

A Recall.

Come from the south with hurrying feet, O breezes soft! O breezes sweet!

THOMAS BRASNEY, CONTRACTOR.

Mr. Carlyle invented a happy phrase to describe the great employers of labor, who play so important a part in our modern world.

As a specimen of this grand way of doing business, take this anecdote. In arranging the details of a contract with a Spanish banker, the Marquis of Salamanca, the nobleman proposed to issue bonds before the shares were taken; but to this Mr. Brasney, the nobleman by nature, objected, as not honorable.

The Marquis did not see the matter in this light, and the project was given up. This incident shows something besides the mere magnitude of Thomas Brasney's operations.

No," said he, "I have contracted to make and maintain the road, and nothing shall prevent Thomas Brasney from being as good as his word."

Next to this, the most important secret was, his admirable treatment of those who assisted him. The greatest captives of industry, like the greatest captives of war, are those who are made to suffer.

One example of this will suffice to show his way of doing it. Inspecting a road one day, he came to a cutting of this kind, the price which had been fixed on the supposition that only clay had to be removed.

that you have persevered with it, but I shall not alter your price. It must remain as it is, but the rock must be measured for you twice.

"Yes, very well indeed, and I am very much obliged to you, sir," replied Mr. Brasney, "go on; you have done well in persevering, and I shall look to you again."

One of these walks along a line of railroad world sometimes cost the contractor a thousand pounds in rectifying similar mistakes. He greatly liked the principle of giving men a pecuniary interest in the work they were doing.

Like many other men who have made colossal fortunes, he seemed to care very little about money. He was interested in doing it well, and was perfectly aware of the necessity of money as a means to that end.

On one night, during a terrible financial crisis in London, which threatened to sweep away his whole fortune, he went home fully convinced that he must lose at least a million pounds sterling.

"Never mind," said he. "We must be content with a little less; that is all."

"I think I had better wait until I hear that the rain has ceased, so that when I do go, I may see what is left of the works, and estimate all the disasters at once; and so save a second journey."

On such occasions he often quoted the old proverb: "It is no use crying over spilt milk."

Thomas Brasney had none of those early struggles which mark the career of most able men of business. His father was a rich farmer of ancient family, and he served a regular apprenticeship to the business of land surveyor and agent.

He died in 1870, aged sixty-five, leaving three sons, one of whom is a member of the British Parliament.

A chief of the tribe of Haracta, between Ain-Baida and Tebessa, went on some business to Constantine. A few days later he returned to his tribe, and, calling his wife, desired her to fetch four posts and some cord.

Her cries brought all the inhabitants of the tents to their doors, and endeavoring, though in vain, to stop her husband's arm.

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Several miners were killed by a fire-damp explosion in the Parish of Rhwaibon, North Wales.

So Wags the World.

Heavy Failure of an Extravagant Philadelphia Banker.

The details of the recent failure of Harrison Grambo, banker, of Philadelphia, throws in the shade anything that has happened in Wall street in this line in some time, not even excepting the recent exploit of the tainted Taintor.

Mr. Harrison Grambo was certainly ambitious; and so far as shrewdness at the expense of principle entitles a man to respect, so far as Mr. Grambo is entitled to applause for the manner in which he played his little game.

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On another occasion, in Spain, he received a telegram, saying that a certain bridge had been washed down.

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Dutch Social Customs.

The tyranny of social custom is the basis, as it is the bane, of Dutch life. Every one submits to it, and in his own turn exercises it; the rich man in his own manner; the poor one in his.

On the next and following days he renewed his attempt with true Dutch phlegm, when the people again opposed him with the same perseverance.

A married son or daughter never dines with the family without an express invitation. The same sort of formality is also established between brothers and sisters, for they only visit each other on the footing of guests.

"I have never seen it," she said, "as I only visit him in the evening."

As a rule, never do married children live under the same roof with their parents. Therefore some difficulty arises for them in the contraction of marriage, since they must first of all secure a home, and that is not always an easy matter in many of those semi-aquatic towns, more particularly in Amsterdam.

Learn to Keep House.

Whatever position in society a young lady occupies, she needs a practical knowledge of household duties. She may be placed in such circumstances that it will not be necessary for her to perform domestic labor; but on this account she needs no less knowledge than if she were obliged to preside personally over the cooking stove and pantry.

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Postal Cards.

Hon. E. M. Barber, Third Assistant Postmaster General, has issued the following important regulations:

Prices.—Postal Cards will be sold for one cent each, neither more nor less, whether in large quantities or in small.

Irregular cards.—An ordinary printed business card may be sent through the mails, at a reduced rate of postage, of short communications, either printed or written in pencil or ink.

Spilled Cards.—Postmasters will not under any circumstances be permitted to redress or exchange Postal Cards that may be misdirected, spoiled in printing, or otherwise rendered unfit for use, in the hands of private holders.

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The Late James Brooks.

James Brooks, whose death has lately taken place, was born in Portland, Me., November 10, 1810. At eleven years of age he became a clerk in a drug store, and at sixteen exchanged the mortar and pestle for the schoolmaster's desk.

He graduated at Waterville College, Maine, at the age of twenty-one, studied law, turned editor and became celebrated as a traveler. His letters to the Portland Advertiser, descriptive of scenes, peoples and personal experiences during a pedestrian tour of Europe, attracted attention and were extensively copied.

In 1835 he was elected to the Legislature of Maine, and in the following year he went to New York and established the New York Daily Express, with which his name has been so intimately and constantly associated.

In 1847 Mr. Brooks was elected a member of the New York Legislature, and from 1849 to 1853 he was a representative in Congress from New York City, serving on the Committee on Public Lands. He was elected to the Thirty-first, Thirty-second, Thirty-third, Thirty-fourth, Thirty-fifth, Thirty-sixth, Thirty-seventh and Thirty-eighth Congresses, and was re-elected to the Forty-third session of Congress. He was serving on the Committee of Ways and Means and the Pacific Railroad during the Thirty-ninth session, when his seat was successfully contested by Mr. Dodge.

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Industrial Progress.

Scotland produced 15,600,000 tons of coal in 1871.

It is reported that extensive borax deposits have been found in Kern County, California.

The condition of mining in the vicinity of Helena, Montana, is reported to be very satisfactory.

A company has been incorporated in Portland, Oregon, for the purpose of manufacturing railroad and bar iron.

There are 851,000 sewing-machines made annually in the United States. Three companies make more than 150,000 each. A very large profit is realized on them.

Much anxiety is felt in Russia regarding the destruction of forests, which proceeds very rapidly, and threatens to deprive the country of one of the most valuable of its export products, wood for building purposes.

London has a "Salvage Corps," supported by fire insurance companies, which aids the fire brigade in extinguishing fires, guards property in burnt buildings, and looks after the interests of the insurers generally.

"Indurated tar," a substance which, it is claimed, does not crack, shrink or blister, and on that account would be well adapted for coating iron vessels, is now being tested for that purpose in British government dockyards.

Experiments are making on a British railroad to test the rival merits of the two patent railway carriage lamps. Both lamps burn petroleum oil the flashing points of which is 200 degrees, and the cost of burning is less than half that of the oil kerosene-maker.

The finished iron works of England, representing 5,000 to 6,000 puddling furnaces, recently offered their work-people to continue paying 41 (12s. 6d.) per ton for puddling, and other wages in like proportion. Some of the workmen have the offer under advisement.

Silicic acid has been discovered to exert a very decided chemical action in checking alcoholic fermentation, in this respect being somewhat similar to borax, although much more energetic. A small quantity of the silicate will entirely arrest the fermentation of wine, as also of milk.

During the year ended June 30, 1872, the United States imported 490,631 tons of coal, whereof 257,447 tons came from the New Canadian Dominion, and 233,184 tons from other countries. We exported during the same time 400,878 tons, of which 291,047 went to the Dominion, 36,000 tons to Cuba, 37,000 to the States of Colombia, and 18,700 to China.

It appears from the official report of the British Challenger exploring expedition, that in the Atlantic the accumulation of that depth of about 800 feet below which the temperature is uniform all the year round. The experiments made also demonstrate that at a depth of from one to two miles the temperature of the water is everywhere 28 deg. to 4 deg. below the freezing point.

If there are a good many arts and inventions lost, there is no lack of new ones, to judge from the advertisement of a patent broker in the interior, who offers "the cheapest and best farm fence ever built," "a new gas lamp that costs only half a cent an hour," "a horse rake that has no equal," "a new glass-cer that beats the diamond," "a grate bar that doesn't burn out," and finally, a "toy engine that every boy should have for instruction."

Regarding Bessemer steel, which is now so largely manufactured in the United States, a Sheffield (Eng.) correspondent observes: "Bessemer steel continues in great request, its application to new purposes being almost weekly extended. It can be produced so much cheaper than cast steel made in the old way, and yet is so tough and endowed with many of the virtues of best cast steel that there is no wonder that its use is becoming pretty nearly universal."

Revealing a Husband's Secrets. Lady Davies, in her "recollections" tells the following amusing story: While we were both standing opposite Mr. W.'s dressing-room, the door of which in the haste of his departure had been left open, I perceived a gentleman's wig hanging there, and inquired of Mrs. W.—to whom it could belong, for Mr. W. was the last man I suspected of wearing one. She burst out laughing at my question, and in reply to it exclaimed, "for goodness' sake, don't let him know—pray never say that I told you; but that wig belongs to my husband. Nor that alone, for he had four in all—one with very short hair, as if it had just been cut; another with very long hair, as if it wanted cutting; another with the hair moderately long; and one elaborately dressed for parties. Sometimes," she added, "I can scarcely prevent myself from laughing when I hear an intimate friend advise him to go and get his hair cut, and perceive how, by change of wig, it is supposed that such advice has been promptly taken."

"Sir:—Understanding that you insert rhymes in your excellent paper, I send you some." "Sir:—We do not insert rhymes without reason."