THE AVANT COURIER

THURSDAY, : : : DEC. 6, 1877.

A Parody.

I never nursed a dear gazelle
To glad me with its soft, black eye
But when it came to know me well
And love me, it was sure to die.
—Moore.

I nebber had a piece of bread
All nicely buttered o'er,
But jist as I wuz gwane to take a bite,
It fell right on the flo'.
Butter side down.

"Please Charge This."

These three words are of immense importance to every head of a family, or any one whose duty it is to provide ways and means for food, clothing, and other expenses incident to existence.

These three words are like three links in a chain which we forge for ourselves, and every time they are repeated this chain becomes stronger and stronger till its burden can no longer be borne.

These three words add fifty per cent. to the cost of any article we purchase, for the seller wants, and very likely needs, cash, and as he can turn his money over several times before we can liquidate his claim he charges, in addition to the cash price, a profit for each time he might have used his money had we paid cash on the spot.

These are words easily and pleasantly spoken, and as pleasantly responded to, make a man the abject slave of the creditor. "He toils from early morn till dewy eve," but the accumulating interest so hampers his energies and depletes his earnings that freedom becomes a boon greatly to be desired, but scarcely expected. From January to December he labors, breaking a link of the servile chain occasionally, but too frequently adding two, and if both ends can be made to meet when the accounts are balanced, the fact is made an occasion for rejoicing.

These three words should be blotted from every farmer's vocabulary. He can not afford, of all men, to pay enormous interests, nor can he allow debts to accumulate when future and uncertain gains can only be relied upon. This reliance too often proves a broken reed, and, sooner or later, brings humiliation and bankruptcy.

These three words need never be spoken if a thorough self-denial be practiced for a year or two. Pay as you go involves no accumulating burdens, but lightens instead the daily routine of labor. It is wonderful to note how much a family can dispense with, if a rigid system of economy prevails, and a determination to live within its means exists.

These three words may be used as a temporary means of bridging a hard place, but their use is always extremely hazardous, and should never be used when "Pay as you go" or "Cash on the spot" can by any means be substituted.

A New Remedy for Wakefulness.

To those whose brains will not subside when the time for rest has arrived, Dr. John E. Cook, of Henderson, Ky., proposes a very simple method of securing prompt and refreshing sleep without the aid of drugs. When the mind is active, the circulation in the brain is correspondingly active; we breathe more frequently, and the movement of the heart is more rapid and vigorous. On the other hand, when the mind is at rest, as in healthy sleep, the circulation in the brain is notably diminished, the heart-beats are less rapid and forcible, the breathing is perceptibly slower. In the wakeful state, the mind, as a rule, is intensely occupied, whence we may infer an increased amount of blood in the brain. Dr. Cook's suggestion is to withdraw a portion of this from the head, or lower the brain circulation by taking deep and slow inspirations—say twelve or fifteen a minute. By this means the action of the heart will become slower and feebler, less blood is thrown into the brain, and very soon a quiet feeling, ending, in sleep, is induced. As by a slight effort of the will, any one may try this, we leave the question of its value to the test of actual experiment.

The Ounce of Prevention.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," says the old proverb. Let us apply it to temperance. A long line of reeling, staggering candidates for perdition, 150,000 in number, one after another through the year drop out of sight and memory. And still the death march goes on. Is there any way to prevent it?

Why, certainly. Drunkards grow from moderate drinkers, and moderate drinkers from the untaught, or wrongly educated children of our homes. There is a point where the stop can be put on, and that is in the home. Every parent is responsible for the intemperance of his child, if he has not by example and precept, done everything possible to prevent it.

If parents would take as much pains to form a pure, healthful taste in their children, as they now take truly though sometimes unconsciously, to form a taste for stimulants, we should see fewer entering the path that leads to the drunkard's grave.

Plain Talk to a Girl.

Your every-day toilet is part of your character. A girl who looks like a "fury" or a sloven in the morning, is not to be trusted, however finely she may look in the evening. No matter how humble your room may be, there are eight things it should contain; namely, a mirror, washstand, soap, towel, comb, hair, nail, and tooth brushes. Those are just as essential as your breakfast, before which you should make good and free use of them. Parents who fail to provide their children with such appliances not only make a great mistake, but commit a sin of omission. Look tidy in the morning, and after the dinner work is over improve your toilet. Make it a rule of your daily life to "dress up" in the afternoon. Your dress may or may not be anything better than calico, but with a ribbon or flower, or some bit of ornament, you can have an air of self-respect and satisfaction that invariably comes with being well dressed.—*Interior.*

The Value of a Good Newspaper.

[Lincoln (Neb.) Journal.]

The value of a reliable and ably conducted newspaper to any town or community can hardly be estimated, and yet it is perhaps never thoroughly appreciated. We become so familiar with it that we look upon it as something to be expected as a matter of course, but it is only when we find ourselves deprived of its medium of communication that we realize its value. It is not only the information contained in a paper that constitutes its value. It discusses faithfully and fearlessly the live issues of the day, and is a powerful means of education. For this reason it demands a higher degree of talent, and requires a vast amount of labor and research. It goes abroad, is read and copied from to an extent realized by few, and the city or town is judged by this standard.

—Have compassion occasionally for those who come late at public performances. Sometimes it is "the baby."

Our Boys and Girls.

How a Pagan Honored His Parents.

A high priest once lost a precious stone from his breast plate, and search was made for another to replace it. Many days were spent in this, when it was discovered that a man named Damah, a pagan, possessed a stone similar to the one the priest had lost.

The high priest repaired to his house and said:

"I am told that you have a diamond such as are used on the priestly garments among my people. If so, I will give you five hundred gold pieces for it."

Damah was satisfied with the sum named, and started for another room to fetch the stone. He suddenly stopped on the threshold and turned back.

Thinking that the sum he had named caused this hesitation, the priest said:

"You seem undecided. I will give you six hundred gold pieces for the stone."

"Hush, be quiet," said Damah, "my father is asleep in that room; I cannot give you the stone now; if you had offered me double the amount you have named, I would not disturb my father."

The priest looked at the pagan in perfect astonishment, but took a seat and waited patiently until the father awoke.

Then Damah brought the diamond, and after the priest had examined it and convinced himself that it was what he wanted, he counted out the six hundred gold pieces and handed them to the pagan.

Damah returned one hundred, saying:

"I was satisfied with the sum you offered me at first. If I were to accept more it would appear as though I were willing to be paid for honoring my father, while I only did my duty."

The priest blessed Damah, saying to the young man who accompanied him:

"Learn from a heathen to honor and respect thy father and thy mother."—*Stories of the Talmud.*

Everyone must remark that a favorite article of winter clothing for children is a comforter swathed around the neck. This is a great error; the feet and the wrists are the proper members to keep warm; the face and throat will harden into a healthy indifference to cold; but that muffler exchanged for an extra pair of thick socks and knitted gloves, would preserve a boy or girl really warm and well. Bronchitis and sore throat have declined fifty per cent. since the absurd use of high collars and twice-round neckerchiefs went out of fashion; and if the poor would take better care of their children's feet half the infantile mortality would disappear. It only costs a trifle to put a piece of thick felt or cork into the bottom of a boot or shoe, but the difference is often considerable between that and a doctor's bill, with, perhaps, the undertaker's beside.

Never Knock Under.

No, Never! Always rally your forces for a more desperate assault upon adversity. If calumny assails you, and the world—as it is apt to do in such cases—takes part with your traducers, don't turn moody and misanthropic, or worse still, seek to drown your unhappiness in dissipation. Bide your time. Disprove the slander if you can, if not, live it down. If poverty comes upon you like a thief at night what then? Let it rouse you, as the presence of the real thief would do, to energetic action. No matter how deeply you may have gone into hot water—always provided you did not help the father of lies to hear it—your case, if you are of the right kind of stuff, is not desperate, nor is it in accordance with the divine order and sweep of things that life should have any difficulties which an honest, determined man, with Heaven's help, cannot surmount.

A Remarkable Vision.

When Senator Morton was a young lawyer, just getting into practice, he had a case the success of which depended on a single authority in some of the State Reports. In the course of his reading he had noticed it, but now that it was needed he could not find it. Two days were spent in earnest search, and the case was set for the next morning. At midnight it had not been found, and he retired exhausted and disappointed. But while asleep he dreamed that the authority wanted was in the Massachusetts Reports. The volume and number of the page appeared, and even the opening sentence stood out before him. The supposed delight at finding it awoke him from sleep; and, although it was two o'clock in the morning, he hurriedly dressed and walked to his office, where he found the decision just as presented in the dream. Before noon he had won his case.

—"You stupid thing," said Mrs. Henpeck to her husband, "can't you remember on what day Mrs. General Bumper called?"

"I—I think it was the day you hit me with the camp-stool."

"O, then it was Tuesday."

"No my love, Tuesday was the day you poked me in the eye with your parasol."

A reverend sportsman was once boasting of his infallible skill in finding hare.

"If I were a hare," said a Quaker who was present, "I would take my seat in a place where I should be sure of not being disturbed by thee from the first of January to the last of December."

"Why, where would you go?"

"Into thy study."

How to Judge a Town.

The Jefferson City, Mo., *Journal* says: A gentleman from Tennessee, representing a capital of $20,000, in search of a good locality in which to engage in business, gave us a call, and after stating his mission West, asked to look at our paper. We handed him the *Morning Journal*, and to our surprise he did not stop to read our newsy local "pick-ups," or our attractive editorial page, but turned at once to our advertising columns, and commenced counting our advertisers and measuring their space.

"Well," said he, glancing up from the paper, "is that all—is that the business of this town?"

"Oh, no," said we, "there is the *Tribune* with a few advertisements that don't appear in this paper."

He then counted two additional local business advertisements in the *Tribune* and again looked up with the remark:

"And that's all is it? Why, you have not got near as much of a town as I imagined you had."

We then explained to him that we have a great many business men who do not advertise.

"They are no business men to hurt if they do not advertise," he said.

We could not contradict him, and we were powerless to vindicate the claims of our city.

He left us, saying if he had the time he would look around, but this was no place for him.

This is only one instance, and a fact.

—The late owner of the Long Island Railroad has failed for $3,500,000; assets, $7,500,000, mostly in stock of the Long Island Railway. What the assets will realize is very uncertain.

Renovation, not Prostration.

Did any enfeebled human being ever become strong under the operation of powerful cathartics or salivants? It is sometimes necessary to regulate the bowels, but that cannot be done by active purgation, which exhausts the vital forces and serves no good purpose whatever. The only true way to promote health and vigor, which are essential to regularity of the organic functions, is to invigorate, discipline and purify the system at the same time. The extraordinary efficiency of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters in cases of debility or irregularity of the organs of digestion, assimilation, secretion and discharge, is universally admitted. Appetite, good digestion, a regular habit of body, active circulation of the blood, and purity of all the animal fluids are induced by this superb tonic and corrective. It has no equals, moreover, as a preventive of chills and fever, and other types of malarial disease. To emigrants and travelers it is particularly serviceable as a medicinal safeguard. 2-2t.

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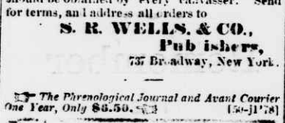

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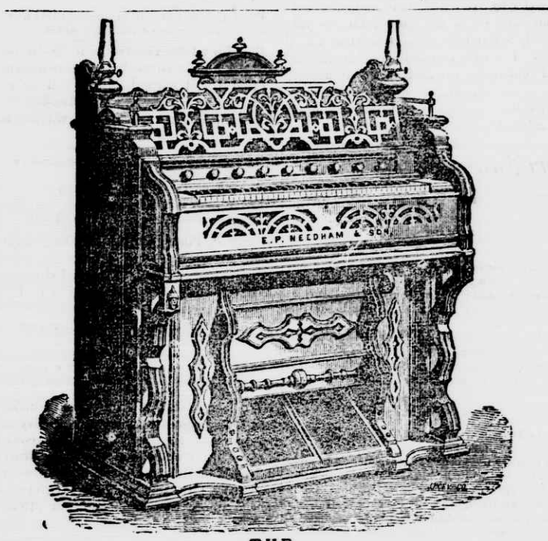

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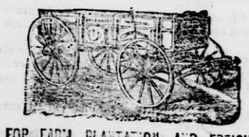

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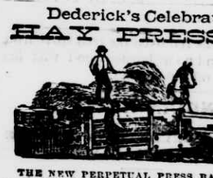

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