

OFF SOUNDINGS.

Lecture Delivered by Rev. S. A. Willis, D. D., in Aid of Charity Hospital, on Monday Evening, January 14.

THE CALL OF THE MEETING WAS IN AID OF THE CHARITY HOSPITAL SITUATED IN THE NORTHWESTERN PART OF OUR CITY...

Mr. Willis remarked the great difficulty experienced in determining upon a theme or subject of discourse without selecting one which had not more or less been touched upon by numerous orators.

I heard of one poor fellow, who was the gayest of the gay at the first, but when he had fairly reached the off soundings, and into the deep blue sea, suddenly disappeared...

Few persons are aware of the vast debt of gratitude we owe to the sea, because very few consider the unspeakable benefits we derive from this generous part of nature.

Would you have the terribly sublime, look out upon that mighty deep, when the storm-spirit walks the waves...

But the sea has not only the richest charms of her own, but it mirrors the beauties of earth and heaven. Here they come to reflect their highest charms.

Every wave with glittering face that leaped into the air, caught in its embrace, and holds it there.

What music so beautiful as that upon the borders of the sea? What cliffs, and fields, and dwellings so enchanting as those by the reflecting sea?

But the ocean has not only the charms of sublimity and beauty, but it is filled with the riches of beneficence to man.

One hundred billions tons of the sediment of earth are borne by the rivers into the ocean in a single summer.

taken away, and its depths filled up with dry land, the forests and the hills would wither away. All material objects would crumble away, and all the children of the earth would grow emaciated, deformed, and old.

Water is indispensable to all life, both vegetable and animal. But water has not only done great things for navigation, but as a steady drink for nourishment to all living things it is indispensable.

An impression has prevailed that the rivers filled the sea; but it is just the reverse. It is the flow of the sea that fills the rivers.

The old ocean is the nursing mother to all living things on the globe. All the cities, nations, and continents—all living things—the trees and beautiful flowers which brighten this world, the trees on the hills-tops and the delicate and many-tinted flowers which grow all wait upon the sea for their nurture and life.

Whereas now, by the tempering influence of the ocean, the whole world is fit for the homes of men, and all over it can be found thousands of varieties of life.

The manner in which the sea influences the temperature of the globe cannot be precisely stated. The vertical rays of the sun, pouring down with all their intense heat into the depths of the ocean, raise the temperature of the water to about 80 degrees, causing an expansion of the water.

The ocean is the great purifier of the globe. Did you ever think of the fact that the only possible drainage is by water? What would become of us if it were not for the beneficence of the sea?

The sea becomes the grand scavenger of the world. It is one of the Street Commissioners who go on the general principle, as laid down in Dickens' "Bleak House," where is portrayed the "Circumlocution Office," in which the great study was "How not to do it."

But the sea has not only the charms of sublimity and beauty, but it is filled with the riches of beneficence to man.

The winds whose wings are weary, and their breath is sickening with the malaria of the land, always go to the "off-soundings" to recover their health.

sweetness, they lift their wild pinions to the air, and move across the waters to the panting, dry, and sultry land. They strike pinions from the ocean, the sweet voices singing—

How vast have been the benefits afforded to mankind by the sea, as a great means of communication between the countries of the earth!

I look at our own country, and see how long it would have taken the whole civilization of the world to furnish even an imperfect supply of goods to all its parts, such as has been given by the sea that washes all our shores, makes our rivers and vast lakes, which interpretate our whole continent.

Power is furnished by the water-wheel and steam-engine; the water and steam are but that which come from the rolling deep. It is the sea which spins your thread, runs your mills, cuts your iron bars, and sets those iron wheels turning.

If the sea should be dried, and its right arm of power be taken away, the wheels of progressive civilization would be stopped.

Another trait which the ocean stamps upon the nature of the child of the sea, is the love of freedom, and the desire of excitement.

The sea, the sea, the open sea, The blue, the fresh, the ever-free.

This spirit of liberty the ocean breathes into her children. You see it in his open collar, loose necktie, wide breeches, and rolling gait, which at once points him out to the observer.

The Iron Crown of Lombardy.—The iron crown of Lombardy is shortly to resume its place in Monza Cathedral. The restitution is to be attended with some pomp.

THE IRON CROWN OF LOMBARDY.—The iron crown of Lombardy is shortly to resume its place in Monza Cathedral.

THE GENUINE EAGLE VEIN, THE GENUINE WOOD COAL, and the best quality of STEAM COAL, are now on hand.

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