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DEVOTED TO LITERATURE, AGRICULTURE, MORALITY, GENERAL INTELIGENCE AND INDUSTRIAL IMPROVEMENTS. VOLUME 2. DARLINGTON, S. C., WEDNESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 3, 1869. NO. 3.

Selected Story.

WIDOW MARBLE'S UMBRELLA

BY HELENA DIXON.

"It is the strangest thing I ever heard of," said Widow Marble to her friend, Miss Myers, who had dropped in for a neighborly chat. "It'll be sixteen years, come next Fourth, since dear husband bought that umbrella. We went up to Schoolville. I used to see the fireworks, and hear the oration, and just before dark it began to rain smartly. Quick as flash I thought about my bonnet, and how 'twas bran new, and says I to William:

Masonic.

Profanity.

Every mason is taught "not to mention the name of Deity except with that reverential awe due from a creature to a Creator," and when we hear a brother, as is too often the case, indulging in the use of profane language, in the mistaken idea that it adds force to his talk, it pains our hearts, and we doubt the genuineness of his profession. He cannot be a mason in the true sense of the term. Freemasonry is an institution, not as the ignorant and uneducated vainly suppose, founded on unmeaning mystery, for the encouragement of bacchanalian festivity, or the support of mere good fellowship; but an institution founded on eternal reason and truth whose deep basis is the civilization of mankind, and whose everlasting glory is to have the immutable support of those two mighty pillars—science and morality. Hence, one grand object of the order, aside from the great central idea of brotherly unity and relief—that is reserved for the direct influence of the gospel. No intelligent Mason claims as much as that for the teachings of our order, but we claim that all the teachings of our beautiful ritual inculcate the highest type of morality; and where the lesson are conscientiously obeyed by a brother he comes little short of being a Christian. Hence the more surprise that there are so many among us who take so little heed to their ways, and practice the very things they are taught to eschew. The particular object of this article is to speak against profanity, and we wish we could say something that would militate against its practice. Of course no Mason can be guilty of the crime for which there is no pardon—blasphemy—cursing his Maker without reservation; yet the using of His name profanely is so near an approach to it, seemingly, that it is very dangerous to indulge in it to the smallest extent. Members of the order are judged by the same standard, by the outside world, as profane Christians are. "By their works shall ye know them." It is known through our public addresses, through our Masonic press, and through our Monitor, which points to every Mason's parlor, that the Monitor inculcates a high regard for morality, and the daily walk and conversation of members is jealousy watched to see how they honor their profession.

Agricultural.

Work for the Month.

Where wheat has not been sown, the sooner it is done now the better. The incessant labor of gathering the cotton crop through the fall months, together with the custom of sowing wheat after corn—the latter to be housed, and the field eaten out by stock before it is considered ready for wheat—has gotten our farmers in the habit of sowing wheat late; but we are satisfied that early sowing is best. As between the "fly" and rest, we should certainly sow early, and take the risk of the "fly."

Miscellaneous.

A Very singular Will.

Yesterday we heard of, and read part of, the most singular will on record. The maker of the will is represented to be a shrewd, successful business man, who has accumulated quite a large fortune. He exhibits no other signs of insanity than may be derived from the extreme eccentricity of his will, although it is probable the courts will, in due course, be called upon to determine the question whether the testator was of sound and disposing mind.

Female Athlete—She Wins Two Prizes and the Belt.

A short time ago a number of the young people in the neighborhood of Dorchester, Mass., improvised a jumping match for a small purse between Mike Flynn and a young man named Murphy. In the match Murphy was badly worsted, whereupon his sister Kate, a bright, strong and sprightly girl of twenty summers, became very indignant, and gave out to her companions that she could out-jump Mike Flynn if her brother could not. Kate became very earnest in her assertion, and to satisfy her, match was made for a purse of seventy-five dollars, and greatly to the surprise of her friends when the match came off she won it. This greatly shamed Flynn and his friends, so Miss Kate was challenged to another contest, for two hundred dollars a side, some days after. The affair attracted quite a crowd to witness the sport, not less than four hundred people being present.

Objections to Masonry Answered.

Who does not know that the essential characteristic of Masonry, when not perverted, is charity, and that Brotherly love, Relief and Truth, are the corner stones of the Masonic Temple? How then can that be a proselyting institution, which teaches its members to aid in the erection of that universal and eternal temple, which will, one day enfold all humanity within its precincts? A careful study of its history has convinced us that it is, what it professes to be, a beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols. There are no secrets as to its principles and objects.

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