

SMOKING SPIRITUALIZED.

The following unique and beautiful "Meditation on Smoking Tobacco," was written two hundred years ago, by Rev. Ralph Erskine, of Scotland. It is like good wine that improves with age: This Indian weed now withered quite, Tho' green at noon, 't cut down at night, Shows thy decay; All flesh is lay. Thus think, and smoke tobacco. The pipe, so hilly like and weak, Does thus thy mortal state bespeak. Thus art even such, Gone with a touch, Thus think, and smoke tobacco. And when the smoke ascends on high, Then thou behold'st the vanity Of worldly stuff, Thus think, and smoke tobacco. And when the pipe grows foul within, Think of thy soul defiled with sin, Thus think, and smoke tobacco. And when the ashes cast away, Then thou shalt see thyself decay, Thus think, and smoke tobacco.

MATERIALISM.

The Views of Charles Dickens.

Mr. Charles Dickens, in the course of his inaugural address at the recent opening of the Birmingham and Midland Institute, observed: It is much too commonly assumed that this age is a material age, and that the material age is an irreligious age. I have been pained lately to see this assumption repeated in certain influential quarters. I confess that I do not understand that much-used and much-abused phrase, "a material age." I cannot comprehend—if anybody can, which I very much doubt—its logical signification. For instance, has electricity become the more material in the mind of any sane, or moderately sane—[laughter]—man, woman, or child, because in the discovery that in the good providence of God it was made available for the service of man, and it is certain in its good season to bring forth flowers and fruit. [Applause.] I cannot but reflect how often you have probably heard within these walls one of the foremost men and certainly one of the best (if not the very best) speakers in England. [Cheers.] I could not say to myself, when I began just now in Shakespeare's line, "I will be bright and shining gold"—[laughter]—but I could and did say to myself, "I will be as easy and as natural as I possibly can, because my heart has long been towards Birmingham and towards Birmingham men and women. The ring I now wear was a Birmingham gift, and if by rubbing it I could raise the spirit that was obedient to Aladdin's ring, I assure you that my first instruction to the geni on the spot would be to place himself at Birmingham's disposal in the best of causes. [Cheers.]

them, for I do not in the least believe that either; nor because their doings will be proclaimed with blast of trumpet at the street corners, for no such musical performance will take place—[laughter]—nor because self-improvement is at all certain to lead to worldly success; but simply because it is good and right of itself, and, therefore, will assuredly bring with it its own resources and its own rewards. I would further commend to them a very wise and witty piece of the conduct of the understanding, which was given more than half a century ago by the Rev. Sydney Smith, wise and witty of the friends I have lost. Speaking of a circle of voluntary students he says: "There is a piece of foppery which is to be guarded against, the foppery of universality, of knowing all sciences, of excelling in all arts—chemistry, mathematics, algebra, dancing, history, reason, riding, fencing, low Dutch, high Dutch, and natural philosophy. In short, the modern precept of education very often is—take the Admiral Chrichton for your model, and be ignorant of nothing." My advice, on the contrary, is to have the courage to be ignorant of a great number of things, in order that you may avoid the calamity of being ignorant of everything. [Cheers and laughter.] To this I would superadd a little truth, which holds equally good of my own life, and the life of every eminent man I have ever known. The one serviceable, safe, certain, remunerative, attainable quality in every study and in every pursuit, is the quality of application. My invention or imagination, such as it is, I can most faithfully assure you would never have served me as it has but for the habit of commonplace, humble patient, daily toiling, drudging attention." [Applause.] Genius, vivacity, quickness of perception, and brilliancy in the association of ideas—such mental qualities, like the secret of the apparition of the armed head in Macbeth, will not be commanded; but attention, after due form of submissive service, always will. Like certain plants which the poorest peasant may grow on the plain, and it is certain in its good season to bring forth flowers and fruit. [Applause.] I cannot but reflect how often you have probably heard within these walls one of the foremost men and certainly one of the best (if not the very best) speakers in England. [Cheers.] I could not say to myself, when I began just now in Shakespeare's line, "I will be bright and shining gold"—[laughter]—but I could and did say to myself, "I will be as easy and as natural as I possibly can, because my heart has long been towards Birmingham and towards Birmingham men and women. The ring I now wear was a Birmingham gift, and if by rubbing it I could raise the spirit that was obedient to Aladdin's ring, I assure you that my first instruction to the geni on the spot would be to place himself at Birmingham's disposal in the best of causes. [Cheers.]

A SUMMARY OF MR. PEABODY'S BENEFICATIONS.—The following summary of his benefactions is the best and most eloquent eulogy that we can pronounce upon his life: To the Institute at Baltimore.....\$1,400,000 To the Institute at Danvers.....200,000 To the poor of London.....1,750,000 To the Southern Educational Fund.....2,500,000 To the Harvard University.....150,000 To Yale College.....150,000 To Washington College.....50,000 To other objects.....3,600,000 Making a total of.....\$6,596,000 To this amount should be added the principal fortune of \$1,400,000, which was distributed among his relatives during his second visit to the United States, making a grand total of \$7,996,000 distributed by him during his lifetime in amounts of noticeable size. "While so free and open-handed in his public benefactions, however, in private charities he was far outdone by others. He appeared to regard himself as the trustee of an immense fund for the benefit of common humanity, but chose to bestow his charity in a way that would bring forth great and noticeable results; and conscious that he did his full duty in this respect, left to others of a different temperament the alleviation of individual cases of suffering and distress.

Which will you do—smile and make your household happy, or be crabbed, and make all those young ones gloomy, and the elder ones miserable? The amount of happiness you can produce is incalculable if you show a smiling face, a kind heart and speak pleasant words. Wear a pleasant countenance; let joy beam in your eyes, and love glow on your forehead. There is no joy like that which springs from a kind act or a pleasant deed; and you will feel it at night when you rest, and in the morning when you rise, and through the day when about your business.

AGRICULTURAL ITEMS.

It is said that cattle around Dalton, Georgia are dying off by scores with the murrain. Gas-tar, mingled with whitewash applied to the interior of a hen-house, at the rate of one gill to a pailful, it is said will disperse the lice. Cattle disease has appeared at Shrewsbury, Mass. The bronchial tubes of the slaughtered animals were found filled with thread-like worms. It pays to make a cow comfortable in as many respects as possible. Every hour she suffers from any cause, the milk account suffers correspondingly. Forty thousand beef cattle, bound north, have crossed the Brazos river, at Waco, Texas, the present season; four thousand crossed in two successive days. Farmers in Minnesota are paying twenty-four per cent. interest for money to hold their wheat, not wishing to take eighty or eighty-five cents a bushel for it. The farmer who stints his fields, is as unwise and imprudent as he who starves his working cattle—in both cases he is diminishing the ability of a faithful servant to be useful to him. The Ohio Farmer estimates the corn crop in Northern Ohio will not be more than one third an average, with half a crop of fodder, and that the whole State will not yield more than half a crop. It is an excellent plan to keep a lump of common chalk in the feeding trough constantly, after the calves are a month old; this will correct the acidity of the stomach and have a tendency to keep them in a healthy state. A farmer residing in DeWitt, Clinton county, raised 212 bushels of wheat on six and one-half acres of ground in 1868, and on the same field in 1869 he raised 200 bushels, or an average of 31 1/2 bushels to the acre for each year. A company has been formed in New York to bring fresh meat to that market from Texas. The entire hold of the vessel is lined with non-conducting felt; and by chemical means a cold below the freezing point will be kept up. Milton Merrield, of Providence, caught fifty-two rats in one night, by exchanging rats for one of water, covering the surface with chalk. The "rats" unsuspiciously pitched in, and met a watery grave. This is an old but excellent trap where these animals are plenty. A correspondent of the Dixie Farmer gives a report of the sex of the calves raised on his dairy farm this year. The bull was a two year old Alderney. The cows were of different grades. Twenty-eight cows produced 15 males and 13 female calves; 12 heifers brought nine males and three female calves. At the meeting of the Social Science Association, in Albany, New York, the following statement was made; in New York alone, \$32,000,000 worth of meat annually is consumed, besides 83,000,000 pounds of butter, valued at \$33,000,000; 72,000,000 pounds of cheese, valued at \$14,000,000—a total of \$79,000,000. An Arab proverb concerning the horse was: "The first seven years for my young brother, the next seven for myself, and the last for my enemy." So far as this recommendation light usage during the youth of a horse it is worthy of acceptance, but the period of full strength and activity is made too short, if the horse is well cared for. The United States produced twenty-five millions worth of cheese, and a hundred millions of butter last year. A correspondent of the Farmers' Club warns people against feeding the rhubarb plant to hogs; he lost several by doing it. All plants grow stronger and ripen better when the air circulates freely around them, and the sun is not prevented from an immediate influence. It is easy to equal any fancy bred cow with a native at a milker, but if the daughter of the native is a good cow, it is an accident, not so in thoroughbred stock. A writer in the Country Gentleman recommends fastening cows' tails to the joints overhead in the barn where milking is done, by means of a cord and hook made of wire. Many English farmers feed no hay to their work horses, but keep them in high working order with straw, roots, and shorts. The equivalent of 12 tons of hay can be produced on one acre in roots. A writer in the American Stock Journal says that coarseness and its accompanying evil are the main cause of sows destroying their young, and that green and other proper food is the preventative and cure. Good implements are indeed indispensable to success, and he who has provided them will not only have great pleasure in his labors, but the profits which attend the judicious application of both time and labor. It is estimated that there are over 12,000,000 head of cattle in Texas alone, but prior to the war that State only contained 3,000,000 head. The demand ceased and the cattle thrived during the conflict, until they have increased enormously. Samuel Bowles says: "The Colorado wheat makes a rich heavy flour, bearing a creamy golden tinge; and I have eaten no wheat else better bread than is made from it. The wheat will rank with the very best that America produces, and is more like the California grains than that of the States."

The Massachusetts Ploughman says: "We believe it is economy for every farmer to cultivate roots. They are very useful as a change of feed in winter. The cattle do better and they require less hay. No farmers should go into the winter without roots." SUK CURE FOR COLIC IN HORSES.—Dr. McClure, of Philadelphia, a Veterinary surgeon who has the care of several hundred horses, informs the Practical Farmer that he has never known the following prescription to fail of curing colic in horses: "Aromatic spirits of ammonia, half an ounce; Laudanum, one and a half ounce; mix with one pint of water, and administer. If not relieved, repeat the dose. REMEMBER THIS. The best corn crop on prairie soil yet reported is 724 bushels by weight from seven acres. A dairyman informs the Maine Farmer that having tried various things for sore teats on cows, he finds hard best, the most healing and soothing. The Stock Journal advises a big horse for regular farm work, and one that does not, without great pushing, trot more than six miles an hour with a light buggy. Cooked meal is nearly double the bulk of uncooked, yet quart for quart it goes as far. The difference is, that much of the food is undigested unless cooked. Half a dozen eggs beat up with two ounces of salt, is recommended as a sure relief of cattle choked with a potatoe rattle, by a correspondent of the County Gentleman. Every farmer should have a compost heap.—Collect every kind of fertilizer, and to prevent any from liberating the gases, keep the whole covered with earth or muck. Journal of Agriculture recommends the application of a top dressing of manure to meadows immediately after having, especially on dry patches where the grass roots are often parched and killed in wet weather. Mr. J. Harris thinks steam thrashing machines will soon take the place of the horse machines. This, he thinks, will be of great advantage in the way of allowing grain to be thrashed as it is taken from the field, and the straw to be put in the barn. Hiram Woodruff says in his book about horses that a dog on both reins will not bring up a horse when he is taken from a trot. A firm, quick pull should be given on one rein, letting the other give a little, as much as you want the horse's head thrown out of line. LITTLE THINGS—Life is made up of little things. He who travels over a continent must go step by step. He who writes a book must do it sentence by sentence. He who learns a science must master it fact by fact, and principle after principle. What is the happiness of our life made up of? Little courtesies, little kindnesses, pleasant words, genial smiles, a friendly letter, good wishes and good deeds. One in a million, once in a lifetime, may do a heroic action; but the little things that make up our life come every day and every hour. If we make the little events of life beautiful and good, then is the whole life full of beauty and goodness. The following are buying rates of South Carolina Bank Notes, prepared by Gregg, Palmer & Co., Brokers: Bank of Camden.....60 Bank of Charleston.....85 Bank of Chester.....13 Bank of Georgetown.....15 Bank of Newberry.....13 Bank of South Carolina.....10 Bank of South Carolina old.....30 Bank of South Carolina new.....10 Hamburg.....2 Commercial.....2 Exchange.....15 Planters.....5 State.....7 Union.....97 So. Western R., old.....95 People's.....85 Planters and Mechanics.....80 Merchants.....80 SAN DOMINGO.—One of the jobs of the coming session of Congress, we are told, will be the purchase of the Negro Republic of San Domingo. Its political divisions are five provinces and two maritime districts, and its population is estimated at 150,000 souls, of which perhaps 40,000 are white, or pass for white. In this estimate of population the maritime district of Puerto Plata is included in that of the province of Santiago, and Samana in that of the province of Seybo. St. Domingo.....28,000 Azua.....17,000 Seybo.....27,000 La Vega.....38,000 Santiago.....40,000 Total.....150,000 We sincerely hope these 150,000 good colored people may be permitted to work their own salvation, without being annexed. There is a great demand, we are told, for a species of plaster which will enable men to stick to their business. Who has got it?

Grocer Wives.

The wives of the Greeks lived in almost absolute seclusion. They were usually married when very young. Their occupations were to weave, to spin, to embroider, to superintend the household, to care for their sick slaves. They lived in a special and retired part of the house. The more wealthy seldom went abroad, and never except when accompanied by a female slave; never attended the public spectacles; received no male visitors except in the presence of their husbands, and had not even a seat at their own tables when male guests were there. Their pre-eminent virtue was fidelity, and it is probable that this was very strictly and very generally observed. Their remarkable freedom from temptations, the public feelings which strongly discouraged any attempt to seduce them, and the ample sphere for illicit pleasures that was accorded to the other sex, all contributed to protect it. On the other hand, living as they did, almost exclusive among their female slaves, deprived of all the educating influence of male society, and having no place at those public spectacles which were the chief means of Athenian culture, their minds must necessarily have been exceedingly contracted. Thucydides doubtless expressed the prevailing sentiment of his countrymen when he said that the highest merit of woman is not to be spoken of either for good or for evil, and Phidias illustrated the same theory when he represented the heavenly Aphrodite standing on a tortoise, typifying thereby the secluded life of a virtuous woman. In their own restricted sphere their lives were probably not unhappy. Education and custom rendered the purely domestic life that was assigned to them a second nature, and it must, in most instances, have reconciled them to the extra matrimonial connections in which their husbands too frequently indulged. The prevailing manners were very gentle. Domestic oppression is hardly ever spoken of; the husband lived chiefly in the public place; causes of jealousy and of disaffection could seldom occur, and a feeling of warm affection though not a feeling of equality, must doubtless have in most cases spontaneously arisen. In the writings of Xenophon we have a charming picture of a husband who had received into his arms his young wife of fifteen, absolutely ignorant of the world and its ways. He speaks to her with extreme kindness, but in the language that would be used to a little child. Her task, he tells her is to be like a queen bee, dwelling continually at home and superintending the work of her slaves. She must economize the family income and must take especial care that the house is strictly orderly—the shoes the pots and the clothes, always in their places. It is also, he tells her, a part of her duty to tend her sick slaves; but here his wife interrupted him, exclaiming, "Nay but that will, indeed be the most agreeable of my offices, if such as I treat for my kindness are likely to be grateful, and to love me more than before." With a very tender and delicate care to avoid everything resembling a reproach, the husband persuades his wife to give up the habit of wearing high-heeled boots, in order to appear tall, and of coloring her face with vermilion and white lead. He promises her that, if she faithfully performs her duties, he will himself be the first and most devoted of her slaves. He assured Socrates that, when any domestic dispute arose, he could extricate himself admirably, if he was in the right; but that whenever he was in the wrong, he found it impossible to convince his wife that it was otherwise.—Appleton's Journal. New York, November 6.—Governor Hoffman, in answering a question as to what the Democrats intended to do with their victory, said the Democrats propose making the Legislature honest, and to use it for promoting the interest of the mass of the people, which the radicals have not done. We propose to abolish such laws as infringe upon the rights of localities, and secure them right themselves. The new Legislature, however, will not be radical; it is disposed to show to the State and country that the Democracy can be as moderate in victory as patient under defeat. The Stonewall was burned to the water's edge on the Mississippi River, last week. There were two hundred and fifty-eight souls on board, but a few of whom reached the shore alive. A most fearful catastrophe. George Peabody, the great philanthropist is dead. The news of his death will be received and felt on both sides of the Atlantic, with no common sorrow.

THE KING OF DIAMONDS.

It seems as though, after a lapse of three centuries, Sir Walter Raleigh's dreams of an El Dorado were about to be realized. The other day we published an account of marvellous discoveries of diamonds in South Africa. They had been found for miles along the banks of the Orange and the Vaal rivers. They were not only abundant, but they were, many of them, of great size. Some were found of the dandaloque shape and of the first water, weighing upwards of eighty carats; others of the octahedron, or four pointed, that weighed upwards of thirty carats; and of the smaller varieties immense numbers had been picked up on the surface of the ground. Naturally South Africa was in a ferment. Elephant tusks were forgotten, and every one was hunting for precious stones. The infection had even extended to this country, and Dr. Hall was organizing a colony to go diamond hunting. But now come reports from Australia of discoveries there which far eclipse those in South Africa. Telegrams have come flying from the Australian mines to England big enough to make the diamond merchants hold their breath with astonishment. The glittering stones have been picked up in such quantities that, says the London Times, in a leading article on the subject, "the colonists are all dreaming of precious stones. At every table and in every railway carriage the talk is of diamonds and rubies, odals and emeralds pearls and topazes, and people of all ranks are rushing to the mines. Genuine diamonds are on sale by women and children at every cottage, and there can hardly be a mistake, we should think about the nature of the stones. This is marvellous enough in all conscience, but this is not half the story; the rest of it smacks of the Arabian Nights' Entertainments, and Sir Walter Raleigh's adventures in the great diamond valley to which he flew on the back of a mighty bird. We must preface with the statement, familiar doubtless to many of our readers, that the increase in value of the diamond is vastly greater in proportion than its increase in weight. A stone weighing one carat, for instance, might be worth fifty dollars; but one weighing five carats would be worth two thousand. Imagine, then, the value of one as big as a lemon and weighing three-quarters of a pound. Such a one is said to be found in Australia. Its discovery has been telegraphed to England. It was placed in the hands of a trustworthy man. He was surrounded by a strong cordon of military, and was marched in this way from the mines to Sydney, where the magnificent gem was deposited in the mint. The stone has not yet been thoroughly tested. Geologists are at work upon it now; but if it really proves to be supposed, its value will be almost fabulous. Its weight is 900 carats. The greatest English diamond, that pride of the British Empire, the Koh-i-noor, weighs but 186 carats, and its computed by the tables in use, would be a hundred millions in gold. But of course, this value, would in any event be imaginary, since no purchaser could be found for a diamond, even if it was as big as a lemon. MASONIC.—The next Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free Masons of South Carolina, will be held at Masonic Hall, Charleston, on the 16th day of November, 1869, commencing at high twelve. The President of the various railways in South Carolina have kindly consented to permit the Grand Officers and Delegates to pass and repass thereon for one fare. The full fare is to be paid at the place of starting, and certificates will be issued by the Grand Secretary, at the close of the Communication, entitling the holder to return free of any charge whatever. A recently appointed postmistress at a post-office on the plains, sends her first quarterly report to the department with the following foot-note: "For weeks past I have slept with a sixshooter by my bedside and a carving knife under my pillow, expecting at the break-of-day the Indians would come for my scalp; but all of this has not been half so harassing to my mind as the making out of one quarterly report." The Greenville and Columbia Railroad has done a larger freight business this fall than ever before since the war. Four two-year-old Kentucky stallions were sold in Atlanta Saturday for \$2,400.