

### DR. NORVIN GREEN.

The Venerable President of the Western Union Telegraph Company.

Every week-day morning, as the bell in Trinity steeple tolls nine times, a man, evidently aged, but with his six feet three inches of frame-work held erect, his face without a wrinkle and his grey hair and mustache of vigorous growth, walks briskly into the Western Union building on lower Broadway. There he remains until the afternoon is well advanced. At 4:30 o'clock to a minute he is in the Astor House, where the dispenser of liquors, without any instructions, prepares for him a rye toddy. He walks to the corner of Barclay street and Broadway, only a step away, where an old public hackman opens the door of his waiting vehicle and, without a word being exchanged, drives his passenger to a handsome residence in East Twenty-third street. That is part of the daily routine of Dr. Norvin Green, president of the Western Union Telegraph Company. He confesses to only sixty years of age, and his looks give credence to his words, but his intimate friends say he is nearly seventy-five years old, and they make the statement with pride. Dr. Green still holds the active management of the great corporation he presides over, but he lives well, never allowing the hinges of his humanity to become rusted. When he was a practising physician in Kentucky he was an associate of a schoolmaster named James G. Blaine. He traveled on horseback through lonely regions, with his medicines and instruments in his saddle-bags. It was then and in that State that he obtained an ownership in the old House Telegraph Company, which eventually led to his being the chief man in the telegraph system of the country.

Dr. Green claims that he gave Thomas A. Edison the employment which was the beginning of his successful career, to which, as is well known, the Western Union Company has largely contributed. Edison had been bothering the officers of the company with telegraphic devices they had no need of. He came into the office one day when it was impossible to obtain communication between New York and Albany, and the seat of the difficulty could not be located. He was banteringly invited to remedy the trouble. He said he could do so in two hours. He was laughed at and given two days for the task. His process was very simple. He telegraphed to the best operator in Pittsburgh and instructed him to telegraph to the best operator in Albany. The latter telegraphed down his New York line as far as he could, feeling his way from point to point, and sending the results to the Pittsburgh man, who forwarded them to Edison. In less than one hour Edison said to the anxious officials: "The break is two miles beyond Poughkeepsie." That simple device insured his status with the Western Union people and won for him a hearing in all his schemes.—World.

### A SCOTCH SHIP CANAL.

The Proposed Improvement of the Canal Between the Clyde and Forth.

The agitation in favor of canals and waterways, which has been waged in England for some time back, has at last extended to Scotland. Such agitations are contagious, and it is not, therefore, surprising to hear the revival of an old suggestion from the North on the subject. The proposal is to improve the present existing canal between the Clyde and the Forth, so that ships might be able to pass through. The canal was constructed a century ago, and is 35 miles long, extending from Bowling on the Clyde to Grangemouth on the Forth, the line being almost due east and west, and there is a branch of 2 1/2 miles to Port Dundas in the north of Glasgow. It rises 156 feet and has 39 locks. At the present time only very small craft can be passed through, not only because of the short locks, but also owing to the depth of water being about nine feet. It is proposed that it should be made suitable for deep sea-going ships.

There are no great engineering difficulties in the way. The cost is variously estimated between £1,500,000 and £2,000,000—a sum which, it is thought, might be easily raised by a company. It is contended that, being the shortest route between America and the Baltic, the Continent and the east coast of Scotland, and England, the through traffic would be considerable. This may be true; but the gain in time would be reduced materially by the fact that vessels in coming off the Atlantic would require to sail up the long firth (Clyde), and would probably require, particularly if deeply laden, to wait on the tide to get to Bowling, which is some distance up the river, or the channel would need to be broadened and deepened, thus adding to the cost. For channel steamers going from Ireland or to the west coast of Scotland, England or Wales to the east coast or the Continent, the canal would be a decided benefit, for not only would their voyage be shortened, but the rocky and dangerous coast of the North

of Scotland would be avoided. The canal passes through the coal and oil districts of Scotland—a fact which affords additional argument in favor of the scheme. Another consideration which carries much weight is the facility gained for the rapid passage of battle ships from one shore to the other, rendering defense in time of war more effective. Looking, therefore, to principal pros and cons as stated, the question is worthy of serious consideration. The canal is the property of the Caledonian Railway Company, and they are taking no action, meantime, in the matter.—London Engineering.

### SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

—A mile down the water has a pressure of a ton to the square inch.

—Eminent microscopists find that genuine honey can be readily distinguished from manufactured honey by the microscope, as the former has few or no sugar crystals.

—Our hot-air blast-furnaces date from an invention of Nielson in 1828; and the same principle, when applied in the regenerative gas-lamp, results in more heat and light, with economy of fuel.

—The distribution of bread after it is baked now costs the average workman in the city as much as it does to grow the wheat, mill it, barrel it, move it 1,500 miles and convert it into bread, all put together.

—Among the curious facts brought out at the late Congress on tuberculosis was that persons who have had smallpox are peculiarly liable to tuberculosis. M. Landouzy stated that for this reason persons pitted with smallpox should never be employed around the tuberculous wards of hospitals.

—M. Govi, an Italian savant, has presented a paper to the French Academy of Sciences, in which he claims for Galileo the distinction of having discovered the microscope as well as the telescope. He has found a book printed in 1610, according to which Galileo had already directed a tube fitted with lenses to the observation of small near objects.

—A sea-glass consists of a square pine box about twenty inches in length a pane of glass about ten by twelve inches placed in one end, water-tight. To use it, the glass end is thrust into the water, and the face of the operator is placed to the other. By this means, the wave motion of the water is overcome, and a great depth readily seen.

—A London jeweler recommends diamond cutting and polishing as an excellent employment for women, saying that he believes any woman or girl with quick intelligence could learn to polish a diamond "very fairly in six months." He says the qualities necessary in this art are "great honesty, good education, quick intelligence, great patience and good eyesight."

—The Russian physician and publicist, Portugaloff, declares that strychnine in subcutaneous injections is an immediate and infallible remedy for drunkenness. The craving of the inebriate for drink is changed into positive aversion in a day, and after a treatment of eight or ten days the patient may be discharged. Even should the appetite return months afterward, the first attempt to resume drinking will produce such painful and nauseating sensations that the person will turn away from the liquor in disgust.

—The fact that the elementary substances now number, according to chemists, full seventy, shows an increase within the last fifty years of nearly one-fourth in the number known. The size of an atom of oxygen or nitrogen is said to have a diameter of one ten-millionth part of a centimeter; they are supposed to be in a state of constant motion, at the rate of seventy miles a minute, and, to make them visible, the present highest known magnifying power of the microscope would have to be increased nearly a thousand fold.

### HAVE YOU A MOTHER?

If So, Do All in Your Power to Cheer Her Declining Years

Have you a mother? If so, honor and love her. If she is aged, do all in your power to cheer her declining years. Her hair may have bleached, her eyes may have dimmed, her brow may contain deep and unsightly furrows, her cheeks may be sunken; but you should never forget the holy love and tender care she has had for you. In years gone by she has kissed away from your cheek the troubled tear; she has soothed and petted you when all else appeared against you; she has watched over and nursed you with a tender care known only to a mother; she has sympathized with you in adversity; she has been proud of your success. You may be despised by all around you, yet that loving mother stands as an apologist for all your short-comings. With all that disinterested affection, would it not be ungrateful in you, if in her declining years you failed to reciprocate her love and honor her as your best, tried friend? We have no respect for a man or woman who neglects an aged mother. If you have a mother love her, and do all in your power to make her happy.—Christian at Work.

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