

THE FATAL PICTURE.

"A pretty face—a very pretty face, indeed!" I turned the little photograph upside down, held it off at arm's length, and scrutinized it closely with my eyes.

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subsidied into silence.—Now was the eventful moment of my destiny. "Ceilia!" I said, softly. She raised her liquid brown eyes to mine.

MISCELLANY.

He Read the Papers.

Farmer Jones took his weekly paper for political refreshment, for general reading and for general intelligence. He read therein a great many slips how to conduct his farming pursuits, and followed them out with more zeal than success.

A Little Land Well Tilled.

From a Brussels letter, in the Chicago Tribune we extract the following to show what can be done on a small acre of territory. The correspondent, after discussing the prosperity of the people of Belgium and their agricultural achievements:

An Extraordinary Specimen of American Iron.

The Gollier Guardian of June 18th says: There is now being shown in the Birmingham district an extraordinary specimen of iron making in the United States. It is a portion of a sheet of very thin iron, so thin that though its surface dimensions are 4 inches by 3 1/2 inches, yet its weight is only 3 1/2 grains, and its thickness is only 1/1000 of an inch.

Living on the Old Man.

How a Rhode Island Farmer "Fit" His Sons for College and Found Them Fit for Nothing. The Providence Journal gives an interesting father story to vent his com- ment. The story is appropriate for this com- mension: ESTER: I have no education, and I am God for me—Gov. Lippitt in his in his college that a dic- tion paid better than mortgage at six per cent.

The Voices of Animals.

Aquatic animals are mute. A world of radiate, mollusk, and fishes, there- fore, would be silent. Insects are prob- ably the only invertebrates capable of pro- ducing sounds. Their organs are usually external, while those of higher ani- mals are internal. Insects of rapid flight generally make the most noise. In some the noise is produced by friction (stridulation); in others by the passage of air through the spiracles (humming). The buzzing of flies and bees are caused in part by the vibrations of the wings; but it comes mainly from the spiracles of the thorax, as Swales and Huxley have no vocal chords, and can only hiss. Frogs croak, and crocodiles roar by the vibra- tions of the glottis. The huge tortoise of the Galapagos islands utter a hoarse, hollowing noise. The vocal apparatus of birds is situated at the lower end of the trachea, where it divides into two branches, the vocal sacs, which are a long drum with a cross bone, having a verti- cal membrane attached to its upper edge. Five pairs of muscles (in the songsters) adjust the length of the windpipe to the pitch of the glottis. The various notes are produced by differences of the blast of air, as well as by changes in the ten- sion of the membrane. The harsh notes are commonly within an octave. Birds of the same family have a similar voice. All the parrots have a harsh utterance; geese and ducks, quack, crows, magpies and jays, caw; while the warblers differ in the quality rather than the pitch of their notes. Some species possess a great variety of notes. The hawk can be heard nearly three miles; and the livingstone said he could distinguish the voices of the ostrich and lion only by knowing that the former roars by day and the latter by night. The vocal or- gan of animals, unlike that of birds, is on the upper part of the larynx. It consists of four cartilages, of which the largest (the thyroid) produces the sound in the human throat known as Adam's apple, the two elastic bands, called vocal chords, just below the glottis or upper opening of the windpipe. The various tones are determined by the ten- sion of these chords, which is effected by the raising or lowering of the thyroid prominence. The width causes the con- traction of the vocalization. The vocal sounds produced by mammals may be distinguished into the ordinary voice, the cry and the song. The second is the sound made by brutes. The whale porpoise, manatee, antelope, porcupine, and giraffe are generally silent. The bat's voice is probably the loudest in the audile to human ears. There is little modulation in brute utterance. The opossum purr, the sloth and kangaroo bark, the hog grunt or squeal, the pig grunt, the sheep bleat, and the bawling of a horse, trumpet sound from its trunk and a deep groan from its throat are the most common. The cow lows, all the cats, miaow, from the domestic animal to the lion; all the bear- rug, and all the canine family (fox, wolf, and dog) bark, howl and whine. The howling monkeys and gorillas have a large variety of notes, and a power- ful voice, enabling them to utter a roar- ing cry, and one of the gibbons has the remarkable power of emitting a com- plete octave of musical notes. The hu- man voice, taking the male and female together, have a range of nearly four octaves. Man's power of speech, or the uttered sound, is the highest in the intellectual development rather than in any structural difference between him and the ape. Song is produced by the glottis, speech by the mouth.—[Scientific American.]

Old Hickory's Way out of a Dilemma.

Mr. Nathan Sargent, a gentleman who began political life with John Quincy Adams' administration, and down con- tinued to be a Whig, and is a Whig yet, has just published two volumes of polit- ical reminiscences covering these periods. In one of the volumes he relates the fol- lowing bit of history, in the form of an anecdote, concerning John McLean, who had been Postmaster General for many years, and was afterward cele- brated as a Judge of the Supreme Court. As Mr. McLean had always refused to make appointments and removals on the ground of party affinities, and had strongly condemned such a practice, the inquiry was naturally made, "If Gen. Jackson adopts the policy, what will Mr. McLean do? Will he carry it out or refuse?" This question was so often put, and so emphatically answered by his- torical friends, the General deemed it proper to come to an understanding with the President, in the form of an anec- dote, concerning John McLean, to whom he stated that he should adopt the policy of removing from office such per- sons as had, during the canvass for Pres- idency, taken an active part in politics, and asked whether he had any objections to the line of conduct. To this Mr. McLean replied in the negative, "but," said he, "if this rule should be adopted, it will operate as well against your friends as those of Mr. Adams, as it must be generally executed." To this General Jackson made no reply, but, after walking up and down the room several times, he said, "Mr. McLean, you accept a seat upon the Bench of the Supreme Court?" This was answered in the affirmative, and he was in due time nominated.

The Greatest River in the World.

The Amazon is the most volumi- nous of rivers. At the narrow of Obaydo, six hundred miles from the sea, half a million of cubic feet of water pass any given point every second. Born in Lake Lauricocha, among the Andes of Peru, the main trunk runs northward for five hun- dred miles through Brazil, then three miles on current, through the Arkan- sas, and then from the frontier of Ecuador it flows easterly twenty- five hundred miles across the equa- torial plain of the continent. It averages over the great river in its passage through Brazil three miles an hour. At Tabatinga, two thousand miles from its mouth, the width is a mile and a half, with a depth of eleven fathoms. At the entrance of the Madeira, it is three miles wide, and below Santarem it is ten. The tributaries are in keeping with this colossal trunk. In fact, the Amazon is a great river-system, rather than one river. It has twelve affluents over a thousand miles long—the largest (the Madeira) entering the Amazon nine hundred miles from its mouth. Besides these and a host of minor tributaries, there is a wonderful network of nat- ural canals alongside of the main river and in the delta. No other riv- er called "igrapas," "paranas," and "furos." These bypaths are of im- mense advantage for inter-commu- nication. They are characteristics of the country, and are so numer- ous that Amazonia is truly a cluster of islands. Altogether this inland or fresh water sea drains a territory of two million square miles, reaching from the Andes to the Atlantic, and showing out at the mouth of the Amazon the annual rise reaches its maximum about the middle of June, and its minimum in Decem- ber, the difference of level being about three feet. No other river runs in so deep a channel to great a distance. No other river can furnish five thousand miles of con- tinuous navigation for large vessels. For two thousand miles from its mouth the stream has not less than seven fathoms of water, and not a fall interrupting navigation for two thousand five hundred miles. The Pongo de Manariche in the western limit to navigation for the Amazon proper. While the cur- rent is easterly, there are no rapids from Para to Obaydos in ten days, or one-third of the ordinary time. Building a House in Eight Hours. The Americans are celebrated all over the world for the admirable system with which they do their work, whereby they save both time and money. A gentle- man in Lancaster, Pa., who is said to have built a two-story brick house here in nineteen hours, intends to build a similar house, 24 by 40 feet, on the Centennial grounds next summer, and to do the work in eight hours. The cornice is to be of galvanized iron, and the contractor for that part of the work is to be allowed half an hour in which to put in place the cornice. No other work is to be done in half the time. The exhibitor, if given, will no doubt prove of interest even to Americans, but we have here in Philadelphia, says the Ledger, row upon rows of two-story houses which will have for foreign visitors still greater interest. Their convenience of arrange- ment, good appearance, cheapness, and, above all, the fact that great num- bers of them are owned by their occu- pants, will give them a value in the eyes of a stranger not to be compared with that of a house built in a day as a mere exhibition of skill. After all, it is hardly worth while building a house in a race with time. We have, unfortu- nately, the record of a man who built a house, but we would rather not exhibit it.