SELECTED

But life shall on and upward go;
Th' eternal step of Progress beats
To that great anthem, calm and slow,
Which God repeats. —Whittier.

Be still, sad heart! and cease repining;
Behind the clouds is the sun still shining;
Thy fate is the common fate of all;
Into each life some rain must fall,
Some days be sad and dreary.
—Longfellow.

——Good
Will be the final goal of ill,
To pangs of nature, sins of will,
Defects of doubt and taints of blood;
That nothing walks with aimless feet,
That no one life shall be destroyed
Or cast as rubbish to the void.
—Tennyson.

—I have no fear that thou shouldst die,
Albeit I ask no fairer fate than this—
* * * * * * *
While Time and Peace with hands unlocked fly—
Yet care I not where in eternity
We live and love, well knowing that there is
No backward step for those who feel the bliss
Of faith. —Lowell.

A Back Number.

The truth of the old proverb, "Better late than never," appears to have been illustrated by a striking modern instance, according to an English exchange, which relates that ninety-seven years ago some person, now unknown by name, posted in Paris a number of The Gazette Universelle, directing it to "Monsieur X——, in Morges, Switzerland," but the newspaper did not arrive at its destination until last month. It seems that The Gazette, which had been waiting for delivery ever since January, 1791, had got mixed up with a bundle of other newspapers, and was found, with its cover and address still intact, amidst a heap of rubbish in a garret. The finder conscientiously sent it to the Morges postmaster, by whom it was as conscientiously forwarded to the present representative of the X—— family, still living at Morges. "So unique a specimen of postal integrity deserves to be exhibited in a postal museum, or would not be out of place among the curiosities in the newspaper museum at Aachen."—Chicago Herald.

Various Personal Peculiarities.

Men betray their real characters in a thousand different ways. The professors of the art of delineating dispositions do so in various fashions. One artist will undertake to describe character from the examination of a photograph; another reads indications of tastes and feelings in handwriting; nay, an American savant has recently announced that much may be learned regarding a man by observing how he wears his boots. Every one has some small peculiarities which to the accurate observer may furnish a clew to his disposition. There have been manifold instances of strange and inconvenient resemblances between men leading to cases of "mistaken identity," and yet probably in every instance there was some trifling and overlooked personal trait which distinguished one from the other. If alike in features they differed in dispositions.—London Standard.

Origin of "Old Hickory."

The story of how Gen. Andrew Jackson got the name of Old Hickory is again going the rounds, and will be new to some young readers. During the Creek war he had a bad cold, and his soldiers made for him a shelter of hickory bark. The next morning a tipsy soldier, not knowing who was under the bark, kicked it over. As the general, speechless with rage, struggled out of the ruins, the soldier yelled, "Hello, Old Hickory! Come out of your bark and take a drink!" When the soldiers saw Jackson shaking the bark from his uniform they gave three cheers for "Old Hickory," and the name stuck.—New York Sun.

Writing Through Stenographers.

Letter writing through stenographers is now so common that even the ordinary business man coming to New York from smaller centers of trade now uses the hotel typewriters for his correspondence. Some of them let their letters accumulate for several days before they call in a stenographer. It is noticeable that the successful old merchants of the old school shun typewriters as a pestilential innovation. The executive heads of leading corporations have all fallen into the habit of writing letters through stenographers, and generally take them about in their travels.—New York Tribune.

Military Microphone in France.

The military microphone is now being tried in France, not only to give warning of the passage of troops from afar, but to indicate the different branches of the army in movement and to furnish an approximate idea of the numbers of men and horses on the advance. It consists of a sounding plate buried in the soil across and along any route, and connected by a long wire conductor to the receiving disc of the apparatus in position, which has the necessary arrangement for making the sounds louder and more readily distinguishable.—St. Louis Republic.

Playing Through a Canula.

In Paris a man picks up a living by going about the streets playing on a clarionet through a canula placed in a hole in his throat after the operation of tracheotomy. When he has finished a little tune he takes the canula out and exhibits it to the audience to show that there is no deception.—New York Sun.

The "Lady's Horse."

Expert riders say there is really no "lady's horse," as any good horse is as much suited to a skillful female rider as to a man. Certain kinds of horses are best suited to certain kinds of riders, men or women, that is all.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

An Old Philosopher.

Aristarchus of Samos maintained, 280 B. C., that the earth turned on its own axis and revolved about the sun, which doctrine was held by his contemporaries as so absurd that the philosopher nearly lost his life.—Boston Transcript.

For a Chew.

The English put-a-nickel-in-the-slot machines have got so far that they now give a chew of tobacco to any one who drops in a penny.

Memphis is the greatest inland cotton market in the world, receiving from 700,000 to 1,000,000 bales yearly.

DENNIS HANKS' STORY.

He Called on President Lincoln and Had an Interesting Experience.

Dennis Hanks, cousin and early companion of Abraham Lincoln, still lives, at the age of 91, near Charleston, Ills., and at intervals talks with much animation of Lincoln's early life. Though ten years older, he has long outlived the martyr president. He gives this account of his only visit to Washington:

"When I went down to Washington to see him it was about a neighbor that had got into trouble. The folks here sent me to speak to Abe about him. It was durin' the war, and thar was a lot o' soldiers around the White House stickin' their guns in everybody's face. I went to a door—thar's only one, though I looked 'round fur a back door, thinkin' to sneak in. A porter stopped me, and asked as smart: 'Who do you want to see?'

"'I want to see Abe Lincoln,' I says.

"'You can't see him this time o' day,' he says as smart.

"'You bet I kin,' I answered him. 'He's not goin' back on Dennis Hanks, his cousin, and the boy he's rassled with, if he is the president. I hain't come here from Illinois to be told I can't see Abe Lincoln.'

"He grinned and showed me the office. There was a lot of fellers waitin', but I waded through 'em and opened the door, and thar sot Abe, as tall's his own shadder, writin' at a old desk he tuk from Illinois.

"'Hey!' I hollered. 'You're a purty president, ain't you? Git up hyur and shake hands. I ain't after no office yit, Abe.'

"'Well, Dennis, is that you? I'm glad you don't want an office. Most of them do. You've got a big heart, but no head for an office.' Then he run and jist gathered me in to him like they did in the Bible, and so I wept a little so I had to take my bandanner out. He looked kinder tired. When I told him what I wanted he said:

"'I'm busy today, but I'll get Stanton to fix that up. You go down and Mary will give you something to eat and a shakedown.'

"I knowed it was too fine for me where Mary was. She was a good woman, but was too highfalutin' for me; so I jist went to a tavern and put up. Next mornin' Abe had a lot of papers for my case and tole me to take 'em to Stanton.

"'Abe,' says I, 'blamed if I know where the plagueoned place is.' So he called a feller and sent the papers, and pretty soon Mr. Stanton come lookin' like a jaybird in a spike tailed coat, and snarled about them papers, but Abe got him to sine 'em. He acted so ugly that when he went out I said:

"'Abe, if I's as big as you I would take that little feller over my knee and spank him.' Abe, he laughed and said he guessed Stanton was a bigger man than he was in some respects. I came home then and the next spring Abe was shot.

"I heard of it this a way. I was sitting in my shop peggin' away at a shoe when a man came in and said: 'Dennis, Honest Abe is dead!'

"'Dead, dead. Old Abe dead,' I kep sayin to myself. 'My God, it ain't so!' I went out to see Sairy where she lived all alone after Tom died, and said, 'Grandmother, Abe's dead.' 'Yes, I know,' says she. 'I've ben a waitin' fur it. I knowed they'd kill him,' and she never asked any questions. A body'd a thought the earth stopped whirlin' fur a few days, the way everybody went on. It was like, even here in Charleston, like a black cloud that covered the sun." The dim old eyes became blurred by the sad memory.—Exchange.

Ten Pins in Hawaii.

It was a unique game of ten pins I was wont to play in those days. Small natives swarmed like bees whenever I went abroad; you see, I was the one haoli—or foreigner—who had unlimited leisure, and they knew not at what moment it might suit my fancy to embark upon some erratic expedition such as they delighted in. At a moment's notice I could command a troop of horse worthy of an outlaw chief. If I retired to the billiard hall to amuse myself with the light and airy cue, the windows and doors commanding the four sides of the table were certain to be darkened with a cloud of witnesses. But I am forgetting the ten pins.

There was a small Kanaka for every pin, and one for each ball. These in some mysterious way hung upon the wall at the far and fatal end of the bowling alley, at the imminent peril of life and limb. Whenever I made a ten strike, which I positively did occasionally, it was invariably received with a deafening round of cheers—not omitting the "tiger." But still I was not happy, for I always feared to find the alley, after the atmosphere had cleared a little, strewn with Hawaiian slain.—Overland Monthly.

Going a Mile.

A writer in a New York sporting paper makes an interesting comparison of the various modes of locomotion, with the following result: A man can swim a mile in 26 minutes 52 seconds; he can walk it in 6 minutes 23 seconds; he can cover it on snowshoes in 5 minutes 39¾ seconds; he can run the distance in 4 minutes 12¾ seconds; he can ride it on a tricycle in 2 minutes 49 2-5 seconds; on a bicycle in 2 minutes 29 4-5 seconds, and can skate it in 2 minutes 12 3-5 seconds. Behind a trotting horse he gains nearly four seconds by covering the distance in 2 minutes 8¾ seconds, while on a running horse he gallops the mile in 1 minute 39¾ seconds, and last and fastest, he sits in a railroad train and flies over a mile of the steel rails in 50¼ seconds.

Love's Young Dreams.

Young Man (gazing dreamily at the candy case in fancy grocery store)—I—I wish to get something real nice for a—a young lady, but I hardly know what to select.

Grocer (briskly)—Very young?

Young Man—'Bout 17—still going to boarding school.

Grocer—Yes, sir. John! show this gentleman to the pickle counter.—New York Weekly.

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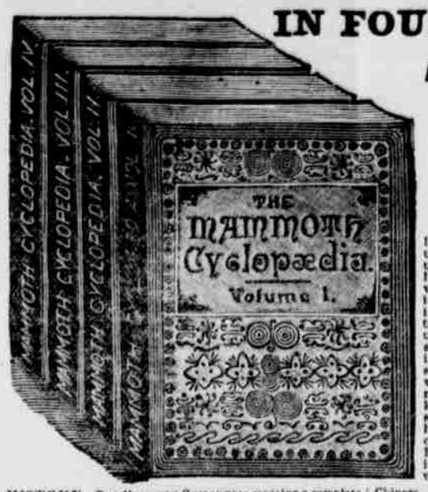

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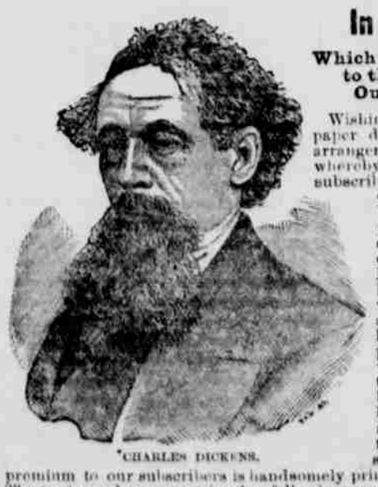

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