

PERSONAL AND LITERARY.

Interesting copy of Pickwick original parts sold for fifty dollars. It was the first copy to the press and was presented by Mary Hogarth.

Labouchere, of London Truth, discovered the exact weight of Donnelly's cryptogram volume. The book may be referred to as "The Bacon of Bacon."—America.

The most valuable manuscript in the country, judging from the price it is in the possession of John Astor. It is the Sforza Missal, which fifteen thousand five hundred dollars was paid. It is dated in the fifteenth century and comprises hundred and eighty-four pages of fine hand in red morocco.

Miss Louisa M. Alcott, in a reminiscence of her childhood's days, says she came across Goethe's "Correspondence with a Child in Mr. Emerson's library when she was a young girl, and that she was immediately attracted to it with a desire to be a second Betsey. She chose Emerson as her correspondent, and wrote letters to him which never sent, and sang songs, which she never heard, under his shadow in bad German.

A rather novel but no doubt lucrative business is one taken up by "The Bureau of Correspondence." This well-known lady undertakes to read and revise the work of those who write for dollars in her charge for looking over a manuscript, and one dollar a story or article. So many deeds of this kind were made upon that she took up the business in defense.

The Richmond Whig lately produced a poem originally published in the New York Home Journal in 1849 addressed to "Miss Amelie Louise" on her departure for France. It was by John R. Thompson, at that time editor of the Southern Literary Messenger. The lady was the daughter of William C. Rives and aunt of the present gifted author, Miss Amelia Rives. She was lost at sea on the voyage which the poem commemorates.

John Habberton, author of "Helen's" outside of his regular duties as a New York reporter, is not engaged in any special literary work. He generally has two or three novels "in the air," but never completes one until it is wanted for publication, when he writes it and gives it to a typewriter copy. He has no set hours or place for work, writing only when a plot or theme occurs to him. He uses any kind of paper that comes in his way, frequently writing on the margin of a newspaper, where, he says, there is room for two chapters of a novel.

HUMOROUS.

"We are told that the wolves devour twenty thousand Russians a year. This is the worst commentary we ever heard on the wolf."—Puck.

"He—'And what kind of an engagement ring would this little darling wear?' She—'Oh, a solid gold one, love; I'm so tired of wearing imitation engagement rings.'"

"Brown (finishing his story)—'Now that is what I call—well, grow-up.' Robinson—'Right you are, old man; at least it grew some since I heard it last.'—New Haven News.

"The tenor in a fashionable church choir found to his horror that his voice all at once became unpleasantly thick. He strained it, but without any good effect."—N. Y. Tribune.

"Very few people of the present day ever saw or can tell what a petard is; but a politician knows it is something a man can hoist himself with or by."—N. O. Picayune.

"How well I remember," said Dumley, as he proudly brandished the word, "the first time that I ever drew that shining blade!" "Where did you draw it, Dumley?" inquired Featherly; "at a rattle?"—N. Y. Sun.

"Mendicant—'Will you please gimme a few pennies, sir? I have a blind brother to take care of.' Gentleman—'A big, robust man like you ought not to beg.' Mendicant (with dignity)—'I am not begging for myself, sir; I am begging for my blind brother.'"

"Lady Shopper—'But aren't these shoes awfully large?' Salesman—'They look large, lady, but that's the style affected nowadays; they will pinch your feet just the same as those you have always worn.' 'Oh, well, in that case—yes, I suppose I may as well take them.'—Boston Transcript.

"Stranger, just arrived in town (stepping into bank)—'I am looking for Mr. Gawn. He's an old friend of mine. I supposed he was still cashier of this bank. Has he left your employ?' President of Bank (looking dejectedly at empty safe)—'Yes, sir. He has left our employ. That's about all he did leave.'—Chicago Tribune.

"Yes, sirree! I'm a self-made man; and I don't wish you to forget it, Mr. Filkin—a self-made man, sir!" "Ah, indeed?" replied Mr. Filkin. "I'm really very glad to hear it, Mr. Jones. Do you know, I always thought there was something amateurish about you, and I see now why it is. I didn't like to think that you were a product of nature."—Harper's Bazar.

ORGANIZED FOR WORK.

Minutes of the Initial Meeting of the Campaign Properties Union.

The campaign properties held a meeting a few days ago and organized a union.

Rallying Cry was made chairman, and in his opening speech said: "Gentlemen, it is high time we did something for our own protection. We are trampled upon! Our rights are ignored! We are overworked! We are underpaid. We must form a union for self-protection. The meeting is now ready for motions."

"I move," said Pointwith Pride, "rising and addressing the chair, 'that a committee of three be appointed to consider what had better be done.'"

The motion was seconded by Viewwith Alarm and carried unanimously.

As such committee the chairman appointed Pointwith Pride, Viewwith Alarm, and Spontaneous Enthusiasm.

On motion of Slogan, seconded by Smokeyof Battle, the meeting took a recess of two hours to permit the committee to deliberate.

On reassembling the committee presented the following preamble and resolution, and moved their adoption: "WHEREAS, The Presidential campaign is at hand—the period during which no mercy is shown us—therefore, be it

"Resolved, That we will work no more than eight hours a day; that we demand increase in salary of one hundred per cent.; that in the event of refusal we decline to permit the use of our names in the campaign."

This report was signed by all the members of the committee, and its adoption was seconded by Favorite Son, who made a brief but effective speech in its favor.

Unfulfilled Pledges said he was of the opinion that eight hours a day was too short in the heat of the campaign, and moved to amend by making it ten hours, the other two hours being added to permit attendance upon public meetings at night.

The amendment was seconded by Steer Clear, and was supported by short speeches from Spellbound and Ovation, while Seylla and Charybdis spoke against it.

The amendment was then voted upon and passed, when the original, as amended, was further discussed. Reform, Casta Gloom, Observed Ofal Observers and Favorite Son taking part.

When a vote was ordered the committee's report was unanimously carried.

The chairman, Rallying Cry, was thereupon elected president of the union. Viewwith Alarm was made secretary, and the organization was completed with Spontaneous Enthusiasm as Walking Delegate.

Several members who were interviewed after the convention adjourned, declared their intention to stand strictly by their pledges, even if it should become necessary to strike.—W. B. Syciter, in Tid-Bits.

SYMPATHY AND JOY.

The Rare Ability of Heartily Rejoicing with Those That Do Rejoice.

We often think, says a writer, of the duty and privilege of sympathizing with our friends when affliction overtakes them; but there is a sympathy in their joys which is quite as beautiful, and is even more indicative of a generous nature free from guile and envy.

COMMODORE KITTSOON.

The Famous Pioneer Going to the Legislature on a Dog Sledge.

While at Pembina in 1850 Mr. Kittsoon established a line of "Pembina carts," which were used to convey furs from that country to Mendota on the Mississippi river and return with the goods, taking the place of the voyageurs who had previous to that time transported these articles on their backs in small packs.

The shipment of furs was for some twenty years made in those carts. The Pembina cart was a two-wheeled concern made entirely of wood and leather, without a particle of iron, and would carry about six hundred pounds. They cost about fifteen dollars, and were made by Canadians. In this cart was fastened an ox or Indian pony, geared with broad straps of buffalo hide.

One driver could manage several of the carts by simply guiding the leading ox, the rest being tied to the tail of the preceding cart. No grease was ever used on the axles, and their creaking was frightful and on still days could be heard for miles. The drivers of these carts were swarthy, half or quarter breeds, usually clad in a suit of coarse blue cloth, with a profusion of brass buttons and a red sash around their waists, into which were stuck a couple of bowie knives.

The distance from Pembina to Mendota was about five hundred miles by the trail of those days. The caravan would generally start in June as soon as there was grass enough for the cattle, and the down trip would consume about forty days. At night the caravan would be drawn up in a circle and the men slept on the ground. Sentinels were posted to watch for Indians. The men subsisted on game and dried meat.

Mr. Kittsoon made many trips with these trains, and while engaged with him J. J. Hill, now president of the Manitoba road, drove many of the trains. He was engaged in the trade for himself at one time and managed his own line of carts. Mr. Hill is a very dark, swarthy man, and as he dressed in buckskin leggings and a blue blouse, and wore a mass of black hair all over his face, old settlers say it was difficult to tell him from one of his half-breed drivers.

In 1859 Mr. Kittsoon was elected to the Territorial Legislature from Pembina, and made the trip to St. Paul in the middle of winter on snow sledges, the only means of travel in those days. He made the trip in sixteen days. His cariole was drawn by three fine dogs, harnessed tastefully, with jingling bells, and driven tandem. They could make a mile in 2:40 when put to their best speed. They usually traveled thirty or forty miles a day on a pound of pemmican. Mr. Kittsoon was of robust health, and enjoyed the hardships of those early days when he was laying the foundation of his great fortune.—N. Y. Times.

FEDERAL DEVELOPMENT.

A Type of Government of Which the United States is the Best.

A remarkable phenomenon of the last hundred years is the impetus that has been given to the development of federal institutions. There are to-day contemporaneously existing no less than eight distinct federal governments.

First and foremost is the United States of America, where we have an example of the Federal Union in the most perfect form yet attained. Then comes Switzerland, of less importance than the United States of America, but most nearly approaching it in perfection.

Again we have the German Empire, that great factor in European politics, which is truly a Federal Union, but a cumbersome one and full of anomalies. Next in importance comes the Dominion of Canada, which is the only country forming a Federal Union and at the same time a colony. Lastly comes the Argentine Republic, Mexico and the States of Columbia and Venezuela.

This is a very remarkable list when we consider that never before the present century did more than two Federal Unions ever coexist, and that very rarely, and that even those unions were far from satisfying the true requirements of federation. Only three well-marked federations existed prior to the foundation of the United States of America. The first belongs to the ancient world, and to the second and third centuries B. C.—namely, the Achaean League—

which is interesting, if for no other reason than that Hamilton, the master architect of the American constitution, longed to know more about it. The second is Swiss, which, taking its origin as the old League of Upper Germany in the thirteenth century, has lasted in varying forms to the present day. The third is the United Netherlands, which arose at the end of sixteenth century and lasted to the end of the eighteenth.

The task of any one who has to construct a federal government in the future will be comparatively easy, for the constitution of the United States of America will always stand as his model.—Westminster Review.

The Man Makes Himself.

Polite and civil manners are not lost even in the workshop; it pays to be pleasant and courteous at all times and in all places. Your employer will respect you for it, and your fellow-workmen will honor you. A man's surroundings lower him only as he lowers his surroundings. The blacksmith and moulder may be as true gentlemen as the clerk or the proprietor. Honest labor is no degrader. Man makes or mars his own character, and is alone responsible for the result.—Boston Budget.

LIFE IN HONDURAS.

Primitive People Who Believe in Throwing Off Work and Worry.

I do not need to tell you what an enormous difference there is between San Francisco and all its gayety and a place like this, where we live in a brush hut and eat corn-cakes (tortillas) and brown beans. Our camp is in the village of San Martin. Evidently there has been no change in the people's way of living since the time of—well, let us say Columbus, to be on the safe side.

The women to-day grind the corn in the same little machine that they made use of then. A stone slab, on which the corn is placed after having been soaked in lye-water, and a stone rolling-pin form the whole outfit.

From morning till night one hears the noise of this crude working. When the corn, mixed with water, has become a dough, a pancake is made of it and baked over the fire. This is the tortilla. The corn is allowed to remain in the water so long that it gets entirely soaked through with lye, and then afterward it is not properly cleaned. The effect of lye on the system must be felt to be appreciated.

The baking ovens are half-round structures built of adobe, and all the cooking utensils are earthenware. Occasionally we have meat, and sometimes we shoot birds, but the natives around here live mainly on tortillas and beans. I have observed that the people are, for the most part, honest. One finds little downright stealing.

They live in one place generation after generation. They are lazy; and if they have made money enough the first three days of the week to last them for the next four, you may be sure they will do no more work. They work when they must, never when they feel like it. The latter case is unknown. When they think it about time to stop work, they stop. Our American way of a day's work for a day's pay is something entirely and absolutely new to them. Clocks are unknown, but they tell the time accurately by the sun; and they do have a great deal of sun, as a rule 94 degrees in the huts at noon. Neither the men nor the women are good looking, but I understand that in some of the other departments, as, for instance, Olancho (the republic of Honduras is divided into seven departments), the race stands higher, both physically and intellectually.

They do not seem to marry. They believe in the doctrine of free love. There are no priests for miles around. Of course, in Choluteca, the capital of this department, there are some, but their visits are few and far between.

The maxim of these people, and they live up to it, seems to be "manana" (to-morrow). Everything is manana, or, as we would put it in English: "Do not do to-day what you can put off till to-morrow."

However, if their manana only meant manana; but it generally means—some time before Christmas.

We are a novelty here, and we and every thing we brought with us attract general attention. Outside our hut lies a quantity of lumber, and before we rise in the morning the planks are filled by a curious crowd, desirous of catching the first glimpse of us. Our ablutions, which we have to make outside the house, attract special attention, and seem to be a source of astonishment to all.—George H. Meincke, in San Francisco Chronicle.

PRINTERS AS EDITORS.

From Amos Comings' Speech at the Childs Dinner in Philadelphia.

The type-setter and the proof-reader become editors unconsciously. The evolution from the case into editorial life is as the evolution of a butterfly from a chrysalis. There is nothing marvelous about it. The true type will develop into the true editor if time and opportunity serve. No careless or incompetent printer have ever become a competent editor. I have seen many a man taken from the case and thrown into an editorial room, and all but one became successful and accomplished reporters, editors and correspondents.

The qualities that make a man an efficient compositor are the very qualities requisite to make him an influential editor. His ticket to newspaper prosperity is unpunished by collegiate education, but it is a ticket readily recognized by the people, and one that frequently passes its owner into wealth and fame. The born printer, Mr. Chairman, is a born editor. Some say that a new era is dawning in journalism, that men educated in collegiate schools are assuming the helm; that esthetic methods are to be applied to the columns of the newspapers dotting the land like mushrooms in a sheep pasture, that a web of newspaper trusts is to cover the country and secure the patronage of the people, and that the old journals must follow suit or go to the wall. All this may go for what it is worth. The past shows that the people have recognized the printing office as the true school of journalism, and it will hold good in the future and as long as a type union lives and flourishes on the free soil of the Republic.

Train Men to Be Honest.

If you examine into the history of rogues, you will find that they are as truly manufactured articles as any thing else, and it is just because our present (English) system of political economy gives so large a stimulus to that manufacture that you may know it to be a false one. We had better seek for a system which will develop honest men than for one which will deal cunningly with vagabonds. Let us reform our schools and we shall find little reform needed in our prisons.—From John Ruskin's "Unto This Last."

ABOUT MINERAL VEINS.

Several Theories Advanced in Explanation of Their Existence.

The manner in which the minerals of the earth have been deposited in veins has been a matter of much discussion among geologists, and several theories have been advanced in explanation. Of these, five are worthy of note, the theory of injection, of aqueous deposition, of lateral secretion, of sublimation and of chemical precipitation. The theory of injection was held at the time when philosophers were accustomed to ascribe all the great changes in the earth's surface to the action of heat. It should be noted, however, that there are very few mineral veins whose materials can be regarded as even the possible product of fusion and most of them contain minerals that never could have been formed in the presence of great heat. When the veins on the south shore of Lake Superior which contain great masses of copper were first described they were considered as remarkable examples in proof of the aqueous theory, but as masses of native silver are formed in these copper veins, both metals being distinct, and nearly pure chemically, it was plain that the veins could not have been filled by the action of heat, as these metals in that case would have united in the form of an alloy. After the theory of heat action came the theory which ascribed all or nearly all geological phenomena to the action of water. It was suggested that fissures opened up into seas and other water basins, and that the vein material was deposited from water as limestone and other sedimentary rocks are laid down. But a fatal objection to this theory is that we never find the materials comprising true fissure veins horizontally stratified, after the manner of aqueous sediment, but on the contrary these materials are often deposited vertically. According to the third theory, that of lateral secretion, the materials of mineral veins have been derived from adjacent rocks by percolation through the walls of the vein. If this theory were correct, the contents of mineral veins would be found to change with every stratum through which they pass, whereas, in fact, throughout the course of a mineral vein it is usually found of the same composition, on matter through what a variety of strata it may pass. Further, two systems of veins cutting through the same strata have contents that are entirely diverse, and two veins crossing each other are often seen to be of different ages, and to be composed of materials so different that they must have been derived from different sources. Other theorists have accounted for the filling of fissure veins on the supposition that the metals therein were deposited in the form of vapor. Most of the minerals can be vaporized at a very high temperature and some of them, as zinc, arsenic, and mercury, are sublimed at a temperature that is comparatively low. Fissures around a volcano crater are often found filled with minerals that have plainly been driven into these openings in the form of vapor. It is true that there is evidence that mercury deposits have been often so formed, but such deposits differ greatly from the distinctly limited, banded and crystallized matter that fills what we know as mineral veins. The latest theory, and the one generally accepted by the best informed students of science, is that the deposition of mineral matter is due to chemical precipitation. According to this theory, the fissures are first filled with water, usually flowing from sources deep in the earth, where, highly heated and under great pressure, it becomes charged with mineral substances. As it approaches the surface and the temperature and pressure are reduced, the minerals which it had in solution are precipitated on the side of the channel. The extensive deposits of various minerals on the walls of thermal springs seem to show that this theory is sufficient to account for mineral veins. Water or steam, holding in solution sulphur, fluorine and chlorine, and highly heated, might dissolve any minerals with which it came in contact. The formation of goodes, of stalactites of iron and lead in large mines, and of stalactites of lime in caves seem to prove that solutions of mineral matter are constantly flowing through the rocks beneath the surface of the earth.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

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