The New Northwest.

THURSDAY.....MARCH 11, 1880.

OVERCOMING.

BY ADELAIDE STOUT.

"There are those who have slain and vanquished giants, and, in so doing, have won the strength of the conquered to themselves."

Only thread lace, white and dainty
As the tracery of the frost,
Only a white, snowy kerchief
Over the quiet bosom crossed;
These were all the helm or buckler
That the saintly woman wore,
Who had looked on giants, face to face,
And slain them at her door;
She had won the strength of each,
Won the skill and grace to teach.

Others hands to dare to grapple
With the giants that uprise,
With bold front and cord-like sinews,
Before the timid, dreamy eyes.
Hers it was to watch the wrestler's
White arms grow more firm each day;
Corded thro' with stronger sinews
Were the hands that soon should slay
"Giants" at the very sill—
Shadowy outlined ones that fill,

With a vague terror, timid souls
Or the well defined that stand,
With a visage grim and frowning,
And with sinewed, lifted hand,
Many fight these silent battles;
They could tell you, if they would,
'Twas a woman who inspired
Hearts that dauntlessly withstood,
With the shield of fervent prayer,
Many forms of grim despair.

A RAINY DAY.

BY ELLA WHEELER.

How tired one grows of a rainy day,
For a rainy day brings back so much;
Old dreams revive that are buried away,
And the past comes back to the sight and touch.

When the night is short and the day is long,
And the rain falls down with ceaseless beat,
We tire of our thoughts, as we tire of a song
That over and over is played in the street.

When I woke this morning, and heard the splash
Of the rain-drops over the tall elms leaves,
I was carried back, in a lightning flash,
To the dear old home, with the sloping eaves.

And you and I, in the garret high,
Were playing again at hide-and-seek;
And bright was the light of your laughing eye,
And rich the glow of your rounded cheek.

And again I was nestled in my white bed
Under the eaves, and hearing above
The feet of the rain-sleeds over my head,
While I dreamed sweet dreams of you, my love.

Love, my lover, with eyes of truth—
O beautiful love of the vanished years—
There is no other love like the love of youth—
I say it over and over with tears.

Wealth and honor and fame may come—
They cannot replace what is taken away;
There is no other home like the childhood's home—
No other love like the love of May.

Though the sun is bright in the midday skies,
There cometh an hour when the sad heart grieves
With a lonely wail, like a lost child's cry,
For the trundle-bed and the sloping eaves.

When, with vague unrest and nameless pain,
We hunger and thirst for a voice and touch
That we never on earth shall know again—
Oh! a rainy day brings back so much.

MARRIAGE.—The foundation of every good government is the family. The best and the most prosperous country is that which has the greatest number of happy firesides. The holiest institution among men is marriage. It has taken the race of countless ages to come up to the condition of marriage. Without it there would be no civilization, no human advancement, no life worth living. Life is a failure to any woman who has not secured the love and adoration of some grand and magnificent man. Life is a mockery to any man, no matter whether he be mendicant or monarch, who has not won the heart of some worthy woman. Without love and marriage, all the priceless joys of this life would be as ashes on the lips of the children of men. "You had better be the emperor of one loving and tender heart, and she the empress of yours, than to be the king of the world. The man who has really won the love of one good woman in this world, it matters not though he lie in the ditch a beggar, his life has been a success." There is a heathen book which says: "Man is strength, woman is beauty; man is courage, woman is love. When the one man loves the one woman, and the one woman loves the one man, the very angels leave heaven and come down and sit in that house and sing for joy."—*The Physiologist.*

DAMASCUS.—Damascus has been ruined by the opening of Suez Canal. The overland trade, both Oriental and European, by caravan with Bagdad and Persian Gulf has been diverted to the water way. The competition of India and China in silk and sesame seed through the canal has sensibly affected the value of these products; the late discovery of alazarine has rendered valueless the cultivation of madder for export; and the diversion of large numbers of Moslem pilgrims from all parts of the East, who had hitherto made Damascus their point of arrival and departure, with much profit to the city, to the sea route by the canal, has contributed in no small degree to its downward progress. House rent has declined thirty and fifty per cent., and large numbers of empty houses in every part of the city indicate the general decline. The streets are filled with beggars, both Moslem and Christian, and that, too, in a city where eighteen months ago a beggar was a rarity. The more elevated districts of Lebanon, which formerly contributed the principal portion of mendicants during Winter months, have this year sent double the number to swell the amount of local indigence. The far-famed eye of the East is now dull and lustreless.

A PREHISTORIC WELL IN MAINE.—John Upham, of Camden, Me., had occasion to dig a ditch on his farm, sinking it between one and two feet deep. After proceeding some distance he encountered a rock maple tree, over a foot in diameter, lying between one and two feet below the surface. Following this up he found it separating in two branches, one of which he cut off with an axe, and, removing the branch thus severed, discovered under it a well, all stoned up, about three feet deep and about the same diameter. Contained within this inclosure was a boiling spring of excellent cool water, which has supplied the family since, never becoming dry in Summer, nor freezing in Winter. The wonder is, when and by whom was this well dug, and how long has the earth which was above it been swimming? It would seem to be too limited an estimate to calculate by a few hundreds of years, and not too great a stretch of credulity to look back some thousands of years for its origin.

With all of Ingersoll's glowing account about the Union being saved, he is mistaken there. The Union is not saved. There is no union between the North and South; nothing but a *forced* submission. The fires are smouldering and ready to burst forth the moment that the South think they are strong enough; and the next time they demand their liberty, there will be a more bloody war than the last.—*Hacker.*

A good old negro was burned to a crisp recently somewhere down in Georgia. The text of the funeral address, oddly enough, was: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Intelligence in Brutes.

The Duke of Argyll, in his "Reign of Law," was, I think, the first who promulgated the dictum that man is the only tool-making animal. As far as I can ascertain, this assertion is admitted by developmentists, yet it is undoubtedly true that the Indian elephant makes two *implements*, or forms and alters certain things so as to adapt them specially to fulfill definite purposes, for which, unaltered, they would not be suitable.

One evening soon after my arrival in Eastern Asam, and while the five elephants were as usual being fed opposite the Bungalow, I observed a young and lately-caught one step up to a bamboo stake fence and quietly pull one of the stakes up. Placing it under foot, it broke a piece off with the trunk, and, after lifting it to its mouth, threw it away. It repeated this twice or thrice, and then drew another stake, and began again. Seeing that the bamboo was old and dry, I asked the reason of this, and was told to wait and see what it would do. At last it seemed to get a piece that suited, and holding it in the trunk firmly, and stepping the left fore-leg well forward, passed the piece of bamboo under the armpit, so to speak, and began to scratch with some force. My surprise reached its climax when I saw a large elephant leech fall on the ground, quite six inches long, and thick as one's finger, and which, from its position, could not easily be detached without this scraper, or scratch, which was deliberately made by the elephant. I subsequently found that it was a common occurrence. Leech scrapers are used by every elephant daily. On another occasion, when travelling at a time of year when the large flies are so tormenting to an elephant, I noticed that the one I rode had no fan or whip to beat them off with. The mahout, at my order, slackened pace and allowed her to go to the side of the road, where for some moments she moved along rummaging the smaller jungle on the bank; at last she came to a cluster of small shoots well-branched, and after feeling among them, and selecting one, raised her trunk and neatly stripped down the stem, taking off all the *lower* limbs and leaving a fine bunch on top. She deliberately stripped it down several times, and then laying hold at the lower end broke off a beautiful fan or switch about five feet long, handle included. With this she kept the flies at bay as we went along, flapping them off on each side every now and then. Say what we may, these are both really *bona fide* implements, each intelligently made for a definite purpose.—*S. E. Peal, in Nature.*

"Darling," said a fond lover to his sweetheart, on the eve of their marriage, "I feel assured that in taking you from your father's house I am going to place you in one where you will receive equal love and sympathy from my mother and sisters, who are eager to welcome you as my wife." They were married. In two short weeks she was not on speaking terms with her new relatives, and the third week, with tears in her eyes and the eloquent blood of indignation in her cheeks, she exclaimed: "Charley, I'd rather emigrate to China and live on rats than dwell in an abode of luxury here with your family."

A FEW OLD SAYINGS.—Impatience dries the blood sooner than age or sorrow.

If you would create something, you must be something.

Fretting about to-morrow's troubles never drives them off.

He that too much refines his delicacy will always endanger his quiet.

Pain is the spurring of nature that comes to remind man that he has gone off the track of happiness, and to bring him back again.

The way to speak and write what shall not go out of fashion is to speak and write sincerely. A man passes for what he is worth. Very idle is all curiosity concerning other people's estimate of us, and all fear of remaining alone is not less so. Never was a sincere word utterly lost. Never a magnanimity falls to the ground, but there is some heart to greet and accept it unexpectedly.—*R. W. Emerson.*

An old farmer out in Indiana says that for his part he don't know where the present rage for trimming bonnets with birds is going to end. Only four or five years ago he bought his daughter a humming bird; next year she wanted a robin, the next a pheasant, and this season he declares he had to chain up his Thanksgiving turkey or she'd have had that perched on top of her head.

AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENTS.—Land Steward (to tenant farmer): "Well, Giles, what are you going to sow in here?" Farmer: "Ain't rally made up my mind, sir; but if we could put in a few stewards and land agents—they seem to thrive best on the land nowadays."—*Punch.*

A little girl passing the Washington statue lately asked a lady who was with her if Washington was buried there. "No," said the lady. "Where is he buried?" said the little girl. "I don't know," said the lady. "Then I guess you don't read your Bible much," said little innocence.—*Newburyport Herald.*

"You are my treasure, after all," said an old reprobate, striving to placate his wife after abusing her for an hour or two. "Oh, yes," she sarcastically answered, "that's the reason, I suppose, you wish me dead so often, you are seeking to lay your treasure up in Heaven."

Flesh-meal has been used with very satisfactory results as food for horses. Their appetite and physical condition generally were improved.

When you deprive a boy of the privilege of taking off his coat and vest together at one pull, what do you expect he has to live for?

Nordenskjold purchased 6,000 volumes in China.

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