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## MISCELLANY.

[FOR THE INDEPENDENT PRESS.]

VIRTUE, like all metaphysical subjects. has been a fertile theme for numerous and extended disquisitions. And their prolixity and ambiguity have given rise to controversies which have resulted in the origination of various theories. Its intimate connection with human happiness makes it of paramount importance, and demands for it much attention and philosophical investigation. Every system that has ever been proposed, however competent may have been its author to understand the complexity of its relations, and to comprehend all logical inconsistencies, has been considered defective in some of its operations. He, then, that adopts the views of another and follows in his wake, will be compelled to contend with great opposition, and combat strongly urged objections. But he who blazes out a new path, generates a theory of his own, and expects that it will be entirely unexceptionable, aims at a pre-eminence as yet unattainable, and will be doomed to suffer disappointment. Hence an eclectic system is preferable to all others. But it must consist principally of the most rational one eextant.

Virtue is an emotion of moral approbation or disapprobation, which, in unequal degrees, exists in every individual of the human race, and is not to be considered with respect to actions nor agents alone, but both combined.

The physical and mental organization of man, his situation, and the relation which he sustains to society and his Creator, lead evidently to the conclusion that his happiness was intended. And it is an impossibility for him to be happy, unless he is in possession of an emotion which will approve what is right, condemn what is wrong, and make him feel a moral obligation to perform his duty. He has intellectual faculties which perform their respective functions, but it is not their province independent of all others, to decide what is virtuous or vicious .-Deprive him of the power of practising virtue, and he is robbed of the only means by which he can obtain happiness. How deplorable would be the condition of the world, if this feeling did not enter into the nature of his mental constitution! No one would be morally bound to perform any duty, as he could not know the rectitude of actions. There would be no restraint upon the exercise of the passions, which would increase misery, and ultimately extinguish the race of mankind.

The universality of this inherent princiole is co-existent with all created intelli- ach, c gence—"diffusa in omnes, constans, sempituna." But it must be admitted that the same actions are not regarded in the same light by a person at all times, nor by differ- cellent bait for mouse-traps. [Convulsive diately wrote to the former husband, who ent individuals or nations. Were it even laughter.] One pill dissolved in a bucket admitted-which it of course is-that cer- of rain-water will be found a perfectly water tain actions were considered virtuous in one in steamboat boilers, it will effectually precountry and vicious in another, still it would vent their bursting, and greatly increase the not prove this universality to be false. All speed of their boats. [The whole audience emanated from the same Divine source, are in an uproar.] As for their medical qualiemanated from the same Divine source, are in an uproar.] As for their medical quanties, they are justly entitled to be called took passage for New Orleans. He present-took passage for New Orleans. He p and could all persons be subjected to like in-small pox, and radiate the red gum in he was informed, the writer of the letter teething; shouts of merriment from the waited to receive him. His name was anfuences, there would not be any difference in the quality of virtue; or, rather, they would agree in their approbation of a praiseworthy deed, and also in their disapprobation of one which truly merited indig-staggers in horses, and nightmare in owls.

But further enumeration is unnecessary; mation.

This is nothing more than might be expected, as he is better calculated for any bustures and sometimes. Increased experience, collivations and a heighborhood powers—yea, his whole organism—all powers, and long-continued sometimes a beneficial result upon all his sources will arise, when passion tolds upanch a great disparity in the perceptions of the present proprietor's immortal grand- and Mrs. —. The estate was restored moral differences. A person may act con- mother, and are an exception to all the to the lawful owners, and the reconciled

sidered merely innocent amusements? The complexity with which good and evil are involved, in actions, habits of association, great political errors, cherished superstitions, and a thousand other circumstances, unite to form the dissimilarity, which moralists seize as an overwhelming argument to establish the doctrine that virtue is not dependent upon a natural law implanted in the human heart.

But while all carry within them the power or capability of being virtuous, they can never become equally so, as there must be degrees in virtue. The whole race are of the same species, yet there is a remarkable difference in their appearances. If even a select number be taken, who enjoy equal advantages, there will then be a difference in their mental development. And if they could be examined with respect to their virtue, there would doubtless he as great an irregularity. In this highly favored country, where equal privileges are guarantied to all; to follow their inclinations and enjoy full liberty of opinion, we see some men tower informed them that the estate had passed above others in intellectual attainments, and in nothing else is there a more manifest difference than in their morals.

In what manner virtue is to be considered, is a question which has caused "words to be multiplied without wisdom." The perplexity has arisen by attempting to consider the action or agent independent of the other. An action, considered in itself, is nothing but a name, for if we see a person acting apparently in conformity to virtue. while we at the same time are conscious of his affectation, there will arise no emotion of approbation. Nor is it true, though supported by high authority, that "we are to consider only agents and the emotions which those agents excite." An agent cannot be an object of approbation nor disapprobation until there is first an action. And then the action must be compared with what is absolutely right, in order that it may be ascertained whether or not the circumstances that surrounded him really justified the departure from rectitude.

## Mr. Crow on Pills.

The Boston Courier publishes a series of burlesque lectures, in which some capital hits are made. The lecturer, Mr. Crow, thus discourses on pills :-

"I took up one of your newspapers, in which I read an account of a wonderful pill which had been discovered, and which was recommended and endorsed by all the great give ease and elasticity to the tightest pan-Renewed laugh But there are reasons which account for bination upon new principles, discovered by such a great disparity in the perceptions of the present proprietor's immortal grand-

A Bit of Romance.

The Cleveland Leader relates the following story, which, if true, furnishes a spectacle of genuine virtue, in real life, in comparison with which the exhibitions of the novelist are altogether insignificant. Such

conduct is its own sweet reward:

"Five or six years ago, a rich Louisiana planter died, leaving an only heir, a daugher, who was not quite seventeen years old. She, together with her fortune, was placed in the charge of a guardian, who was distantly related to the family. Her fortune and her remarkable beauty attracted the at tention of many suitors, among whom was an accomplished young man from St. Louis, whose only wealth was his profession. His handsome person and fascinating manners won the lady's affections, and, without the knowledge of her guardian, they were privately married. Shortly afterward they moved to St. Louis, where they lived to gether happily for a time, and a bright future seemed to be before them. At the expiration of a year, the lady having attained her majority, they returned to New Orleans to claim her fortune and live in the splendid old family mansion. They were coldly reinto other hands. They at once applied to the law for redress, and going through the protracted formalities of two or three fruitess suits, they were left penniless, and obliged to abandon the case. Friendless and dispirited, they returned to St. Louis, where the husband, like many other husbands, tried to drown the remembrance of his disappointment in the fatal cup. His wife entreated and admonished in vain. A separation was the consequence, and the husband became more reckless and dissipated than ever. Driven at last to desperation, the wife applied for a divorce, obtained it, and retired to a convent. This restored the wretched man to his senses; he abandoned his former associates, returned to the paths of virtue, and became an industrious and re-

spectable citizen. "A few months ago, the lady received a letter from the son of her former guardian, informing her of his father's death, of his inheritance of the estate, and of his deter-mination to make full restoration, closing with an appeal to her to forgive his misguided parent, and to come to New Orleans and enjoy her fortune. She at once complied with the generous request; and all her nheritance, together with the accumulated interest, was restored to her.

"Now comes the strangest part of this most extraordinary affair. The young man offered her his hand in marriage, and plead with all the earnestness of impassioned love. He reminded her of all their childish attachment, of his deep anguish when she bethanked him, and gave him her simple blesed him to take back all her fortune, and ing him a first-rate situation, on condition that he would come immediately. The let-ter was signed by the principal of a wellknown firm, who was apprised of every circumstance in the case. As soon as the letter came to hand, the overjoyed recipient nounced, and he was conducted into an elegant parlor, and there, slone he met the woman whom he had neglected and dishonleave him, but who would not quite give

pers announced the marriage of Mr. to the lawful owners, and the reconciled couple, made wiser and better by adversity, are now living happily together.

"It is good to turn sometimes from the cares and turmoils of politics, and contemplate human nature rising up from the depths of misery and despair, casting eside this time. There is nothing more true than the country is in great danger when

"Lasplorn, said a country greenhorn, the other day, stepping up to the bar of the Girard House, "jest give us a cent's worth of New England rum, and put it in two tumbers. Here, Jim, take hold to dam the extension of the incendiary ap-

The Last Wish.

nithologist, in regard to his burial place, is parties within the past fifteen years. beautifully expressed in the following lines:-

In some wild forest shade, Under some spreading oak or waving pine, Or old elm festooned with the budding vine, Lot me be laid!

In this dim, lonely grot, o foot intrusive will disturb my dust; But o'e. me songs of the wild birds shall burst, Cheering the spot. Not amid charnel stones,

coffins dark and thick with ancient mould, With tattered pall or fringe of cankered gold, May rest my bonea. But let the dewy rose, The snowdrop and the violet lend perfume,

Above the spot, where, in my grassy tomb, I take repose. Year after year.

Within the silver birch-tree o'er me hung, The chirping wren shall rear her callow yo Shall build her dwelling near.

And at the purple dawn of day, The lark shall chant a pealing song above, And the shrill quail shall pipe her song of lo When eve grows dim and gray.

The black-bird and the thrush. The golden oriole shall flit around, And waken with a mellow gust of sound The forest's solemn gush.

Birds from the distant sea Shall sometimes hither flock on snowy wings, And soar above my dust in siry rings, Singing a dirge to me.

Fate of American Statesmen.

This is the caption of a truthful article in the New York Times, and the substance of which the Commercial Advertiser reproduces as worthy of consideration. The pith of it is, (says the last paper,) that there has been a great change in American senttiment, with regard to political life. The best talent of the land, notwithstanding the honors of successful statesmanship, is no longer ambitious of that kind of distinction. It seeks other channels for the exercise of its possers. There is nothing to attract talent into the field of politics. The rewards of other professions are won without selfbasement, and the rivalry of a more honorable kind. Politics are becoming odious; public honors are distasteful. All that once varmed the bosom of young ambition, and plumed its wings for a lofty flight; all that made the rewards of political distinction honorable and worth the labor of attaining, has been torn from it by our abominable system of permitting small men to manage the politics of the country. These men occame the wife of another, of the long years of his silent sorrow. All these remembransit in the high places, and by their foul presence and creakings drive away honoraplead eloquently in his favor; but at last ble competitors from the feast. Moral powwith resolute vigor it is always successful. taloons. [Laughter.] A little quantity will sing; told him that she had loved but one, create an appetite in the most delicate stom- and could never love another; and entreat- demagogues and small light politicians. It can do it: the resolution to do so is all that is necessary, and the right action will follow. Principles, and not men, has been the motto of party. It is found that men are quite as necessary as principles. Principles and men should hereafter be the motwas ignorant of what had transpired, offer- to of all parties. Men-true men-men of talent, experience-men of integrity, the best genius of the nation-virtue, morality. and honor, are all necessary in the men who are to exemplify and establish the principles of party. We kill off our great men-kill them off to make room for small men on the ground of expediency, of policy, and what not? and bring forward men of no talent-no capacity-simply because they are unknown, and cannot be made the sub ject of positive affirmation in respect to anything except their obscurity. "Principles not men"-"new men" are the cries which demagogues have yelled out as they rushed on at the head of their partizans, and slashed down the great leaders, who had ored—the woman who had been forced to done or said something, which, no matter leave him, but who would not quite give how true, might render them obnoxious to those miserable factionists. It is death to tablish in them habits that great wealth become great, really, as a statesman. Such an one is dragged to the guillotine of "ex-pediency," and off goes his head, or the in idleness by wealthy and weak parents,

ekilt, are summarily laid aside, on the ground lect in the response of expediency, or to take up some new man but by a mistake con whose best recommendation is his obscurrity. The nation has had enough of this gyman asked bird, the experiment has been made to the loss of national honor, almost, and certainly the wife!" the bridge

talent, experience, knowledge, on such mis-The wish of Mr. Wilson, the celebrated Or- erable pretences as have distinguished all

> [From the Newberry Mirror.] Letter from Hon. T. C. Perrin. Messrs. Editors:-I send you a letter, ad

ressed by the Hon. T. C. Perrin, President of the Greenville and Columbia Railroad Company, to a Committee of the citizens of Ashville N. C., requesting him to attend a meeting at that place on 9th day of April last, on the subject of the French Broad Railroad. Will you do me the favor to give the letter a place in the next issue of the Mirror. SUESCRIBER.

ABBEVILLE, April 5, 1855.

Gentlemen :- Your letter inviting me to an adjourned meeting of your citizens to be held at Ashville on the 9th inst. is before me. I exceedingly regret that previous appointments, which I cannot disregard, prevent me from attending your meeting. have for months passed intended visiting your section of the country, partly from a desire of forming an acquaintance with your people of the old North State, for whom I have ever had a very high regard, but mainly to obtain information as to how our Railroad is to be extended through your State.

our Railroad from Greenville through North Carolina, not only important to our Railroad Company, but as a measure that is to confer upon your State, benefits and advantages, the value of which, even the most sagacious mind cannot now calculate. It will open up new avenues to trade-stimulate the energies of the people-nrouse them from their legthargic state—develop the hidden treasures and abundant resources of your State, and in various ways increase the wealth and happiness of the people. The present generation may enjoy some of the benefits and comforts, but it will be for posterity to enjoy their fruits in their fullest ma-

Without pretending to know all the diffi-culties in the way, I know enough to enable me to say, that I have no sort of doubt, that to build a Railroad from Greenville through your State, to connect with the Ohio, and even with the regions of the vast North-West, is entirely practicable, and that it can be done at much less cost than many of the leading Railroads at the North. In this measure patriotism prompts, and self-in-terest urges us forward to unite with you in this grand enterprise; and although I cannot be with you in your meeting, you have my best wishes for a united and harmonious effort, and full and complete success.

When the connection between the Green vill and Columbia Railroad, and the South Carolina Railroad, at or near Aiken, shall have been made, which I doubt not will soon be done, we will have a line of Railroad from Greenville to Charleston rarely equalled, and perhaps never excelled: one exempt in a remarkable degree from influence by water, and passing through tion of country, upon the head waters of the Edisto, abounding in the best pine timber, that the earth has ever produced. This route too, I believe, is the nearest of those now projected from Ashville to Charleston.

At the next meeting of our Board of Directors, I will bring this subject before them, and urge upon them to order immediately a survey of the route proposed by you; and I doubt not that it will be done. Our Company I think is alive to the importance of his connection, and you may rely with confidence upou some of us for co-operation.

With high regard for you individually and an earnest desire for your success, am very respectfully your obedient servant, THOS. C. PERRIN, Prest.

Messrs. Jas. W. Patton, M. Patton, N. W. Woodfin,

To WHOM IT CONCERNS .- Men of wealth who have many children should remember that at their death property is to be divided among them, making the share of each small, and that it is positively unjust to esalone can sustain. It not very unfrequently soon spend their patrimony when left to

the really great statesmen, who have been - A Know Northing, who was about to for years acquiring experience, knowledge, get married, determined to make himself per skill, are summarily laid aside, on the ground, lect in the responses of the marriage services of expedience or to take up some new man, but by a mistake committed those pertaining

Evil Consequences of Vulgar Dress.

Now we will tell you how you will turn nim into a mere two-legged ape, or pescock strutting about to show his plumage. The tawdry fluery most American mothers put upon their infants, originates in a total abence of artistic taste and in the meanest kind of emotion. Just look at the round beauty of an imfant's features, its lovely smile of delight, and the harmony of its flesh tints, and tell me, if you can, how its charms are to be increased by coral bands and tawdry sibbons. Would it not be far better taste to allow the unbroken undulating curve of the little arm its full charm, and the lovely tracery of the veins on the temple, and the little fleecy whirls of downy hair on the forehead to delight the eye, than to torture its arms with India manacles of coral, and imprison its head with a porcupine cap of vulgar millinery? Look at its little hands and feet! what enchanting sculpture! Can you improve them by

Where, let me ask, do you find gay col-ors to belong in nature! Do they not cover the meadows with their beautiful vestments? do they not light up the shade of the forest with their brilliant hues, and fleck the wings of the lovely wanderers of air, as they flit by you when you walk forth into the fields? are not the beautiful shells I am now a Railroad man, having my interests and feelings strongly interested in this enterprise. I regard the extension of where the brilliant colors belonged! do you ever find such hues on the body of your child ! Surely the flesh tints are beautiful, and the coral lips and pearly little teeth, with the rosy-tipped and tapering fingers, and the funny little toes covered with their pearly shells, may well content you. Fleecy coverings from the back of the modest and innocent lamb, and the snowy whiteness of the flax or the cotton plant, are far more appropriate than a piece of goat's or sheep's dead skin dyed red or blue, and made into of colored garments, that resemble no ob-

ect in nature or art.

The mother soon begins to direct her darling's attention to its adornment, and as soon as the little monkey can walk it is trotted out by its nurse to show its load of borrowed feathers, and before it is six years' of age a most degrading love of dress is im-planted in its soul, which never leaves it in life. What a frightful evil has this become throughout our land! The poor wife of the laborer or mechanic cribs a shilling a day from her husband's toilful earnings, for the adornment of her child; the clerk or the book-keeper, if he do not spend all his earnings for tobacco and liquor and oysters, because he is afraid to marry an American woman with the same vulgar propensities, sees it in ribbons and contemptible jewelry upon her head, in her ears and on her fingers, and his children penned up in an upper room because they cannot be made fine enough to emulate the adornments of his wealthy and vulgar neigh bors. The mother is but carrying out on her own person the earlies lessonst of her infancy.

This extravagant adornment of its body is accompanied by an equal attention to the child's imperious demands for hurtful lux-uries of food. Of course, neither the judination of the mother, nor her pecuniary or mental ability, will allow time or means to pay attention to its temper or its true re-quirements of body; her husband's coas and his stomach must take their chance; and while she is developing the new darling, the public school room or the street is developing Young America into a hopeful Wall street swindler, a mercantile baccaneer, or a swindling lawyer, a hypocriti-cal priest, or a lying physician. What wonder is it that such mothers delight in living at hotels, or husbands with such wives are glad to escape to the club or gaming house! Why do we complain of our wretched Irish servants ? Who is it that produces the domestic misery of our house nolds and implants the vulgar snobbery and absurd pretence of most of our young men and women? What is it that rais rents, and produces commercial panies, and fills our homes with sorrow !

"TAIN'T LIKE."-A certain lawyer bac his portrait taken in his favorite attitude standing with one hand in his pocket. His hand in his own pockets twould again if he had it in somebody che's