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Miscellaneous.

THE THREE WIVES.

BY F. H. COOKE.

Mr. Juduthan Spike was an eccentric bachelor of fifty. His mother died in giving him birth, and it would seem that the mother heart died with her, for from that hour the hapless Juduthan seemed to have no perception of feminine excellence, and diverted himself with ridiculing the follies of the sex, whose true character was to him a despised enigma.

When the confession was made to Mr. Juduthan Spike, he turned his back on the agitated young man, and walked quietly to the window. After standing silently for some minutes, he turned and said very calmly:

"Well, boys, I have nursed you through the measles, and the scarlet-fever and the whooping cough, and I did my best to alleviate what I could not prevent. You are now the victim of a disease quite as general as the other, and for which there is no remedy but experience.

"It is needless to say that the three nephews availed themselves of the permission thus unwillingly given, and that any self reproaches they might feel at defeating the cherished wishes of their kindest benefactor did not seriously embitter their honey-moon.

"It is useless looking for Edward," says Charles at last. "We shan't see him before evening. His wife is now looking for a needle to darn his stockings, and replace the missing buttons upon his coat."

There was a slight movement of surprise, for Mrs. Henry Spike was recognized as decidedly notable.

order. If ever there was a machine for performing mechanically every outward virtue, it is Mrs. Henry Spike. She never loses her temper; indeed, I doubt if she has any to lose. She never betrays any flutter of vanity or wounded feelings. To the calmness of a statue, she adds an instinctive perception of decorum, a rigid adherence to rectitude, which leaves nothing to hope or fear, and very little to enjoy, nothing can disturb her.

"I hardly see how you came to marry her," remarked Edward per parenthesi.

"Mrs. Charley Spike," responded the person addressed, "is not absolutely stupid, nor entirely indifferent in matters of feeling. She gives some variety to life in point of temper, and permits me to hope to please, as well as fear to offend. But like your Rectina, she has, alas! one paramount idea. 'Order is heaven's first law,' and it is not the less that of my immaculate Vesta. Especially does she insist upon the most spotless neatness, at the expense of all other considerations. I discovered soon after my marriage that the world was a little too good to live in. The parlors were shut up to exclude the flies; the chambers to avoid the dust.

"Why, yes, tolerably," said the good man, who seemed more gratified than he cared to acknowledge. The truth is, he added, speaking with hesitation, as if he felt the need of an apology, "The truth is, I am going to live with Edward, and give lessons to Beatrice in house-keeping."

"The Tree that Never Fades." "Mary," said George, "next summer I will not have a garden. Our pretty tree is dying, and I won't love another tree as long as I live. I will have a bird next summer, and that will stay all winter."

"George, don't you remember my beautiful canary? It died in the middle of the summer, and we planted bright flowers in the ground where we buried it. My bird did not live as long as the tree."

"Well, I don't see as we can love anything. Dear little brother died before the bird, and I loved him better than any bird, or tree, or flower. O, I wish we could have something to love that wouldn't die!"

"The day passed. During the school-hours, George and Mary had almost forgotten that their tree was dying; but at evening, as they drew their chairs to the table where their mother was sitting, and began to arrange the seeds they had been gathering, the remembrance of the tree came upon them."

"Mother," said Mary, "you may give these seeds to cousin John; I never want another garden."

"Yes, George, I have read of a garden where the trees never die." "A real garden mother?" "Yes, my son. In the middle of the garden, I have been told, there runs a pure river of water, clear as a crystal, and on each side of the river is the tree of life—a tree that never fades. That garden is heaven. There you may love, and love forever. There will be no death—no fading there. Let your treasure be in the tree of life, and you will have something to which your hearts can cling without fear, and without disappointment. Love the Savior here, and he will prepare you to dwell in those green pastures and beside those still waters."

City and Country-bred People.

We find in the Union an address of Francis P. Blair, esp. (the old editor of the Globe) to the Agricultural Association of Montgomery county, Maryland, delivered at Rockville, on the 8th instant, from which we give an extract that may be read with pleasure and profit:

Men who have made fortunes in our cities, begin now to appreciate the value of country life, however aversive or unsuited to it they may have been rendered by habit. The common guide-book of Paris, which is put into every traveller's hands, has this note under the head of population: "Families constantly residing in Paris soon become extinct. The effects of this mortality are observed to be more active upon males than upon females." What is true of Paris is true of every city in the world.

There is another observation in regard to cities which induces thoughtful men, who take pride in their posterity, to remove from them when they have accomplished the objects for which they are sought. How many millions of children educated in cities with the utmost care, have passed away without reaching distinction among their countrymen. It is remarkable that children born in cities generally exhibit precocious talents; they have the easiest access to every species of learning; they are stimulated to exercise in the schools by pride, vigilance, and solicitude, which is spirited up by the stirring society around; they have the advantage of imbibing an early knowledge of the world, and have almost in infancy the manners, the ideas, and self-possession of polished society.

The hot-beds of cities bring forward their plants more rapidly; but those springing from the native soil, and braving the rude seasons and rough culture of the country, are found to have the best stamina. Look over the list of great men who figured in our revolution, and it will be found that almost to a man they were country-born and bred. Search the annals of the revolution in England from the reign of the 1st Charles to the 3d William. These were the times that tried the souls of men in the mother country. The French revolution filled Paris with innumerable great men, the offspring of the provinces. If we scan our own quiet times whence come the illustrious men who have filled the chief magistracy, and given fame to Congress and our State Legislatures? I do not know one that has not made his way from some rural district to the high places of the republic. And so, too, it has been with our great merchants and mechanics who have flourished in cities; trace them, and you will find that the impulse that gives them this lead brought them from the fields of some village to try their fortunes in the city. The men who thus build themselves up in the marts of business, have generally the sagacity to see that life in the country is the natural state, that in the city an artificial existence; and if not too much possessed with the spirit of getting, which gain is too apt to engender, they retire to the scene from which they emerged.

This is particularly marked in public men, who almost invariably seek to close their career at some homestead which they would make their monument. From this feeling we have our Mt. Vernon, Monticello, Montpelier, the Hermitage, Ashland, Marshfield, and Fort Hill. And how natural the wish of every independent nature to have a home—a little domain where its offspring may have space to grow to full stature, where the moral character may be formed on its cherished principles, where the age and infirmity of the declining head may have the required privacy and repose, and where the prospect of the grave itself is softened by the sense that it would often be viewed by fond and kind eyes. The idea of a hereditary patriarchal home brings a thousand endearing associations with it, both to parents and children, and the affections which grow up in it become a part of it. A sense of this makes the possessor labor to improve it—to impress his own character upon it; to adorn it with taste—to enrich it with fruit, and to hand down his memory in every permanent edifice he may build, and every noble tree he may plant; and with the consciousness that he will be blanded in the thoughts of his children, who are to succeed him in the enjoyment of the blessings he thus prepares for them, he will seem to enjoy himself through a long futurity.

CARD.—They were too thrilling for me when I was grave, and too dull when I was cheerful.—Johnson.

Three Glorious Days.

The 10th 11th and 12th of September are memorable days in American History. On the 10th of September, 1813, the first action, in which an American fleet was ever engaged, was fought on Lake Erie. British pride and prowess yielded, on that day, to American valor. The American fleet, under command of Commodore Perry, consisted of the Lawrence and Niagara, of 20 guns each, the Cal-donia of 3, the Ariel of 4, the Somers of 2 and 3 gunboats of one each. The British force comprised the Detroit of 21 guns, the Queen Charlotte of 18, the Lady Prevost of 13 the Hunter of 10 the Little Belt of 3, and one gunboat—the English thus having the most guns. The battle lasted two hours, when the British surrendered; their loss was 41 killed and 94 wounded. The American loss was 28 killed and 96 wounded.

On the 11th of September, just one year and one day after, the American fleet on Lake Champlain, under Commodore McDonough, obtained an equally glorious victory over a British fleet consisting of 17 vessels, carrying 29 guns and 1600 men. The American force was again inferior in guns and men to the British, and consisted of 1 brig of 29 guns, a schooner of 17 guns, a sloop of 7 guns and 10 galleys or gun-boats. The men numbered about 850, officers included. McDonough's victory was followed by the battle of Plattsburg and the total rout of Proctor's 14,000 placed troops, with which he had boasted he would march to New York. The American land force, under General Macomb consisted of but 1500 regulars and 3000 militia.

On the next day, September 12th, the battle of Baltimore, or North Point, was fought, the disasters of Bladensburg partially retrieved, and the Vandalism of Admiral Cockburn at Washington, to some extent avenged. Baltimore was saved from pillage; while the ruthless foe lost their commander, Gen. Ross, and about 600 of their men. The American loss was about one-fourth that of the British. The attack on Baltimore was made by over 6000 of well disciplined English troops, while the American force was chiefly composed of militia. The repulse of the invaders was most complete.

The battle of Chapultepec, in the war with Mexico, commenced on the 12th of September 1847, the storming on the 13th. Chapultepec was a glorious victory, so far as it illustrated American heroism in battle, but whether, under a more politic general, it would have been necessary, to open the way to the Mexican capital, is a question upon which military men as well as civilians are still divided in opinion.

THE ENGLISH AND FRENCH PROTEST.—The National Intelligencer of Friday morning, reiterates its rumor of the previous day, that the Ministers of Britain and France did join those of Austria, Prussia and Russia, in virtually protesting against the conduct of Captain Ingraham—holding now, however, that their action was "a mere expression of the opinion on the part of our respective Governments that the conduct of Captain Ingraham at Smyrna was a violation of the law of nations." As the Intelligencer's editors have better means of knowing the exact views of the Ministers of the five Powers above named, than any other journalists in the United States, the Washington Star takes it for granted that they are correct to the extent of their intimation that England and France do not like Ingraham's conduct.

The masses of Europe, with one accord, hail it as a harbinger that at least one Government will not permit Russia and her satraps to walk rough shod over her rights, in their work of crushing popular rights everywhere. The intense excitement it has created all over the Continent, operates as an alarm, warning all over the Governments of the old world that they rest over mines which may explode at any moment. They dread least some such occurrence may shortly precede the match exploding them all. It would not be wonderful, therefore, if the French and English Ministers would like to intimate to our Department, that their master and mistress don't like acts which thrill the hearts and souls of the various people of Europe with renewed hopes that the day of their regeneration is not long distant. We are still of the impression, however, that they have been too sensible to commit themselves verbally, or on paper, to an indirect endorsement of the positions of Russia, and Prussia, and Austria, in this affair.

"NOT AT HOME."—This fashionable lie repeated daily and hourly at the doors of our "first families," will, we hope, be numbered among the things that were, ere many more years roll around. Ladies who teach it to their servants cannot reflect seriously upon the matter without feeling no deeply the degradation they bring upon themselves every time they cause it to be uttered. They are shocked at the depravity of the cook when she tells a lie to conceal the effect of some carelessness, and hold up their hands in holy horror when the chamber maid is detected appropriating a bit of lace finery; but is not their own sin the deeper dyed of the two? Most certainly it is. They not only deliberately tell the lie themselves, but they teach each other to repeat it for them; and not only that, but they do it without the shadow of a justifiable excuse. Ours, shame upon you, who are living in such want of respectability, by such acts makes robbery his living.

"But what shall we say then?" is the usual queried reply to rebukes of such conduct.—The most truthful and best message we ever received in answer to the door bell at the house of a lady who was fashionably speaking, "not at home," was one which conveyed the truth at home. The whole truth, and nothing but the truth. It was this: "Mrs.—is at home, but it will be inconvenient for her to see any person this afternoon." Such a message contains nothing chilling or repulsive, nor yet anything unkind-like and more than all this, it is the truth.—Such a message a real lady might deliver in person, and none could hear without admiring it. Reader learn a lesson from J. J. Have you not some other fashionable lies besides that of "not at home," which you practice upon in your house or at your business?—New York Sun.

General News.

Things on the Rio Grande. The editor of the Southwestern American, who has just returned from the Rio Grande, reviews in the last number of his paper (17th of September) the state of things on the Mexican side of that river. His observations confirm in the main, the news published in this paper some time since, copied from the San Antonio Journal. We make the following additional confirmatory extracts:

Santa Anna is raising an army of 94,500 men. The Mexicans have a thousand conjectures as to his intentions—a war with the United States—an imperial crown and a desire to support his present position, are attributed as probable motives. The common class think he will invade the State of Texas. They indulge in glorious dreams, when they make an imaginary division of the spoils. The better informed think Santa Anna has too much sense to venture upon war with Uncle Sam. All concern in believing he has been tampering with Spain, and is backed by that power in his views and objects.

Santa Anna will doubtless place garrisons in all the towns on the Rio Grande. Troops have been already stationed opposite Laredo. A very general feeling of dissatisfaction to Santa Anna's government seems to pervade all classes this side the mountains. There has been an increase of the forces this side of the Sierra Madre. An intelligent gentleman returned from Monterey to Rio Grande. City about the middle of August, and reported 9000 men at the former point on half pay. There are four or five companies in Camargo, and seven pieces of Artillery. The force at Matamoros was not far from its usual number since the demonstration of Carvajal. There may be near 12,000 men on this side of the mountains.

There is no friendly feeling for Americans.—They are not safe in property nor in person, in any part of Mexico or close to it. A disposition seems to prevail among the Mexicans generally, to kill and rob Americans as natural enemies.—In these particulars they have suffered some themselves.

The late decree of Santa Anna, pronouncing the natives having had anything to do with Carvajal's movement "traitors and unworthy the name of Mexicans,"—denying them the privileges of citizenship and pronouncing the penalty of death against them upon conviction; it is said cannot be enforced in the frontier States without producing a revolution. A large proportion of the officers commanding the 'Mobiles' have relatives implicated with Carvajal.

The Mexicans are said to regret not having aided Gen. Carvajal in his struggle for liberty. Had he succeeded, Santa Anna could not have come into the country. Taxes are enormous. The accession to our forces on the Rio Grande will have a good effect in preserving tranquility, and protecting the rights of our citizens.

Gen. Crooks.—It is rumored on the Rio Grande that Santa Anna has had this old arch traitor put to death. We fear the news is too good to be true. Gen. Carvajal is engaged in surveying lands in Starr county. He is reputed to be an excellent mathematician. He designs establishing a rancho at Los Ojuelos, forty miles east of Laredo. He still has hopes of being able, some day, to free his country, and give her a constitution and laws similar to those of the United States. His revolutionary projects have stripped him of a large property. He has an interesting and intelligent family, chiefly dependent upon his exertions for a livelihood.

Dedication of the New Hall by the Sons of Temperance.

The beautiful Hall, occupying a third story of the block recently erected on the east side of King street, near North-beck's alley, was dedicated, as proposed, last evening, by the Sons of Temperance, as a hall for their meetings, as well as for the general purposes of the order. The different divisions and societies, marshalled under their several officers, moved in procession from their old Hall, corner King and Westworth streets, in accordance with their announcement, and reaching the new one, were received by a large and brilliant assemblage of ladies and gentlemen. Ascending two flights of stairs, and turning either to the right or left, you enter through ante-chambers a large and spacious room, which strikes the eye as admirably adapted to its purposes. On the four sides, seats were arranged for the officers and Sons of the Order, the audience occupying benches in the centre. The services were opened by a song of welcome, followed by a prayer from the Rev. Edward T. Winkle. The address of dedication was delivered by A. G. Magrath, Esq.

It was evident from the first, that the orator had given himself to his subject, in its length and breadth, with all that zeal and energy which belongs to his character, and which an enterprise so large and generous in the views it entertains and the object it proposes to accomplish, is so well calculated to draw out. The evils of intemperance were dissected, held up and pictured, were pushed into and driven from all their hiding places, and the Demon Alcohol, the father of them all, was not left an inch of ground upon which to rest the sole of his foot. The interest inspired by the appearance and manner of the speaker, with the power and influence of his remarks, will not soon cease to be felt. The address occupied nearly two hours in its delivery. We conclude, of course that it will be published.

The dedicatory exercises were conducted by P. G. W. P. James Tupper, assisted by P. W. P. B. C. Pressley, John L. Ball, T. Y. Simons, jr., E. Thayer, and W. R. Hunter, and were varied by odes executed most effectively by the choir.

The audience was large, including not only a full representation of our temperance organizations in the city, but visiting friends from the country, and a very large proportion of the fair sex, whose smiles are ever ready to approve and cheer on a good cause. Many were unable to gain admittance, such was the crowded state of the Hall, and the ceremonies were all of such a character that the Palmetto Division, and the friends of temperance generally, may look back to the dedication of their new Hall with pleasant recollections, and regard it as an epoch in their history. [Chas. Eric News.]

THE TEMAGANT'S CONVENTION.—CLEVELAND, Oct. 7.—The Women's Rights Convention assembled here had a most stormy session yesterday, which abounded in evidences of the folly of those composing it.

A series of resolutions was adopted, boldly claiming the elective franchise, as one of women's rights, and her eligibility to political stations of honor and profit. As the ladies were in a fair way of monopolizing the whole debate, an over cold member of the male gender ventured to offer a resolution to the effect that the women confine their speeches within the limit of fifteen minutes. This proposition was of course received as a very serious attempt to encroach upon one of the most important of women's rights, and was indignantly voted down.

Mrs. Clark here endeavored to speak a word in behalf of man, probably with the kind intention of soothing the feelings of the author of the objectionable resolution, but she was immediately gagged for her temerity amid loud cries of "turn her out." Abby Kelly made a speech, in which she bitterly attacked churches and ministry, which excited more discussion, and attempts were made to put her down by those who were not yet prepared to give the same length of folly.

Abby, however, maintained her position, and would not yield the floor, declaring that she would not be put down. Her another terrible scene of confusion and strife of tongues ensued, in the midst of which a motion to adjourn was put and carried, when the President fled the Hall to escape the vengeance of some portion of the Convention whom she had offended.

LANCASTER RAIL ROAD.—We perceive by the Camden Journal that the sum of \$77,500 has been subscribed to this road, which was originally intended to unite either at Chesterville, Camden or Ridgway. How much will be required to complete the road we are unable to say, but if it depends upon the subscription of the respective points where the roads were to be opened, we are sure neither Chesterville nor Ridgway "will have a place in the picture."

We are inclined to the opinion, however, that if the road does not go beyond Lancaster, that our friends who did not subscribe acted wisely, for within our limited knowledge of the country north of Camden, there is but little to pay either in freight or passage; and even if it extend beyond the town of Lancaster it has a very formidable rival to divide the profits with in the South Carolina and Charlotte Rail Road. But if the road can be built, and the means furnished on that side of the river, we wish them success in the enterprise, and larger dividends than have been declared by what are presumed at least to be better roads, and through a better country, for railroad purposes.—Fairfield Herald.

THE PRESENT COTTON CROP.—A Texas Planter, says the Galveston News, who has had an opportunity of seeing much of the present cotton crop, writes us as follows after his travels: "I have travelled through all the Southern States except Florida. I live on the Brazos river in Texas. From Huntsville to Red River the cotton crop is very poor. In many sections the weed is high and looks fine, but the bolls or forms are scarce. Farmers tell me the heavy rains cause it to shed. One half of a crop is as much as will be made along the road I have travelled through Eastern Texas. From Grand Ecore, on the Red river, 15 miles before Alexandria, the crop is worse than ever before grown there. So say the planters. I have known that country for twenty years. The growth of the weed is luxuriant, but there are very few bolls. In the Texas Valley, the best cotton land in the world except the Brazos, there is the same complaint. Too much rain has caused the weed to be rank, and the bolls few and far between. The same is the case in the Rodney Hills. All through Hinks and the adjoining counties the crop is also very poor. Through the eastern counties of Mississippi the cotton will not average more than 18 to 24 inches in height. The same is the case in Green county, Alabama, only worse. There is not a crop of Cotton from Gainesville to Greensboro', that will make 500 pounds to the acre. In Georgia and South Carolina, the cotton is not over from 10 to 24 inches high, as far as I have seen. If the States through which I have travelled do not average more than present appearances indicate, or than the people generally believe, the falling off in this year's crop cannot be less than 500,000 bales.—In the western portion of Texas the crop is good, and I have not seen a good crop anywhere else."

At the Diocesan Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of New York, on Thursday last, the long vexed question of admitting negro churches was decided in the affirmative, in favor of St. Philips Church. The vote was 130 to 15 of the clergy, and 73 to 33 of the laity. The delegates, who are all negroes, did not appear when their names were called, as they probably did not expect to be admitted.

The Legislature of Maine convened at Augusta, on Tuesday week, in obedience to the Proclamation of the Governor to consider the subject of the purchase of the lands belonging to Massachusetts, situated in Maine. The subject was referred to a Committee, consisting of seven on the part of the Senate, and twenty-three on the part of the House.

We regret to announce, says the Columbus Times of Wednesday, that Hon. W. T. Colquitt had the misfortune to have his leg broken just below the knee joint, on the 3d inst, in attempting to mount an unruly horse. Only one bone was broken, and though he is in great pain at present, we hope no serious injury will result.

SALE DAY.—There was quite a large attendance on last sale day, and we think a good deal of business transacted; money matters easy, and those who have it out careless about collecting. In the evening the Pickens Troop turned out, and made quite a display. No fighting, though we were sorry to see so much drinking, and hope the day is far distant when such scenes are to be re-acted. We were ever been in favor of the "liberty of drinking," but doubt very much whether that term includes the licentious use of it, to the annoyance of sober citizens; at least such is not our construction.