

# THE CAROLINA SPARTAN.

BY CAVIS & TRIMMIER.

Devoted to Southern Rights, Politics, Agriculture, and Miscellany.

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### Cultivate Flowers.

A correspondent of the Charleston Evening News thus urges the importance of bestowing attention upon the cultivation of the beautiful in nature as a means of promoting health and happiness:

"Come let me make a sunny room around thee, Of thought and beauty; here are books and flowers, These have spells to loose the fetter which hath bound thee, The rival coil of this world's feverish hours: Those are from where the soft winds play in gladness, Covering the earth with flowery blossom show'rs."

Too richly dowered, O friend, are we for aches, To look on an empire—Mind and Nature—ours! Without intending to assert a rival interest for my present subject, or wishing to withdraw from, or diminish the importance of, the more useful and engrossing topics of the day, I would yet in its proper place, and at this season, advocate the cause of the beautiful and ornamental gifts of nature, comprised in the Floral Kingdom, which may not inappropriately be termed the feminine department of scientific agriculture.

The mind ought sometimes to be diverted that it may return the better to thinking; and there can be no enjoyment more delightful, and at the same time so conducive to health and enjoyment, as the cultivation of flowers—those lovely jewels which a kind Providence has so profusely scattered over our bright and beautiful world.

Few occupations so liberally reward the care and time bestowed, or serve in the same degree to embitter our lives or refine our tastes; and seldom does the passer by deem that the home around which the vine is taught to twine and the rose to blossom is ever the abode of discontent or ennui.

With flowers, "that were born to lend the sunbeam gladness," and to give cheerfulness and beauty to the path of life, they purify, elevate and spiritualize the character; and with "songs" "their swan-like music singing through the leaves"—we may be induced to link our hearts only too strongly to this bright but transitory world, which time cannot wear or change detect from. And flowers are the poetry of life.

"Earth's beautiful buds, to my heart ye were dear, Ere the fever of passion, or ague of fear Had sear'd my existence's bloom; Yet I welcome you more, in life's passionless stage, With the visions of youth to revisit my age, And I wish you to grow on my tomb."

Museum of the Charleston College. The Editor of the Charleston Standard lately made a visit to the Museum of the College of Charleston, which he pronounces equal to any in the country, and relates the following results of microscopic examinations:

"The clouds were capricious, and amused themselves by getting before the sun for a considerable time, but at length a beam of light shot across the room, and upon an immense spectrum, about fifteen feet in diameter, was projected some immense plant. It had an appearance not unlike that presented by the shadow of a forest tree, but with greater regularity of outline and articulation, and was beautifully colored. This, we were told, was the tip of a feather from the tail of a humming bird. There next appeared a radiated and concentric figure, as large as the vertical section of an ordinary church steeple; this was the transverse section of the stem of a rose leaf. Its place was taken shortly after by a circular figure that was exceedingly attractive. It was about six feet in diameter, apparently elliptical, and while the whole was spherical, it was composed of an infinity of spherical figures like a hemlet made of sixpences—this was the eye of the horse fly. Soon after there slowly came upon the canvass what seemed to be the fossil remains of some immense animal, of the size of the mastodon at least. His legs were more jointed than was becoming to the skeleton of a quadruped, but armed about the head with immense tusks or forceps; he had the appearance of having been a formidable monster, whom it was well to have had out of the way—this animal, when alive, was a flea. After this, the next thing that grew to a figure on the canvass was a huge beast, about nine feet long, and two broad, looking not unlike a spring-craw-fish, flattened and indefinitely magnified. This was a parasite commonly found about the heads of little negroes. Muslin of the finest quality was coarser than a shad net, and lace was of about the texture of a window sash.

"Among the most interesting objects exhibited, however, were alive and moving. A cloud was cast upon the canvass, whose elements began to work about in a very singular manner, some small objects seemed to be lifeless and to drift about in obedience to the forces applied to them, but other larger bodies seemed endowed with a terrible vitality. Like great fishes, they would strike at something, and the elements would reel under the forces of the movement, and up and down and all about

they roamed in accomplishing the objects of a vigorous existence.

"This cloud, so cast upon the canvass, was of a drop of water, and those figures of the beings which inhabit it. For our comfort, we were informed that this water was taken from the street drains, and it was not necessarily so, therefore, that in the use of clean water we should quench our thirst with a leatomb of infusoria; but to qualify the exultation we might feel on this account, there was exhibited the form of some immense crustaceous animal, in appearance one or two hundred times as large as a lobster, which, it was said, was very commonly found in the cisterns of our city.

"We were inclined to think that a too great familiarity with objects beyond the ordinary range of perception deadens the sensibility of persons to the ordinary claims of humanity, and of this fact we were convinced by the proposition of the operator, that we should give him a drop of blood for exhibition. We could not well refuse, however, and popping his instrument into our finger with as little concern as he would have gauged a hard cask, the fluid was extracted, and in an instant after the blood of a live editor was cutting its figures upon the canvass. Vitality was not altogether extinct, and it moved about under attractive and repulsive influences in a manner that may have been amusing to persons less acquainted with the means by which it had got there.

"The light was not so perfect as could have been wished, and sometimes failed at the most interesting point of exhibition, but in the main the results were entirely satisfactory, and very far transcended the range of our anticipation."

Divisibility.—The relative position of the heavenly bodies, as seen through a telescope, are marked by fine lines of wire that cross each other at right angles. It is necessary that these lines should be exceedingly fine, otherwise, being magnified by the eye-glass, they would have an apparent thickness that would render them inapplicable to the purpose. The spider's web was formerly used, but as the power of the glasses was very much increased, these were found to be too coarse.

In the early part of the present century, Dr. Wallaston succeeded in obtaining wire for this purpose, that did not exceed the 10,000th part of an inch in diameter. It is said that a quantity of this wire, equal in bulk to a common iron ball, would reach from New York to New Orleans. This wire is made of platinum, and the process by which it is made is very ingenious. The doctor had platinum wire drawn out as fine as possible, then drawn through the axis of a small glass tube, into which melted silver was poured. The silver & platinum now form one wire, which was again drawn out as fine as possible. The whole was next put in nitric acid, which dissolved away the silver, but left the platinum so fine that it could not be seen with the naked eye.

The organized world afford still more striking evidence of the extreme divisibility of matter.

The blood which flows in the veins of animals is not, as it appears to be, uniform fluid, but is composed of small red globules floating in a transparent fluid called serum. In the human species the diameter of these globules is about the 4,000th of an inch, and consequently in a drop of blood that would hang suspended from the point of a fine needle there would be no less than a million of these globules. But anatomists have been discovered that are smaller than these globules; if these have globules of blood that bear the same proportion to the size of their bodies as the globules of our blood do to the size of our bodies, by what process shall we arrive at numbers sufficiently expressive to convey an accurate idea of the minuteness of these globules!

The Electric Eel.—Of the singular powers of this wonderful creature much has been written and some things said which appear almost incredible. This fish abounds in the rivers of North and South Carolina, and many of its wonderful exploits are recounted and recorded there. In the waters of Massachusetts Bay it is so seldom seen that the following circumstances seem worth relating, and are in the narrator's own words. Capt. Walker, of Provincetown, recently, while running a schooner from that place to Boston, was overtaken by night off Cohasset Rocks, and was running into Boston Channel in the evening. At about 8 o'clock, it being very dark, and his vessel moving slowly in, he dropped over his head to ascertain the depth of water, and on slowly pulling in the line he felt something cold upon it, and thinking it might be a bit of kelp or rockweed, was about to throw it off when it fastened upon his hand and coiled around his wrist. He endeavored to shake off the eel, when suddenly bringing its tail around it struck his arm with considerable force, and giving the worthy captain such a shock as sent him reeling on the deck. Recovering a little, he proceeded to seize the fish and cast it overboard, when he received a second shock from the little battery, that caused him to call for aid, uttering a scream that must have been heard for miles. Determined not to be overcome by so paltry an object as a small eel, he proceeded once more to discharge his vessel, but was a third time repulsed and with greater force than before, laying him prostrate at full length upon deck. His men immediately ran to the rescue, and bore the captain almost senseless up, where medical aid could be administered. Never having heard of such wonderful power of the electrical eel, the greatest consternation prevailed, and the vessel rushing on in the thick darkness, they knew not where, the anchors were got out with much difficulty, and they waited impatiently the return of day, actually supposing some evil spirit had seized upon them, and that for the night they were to be the sport of their orgies.—*Yarmouth Register.*

From the New York Observer.

## THE PANTHEON.

The Pantheon is the best preserved of the monuments of ancient Rome, and indeed it is among the most perfect monuments of ancient times. It is still a wonderful and grand proportion, and, notwithstanding its simplicity, it never fails to excite the admiration of every one whose eyes are so happy as to rest upon it. An artist of Rome, whose route to his studio led him by it every day, once remarked to me that he never passed it without stopping to admire its magnificent portico and entering to contemplate its unrivalled rotunda. It formerly stood in the midst of the Campus Martius, surrounded by the buildings belonging to the Temple of Agrippa, of which it probably formed a part, and was reached by a flight of steps, all of which must have added greatly to its effect. Now it is in one of the filthiest quarters of Rome, and is surrounded by some of the meanest hovels of the modern city, many of which are built directly against its walls, blackening them with their smoke. The present government, however, are seeking to redeem it from its degrading associations, by purchasing and tearing down the adjoining buildings, with the design of leaving it in the midst of an open square. They cannot secure its former elevation. By some strange accretion, the level of the ancient city is several feet below the modern soil, the pavement of the Forum itself being twenty feet under ground. The Pantheon has thus been brought down to a level with the surrounding streets, if not below them.

Its portico, which is regarded as a model in architecture, is 110 feet long, 44 in depth, and is composed of 16 Corinthian columns of oriental granite, each one of which is a single block or shaft. They are 46 1/2 feet in height, and 15 feet in circumference. With the exception of three, which were replaced from other buildings about two centuries ago, they stand just as they were erected by Agrippa 27 years before the Christian era. The entablature and pediment are still perfect, and the frieze bears the following inscription, extending along the entire front: "M. AGRIPPA. L. F. COS. TERTIVS AECIT." This inscription sufficiently defines its date.

Crossing the portico, we enter the building by the massive bronze doors, acknowledged by the best authorities to be the same set up by Agrippa. Although nearly forty feet in height, and having swung upon their hinges for nineteen centuries, they may still be moved by the hand of a child. The aperture for the door reveals the thickness of the walls, some twenty feet of solid masonry, which accounts in part for the preservation of the structure. The building itself is circular, 143 feet in diameter, or more than 400 feet in circumference. The walls rise to the height of 70 feet, when they pass into one vast dome, the centre of which is 143 feet above the pavement. This dome is in its simplicity and grandeur, far more impressive than that of St. Peter's, and there is one peculiar feature which adds such a charm to that impression as I have never found in contemplating any other building. The dome is open at its centre, the aperture being 27 feet in diameter. It was never closed even by glass, and the storms of nearly two thousand years have beaten through it and fallen upon the pavement below. This might seem a defect in the structure, but it constitutes its most beautiful if not its grandest feature. The circular walls are unbroken even by windows, and when the massive bronze doors are closed behind us as we enter, this aperture in the dome is the only source of light, and communicates directly with the heavens above. We look up and see the clouds floating by, or gaze into the blue ether while the whole lower world is shut out by walls which no earthly sounds can penetrate. The poetry and sublimity of this conception for a temple may be imagined. It excludes all things terrestrial, and opens heaven alone to the worshipper, and that too without any intervening medium.

An anecdote characteristic of Roman morals is related of this part of the Pantheon. In a manuscript narrative of the sack of Rome, preserved at the Vatican, it is recorded that Charles V., when he visited Rome in 1536, wished to ascend the building, which he did, looking in through the aperture from above. A young Roman who had been ordered to accompany him afterwards confessed to his father that he was strongly tempted to push the monarch over upon the pavement below, a depth of nearly 150 feet, in revenge for the sack of the city a few years before. The wily old Italian said, "My son, such things should be done and not talked about."

The Pantheon has been stripped of all its costly ornaments, leaving only its simple grandeur to delight the eye. Formerly the outer wall were faced with marble, which is now all gone. The vast dome was covered with gilded bronze, and its interior either lined or profusely ornamented with silver. The plates of bronze that covered the roof, and the silver, were removed by Constantine A. D. 655, and afterwards taken to Alexandria. Pope Urban VIII. completed the plunder of the building, by taking the bronze beams of the portico to form the baldachino of the high altar of St. Angelo. This pope belonged to the Barberini family, and he used a part of the plunder to ornament the Barberini Palace. Pasquin, the medieval oracle of Rome, made the following record of its final destruction:

Quod non fecerunt Barbari Romae, fecerunt Barbarini. (What the Barbarians left of Rome, the Barbarini destroyed.)

The Pantheon is the tomb of the Prince of Painters, Raphael, while living, often revelled in the beauties of its architecture, and requested that his bones might sleep within its walls. Upon his death his body, together with his last and noblest work, the Transfiguration, were exposed for three days in the Pantheon, and were visited by crowds, who gazed upon both with equal

interest but with different emotions. His remains were afterwards deposited in a niche formed in the walls, and the spot is now marked by a simple slab, with the following inscription:

"Hic lie est Raphael, tunc quo coepit vinci. 'Rorum magna pira, quo nocente mori.'"

For many years the Academy of St. Luke, an association of artists at Rome, had a skull in their possession, and it was Raphael's and generally so regarded. As there were sounds of doubt respecting the actual resting place of the remains of the immortal master of the pencil, it was determined in 1833 to settle the question by an examination of his tomb. It was accordingly opened in the presence of several ecclesiastical dignitaries and artists, and the skeleton was found entire, just as it had been entombed. The relics were replaced after having been enclosed in an antique marble sarcophagus, from the Vatican Museum. Of course the skull in the possession of the Academy of St. Luke lost its value, notwithstanding it had often awakened the admiration of the phrenologists, who had found the painter's bump strikingly developed. But perhaps it did belong to a great artist. Who knows?

GRAPHIC DELINEATION OF THE MISERIES AND EFFECTS OF INTemperance.—The following is the most graphic delineation of the miseries and effects of intemperance that we have ever seen—it is from the arguments advanced by certain citizens of Portage county, Ohio, in a memorial to the Legislature on the subject:

"And yet its march of ruin is onward still. It reaches abroad to others—involves the family and social circles—and spreads woe and sorrow all around. It cuts down youth in its vigor—maimeth in its strength—and age in its weakness. It breaks the father's heart—bereaves the dearest mother—extinguishes natural affection—erases conjugal love—blots out filial attachment—blights parental hope—and brings down mourning age in sorrow to the grave. It produces weakness, not strength; sickness, not health; death, not life. It makes wives widows—children orphans—fathers friends—and all of them paupers and beggars. It hails fever—feels rheum tism—nurses gout—welcomes epidemics—invites cholera—imparts pestilence, and embraces consumption. It covers the land with filth, disease, poverty, disease and crime. It fills your jails—supplies your almshouses—and demands your asylums. It engenders controversies—fosters quarrels—and cherishes riots. It contends law—springs order—and loves mobs. It crowds your penitentiaries—and furnishes the victims for your scaffolds. It is the life blood of the gambler—the aliment of the counterfeiter—the prop of the highwayman, and the support of the midnight incendiary.

"It countenances the liar—repects the thief—and esteems the blasphemer. It violates obligation—reverences fraud—and honors forgery. It defiles benevolence. It incites the father to butcher his offspring—helps the husband to mangle his wife—and aids the child to grind his pariental eye. It burns up man—consumes woman—detests life—curses God—and despises Heaven.

"It sobs wives—nurses perjury—defiles the jury box—and stains the judicial ermine. It belies votes—disqualifies voters—corrupts elections—pollutes our institutions—and endangers our government. It degrades the citizen—debases the legislator—dishonors the statesman—and disarms the patriot. It brings shame, not honor; terror, not safety; despair, not hope; misery, not happiness. And now, as with the inviolence of a fiend, it calmly surveys its frightful desolations, and insulate with havoc, it poisons felicity—kills peace—ruins morals—blights confidence—slays reputation—and wipes out national honor—then curses the world—and laughs at its ruin."

Reverend W. Griswold.—Our readers will observe that a case of divorce, which has been exciting a good deal of interest, has been decided to this extent in Philadelphia—that there is no evidence that Mr. Griswold, who is now married to a third lady, has ever been divorced from the second lady, now Mrs. Griswold, of Charleston, and who thus would seem to be his only legal wife. This decision of the court, as it stands, leaves him in a very extraordinary and alarming predicament. What adds to its interest is, that Mr. Griswold obtained from the New Haven railroad, after the well known catastrophe, some thousands of dollars for damages to the person of the third lady, whom the court does not recognize as his wife. It may also be noted that the Philadelphia court which has made the decision is the very court before whom Mr. Griswold alleges the divorce was obtained. It is alleged, however, that the decision was made in consequence of the imperfect record of the court, and therefore a motion is pending to amend the record.—*N. Y. Express.*

It is stated in the New York papers, that for some months past important changes have been in progress in the character and arrangement of the harbor fortifications of New York. The works have been strengthened, and the old guns have been superseded, and new ones substituted of a very long range and heavier calibre, compared with those formerly in use, with a view to enable them to cope successfully with the most approved appliances of modern warfare. The new cannon are now in the process of manufacturing at West Point, and as soon as finished are transferred to the military works adjacent to this city. Vast complements of walkie stores, mortars, balls, shells and other death-dealing implements have been recently added to the magazines and repositories at these defences, and everything has been prepared in case an emergency should arise for bringing them into use. All this has been done under the order of the authorities at Washington, quietly and without any unnecessary bustle.

## Origin of the Indian Tribes.

This topic is ably handled, with the lights of history and ethnology, in the Chevalier Bunsen's recent great work on "The Philosophy of Universal History." The following views are expressed by him respecting the elaborate collections and digests of the materials, published under the authority of Congress, on the subject of the Indian tribes, by the Prussian minister at the court of London:

"I had written so far in July, 1847. I was not then aware that on the 3d March of the same year an act had passed the Congress of the United States of America authorizing the publication of a great national work on the Indian tribes of the territory of that republic. In 1850 the first volume of that gigantic work appeared, and now a third volume, printed in 1853, has been transmitted to me by the liberality of that government.

"It may fairly be said that by this great national and Christian undertaking, which realizes the aspirations of President Jefferson, and carries out to their full extent the labors and efforts of a Secretary of the Treasury, the Hon. Albert Gallatin, the government of the United States has done more for the antiquities and language of a foreign race than any European government has hitherto done for the language of their ancestors. Certainly, scarcely any single man has done more for collecting and digesting the materials than Mr. Schoolcraft, whose own observations and inquiries form the most important part of that publication. The whole work is conceived in a true spirit of philanthropy, and breathes a feeling of brotherhood towards the Indian scion of the human species. The section on language is with it doubt the most important portion; it occupies a place in the second and third volumes, and we may hope to see it completed in the course of the following volumes. But the linguistic data before us, combined with the traditions and customs, and particularly with the system of pictorial mnemonic writing, (first revealed in this work,) enable me to say that the Asiatic origin of all these tribes is as fully proved as the unity of family among themselves. According to our system, the Indian language can only be a deposit of a North Turanian idiom.

"Indeed, in addition to the evidence already collected by Prichard, the passage of tribes from Siberia (where we also find traces of the same pictorial writing) over the northern islands is placed beyond all doubt by the work in question. The Mongolian peculiarity of the skull, the type of the hunter, the Shamanic and Fetichic beliefs, by means of fastings and dreams, in a visionary or clairvoyant state, and the fundamental religious views and symbols, (among which the tortoise is not to be forgotten,) bring us back to primitive Turanum.

"As to the languages themselves, there is no peculiarity in them which may not easily be explained by our theory of the second formation, and of the consequences of isolation.

"The unity of the grammatical type was long ago acknowledged; but we have now (as I think) the evidences of the material, historical, physical unity. The Indian mind has not only worked in one type, but with one material, and that a Turanian one. We may now hope to receive in a few years, from these energetic efforts of the government and citizens of the United States, a complete linguistic Thesaurus of Indian languages; and this deserves the more grateful acknowledgment, as most of these tribes, in spite of the renewing power of Christianity, will soon become entirely extinct."

SULPHUR FOR TREES.—Eight years ago last spring the "borer" attacked several locust trees, which were backward and sickly. I set to work and immediately trimmed them, shaved off the rough outer bark from the ground to a short distance above the first limb, and then scraped and washed the surface with an alkaline lye to remove the borer, destroy the larvae of insects, and promote a more free contact with the atmosphere. I then cut a sharp bit and bored a hole in each tree close to the trunk. These I filled with common flour of sulphur, closing them with thin wooden disks, and sealing them over with wax to exclude the air. The effect of this treatment was magical. The borer disappeared; the foliage soon expanded, and assumed a deep rich color, and during the season there was an unusual deposit or increase of woody matter. Sulphur, I believe, is but one of many other agents which might be applied with success in agriculture and horticulture. We want more experiments of this character, in order to extend our knowledge, for in my opinion, there is a remedy for every disease, if we knew where to find it, both for the vegetable and animal kingdoms. The sulphur placed in the trees was no doubt taken up by the sap, and distributed through all their cells. It is necessary that a sharp bit should be employed for boring the holes, so as to cut clean through the minute tubes, and not bruise them, in order to let the sap flow freely, which it otherwise would if a dull tool were used, because it would squeeze and close up the minute tubes or pores of the trees in the same manner that a dull knife makes a wound more difficult to heal than a sharp one.—*Scientific American.*

You say, Mr. Stoddard, that Mr. Jacobs was your tutor? Does the court understand from this that you received your education from him? No, sir, he taught me to play on the French horn. He taught me to cook—hence, I call him my tutor.

## Nicaragua.

Though the accounts from Nicaragua are somewhat contradictory, the balance of evidence is against the probability that Gen. Walker will long be able to maintain his usurped dominion. Private letters state that his money and credit are both exhausted; that privation, disease, and want are fast thinning his ranks; that those who have allowed themselves to be duped by his representations and promises, and who have quitted their homes and honest callings hoping to acquire fame and fortune under his standard, are fast discovering their error, and would gladly escape from their thralldom. The letters further assert that impatience of the despotic rule of Walker and his accomplice, Rivas, is not confined to Nicaragua, but is very generally felt by the Governments and inhabitants of the bordering States. The recent decree relative to the Transit Company and the seizure of their property is stated to be a desperate attempt on the part of Walker to obtain money to maintain himself. That is but one of a series of lawless contrivances to which he is reduced to save himself from destitution, to check the desertion and disgust of his associates, and thus avert or postpone the ruin with which he is threatened. However he may succeed for a time in warding off the fatal blow, there is good reason to believe that it cannot be long delayed, and thus his flight or death may be looked for within a short period. There is no doubt that a league has been formed by several of the States of Central America to overthrow Walker and his followers and re-establish the former Government in Nicaragua. It is also averred that he has utterly failed to make himself popular with the native population of Nicaragua; that all his overtures to the neighboring States have been rejected; that our Government has wisely refused to acknowledge him in any way; that he and his adherents are looked upon in Europe as a gang of lawless marauders, and that even among those whom a spirit of adventure, hope of gain, and a want of or a distaste for honest employment at home have induced to join their fortunes to his, there is widespread dissension and strife, which may at any moment break into open revolt, and thus deprive him of the only support upon which he can rely to maintain himself and his administration.—*Journal of Commerce.*

EUROPEAN SOVEREIGNS AND FILLIBUSTERISM.—The London Morning Post (semi-official organ) has an article calling upon the European governments, after they have settled their affairs at the peace conference, to turn their attention to measures for crushing the filibustering propensities of the United States. We quote its conclusion:

"It will be said that England, owing to her connection with the Musquito Indians and her possession of Jamaica, with other colonies in the vicinity, has a personal and peculiar interest in a question of this description, and that her motive in mooted it, therefore, is selfish. But this is not the case. She apprehends no danger to any of her own colonies and possessions, and wants no help from any other Power for her defence. So far as her special interests are concerned, her own power is more than sufficient for their protection; and she enjoys, and while that power lasts will be seen to enjoy, a perfect immunity from this species of danger.

"England, indeed, were suspected of entertaining any desire to establish an exclusive influence or authority in the territories of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, or in any other territory of the kind, there might be ground for receiving coldly her invitation of other States to a joint action, but she has disavowed this, and her honesty of purpose has not been, and cannot be, called in question. It has always been her desire, as it must be the desire of every man of common humanity, that the States formed out of the old Spanish territory of North America should be left in peace to establish themselves in a manner to improve their wealth and resources, and to maintain their independence. She proposes this end only for the basis of the joint action of the European States who have similar views, and who avow similar principles. But it is against this particular condition of South America that the filibustering spirit has been excited, and that enterprises are set on foot by the subjects of the United States. The views of America on this point are decidedly opposed to those of Europe. It behooves, therefore, the States of Europe to give some strong expression to those views before the course of action which has been adopted by the people of the United States shall have taken such consistency as to make it more difficult to offer successful opposition.

"The friars say they possess nothing; whose then are the lands they hold? Not their superior's; he hath vowed poverty as well as they. Whose then? To answer this, 'twas decreed they should say they were the Pope's. And why must the friars be more perfect than the Pope himself?"

"'Twas an unhappy divil that has been made between faith and works. Though in the candle I may divide them, just as I understand I know there is both light and heat, but yet put out the candle and they are both gone; one remains not without the other; so 'tis betwixt faith and works."

"We cannot tell what is a judgment of God; his presumption to take upon us to know. Commonly we say a judgment falls upon a man for something in him we cannot abide. An example we have in King James concerning the death of Henry the Fourth of France. One said he was killed for his dissoluteness, another said he was killed for turning his religion. No, says King James, who could not abide fighting, he was killed for permitting duels in his kingdom.—*Table Talk of John Selden.*

## How Some People Live in New York.

A special committee of the legislature are now investigating the construction of the tenement houses, so called, in the city of New York. From a report of their first day's investigation we make the following extract:

"The company then proceeded to inspect No. 21 Cherry street. This building was not erected for a tenement house, but may be so called on account of its being very large and capable of accommodating a large number of families. The house was in a very filthy condition, the yard being crowded with old sheds and heaps of dirt and ashes varying from three to five feet in height; the stoop and hall half under the same, and the odor from the slops and garbage thrown out by the tenants is sickening. From this building the committee proceeded to Nos. 30 and 38 Cherry street, (near,) known as East and West Gotham Courts. These buildings extend back from the street some 250 feet, and are five stories in height. The alley way is about 6 feet wide, and beneath it are the water-closets, which are lighted by iron gratings extending along the court. In several parts of this under-cellar—for so it may be called—we noticed water from one to two feet deep, and the effect of the fetid exhalations that arise therefrom is almost suffocating to a person unused to such atmosphere.

"The halls are about six feet square, with narrow winding stairways two feet three inches in width, ascending circular wise. The occupants of these houses have each two small rooms, one 14 by 14, with a bed-room attached 7 by 14 feet, and from the narrowness of the alley, and the great height of the building, the rooms are very dark. In these courts over 1,100 persons reside; there are 200 families and over sixty persons in each division; there are in one room 13 persons. The rent asked for these apartments varies from \$4.50 to \$6 per month. The owner of the building is Silas Wood, who derives an income from their rent of \$5,000 per annum. In the case of fire the loss of life would be awful, for it would be impossible for more than one-quarter of the occupants to escape. They complain of its being very sickly in these courts, and one of the tenants who has resided in the building fronting on Cherry street says that in summer there is not less than one week carried to his last resting place from within these walls."

FOREIGN SILVER COINS.—We learn that the Finance Committee of the U. S. Senate have matured a project designed to lead to the gradual abandonment and ultimate rejection of the small Spanish silver coins as part of the circulating medium, and that it will forthwith be submitted to legislative action. The result of the experiments to ascertain the value of the Spanish sixteenth, eighth, and quarter of a dollar, is reported to the committee as indicating the first to be worth a fraction over five cents, the second about eleven, and the quarter between twenty-three and twenty-four cents. The bill they have framed is believed to provide that the existing laws authorizing the circulation and establishing a value of all foreign coins, except the Spanish fractional divisions of the dollar, be at once repealed. As to the fractions, they allow them to be circulated for two years at the value of 5, 10, and 20 cents respectively, and thereafter they are to be excluded altogether from circulation. But at the mint they will at all times be received as bullion, and paid for by weight. The effect of this will doubtless be, that they will be collected and sent to the mint as the best market,—the price there obtainable exceeding their value in circulation. This result will be promoted also by classifying them with our own decimal divisions. The public having then but one measure of value or price in small transactions, will have no motive for persisting to retain in use the small Spanish coins; and thus that most annoying imposition, by some dealers systematically practised, and chiefly to the prejudice of the poor, of filching of a cent from every purchaser unprovided with even change, will be effectually gotten rid of.—*N. Y. Journal of Commerce.*

CURIOUS MECHANICAL DUCK.—The automation peacock of Gen. Degennes, a French officer of the 17th century, probably suggested to Faucanson the idea of constructing his celebrated duck, which was perhaps the most wonderful piece of mechanism ever made. This duck exactly resembled a living one in size and appearance. It executed accurately all its movements and gestures, it ate and drank with avidity, performed all the quick motions of the head and throat peculiar to the living animal, and like it muddled the water with its bill. It produced the sound of quacking in the most natural manner. Every bone in the natural duck had its representative in the automation, and its wings were automatically exact. When corn was thrown down before it, it reached out its neck to pick it up, it swallowed it, digested it, and discharged it. The digestion was accomplished by a chemical solution, after which it was conveyed away by tubes. Leekman, who saw it long after, informs us that its ribs were made of wire, and that the motion was communicated through the feet by means of a cylinder and fine chain, like those of a watch.—*English paper.*

FROM SPAIN.—In the Spanish Cortes, on the 24th of January, a most rancorous discussion took place between Senor Orense and General O'Donnell, in which each reviewed his past political career, and the most numerous sarcasms were employed against each other. The effect was such; it was said, that the latter thought of resigning his post as Minister of War, with a view of holding the former to personal account for some of the expressions he had used. The prominent political friends of each of the parties held meetings to determine the proper course to be pursued by their respective leaders, and at latest advice the difficulty was believed to be somewhat assuaged.