried, one day, holding up his hands in horror as he looked along the front rank, "Oh what a bent row! just come out, lads, and look at it yourselves."

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.

CHARADE.

I am composed of 7 letters. My 1, 2, 5, 3 murdered his brother; my 7, 5, 4 is an intoxicating liquor; my 5, 3, 6 is a place of entertainment. My whole is the dwelling place of the writer. G.

ENIGMA.

I'm whirl'd along on the railway car,
And the wires through me bring news from far;
When snug in your parlour you look to the street,

I'm the very first object your vision to greet;
Yet tho' you see me, you notice me not,
For I'm equally common in palace and cot;
Without me astrologers could not obtain
Their knowledge of stars or the coming of rain;
If I wish'd with my uses a volume I'd fill;
If you now try to guess me, I'm certain you will.

SOLUTIONS OF QUESTIONS IN LAST NO.

Rebus.—Madeira; Aberdeen; Richmond; Roxburgh; Isar; Anspach; Guzerat; Edinburg; Owyhe; Fecamp; Tiber; Hasli; EacN; Pacific; Rhone; Invernes; Naples; Carthagen; Eapel; OtahcitE; FoiX; Wolga; Ascalon; Lapland; Exeter; SpA.

MARRIAGE OF THE PRINCE OF WALES AND H. R. H. THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRA.

Arithmetical Question.—The Ladder must be 83 24 feet long; or nearly 83 feet and a quarter.

Riddle.—An Arrow.