

What is Man?

An Essay read by Miss Rose Bentley, at the Alumni Reunion, Monday evening, June 13, 1881.

Prominent among the characteristics which the Creator gave to man, his creature, ranks that of "thirst for knowledge." And who shall measure the extent of its gratification in his splendid achievements? Who that is stimulated with kindred desires for a higher knowledge, can not fail to appreciate the knotty problems which this intellectual giant has solved, and still essays?

Ages past, when men, looking out upon the starry heavens, seeing order and grandeur of plan written among its twinkling myriads, asked for a deeper knowledge of these majestic phenomena, his mind, by long and arduous effort, finally pierced the deep mysteries of God's great universe and explained its most intricate cosmical laws. He is constantly answering difficult questions concerning art, science, physics, governmental polity, and even theology. But when all these questions have been answered wisely by him, his master intellect is staggered by the inquiry, "What is man?"

When the day has departed, taking from us, for a season, its burden of cares, and the gathering darkness shuts away from our tired senses earth's busy scenes, with the increasing stillness about us, quiet, earnest questionings creep into our hearts, and engage our minds.

We are forced to know much of time, and we long to know more of that eternity which awaits us just beyond the station-death. Self asks of self many solemn things. But the most bewildering, and yet most interesting queries of all, ever demanding an answer, still never receiving one, comes to us anon, "What is life?" "What is man?" The latter is not a question of late origin. It has puzzled the great and wise of all ages and time. Even that good old Psalmist—David, who so long ago expressed such infinite wisdom in sweetest measure, asked that question which we reiterate to-day. When he mounts the throne, and assumes the sway of empire, ruling his subjects as though he were a very god, we say, how powerful, how majestic, how glorious a being is man! But when we contemplate the condition of the autocrat of Russia to-day, we are forced to conclude that man is a weak pitiable creature indeed.

When we think of our honored Washington, we know that man is self-sacrificing and patriotic to a perfect degree. But in the same breath we have but to mention the name of Arnold and all our exalted notions of patriotism, as applied to man, are insulted and banished by the conviction that man is full of treason.

When we read of "Damon and Pythias," we say, what deep disinterested principles of friendship, true even unto death, abide in the human heart. But how many, aye, very many once confiding souls could tell us distressing tales of trust betrayed, of vows of friendship too lightly held, and as lightly broken. Thus experience proves that man is both treacherous and true.

Some one has answered our question by saying that man is a creature of circumstance. While this is true to some degree, yet it does not cover a tithe of the ground. Of that missionary who, going into foreign lands to teach, enlighten and save precious souls, leaves behind him his all of this world, and labors diligently in his Master's cause, and for the good of his fellows, by showing them the way of life, we say he is an invaluable blessing to humanity, and the "noblest work of God." But ah, the man who stands behind a gilded counter and deals out death, sure destruction to body and soul, to his fellow creatures, reminds us that in man lurks a curse as well as a blessing. There is the man of wealth, a very Croesus, whose

domestic surroundings testify to his affluence, and who gives his thousands to charitable institutions, churches and asylums. His neighbors eulogize his charity, his wonderful benevolence. But ask the little waif or street scavenger who begs at his door, and they mayhap could tell you a pitiable story of his parsimony.

What is man? A contradiction within himself. "The glory, jest and riddle of the world." In his incipency, the embodiment of frailty, the most helpless of all creatures. In his prime, a tower of strength, a power in himself for good or bad, there breathes not beneath the sun a mightier creation. But see him again when debilitated age changes the vigorous man to the puny dotard, who, "tottering a melancholy march through the dismal valley of age," sees his abilities which were formerly his pride, now as but things of the past, no longer possessed, nor even desired, and courts the death he once so dreaded. A creature so varied in his existence that we can find no standard by which to calculate the incidents of a human life. He who, but yesterday, was an Alexander conquering the kingdoms of earth, has to-day, imbibed a draught of deadly poison, which does its fatal work, while he as yet has scarcely finished the labor of his distant conquests. He who was a Columbus at the court of Ferdinand, telling of a new world to be discovered, ere long suffers the indignity of Spanish chains, and finally dies poor, and neglected. He who to-day is a Napoleon, causing a nation to tremble at his existence, to-morrow dies a demented exile on the desolate shores of St. Helena. A Lincoln, who one day is President of this our glorious Union, gracing its seat of government with his characteristic meekness, patience, dignity, rectitude, and withal an ability which challenges the admiration of the world, is, the next, stricken down by an assassin's hand.

The creature of continued vicissitude, how varied his happenings. His changing fortunes give him alternately hope and fear, joy and grief. The very instability of all that pertains to his earthly existence, gives rise to an earnest longing in his heart for something beyond this present sphere. His aspiration knows no bounds. Immortality with all its blessedness is not beyond its flight, and the hope of its attainment has shone in unalloyed brightness over his uneven way, a potent stimulus to a life of virtue.

When we contemplate man with all his deeds of greatness, his skill, his genius, or, his feebleness, shortcomings, and even failures, we are involved even deeper in a maze of questionings, which Omniscience alone could dispel.

When we see this glorious creature crushed by the hand of death, a body given to the grave, a soul gone we know not whither, well might we give ourselves over to serious contemplations of our own mysterious being, for although we might boast having mastered the lore which runs through ages, yet this *one truth* we must concede—"All our knowledge is ourselves to know."

Sir Astley Cooper, on visiting Paris, was asked by the surgeon en chef of the Empire how many times he had performed a certain wonderful feat of surgery? He replied that he had performed the operation thirteen times. "Ah, but, Monsieur, I have done him one hundred and sixty times." "How many times did you save his life?" "continued the Frenchman, after he had looked into the blank amazement of Sir Astley's face. "I," said the Englishman, saved eleven out of thirteen. How many did you save out of one hundred and sixty?" "Ah, Monsieur, I lose dem all; but the operation was very brilliant."

Have Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry always at hand. It cures Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, Whooping Cough, Influenza, Consumption and all Throat and Lung Complaints, 50 cents and \$1 a bottle.

Literary Notices.

THE STORY OF AN EARNEST LIFE: A Woman's Adventure in Australia and in Two Voyages Around the World. By Mrs. Eliza Davies. With a Portrait of the Writer. Cincinnati Central Book Concern, 180 Elm Street. Price, \$1.

The mechanical execution of this work is excellent. It contains 570 pages, and is printed on tinted and calendered paper. The contents are thrillingly interesting, as the reading matter of an autobiography generally is. The work is dedicated to the pupils of Kentucky Female Orphan School Midway, Woodford county, Ky., which deserving institution is to receive the full benefit of the book, including the plates, after the authoress has paid the expense of publication. The book was written at the earnest solicitation of Dr. Robert Richardson, formerly a Professor in Bethany College, W. Va., of which institution Alexander Campbell was the illustrious President. Sister Davies, who was born and reared in Scotland, prepared this work purely as a labor of love, and in deference to the entreaties of a host of friends. She is a vigorous writer, fearless of utterance, truthful and conscientious, tender and touching in her appeals, graphic in her descriptions, and narrates the acts of her eventful life with the simplicity and artlessness of a child. No one can read the wonderful story of her romantic and checked life without at times shedding unbidden tears. Her exploits in various parts of the earth were as heroic as they were realistic and dramatic. We defy any one to read her chapter on the "Sad Experiences of Wedded Life," without experiencing sensations of the deepest emotion. This chapter is full of descriptions of tragic scenes; which are terrible enough to make the blood curdle. She suffered everything as a Christian wife but the actual death of a martyr.

Sister Davies' description of her meeting for the first time Alexander Campbell, in a Baptist Church, at Paisley, Scotland, in 1847, is one of the finest things we ever read. Her impressions of the great reformer, as she listened to him for the first time, her delineations of his person, as he seated that audience into profound silence and respect, her utter forgetfulness of self as she listened to him for three unbroken hours, and her amazement that any mortal could speak as he spoke, and majestically unfold the plan of redemption as he did,—are portrayed in a style so graphic and luminous and powerful, that one hardly knows which one to admire above the other—the writer or the one described. The eloquence and the revolutionary ideas of the great man captured as well as captivated her; and as a consequence, at his invitation, she followed him home to Bethany. She gives a thrilling and detailed account of the arrest and imprisonment of Alexander Campbell in a Glasgow jail. This noble woman visited him in prison, while churchmen were defaming his character, and courageously stood by him through all his persecutions. It is well known that Campbell was imprisoned by Scotch Presbyterians because of his supposed pro-slavery sentiments. Sister Davies' description of this entire transaction is well worth the price of the book. She tells the story as we never heard it before. Whoever reads her recital of what she saw and heard and experienced at Bethany, especially of the home life of Campbell, can never forget it. It is the best history of the Bethany family we ever read. It is perfectly delightful. We can only say, go get the book and read for yourselves; and then wonder and admire. We have seen and conversed with this remarkable Christian woman and pilgrim, and have been no less impressed with the humility of her heart than with the superiority of her intellect.

The contents of the book are as follows: My Childhood and Childhood's Home—Farewell to Scotland—Life and Sufferings in New South Wales—From New South Wales to South Australia—An Exploring Expedition—Sad Experiences of Wedded Life—Return to New South Wales—Return to Scotland—New Experience in Scotland—Farewell to Scotland and Visit to America—Life in Bethany—At the Kentucky Female Orphan School—Plantation Life in the South—Preparing to Leave America—Second Voyage to New South Wales—My Reception—Teaching on Harricane Hill and Other Labors—Voyage to South Australia—Return to New South Wales, and Teaching in the Bush—The New School-house—Third Voyage to South Australia, and Teaching in Adelaide—Voyage to America.

As an autobiography, this one, in many respects, excels any other we have ever read. We never saw actual life more beautifully dramatized. In contemplating the scenes pictured in this book, you seem to experience what the writer herself experienced, so dexterous is she in the use of the pen. The gifted authoress is not only an intellectual but a deeply religious woman. She writes as one ever conscious of the presence and guidance of the heavenly Father. Indeed, the entire book seems to be irradiated with light and love divine. We ardently wish that especially every young female in the Church of Christ could have the benefit of this rare book. If we only had two dollars to spare we should invest it in this book first of all.—A. C. Review.

MISCELLANEOUS.

TUTT'S PILLS

INDORSED BY PHYSICIANS, CLERGYMEN, AND THE AFFLICTED EVERYWHERE.

THE GREATEST MEDICAL TRIUMPH OF THE AGE.

SYMPTOMS OF A TORPID LIVER.

Loss of appetite, Nausea, bowels constive, Pain in the Head, with a dull sensation in the back part, Pain under the shoulder-blade, fullness after eating, with a disinclination to exertion of body or mind, Irritability of temper, Low spirits, Loss of memory, with a feeling of having neglected some duty, weariness, Dizziness, Fluttering of the Heart, Dots before the eyes, Yellow Skin, Headache, Restlessness at night, highly colored Urine.

IF THESE WARNINGS ARE UNHEEDED, SERIOUS DISEASES WILL SOON BE DEVELOPED. TUTT'S PILLS are especially adapted to such cases, one dose effects such a change of feeling as to astonish the sufferer.

They Increase the Appetite, and cause the body to Take on Flesh, thus the system is nourished, and by their Tonic Action on the Digestive Organs, Regular Stools are produced. Price 2 cents. 25 Murray St., N. Y.

TUTT'S HAIR DYE.

GRAY HAIR or WHISKERS changed to a GLOSSY BLACK by a single application of this DYE. It imparts a natural color, acts instantaneously. Sold by Druggists, or sent by express on receipt of \$1.

Office, 35 Murray St., New York.

Dr. TUTT'S BASTIL of Valuable Information and (Cash Receipts will be mailed FREE on application.)



ONE OF THE OLDEST AND MOST RELIABLE REMEDIES IN THE WORLD FOR THE CURE OF

Coughs, Colds, Hoarseness, Sore Throat, Bronchitis, Influenza, Asthma, Whooping Cough, Croup, and

Every affection of the THROAT, LUNGS AND CHEST, including CONSUMPTION.

A WELL-KNOWN PHYSICIAN WRITES:

"It does not dry up a cough, and leave the cause behind, as is the case with most preparations, but loosens it, cleanses the lungs and allays irritation, thus removing the cause of complaint."

DO NOT BE DECEIVED by articles bearing similar names. Be sure you get

DR. WISTAR'S BALSAM OF WILD CHERRY,

with the signature of "W. B. TUTT" on the wrapper.

50 Cents and \$1.00 a Bottle.

Prepared by SETH W. FOWLE & SONS, Boston, Mass. Sold by druggists and dealers generally.



Vitalizes and Enriches the Blood, Tones up the System, Makes the Weak Strong, Builds up the Broken-down, Invigorates the Brain, and

—CURES—

Dyspepsia, Nervous Affections, General Debility, Neuralgia, Fever and Ague, Paralysis, Chronic Diarrhoea, Boils, Dropsy, Humors, Female Complaints, Liver Complaint, Remittent Fever, and

ALL DISEASES ORIGINATING IN A BAD STATE OF THE BLOOD, OR ACCOMPANIED BY DEBILITY OR A LOW STATE OF THE SYSTEM.

PERUVIAN SYRUP

Supplies the blood with its Vital Principle, or Life Element, IRON, infusing Strength, Vigor and New Life into all parts of the system. BEING FREE FROM ALCOHOL, its energizing effects are not followed by corresponding reaction, but are permanent.

SETH W. FOWLE & SONS, Proprietors, 55 Harrison Avenue, Boston. Sold by all Druggists

\$10

Outfit furnished free, with full instructions for conducting the most profitable business that anyone can engage in. The business is so easy to learn and our instructions are so simple and plain, that any one can make great profits from the very start. No one can fail who is willing to work. Women are as successful as men. Boys and girls can earn large sums. Many have made at the business over one hundred dollars in a single week. Nothing like it ever known before. All who engage are surprised at the ease and rapidity with which they are able to make money. You can engage in this business during your spare time at great profit. You do not have to invest capital in it. We take all the risk. Those who need ready money, write to us at once. All furnished free. Address TUTT & Co., Augusta, Maine.

Employment for Ladies. The Queen City Suspender Company of Cincinnati are now manufacturing and introducing their new Shocking Supporters for Ladies and Children, and their unequalled Skirt Supporters for Ladies, and will send them by mail to every household. Our agents everywhere meet with ready success and make handsome salaries. Write at once for terms and receive exclusive territory. Address Queen City Suspender Company, Cincinnati, Ohio. Leading Physicians recommend these supporters.

MISCELLANEOUS.



—THE—

Chicago & North-Western Railway

Is the OLDEST, BEST CONSTRUCTED, BEST EQUIPPED, and hence the

LEADING RAILWAY

—OF THE—

WEST AND NORTHWEST!

It is the SHORT, SURE and SAFE Route between

COUNCIL BLUFFS

—AND—

CHICAGO, MILWAUKEE,

And all points EAST, such as

Niagara Falls, New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Washington, Baltimore, Pittsburg, Montreal, Toronto, Detroit, Cleveland.

At Council Bluffs the Trains of the Chicago & North-Western and the U. P. R. R., depart from, arrive at and use the same Joint Union Depot.

At Chicago, close connections are made with the Lake Shore, Michigan and Central, Baltimore and Ohio, Ft. Wayne and Peru, Indiana, and Chicago & Grand Trunk R. R., and the Kankakee and Pan Handle Routes.

Pullman Palace Drawing Room

Cars

Are run on all through trains of this road.

It is the ONLY ROAD between

COUNCIL BLUFFS & CHICAGO

Upon which is run the celebrated

Pullman Hotel Dining Cars.

Insist upon Ticket Agents selling you Tickets via this road. Examine your Tickets, and refuse to buy if they do not read over the Chicago and North-Western Railway.

If you wish the Best Traveling Accommodations you will buy your Tickets by this Route AND WILL TAKE NONE OTHER.

All Ticket Agents sell Tickets by this Line.

MARVIN HUGHITT

24 W. P. & Grant Manger, Chicago.

11-17-ly

THE

PACIFIC

Christian Messenger

HAS NOW ENTERED UPON ITS

Eleventh Volume,

And proposes to bring itself up to a

standard of excellence equal

to the best

CHRISTIAN WEEKLYS.

It is of special interest to the Brotherhood

West of the Rocky Mountains, and

every Disciple on the

PACIFIC SLOPE

Should subscribe for it.

Its Literature

Will be of the Best, Purest, most instructive kind, while Church News,

Reports from the Field, the

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT,

Original Communications, and general

items of interest will make it a

desirable weekly visitor

in every Christian family.

Terms: \$2.50 Per Year.

Address

PACIFIC CHRISTIAN MESSENGER,

Monmouth, Oregon.

ESTABLISHED IN 1853.

L. P. FISHER'S

Newspaper

Advertising Agency,

Rooms 20 and 21 Merchants' Exchange,

California Street, S. F.

N. B.—ADVERTISING SOLICITED FOR ALL

Newspapers published on the Pacific Coast,

the Sandwich Islands, Polynesia, Mexican Ports,

Panama, Valparaiso, Japan, China, New Zealand,

the Australian Colonies, the Eastern States and

Europe. Files of nearly every newspaper published on the Pacific Coast are kept constantly on hand and all advertisers are allowed free access to them during business hours.

GUNS

Lowest prices ever known on Breach-Loaders,

Rifles, Revolvers,

OUR \$15 SHOT-GUN

at greatly reduced price, send stamp for our New Illustrated Catalogue.

F. FOWLE & SONS, 235 Main Street, CINCINNATI, O.