

Albany Register.

An Editorial Talk about Great Men.

Greatness is not inseparable from simplicity, neither from folly. Philosophers are not always uttering wise sayings, neither are statesmen always forging thunderbolts, nor poets courting the Muses. In general they live very much as other people do, eating, drinking, sleeping, talking, laughing, working, idling, groaning, coughing, sneezing, going about in the world doing many things just as ordinary folks do, and many others not half so well. A suspicion that they are ethereal is entirely groundless; for they are mundane both in origin and character. It is pleasant to know that a Shakespeare, a Scott, a Johnson, a Byron, a Burns, Bunyan, Milton, Wesley, Calvin, were mortal men, like ourselves, the great things in their characters being associated with many little things.

In the details of their littleness we arrive at the most correct solution of their characters. Burns in his rural, cottage home, is a cheerful picture to contemplate. We like to join with Scott in his every day life at Abbotsford; or look in upon Johnson at Bolt Court; or Shakespeare at New Place; or Byron at the Abbey. It affords us pleasure as well as profit to study the tastes, prejudices and habits of these great men, and others, and thus arrive at the real source of their greatness. The systematic zeal and activity of a Wesley are as wonderful as the inflexibility of a Calvin. The noblest epic of a Milton is enriched by the thought that he preferred blindness to the sacrifice of duty. Bunyan, confined in Bedford jail, gives to the world in minutest detail the best example of "Progress" ever made by profane writer to induce mortals to "Pilgrim" for a better life. That he tags laces in jail while he does this, to earn a support for his family, or that in earlier life he was an ignorant and wicked tinker, but increases our respect for the example of will and energy, and faith and goodness which enabled him to do so well in his "Progress." Confinement, however, does not always bring these sources of inspiration into play, neither will it make small men great; and yet, greatness has its inspiring causes. While Young was composing his "Night Thoughts," he had a skull before him, in which he would sometimes place a lighted candle. Before Dryden set himself to compose, he used to take physic; gin and water suffered when Byron wrote; Coleridge could not get himself up to composing heat without quantities of opium; music set the souls of Luther and Milton all aglow with inspiration; clamorous duns caused Goldsmith to drink hard while composing the "Vicar of Wakefield;" Robert Hall sought for inspiration in burning the tobacco god; the horrible in Mrs. Radcliff's romances was inspired by eating half raw beefsteaks, extensively mixed with onions—a favorite and harmless dish with some, which only proves that we are not "fearfully and wonderfully made" alike. In the matter of tastes, much discrepancy has existed and now exists among the great. Sir Walter Scott was very fond of dogs—as much so as Grant is of horses, or Daniel Webster was of oxen. Scott was

always attended by his favorite dogs, and Webster, three days before his death, walked feebly to the door to gaze upon his favorite oxen. Sacchini required the presence of his wife while he composed, as well as his cats. We don't know which he preferred, but hope the former. Byron was a splendid swimmer; Washington was an expert in jumping; Jackson was fond of a pipe and buttermilk; Randolph could swear a blue streak; Clay took pleasure in blooded stock; Patrick Henry delighted in getting his associates involved in a heated argument, that he might study the different phases of character. It is no exaggeration to say that all great men have their peculiarities and follies. Their greatness does not consist in these, but they are simply accompanying traits. Their virtues should be copied and not their faults.

Touching Devotion.

One of the most fearful cases ever told on paper is this, of a little boy, a mere child, who traveled one thousand four hundred miles, taking care of the body of his mother all the way.

An expressman, upon reaching his office early one morning in January, observed on the sidewalk a long heavy box, which his practiced eye at once identified as containing a corpse. Upon the end of the box, shivering with cold, sat a half-clad boy about seven or eight years of age. Addressing him kindly, he said:

"My lad, don't sit there; you will freeze. Come in and sit by the fire."

Bursting into tears, the little fellow replied:

"No, I can't come. My mother is in this box, and I promised her that I would not leave her until we got home."

Deeply affected with the touching devotion of this brave little fellow, he finally succeeded in convincing him of the entire safety of his precious charge, and taking him to a neighboring restaurant, gave him a warm breakfast, and then learned the particulars of his story.

His father died about a year previous in a remote village in Minnesota, leaving his mother in delicate health and nearly destitute. She died but a few days before the boy's sad journey, charging the little hero with the sad duty of conveying the remains to a distant State, and furnished him with (all she had) a sum of money barely sufficient to carry them both by freight cars to their destination.

The little fellow had actually ridden day and night in a freight car with his melancholy trust, never for a moment losing sight of it.

ORIGIN OF COAL.—According to Professor Wurtz, the formation of coal depends entirely upon the action of the iron which was dissolved in the water of the coal period. The combinations of iron with which coal is always accompanied are pyrites, iron spar, and hydrated oxide. These were doubtless derived from the strata interjected between the coal beds. In this case the oxygenated water appeared to act upon the metallic sulphurets which were contained in the crystalline slates, from the destruction of which these coal strata were derived. Coal, consequently, is the natural result of the eremacausis of organic substances in waters which contain sulphate of iron and free carbonic acid. An immense pressure upon the mass, while in a plastic condition, was also, without doubt, an additional element of importance.

"Strayed or stolen—A large Red Kow, with Yaller Specs on her left side, and a pair of white speks on her right ear. She is about seven or eight years old, and belongs to a poor widow with a long tail. Ten dollars will be given to anybody who will turn her over to Newark, Gans 17, 180062."

Pay Your Preachers.

If a man is fit to preach, he is worth wages. If he is worth wages, he should be paid with all the business regularity that is demanded and enforced in business life. There is no man in the community who works harder for the money he receives than the faithful minister. There is no man—in whose work the community is interested—to whom regular wages that shall not cost him a thought, are so important. Of what possible use in a pulpit can any man be whose weeks are frittered away in mean cares and dirty economies? Every month, or every quarter-day, every pastor should be sure that there will be placed in his hands, as his just wages, money enough to pay all his expenses. Then without a sense of special obligation to anybody, he can preach the truth with freedom, and prepare for his public ministrations without distraction. Nothing more cruel to a pastor, or more disastrous to his work, can be done than to force upon him a feeling of dependence upon the charities of his flock. The office of such a man does not rise in dignity above that of a court-fool. He is the creature of the popular whim, and the preacher without influence to those who do not respect him or his office sufficiently to pay him the wages due to a man who devotes his life to them. Mauliness cannot live in such a man, except it be in torture—a torture endured simply because there are others who depend upon the charities doled out of him.

Good many pastors and preachers do not want gifts; they want wages. It is not a kindness to eke out insufficient salaries by donation parties, and by benefactions from the richer members of a flock. It is not a merit as they seem to regard it, for parishes or individuals to do this. It is an acknowledgement of indebtedness which they are too mean to pay in a business way. The pastor needs it and they owe it, but they take to themselves the credit of benefactors and place him in an awkward and a false position. The influence of this state of things upon the world that lies outside of the sphere of Christian belief and activity is had beyond calculating. We have had enough of the patronage of Christianity by a half-suffing, half-tolerated world. If Christians do not sufficiently recognize the legitimacy of the pastor's calling to render him fully his just wages, and to assist him to maintain his manly independence before the world, they must not blame the world for looking upon him with a contempt that forbids approach and precludes influence. The world will be quite ready to take the pastor at the valuation of his friends, and the religion he teaches at the price its professors are willing to pay in a business way, for its ministry.—*Scribner's Magazine.*

Troubles and Trials of a Wellknown Providence Couple—The Woman Outwits the Man.

Something like a year since a well known pair of this city decided to part company, and each leave the other to his or her most desired pursuit. This dissolution of partnership was brought about by the frequently occurring fact that the course of their married life, instead of flowing along like a Summer stream, whose polished surface is disturbed only here and there by a gentle ripple, was on the contrary subjected to frequent storms and tempestuous squalls, which rendered existence in union a burden and a torment. Such being the case, they mutually agreed to part company, and each to paddle an individual canoe over such water as was most preferable. Each promised to leave the other in undisturbed possession of whatever property belonged to them—individually, and with this contract they parted, the husband remaining in Providence and the wife going to the house of her sister in a country town something less than a hundred miles from this city. Thus a year passed on, and neither saw or heard anything of the other. During this

period "fortune smiled" upon the wife, who is a woman richly endowed with nature's charms, and upon whom beauty has stamped its coveted impress. She amassed quite a comfortable quantity of this world's riches, and desiring to enjoy them more extensively she purchased a horse and buggy, with which she drove about in high style and comfort. The husband hearing last week of the worldly prosperity of the former partner of his joys and the creator of his sorrows, determined to pay her a visit, and in his secret thought resolved to become possessor of the aforesaid stylish "turn out." Taking a journey into those parts he watched his chance and succeeded in stealing the team, and in the morning started home in high glee, driving the coveted prize. The woman discovering the strategic movement, took the first train for Providence, arriving here about the same time that her lord drove into town with the horse and buggy. On inquiry she found that the law would not convict her husband for stealing, recognizing, as it did, the precept "what is mine is thine and what is thine is mine." She then put her woman's wit at work to discover some way to secure a "comeuppance" with her husband. At length she also discovered that he owned a horse and buggy, and immediately she resolved upon her course. Finding where he kept the team, she succeeded, all unaided, in securing it, and away she went, whither her husband is in vain trying to ascertain. For great was his astonishment and chagrin on Saturday, returning from his day's employment, which he had made light and pleasant by joyfully contemplating his own shrewdness, to find that the wife of his bosom had completely outgeneralled him, and that too, with his own weapons.—*R. I. Paper.*

WHAT FRANKLYN DID.—He improved the printing press, invented stereotyping and manifold letter writers. He cured smoky chimneys of their bad habits. He amended the shape and rig of ships. He showed sailors how they might take advantage of the Gulf Stream to shorten their eastern transit of the Atlantic, and how to steer so as to avoid it on their western passage. He told them how a few men might haul a heavy boat, and how they might keep fresh provisions at sea.

He suggested improvements in the soup dishes of sailors, and the water-troughs of horses. He introduced new kinds of seeds, grass, turnips, broom corn, curious beans from England, vines from France, and many other vegetables and plants. He drained lands skillfully, and gathered great crops from them. He reformed fire-places and invented the Franklyn stove. First of all men, he warmed public buildings. He had a fan on his chair worked with a treadle, so as to drive away the flies. He made him spectacles, with two sets of glasses, for far and near sight. He invented a musical instrument, and improved the electric machine.

He discovered that lightning and electricity are the same, proving it in the simplest, and deepest, and most satisfactory manner, by catching the actual lightning. He first discovered the difference between positive and negative electricity.

A lawyer built him an office in the form of a hexagon or six square. The novelty of the structure attracted the attention of some Irishmen who were passing by. They made a full stop, and viewed the building very critically. The lawyer somewhat disgusted at their curiosity, raised the window, put his head out, and addressed them: "What do you stand there for, like a pack of blockheads, gazing at my office? Do you take it for a church?" "Faix," answered one of them, "I was thinking so, till I saw the devil poke his head out of the window."

"I can't drink liquor," said Bob; "it goes right to my head." "Well," said Bob's friend, "where could it go with less danger of being crowded?"

JOB PRINTING.

THE
ALBANY REGISTER
PRINTING HOUSE
WITH NEW AND FAST
POWER AND HAND
PRESSES.



Latest and most Desirable

Styles of
Printing
Material.

Is undoubtedly

THE SHEBANG

TO GO FOR

When you wish

Posters, or
Visiting Cards,
Business Cards,
Bill Heads,
Letter Heads,
Envelopes,
Ball Tickets,
Programmes,
Labels--

But why particularize, when it is generally acknowledged that we are

ON IT

When it comes under the head of

Printing

Come to see us, onct