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Green Mountain Freeman.

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The Freeman.

MONTPELIER, VT.
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 27. 1884.

FREEBORN, Minn., Jan. 13, 1884.

MR. EDITOR:—We are beginning to rejoice already that midwinter has passed. The days have perceptibly lengthened, spring is beginning to draw near, and although it will be some weeks yet before the activities of another season commence, we have turned the corner and are being hurried on towards it. February will soon be succeeded by March, and March will give place to April showers and sunshine, and then will come seed time and hard work. We have no especial reason to complain of our winter. There has, as yet, been no deep snows and no so-called "blizzards." Till the first of February there was hardly snow enough to make sleighing good. Winter closed in with the ground remarkably dry. There were no rains in the fall, and when winter came the snow was very sparing. Every threatened snow storm proved a failure. One or two little flurries giving us from one and a half to three inches of snow was all that was vouchsafed us. It was not enough and teamsters complained bitterly. It is a little provoking when one is hauling a heavy load of wood or grain or hay on a sled, to come to a bare place several rods in length, where the snow is all blown out of the road, leaving it as dry as in midsummer, but our farmers here had to encounter just such difficulties as that in their teaming this winter. However, there is always some compensation for every ill. All agree that the deficiency of snow this winter has not made teaming as difficult as the superabundance of it did last winter. So we can fall back upon the consolation that things might be worse. Last winter the snow just mocked at the efforts made to keep the roads open. One day's roads would be obliterated the next. Last year we dodged in every direction to escape the drifts; this year we dodge in every direction to find them.

Our roads in this country are made with peculiar liability to the inconvenience of being bare in the winter season unless there is an excessive amount of snow. Where the prairies are level, the ground is apt to be too wet to make a good road in its natural condition. Water stands on it, and it soon cuts up into ruts. To remedy this evil the roads are "piked" and the pike has to be very narrow and steep. The dirt is scraped from the sides of the road into the center in the ordinary way, only the ridge must be very narrow for the travel to pass over, while there are wide troughs in the ground on either side, to hold the water in summer and the snow in winter. Roadmakers tell us this is a vast improvement on its original condition and that it is the only plan that can be made to work in our peculiar soil, and therefore it is necessary to fix them this way, but I consider it a wretched necessity. The roads never get smooth in the summer and in the winter they are always bare. As for the ruts, I should be sorry to be held accountable for all the profanity they have caused. The soil here has just that plastic nature when it is wet that it yields but little resistance to a wagon wheel. At first a little rut that holds some water, then a little deeper one and more water is held in them, and soon the wheel cuts down nearly or quite to the hub. If it finally dries out and becomes hard, one can imagine what an intolerable nuisance it must be to drive over such roads. If the ruts were of uniform depth it would help the difficulty, but one moment the wheel is down as deep as the axletree will let it go and the next it will mount to the top of some hardened lump of mud brought up and deposited in the way by the wheel of some wagon that had preceded yours, and before you have had hardly time to congratulate yourself that you are on the top of the ground again, down it goes into the rut once more. Woe to the luckless driver that isn't on his guard. He is liable to be lurched under the horse's heels any moment. Watch a covered carriage on the pike away ahead of you. How it tips first to one side and then to the other, as if some malicious demon had grasped the axles and was trying to see how much shaking the top had strength to stand and how much the patience of the occupants would endure. If some machine could be devised for smoothing off the roads after every rain storm and some plan could be invented for having them used, this evil might be in a large measure overcome. But we haven't reached that stage of civilization and public spiritedness yet. However, this evil pertains to the summer and not to the winter, and to remedy it then will not help us now. These pikes are raised just high enough to catch all the wind, so that the snow cannot remain on them. Then when ditches or fences prevent going one side, there is no other way but for the poor horses to pull the load over the dry dirt. This has been the condition of things this winter till recently. The poor fellows who had to haul their wood thirty miles complained loudly. Last week there was a heavy fall of snow which for a wonder laid perfectly still, and for a time now the going has been magnificent. If we should happen to have no blockades from snow this winter, it will be an anomaly.

One day this winter has gotten itself a name for its coldness—"cold Friday"—the first of January. The mercury was below minus thirty all day, and in the midst of a strong wind I had to face it for six miles across the prairie and I found it a struggle for life. Mercury froze that night. It is wonderful what an activity is developed in a person by such an atmosphere. Everybody who has anything to do on the street becomes all at once remarkably nimble. The old man of seventy steps as lively as the young man of thirty. Very invigorating the atmosphere is at such times. We have had several specimens of this exhilarating weather this winter, but none quite equal to Friday, Jan. 4th.

Winter on the prairie is the farmer's time for rest. In a timbered country where there is land to be cleared and there is a market for wood there is plenty of good paying work, but on the prairie where the snows have made the traveling difficult, the thrifty farmer has a little time for rest. If he is of a literary turn of mind, this is his opportunity to gratify his love for reading, and you will find him with his family, treasuring up information for future meditation and use. If he prefers to gossip with his neighbours you will find him in the stores or other public places, canvassing his neighbors' circumstances or discussing the availability of different candidates for political honors or perhaps turning his mind to the more practical subjects, such as the price of pork and beef, the rise and fall of the wheat market or other topics of greater or less interest. If he loves dissipation you will find him in a saloon, where with his boon companions he is changing his blessing of a rest into a curse of a drunken idleness. We wish there were none of this last class, but unfortunately there are too many of them.

The failure of the corn crop last season and the low price of wheat has made times pretty hard for farmers this year. The attention is being turned to dairying and stock raising more and more. The dairyman's association, which is holding its session at Mankato, is doing a great work in stirring up the importance of this branch of industry. "Minnesota has exceptional advantages for excelling in the products of the dairy. States farther south may be able to raise stock to a better advantage because of less winter and more summer, but in butter making this does not help them. The hot summers of Kansas or Texas are fatal to the best results in butter making, but the summers of Minnesota are all that can be desired, while by judicious feeding the product may be kept up all winter. I think Minnesota will soon be as noted for good butter as she is now for good flour. W. F.

Sunday School Lesson Notes.

BY REV. J. O. SHERBURN.

March 9th: Paul at Corinth.—Acts 18:1-17.

Paul did not remain long at Athens; it was not a hopeful place for establishing a church. The people were full of conceit of their own wisdom, and greatly attached to their idols. It was quite natural that Paul should look to Corinth as his next field of labor. It was the most important city in the vicinity, and a place of much commercial note. Its people were of all races and nationalities; it may be added, of all religions. No one, who has thought of such matters, will fail to see that it would be easier to introduce a new religion among such a cosmopolitan population than in a city where nearly all the people were of one race, and of one religion. In our large towns and cities people of every race, and color, and belief come to live together amicably, and a stranger among them is never looked upon with suspicion, or as an enemy. Among such a varied populace a vastly larger hearing can be secured for any new doctrine. Such a place was Corinth. It had trade with all the parts of Northern Africa, and with Asia Minor, also with all Southern Europe, and the vast regions stretching northward from the Black sea. It is probable also that Paul knew before his coming that there was here a synagogue of the Jews. He seems at once to have fallen into the company of Aquila, and the reason given is that they were of the same craft. Often strangers become speedy friends because a common vocation draws them together. This man was a provincial Jew, born in Asia Minor, afterward living at Rome, and now expelled from that city by imperial edict. We have profane history to show that the Jews were thus driven from Rome, and the reason assigned is that they were constantly engaged in certain riots and disturbances in the city. It may be doubted whether this was any more than one of the many false reports that have become current concerning Jews in all lands, since they were scattered abroad. This Aquila, though a Jew, had lived broad enough to become cured of the narrow bigotry of his people in Judea. Some have even supposed that before this time he had become a convert to Christianity; but of this no valid proof appears. The friendship formed with Paul appears to have been lasting, for during the remainder of Paul's life several references are made to him and his wife. During the first part of Paul's stay at Corinth he went regularly to the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews and Greeks and persuaded them. Both these verbs are used in the imperfect tense to denote continued or habitual action. In a little time Silas and Timothy, who had been left at Berea, joined Paul at Corinth. After their coming, he was greatly pressed in the spirit, or "constrained by the word," as the new version has it; and urged upon the Jews the doctrine that Jesus was the Christ. This was the great point in all his reasoning with the Jews. His word produced its usual effect upon that class of his hearers. They became angry, opposed themselves, (not arguments,) and began to blaspheme. This last phrase doubtless implies that they spoke scoffingly of Paul's teaching, and contemptuously of Christ. Upon this manifestation of unthinking opposition to the truth, Paul was stirred, and with an action symbolic of casting off the responsibility of their ruin from himself, he declared his purpose now to turn to the Gentiles. Leaving the synagogue he found hospitality in a dwelling near by, the home of Justus.

It does not clearly appear why the fact that the house adjoined the synagogue is so particularly mentioned. Perhaps to convey the idea that Paul was not driven from the locality. The determined stand which the apostle took had its reward. The chief ruler of the synagogue believed, and with him his family and many other Corinthians. It was a great achievement surely, to secure the first officer of the synagogue as a Christian disciple. The indication is that at this point Paul was inclined to move on, and preach in some other place. This would be in accord with his usual plan, for as soon as a company of believers were founded it was his habit to leave for a new field. The bitter feeling of the Jews may also have been a prudential reason for leaving at this time. But God had yet more work for Paul here. So in a night vision he is urged to remain and labor on. The message was assuring, "Fear not," "no man shall hurt thee"; it was clear and positive. "Speak, and hold not thy peace." The reason given was "I have much people in this city." Paul did not need to visit the surrounding cities in order to preach Jesus to their people, for all these cities would have larger numbers of their people at Corinth, and he could reach them without a journey. The modern missionary has been led many times to see the importance of choosing such business centers as the points from which to build up a missionary enterprise. Paul stopped at Corinth a year and a half, and in this time we may be sure that he reached many from distant places, probably more than he could have done if half his time had been spent in travel. During this time a new proconsul was appointed for Achaia, a region comprising nearly all of modern Greece. The Jews doubtless thought that, in the beginning of his term, to get on good terms with them, he would grant judgment against Paul, according to their desire. So, before Gallio, they charged him with teaching a kind of worship contrary to their law. Gallio, ready to administer justice in all matters of crime or fraud, refused to hear the case and drove them all from the judgment seat.

COLDS.—Few ills that flesh is heir to give rise to more annoyance than a cold. The term "cold" is neither definite nor scientific, being descriptive, if of anything at all, of the manner in which the malady is supposed to originate; that is taking a chill. Yet this cause brings about, as well, many other troubles, the chill affecting the part of the body most prone to disease, and causing pneumonia, pleurisy and other diseases.

What causes colds and how can one guard against taking them? "Taking a cold" means a sudden abstraction of heat from the surface of the body by exposure to cold, the effect being intensified if dampness be added to the cold. To render such exposure comparatively harmless, the great necessity is to keep the body in such condition that a prompt and healthful reaction is sure to follow and neutralize any chill. Nothing brings this about so so satisfactorily as to accustom the body to react from the cold sponge bath taken every morning. The habit of reaction thus established is invaluable.

We must vigorously protest against the custom dear to the hearts of "mothers in Israel," of giving each member of the family a Saturday night scrubbing with hot water and soap. Many colds date significantly from this event. The daily sponge bath insures all necessary cleanliness. The system relaxed by the use of a hot bath becomes abnormally sensitive to a chill.

A daily walk, briskly, does much to accustom the body to prompt reaction from cold. All weathers can be faced, with suitable preparation in the way of clothing. Sitting in an over heated room produces a cold almost as surely as taking a hot bath. Sixty-eight degrees Fahrenheit is the highest safe temperature for any but elderly people and invalids.

Children should have the face, neck, arms and chest smartly slapped with a towel wet in cold water, and then briskly rubbed with a tolerably coarse crash towel till the surface is warm and rosy. With a daily repetition of this they need have little fear of colds or the much dreaded croup. They can enjoy any amount of outdoor play with safety if properly clothed. Scarfs and mufflers are an abomination.

When one is conscious of a chilly sensation, a drop or two of spirits of camphor taken on a lump of sugar will sometimes stimulate nature to the reaction, of which unaided she is not capable. This should be repeated, half hourly four or five times.
—*Congregationalist.*

AN ODD WASHINGTON CHARACTER.—Caleb and Joe Willard are among the wealthies of Washington's most wealthiest men, says a correspondent. They came here when they were boys, and worked at odd jobs until they together leased a tavern where Willard's hotel now stands. Here they kept hotels and made oceans of money. Joe Willard is one of the characters of Washington. All sorts of stories are told of him, and he is often denominated the hermit. He lives on Fourteenth street, near the Ebbitt house, in a great brick house of dirty white, which looks like a tomb with its tightly closed blinds and its forbidding exterior. He has a wife, but he never goes into society, and he is thought by many to be a man hater. A negro servant always answers the door, and it is impossible to gain admittance. Recently I called on him at his business den. Going through his narrow passage over an uneven and dilapidated floor, I was shown by the negro janitor up a pair of steep stairs, and soon stood in the presence of Joe Willard, the millionaire. A queer looking man with a big head covered with the whitest of white hair and the blackest of black eyes that ever looked into mine, rose from an old chair as I entered. Tall, dignified, and rather good looking, I thought him, and I noticed his great bushy white brows overhanging his eyes, his big nose and his strong jaws. He was beyond a doubt a man of character. He was in a talkative mood, and, like many other rich men I know, his hobby was making money. He discoursed for an hour on Jay Gould, Vanderbilt and others, giving me interesting passages in their careers, and interlading his remarks now and then with a metallic laugh.

Joe Willard's office is a peculiar place. Its walls are cracked and the oldest of broken furniture stands about the room. A grate of blazing coal is framed in a row fifty or sixty glass ink bottles, which cost, when full perhaps five cents a piece. An old brick or two lies on one table, a broken horseshoe on another, and the floor beneath has neither carpet nor rug, and age shows many a crack. On the wall above the mantel are numerous newspaper clippings about wealthy men and how they had acquired their millions. It is a curious den.

Most of us have known the attraction that draws one human being to another, and makes it so exquisite a happiness to sit quiet and musing by another's side, which stills for the moment the busiest thought in our brain, the most turbulent desires in our heart, and renders us but conscious of a present ineffable bliss. Most of us have known that. But who has ever been satisfied with any metaphysical account of its why or wherefore? We may say it is love, and love at that earlier section of its history which has not escaped from romance; but by what process that other person has become singled out of the whole universe to attain such special power over one is a problem that many have attempted to solve it, has never attained to solution.—*"Kenelm Chillingly" by Bulwer.*

Washington's Colored People.

There are 65 000 colored people in Washington. In no city in the United States, not even New Orleans, is there a larger colored population. Many of them have settled here since the civil war ended. A better opportunity can no where be found for studying the effect of freedom and the legislation subsequent to it than here. The colored people here enjoy all the social and political rights that law can give them, without protest and without annoyance. The public conveyances are open to them, and the theatres, the jury box, the spoils of party power, are theirs. Many of these men are wealthy, and the aggregate wealth of the colored property owners in the district amounts to millions of dollars. Hundreds own comfortable homes, and some handsome residences; their churches are many, including three or four buildings that are ornaments to the city. As a class they are industrious, find plenty to do, and are beginning to show capacity for thrift and saving.

But the color line is rigidly drawn in what is known as society. Wealth, learning, official place, give no colored family the right or privilege of entering the best or the commonest white society on terms of equality or endurance. In this respect the colored race lives as separate and as exclusive a life as in the days of slavery, and, as a drop of African blood was once held to make a man a negro, so now it taints him and makes an insurmountable barrier against social recognition. The most striking illustration of the tendency of the race to imitate the white people is seen in their own social rules, classes and customs. First of all we find that in this large colored community social lines are as rigidly drawn as they are between themselves and the white society of the West End. There are three recognized social classes among the colored people. Neither acknowledges the others, and it is the ambition of those in the lower to be received in the higher circles, just as among the whites.

The upper crust, so to speak, consists of men of wealth, learning, and high political place. These people exchange calls with all the ceremony of the whites, some of them driving in their own carriages, leaving cards with scrupulous attention to etiquette. They dine with each other, and are waited upon by colored servants with whom they will permit no other relation than those of master and servant. Probably the leading family in the highest colored society here is that of ex-Senator Bruce, who is now the register of the treasury. Bruce is a light complexioned, intelligent looking man. He is said to be worth about a hundred thousand dollars. Rev. Dr. Alex. Crummel, rector of the leading colored church of the Episcopalian denomination, is always welcomed. He is regarded as the most learned colored man in the district, and is highly respected by the white clergy of his denomination. Of course Fred Douglass ranks as the leading colored man of the district, but he goes but little into society. He lives on his fine estate on the eastern branch of the Potomac. Douglass is worth about $200,000. Another member of this social circle is John T. Cook, the collector of taxes for the district. He lives in excellent style and entertains handsomely. Prof. J. M. Gregory, professor of Latin at the Howard university, and John M. Langston, the minister to Hayti, with their families, are recognized members of the best colored society, while Dr. Charles B. Purvis' society and that of his wife are eagerly sought. Mr. M. M. Holland, who is an officer in the post office department, is said to be the best classical scholar in the district, and his attainments bring him the highest social recognition among his people. Wormley of Wormley's hotel is a leader of the best set on account of his wealth, reputed to be $150,000 and his relations with prominent white men.

The second class of colored people is composed of government clerks and of people in comfortable circumstances. There are a good many colored men in the government employ as clerks. These form the basis of the society of the second rank. Many of them own comfortable little homes, and one of the finest streets in the city is occupied by them. This is Sixteenth street, between the Scott statue and the White House. It is a splendid avenue, broad, well paved, and in the heart of the most fashionable part of the city. Nearly all of these colored residents own their houses and refuse to sell. The property is very valuable, and must ultimately pass out of their possession. These people are very fond of social life, but they do not find it in entertaining, but rather in sociables, balls, picnics, and especially in their churches. They are well dressed, seem to prosper, and are happy. For the great bulk of the colored population—the servants, laborers, and the poor—they have sympathy, but no more social relations with them than a white family. The latter in the main are thriftless, living from hand to mouth; happy if they do nothing, happy if they get a job. Their social instincts are gratified by the organization and maintenance of the societies of all sorts, benevolence, patriotic, social, and economic. There are nearly 100 of these organizations, supported by the laboring colored people.—*Cor. New York Sun.*

THE NEWSPAPER AT HOME.—With each day that passes the newspaper grows more and more an educator, and the extent to which it has become so can hardly be realized. A few years ago it was considered a luxury, but there are but few homes now that are so poor as not to count a newspaper among their belongings. In fact, in many homes it is the principal reading. A business man, weary with care, will hesitate about beginning a book. It seems a herculean task to go through with all those pages, attractive though they may be, but he will take up his paper, cull such articles as may strike his fancy, and then lay it down at any moment without hesitation. In the intervals of her housekeeping cares the wife catches it up and reads an article here and there, to learn what is going on in the great outside world. The boy and girl want to see each day's news, and so the daily or weekly journal goes the round of the family, while the book rests securely upon the shelf.—*Toledo Blade.*

WHAT THE ZERO MARK MEANS.—Ninety-nine citizens out of 100 had something to say about "zero" yesterday, but probably not one in 100 could have told why a point 32° below the freezing point on Fahrenheit's thermometer is called zero. For that matter, nobody knows. The Fahrenheit scale was introduced in 1720. Like other thermometric scales it has two fixed points—the freezing point, or rather the melting point of ice, and the boiling point of water. The Centigrade and Reamur call the freezing point zero, and measure therefrom in both directions. This is a very natural arrangement. Fahrenheit kept the principle on which he graduated his thermometers a secret, and no one has ever discovered it. It is supposed, however, that he considered his zero—32° below the freezing point—the point of absolute cold or absence of all heat, either because, being about the temperature of melting salt and snow, it was the greatest degree of cold he could produce artificially, or because it was the lowest natural temperature of which he could find any record. The grounds on which Fahrenheit put 180° between the freezing and boiling points is likewise unknown.—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat.*

Sinking of the Earth's Crust.

The extreme sensitiveness of the earth's crust to any changes in the distribution of weight upon its surfaces is, however, best exemplified by those local depositions and removals of matter which have attracted more general attention at the present day. The chief of these is the transfer of matter by river action to large tracts, and its accumulation in such limited areas as plains, estuaries and deltas. Borings of 400 to 500 feet have shown that these often consist of long successions of silts, while alternating layers of shells and of vegetable matter prove to have been deposited at or near the sea level, and the Wealden and eocene formations in the British area show that such accumulations may exceed 1,000 feet in thickness. In the case of deltas subsidence must keep pace almost foot by foot with the accumulation, and be confined to the area over which the sediment is being deposited, for any more rapid subsidence would check its growth and convert it into an estuary. This sinking is apparently of universal occurrence. A similar instance of the transfer of weight from larger areas and its precipitation on a very circumscribed area is seen in coral atolls and reefs. The explanation of their formation given by Darwin requires a gradual subsidence keeping pace with their growth, which takes place within twenty fathoms of the surface only. This theory, simple and admirable as it is, accounting satisfactorily for all the observed phenomena of coral growth, has been contested by Mr. Murray, who has shown that atolls might be merely incrustations of volcanic peaks. But his theory seems improbable by contrast, for it demands 290 volcanic peaks at the sea level in the Pacific coral area alone, every foot of which has been completely concealed by coral growth though few volcanic craters are known so near the sea level outside this area. We seem thus to have in coral growths another evidence of subsidence keeping pace with the increase of weight, sometimes, as soundings prove, to a depth of one thousand feet or more. The replacement of a column of sea water one hundred fathoms in depth, by a column of lime stone, would increase the pressure per fathom from 619 1 2 tons to 1,487 tons, so that it is easy to realize how vast must be the increased pressure on such an area as that occupied by the great reef of Australia, 1,250 miles long and ten to ninety miles broad. The sands, gravels and clays, with marine shells and erratic boulders, prove that a great submergence took place during the glacial period, while Europe was under an ice sheet 6,000 feet thick in Norway and diminishing to 1,500 in Central Germany. The extent of submergence has been perhaps under stated at 600 feet in Scandinavia, and was at least 1,350 feet in Wales. A corresponding re-elevation accompanied the disappearance of the ice. It has often been supposed that the sinking of the west coast of Greenland is similarly due to its ice cap.

PUSSY' TASTES.—Fish is a great treat for a cat; in many cases of illness, they will eat this when they can take nothing else. Horse flesh when it can be had, is good occasionally, but it has a laxative tendency. Nice tripe or cowheel is excellent; but indeed nothing comes amiss that one cats one's self, only we must be careful to give bread and vegetables as well as meat. Raw beef minced finely is often given to cats when ill; so are boiled eggs and cream. Milk seems to be one of the necessaries of life to a cat; let it be good and abundant. Few people know that cats cannot be kept in health unless supplied with water. If a cat does not get water, she will have to help herself to it. In the country she has generally a chance of doing, but not in towns. A saucer should be always kept in a corner for pussy, and the water ought to be clean, and fresh every morning.

Another thing that cats do not thrive well without is grass. Herein, again, the happy country cat has the advantage of the feline dweller in cities; nevertheless, grass may be pulled for a cat. I have known it placed between two bricks in the corner of the scullery, where it would keep fresh for a week, and be always there when the little creature wanted it. There is no domestic animal in our possession more fond of cleanliness in every way than puss. Habits of cleanliness in the house are very easily taught; and a well cared for and properly treated cat will even teach her kittens to be cleanly, that puss's food ought always to be nice and clean, and the dish that contains it should be washed every day. Putting fresh food among that which has been left from a former meal is a sure way of preventing a cat from enjoying, or even touching it.

If well fed, a cat's coat is beautifully soft, thick and sheeny, and she seems to take a delight in keeping it so. When ill or neglected, the coat becomes rough and thin. It is usually after a meal that puss sits down contentedly to wash herself and payattention to her personal appearance and those who breed beautiful cats take advantage of this and give the animal a tiny bit of butter after her dinner, or put a little cream on her paws. She requires no other incentive to cause her to proceed forthwith to groom herself all over. The oil of the butter and her own saliva seem to form a kind of soap, which acts like magic when applied by means of her rough tongue to the coat. Sometimes a cat requires to be washed. The water should be lukewarm, the soap the mildest procurable, and the towels with which she is dried very soft; and after the operation puss ought to be put into a clean room until thoroughly dry, or, what is better still, placed in a clean, empty cage near the fire.

A STORY OF SUMNER AND GREELEY.—Charles Sumner, many years before he was known in politics, sought the acquaintance of Horace Greeley in New York. He found the journalist much engaged, and was invited by him to come to his house next morning and take breakfast. Mr. Sumner was not an early riser, and he liked a good breakfast when he did get one. He rather anticipated one in this case. At the early hour named by Mr. Greeley he left the Astor house, took a stage, and rode several miles up Broadway, and after much difficulty found the residence of his new friend at an old fashioned farmhouse, situated in the middle of an orchard, between Broadway and the river, where he was hospitably received by the occupant. After considerable conversation with Mr. Greeley the latter remarked to his wife, who had been in the room, that Mr. Sumner would probably like something to eat. She expressed a doubt whether there was anything in the house at which Sumner, who was really hungry after his long ride, was somewhat, well, surprised, to say the least. "Why, mother," said Greeley to his wife, "you must have some milk, some bread and milk in the house." She thought that it might be so, and soon appeared with a mug, two bowls and some crackers, which she placed on a bare pine table, and the two incipient philanthropists ate their bread in peace. Anybody who knows Sumner and his dainty ways in these things can appreciate the situation. No doubt it was the first and last time he ever did justice to bread and milk. The friend to whom Sumner related this incident had to make the story, and to further strengthened, that the older philosopher was practicing a grim joke on the gay and somewhat festive young man from Boston. Sumner, however, never could appreciate a joke, and considered the transaction a real one so far as good faith was concerned, although he related it with considerable glee. Perhaps he had in his heart something of the feeling of Thackeray who once said to a friend in Boston: "I often wish I knew whether Becky Sharp was really guilty when found by her husband with the Marquis of Steyne under such remarkable circumstances."
—*Every Other Saturday.*

PRECIOUS STONES IN THE UNITED STATES.—George F. Kunz has contributed to "The Mineral Resources of the United States," published by the government, an article on American gems and precious stones. Systematic mining for gems or precious stones is carried on only at Paris Me., and Stony Point, N. C., but they are gathered on the surface in many places, as sapphires in Montana, moss agate in Colorado and agate at Lake Superior. Some eighty-eight different minerals occur in the United States which have been used as gems. Twelve of these occur in the United States only. Diamonds are not mined in this country, although they have occasionally been found at a number of localities. A large diamond was found at Manchester, opposite Richmond, Va., by a laborer employed in grading one of the streets. It was an octahedron, and weighed after it was cut over ten carats. It was worth $5,000 before cutting.

The principal localities for sapphires and rubies are in New Mexico, Arizona and Southern Colorado, where they occur in the sand, often on ant hills. Garnets occur in the same region, about $5 000 worth of cut stones being annually produced. It is estimated that the value of the tourmalines taken from Mount Mica Me., is between $50,000 and $65,000. Tourmaline and hiddenite are regularly mined at Stony Point, N. C., some $7,500 worth having already been sold. Rock crystal is gathered and cut in large quantities, the sales at different localities probably amounting to $10 000 annually. Much of it is cut for jewelry, as Lake George or Cape May diamonds. The clear crystal for optical purposes is almost entirely Brazilian, as the good material found here rarely reaches the proper channels.

Although agates are abundant here, nearly all the polished specimens sold in America have been polished in Germany having originally come from Brazil and Uruguay. Moss agates, however, are collected here in large quantities, although the cutting is done abroad. The sunstone and moonstone from Pennsylvania and Virginia are of good quality, although as yet used but little. The American turquoise is of much interest, but is not much used by jewelers. It is frequently blue when found, but soon turns green on exposure. It occurs in Colorado and Texas, and will probably soon be utilized in the arts. The bowenite of Rhode Island and williamsite of Pennsylvania are used as a substitute for jade.—*Springfield Republican.*

OPENING UP THE DARK CONTINENT.—President Arthur in his message to congress directed attention to the work which is being done in opening up the rich and populous valley of the Congo to commerce, and spoke of the stations established along the river as "the nuclei of states." Recently the senate, on motion of Mr Morgan, adopted an order of inquiry into our relations to the exploration of the Congo region, and the commercial possibilities involved in it. Yet there are comparatively few who have any clear idea of the work which Mr. Stanley and his associates, under the direction of the international African association, are doing in opening Central Africa to commerce and civilization. It is now nearly seven years since Mr. Stanley, having accomplished the great feat of crossing Africa from east to west, emerged on the western coast, bearing with him the discovery that the river Congo, which he had just descended, was the noblest waterway in Africa, draining a water shed of 860,000 square miles, and opening a highway for commerce to the whole of equatorial Africa. The International African association, which had be own organized the year previous with the king of the Belgians as its president, promptly commissioned Mr Stanley to explore this region in its behalf. In February, 1879, Mr. Stanley, at the head of an expedition, was at the mouth of the Congo, ready to commence work. A station was planted at the farthest point, up the river before the cataracts, 110 miles from the sea. Behind the cataracts the river is navigable for at least 1 000 miles. Already 22 stations have been planted, the farthest of which is 700 miles from the coast. The advance has been pushed with discretion, and in such a manner as to conciliate the natives, who are eager for trade and have a respect for the white men with their steamers, guns and gunpowder. Stanley, it is said, has been given the title of "Rock-breaker," because of his blasting operations in building roads. The natives encountered are not of the common negro type, but of a much higher grade of intelligence, and are alert and active. Roads have been built around one of the series of waterfalls, and several small steamers are navigating the river and its tributaries beyond.

The money for Mr. Stanley's operations is understood to have been furnished by the king of the Begians himself; but neither King Leopold nor the association of which he is president has any selfish or exclusive purpose to serve. It is not for money making, or conquest, or the aggrandizement of any country, that the work is carried on. The Portuguese and French have each selfish plans to advance and if the claims of either to the river and the valley were to be conceded, they would monopolize, or would endeavor to monopolize, all the resulting advantages. But the international African seeks only, in the interests of civilization and the advancement of the commerce of the world, to throw open the rich but little known regions through which the Congo, the Mississippi of Africa, flows. The work reflects great credit upon all who are concerned in it, and a country like ours, which has cotton and woolen goods, hardware, and many other products to market, cannot be indifferent to the opportunities thus presented.

GLASS SHINGLES.—A Pittsburg firm has been granted a patent for the manufacture of shingles composed of glass. It is claimed for this material that it is much more durable, stronger and more impervious to rain than slate or any other substance now used. The manufacture of the shingles will be comparatively inexpensive, and can be placed in position by any ordinary workman. These shingles have the advantage of slate in several particulars. In consequence of their shape on they will sit on the roof, and can be used on comparatively flat roofs, and they will admit of persons on them without danger of fracture, a quality which slate does not possess. They are interlocked so as to leave no interstices between them, and one rivet holds each pair of shingles, so that they cannot be forced from their places by the wind or other atmospheric disturbances. They are also made so as to have very little waste material. It takes three hundred slates, each 8x12 inches, to cover what is technically known as a "square" of roof (a square measuring ten feet either way) but one hundred and fifty of these shingles will suffice for the same space. Glass is likewise a non-conductor of electricity, and houses with these roofs will need no lightning conductors. Although the kind of glass intended to be used in these shingles is non-transparent glass, a roof with colored border and opalescent body is said to be very handsome.

If we were asked what is to-day the great advantage which man has over woman in the struggle for existence we should answer, without hesitation, pockets. Pockets are the symbol of an orderly mind, of logical powers, practical acquirements, homogenity. A bag, a woman's bag, a shopping bag is the emblem of the kingdom of misrule. Speaking roundly, a man's clothes contain a dozen pockets. In this convenient place his change is kept, ever ready, and never in the way; in that receptacle are his knife, corkscrew, and shoe-buttoner; another compartment is sacred to his purse; still another holds his handkerchief; his gloves may have a separate pocket if he will; his eyeglass lives in aristocratic seclusion; watch, pencil case and toothpicks are comfortably segregated, and he has room besides for memorandum book, letters, newspapers, the new magazines, visiting cards, and a case of court plaster.

Is it any wonder that he turns the key of the world's great lock easily and well, having both hands free for that exercise? And the fact that he has conquered his pockets, so to speak, testifies to the supremacy of man. If his tailor demurred at putting them in, that useful minion would find his occupation gone. But when a woman is told by her dressmaker that only one inaccessible pocket is to be allowed her she supinely submits, and therefore proclaims her inferiority to sex.

We make no account of such sporadic lashes for freedom as are shown in the English walking jacket, and the many dapped ulster. There are more whims, not virtues. Already the jacket is moulting it convenient pouches, and the ulster exchanges its plain utility for a dearbought stylishness. No; the power and significance of pockets lie in their being the expression of principle. We commend the subject, which is too broad for a single paper, to the attention of the next social science convention.—*Harper's Bazar.*

ABOUT FEATHERS.—Though feathers are quite distinct from furs, yet certain kinds attached to the skin are used like fur; of these, the grebe, whose feathered breast is largely used, is an example, while the tawny skin of arctic birds, as articles of dress, are of vital importance to the inhabitants of regions of perpetual snow and ice, as well as articles of luxury at the centers of civilization. The value of feathers may be seen in the ornamental employment of the plumes of the ostrich, egret, crane, peacock, as well as the economical uses of the elder down, the plumage of the goose, and the gorgeous feathers or flowers manufactured from the plumage of the tropical birds. Ostrich feathers, of course, come under the head of articles of ornament to dress. Until within a few years, the only source of ostrich feathers was Africa, where they were obtained from the wild birds, hunted and killed for the sake of their plumage; but during the last fifteen or twenty years a considerable quantity of this female adornment has come to us from French naturalized tame ostriches grown in the south of France, where it was found that the ostrich can be managed as easily as a barn-door fowl; where it is no longer killed for the sake of the feathers, and where, though it is robbed of its plumage it is allowed to live that it may produce more. Those who look upon the ostrich in the zoological garden, or elsewhere, will notice that its feathers are not so beautiful. Their preparation for ladies hats, or head dress, is a trade in itself involving many processes of bleaching, dyeing, waxing, wire dressing, and steaming. Some of these processes ladies can and perhaps do execute for themselves, as nothing is more simple and easy than curling the ends of ostrich plumes by the aid of a blunt knife and a jet of steam from the spout of a tea kettle. Feather dyeing is much more easy of accomplishment than silk, cotton, or wool dyeing, and the Chinese are said to be the most expert and reliable in the art.
—*Cotton, Wool and Iron.*

DISEASE OF THE MONEY COUNTERS.—A Washington correspondent, visiting the treasury department, noticed that many of the women employed in counting bank notes looked ill, and had sores upon their hands or heads. The superintendent gave the following account of the trouble: 'Very few,' he said, "who spend any considerable time in counting money escape the sores. They generally appear first on the hands, but frequently they break out on the head, and sometimes the eyes are affected. We can do nothing to prevent this. All of the ladies take the greatest care of themselves in their work. but sooner or later they are afflicted with sores. The direct cause of the sores is the arsenic employed in the manufacture of the money. If the skin is the least abraided, and the arsenic gets under the flesh, a sore will appear the next morning. The habit that every one has of putting the hand to the head and face is the way the arsenic poisoning is carried to those portions of the body. "See here," said one of the officials, stopping by the side of a young lady and picking up a glass vessel containing a sponge; "this sponge is wet, and it is used to moisten the fingers while counting the money. You see how black it is. That's arsenic. Every morning a new sponge is placed on the desk of each employee, but before the day is over it is as black as this. I have known half a dozen cases where ladies have been compelled to resign their positions. There are two ladies here who were here six years before they were afflicted with sores. About three months ago they were so visited by them that they had to quit work. They have been away ever since, and the physician's certificate in each case says that their blood is poisoned with arsenic."

In closing a funeral sermon, a Utica minister urged the women present to so live that they would be worthy of the following epitaph:

A Sarah to her husband,
A Eunice to her children,
A Lois to her grandchildren,
A Lydia to God's ministers,
A Martha to her guests,
A Dorcas to her poor,
An Anna to her God.

A clergyman in Durham, England, some short time since, taught an old man in his parish to read, and found him an apt pupil. After his lessons were finished he was not able to call for some time and when he did he found the wife at home. "How is John?" said he. "How does he get on with his reading?" "Oh, nicely, sir." "Ah, I suppose he'll read his Bible very comfortably, now?" "Bible, sir! bless you, he was out of the Bible and into the newspapers long ago."

TO CLEAN SMOKY WALLS.—Brush them over with a broom, then wash them over with strong pearlash water, and immediately rinse them with clean water before the pearlash is dry. When dry, give the walls a thin coat of freshly slacked lime, containing a liberal proportion of alum dissolved in hot water. Finish with whiting and good size. Be careful not apply to the size distemper till the lime wash is dry, as the latter will destroy the strength of the size, if the two come in contact while wet.

Temperance.

A Consecrated Velvet Dress.

The shades of an October evening were falling as Mrs. Arthur entered her cosy home made bright by firelight. She was talking to her cousin, Mary Allen, upon a subject of importance since fig leaves were first worn for a covering. The discussion concerned a new dress, whether it should be silk or velvet. Mrs. Arthur was a conscientious woman, and in the smallest purchase was guided by her sense of right, so the matter of the dress had to be looked at on all sides. Her husband wished her to dress handsomely, and always talked with his wife of their finances, so she knew what was prudent. Love of dress had never been her weakness, indeed she could see where she had failed in this direction, not in neatness, but in dropping social duties, because not prepared to meet them.

Does not inclination sometimes clothe itself in the excuse of a sacrifice that we may quiet disagreeable suggestions?

When we are told to "be in the world, but not of it," I think part of the meaning is, not loving it. So when quiet life suits us best, we do not understand part of our duty is to purify what is right and proper in itself, only wrong because abuses have come in. American women have this phase of life socially to accept, and their duty is plain in the positions in which God has placed each one.

The question of how far it was right to expend money for dress had been a vexed one for years to Mrs. Arthur while the proper amount of sacrifice to be used in giving had caused many a wakeful hour.

As a girl she had gone into "society" though never liking parties, or indulging in round dances, and when in a year after marriage a little daughter came to gladden the home, then delicate health, she gradually withdrew from any but quiet family gatherings. In these years the struggle came concerning dress with all the pros and cons. But light dawned at last, partly in study of temperance matters. When the national W. C. T. U. met in Louisville in '83 comments upon the fact that the women dressed well proved one of Mrs. Whitall Smith's "eye-openers." It proved so many things to Mrs. Arthur that she felt that consecrated dressing might assume proportions of great importance in the work. Upon the evening of Mrs. Barnes' report, when Mrs. Barney and Miss Wadsworth spoke with so much power, the call to take up the work came to this Christian woman and there she determined to give up the best of heart and head to the temperance cause. It was her nature to work earnestly, so it was no wonder to friends who knew her that it became the daily thought and prayer of her life. Her lot was cast with the young women and then came the question whether "society" should not be taken up again for the sake of the cause. The work must be aggressive and storm the enemy, opening the way where many will follow but not lead.

And so we reach the discussion concerning the velvet dress. It was decided to be more judicious than a silk, because less varying in style and always elegant, while the lighter goods grows shabby, but in the purchase it was dedicated to temperance.

Dear friends, in all honor to the noble women who will wear plain gloves, and go without in warm weather, that our treasury may be replenished, we ask do we not have the opposite side of the question to consider also, for the advancement of the cause? If in no other way we can contribute to the fund I believe it right to make this sacrifice, but I do think such things may become so excessive as to be unhealthy sentiment. We must try to strike the happy medium, and that desire has prompted this article. It is true, that if we are *outre* in dress we cannot be as attractive to our friends as when conforming to proper customs nor can we avoid repelling many we might win. Right here the question settled itself for me, and my friend Mrs. Arthur agrees with this conclusion.

With her consecrated velvet dress she tried to win the young cousin, Mary Allen, by showing the way to good work need not make her peculiar in this line.

The Y. W. C. T. U. wanted to go into society to establish its position as a social factor, so a New Year reception was chosen as the proper way to make the debut. It was to be held at a private house, with the names of the ladies announced as in any other case, and everything done to make it charming in a simple way. The girls entered into it with zest, and kindly made the labor light for the president. No one bought a dress for the occasion, but all managed to look wonderfully well and to be so charming to each other and their guests that some gentlemen reported it the most delightful reception of the day, which was wretched enough outside to make the warmth and light within very inviting. Plants were about the rooms. Y. W. C. T. U. in smilax on the mantel lambrequin met the eye from the door, while just above stood a dish of pure white flowers. Hand painted temperance pledges were scattered about for souvenirs, to any who wished them, while two copies of "Woman and Temperance," laid on tables to be taken up in leisure moments. No temperance talk was indulged in, unless the guest opened the way. The refreshments were simple, but all of the best, and well served—salad, bread, pickles and coffee, two kinds of ices, cake and fruit.

The number of guests was not so large as it will be another year, because many gentlemen expected to be attacked if they touched wine. But one hundred and fifty had the courage to come, many men of distinction in the professions, while the real society men came together (for self protection,) and then did not want to leave, some staying an hour. The dear girls all wore white ribbons, and one gentleman begged for one as a distinction of honor.

Of this band of girls, Mrs Arthur is leader, and as she received the guests in the consecrated velvet dress, her society friends could find no lack of care for any womanly ways of old, though her soul was in her work, and she had spoken in a public meeting. It was altogether a victory for the Y. W. C. T. U., and there footing is secure now.

To the president's heart have come many loving thoughts of the girls who so bravely took their stand, and when they left her, no word of envy or jealousy had been spoken to mar the day. This report would be incomplete without saying Mr. B in graced the reception with his presence. So one Y. W. C. T. U. has entered society.

EMPLOYMENT ESSENTIAL TO HAPPINESS.—It may be laid down as an incontrovertible principle that no family can be happy without employment—regular, diversified, continually recurring employment. There may be the possession of wealth, there may be an ample and beautiful domain, there may be everything externally to enjoy, but unless there be an appropriate and varied employment to occupy the body, engross the mind, and awaken the energies, there cannot be happiness. It is the active, industrious, persevering family that is the truly happy family; not the idle, the slothful, the useless—not the family that has no definite plan, no fixed and important object, no personal and collective energy.

It is not so strange that the annexation of Canada to the United states is not strongly advocated by men in positions of public trusts. They kind of like to, that in case anything happens. Canada is a foreign country.