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Popular Literature—A Criticism of Mr. Froude's Recent Speech.

The London Times has the following comments upon the speech lately delivered by Mr. Froude in Scotland: "Mr. Froude addressed a Scotch audience on days ago on the objects of education as shaped by the necessities of life; and in a strong practical argument he maintained—first, that man's great duty was to get his own living; and next, that 'literature' was of no avail for this purpose. One of these propositions is eternally true; the other is certainly not so. 'First and foremost a man has to earn his living.' No education which does not make honest independence its first aim is worth anything at all. To these doctrines we entirely subscribe, and we wish they were remembered occasionally by those who complain that young men go to college for what they can get, and keep a fellowship before them as the prize of their studies. A fellowship is an honest maintenance, nor is it any more ignoble to think of one's living while working at classics than to talk of the pursuit of learning for its own sake in the case of ordinary students in pure absurdity. A student, like other people, must have wherewithal to live and he must either work to get his share of university endowments, or work to turn his learning to similar account in the open market of the world. When, however, Mr. Froude tells us that a man who takes to 'literature' should be prepared to starve, and the universities, if they teach 'humanities' instead of handicrafts, should teach the learners to 'put up with' rough clothing, hard beds, and common food, he either ignores, or what is more probable, he disparages a vast proportion of the uses to which 'humanities' may be applied.

"His assumption is that literature—the literature which expresses a noble and worthy use of intellectual talent—will rarely bring its votaries bread and cheese, while the literature which will produce pecuniary profit will bring little satisfaction or credit with it." "Better," said he to his hearers, "better a thousand times, if your object is to advance your position in life, that you should choose some other calling, of which making money is the legitimate aim, and where your success will vary as the goodness of your work; better for yourselves, for your consciences, for your own souls, as we used to say, and for the world you live in." This is lofty doctrine, and was sincerely meant, but how it is to be reconciled either with the wants of humanity, the spectacle of actual life, or the principle from which Mr. Froude himself started, it would puzzle anybody to show. "First and foremost a man has to earn his living." Precisely so; and if he can earn it by literature, why shouldn't he? Why is literature to be the only pursuit not sanctioned by the honest industry which it implies? Why should literary work become ignoble or illegitimate, when it brings a man his bread, seeing that to get this bread by work is a man's first duty?

"What Mr. Froude really means to say is this, that literature, taken in its highest sense, will rarely command an immediate and profitable market, and then he jumps to the conclusion that it can only be made profitable by a process equivalent to a debasement or prostitution of the pursuit itself. Every man must earn his living, and the work of earning it is always honest, but he cannot earn it by literature, because literature should be confined to the expression of transient feelings and such expressions, unhappily are not found to sell. That is the argument, and if we like Mr. Froude, we should add: On these terms, literature is a waste of time; you would never get a penny for it. It is a single entertainment, not a novel for a magazine, or a paper for a serial. Popular literature should be honest, plain, and useful, and the writing which will sell, and the direction of legislation, and the formation of public character, and the standard of civilization, should be the standard of literature."

"The most wonderful velocipede exploit on record is thus described in the Jacksonville, Ill., Journal: 'On Saturday evening there was quite a large number gathered in Professor Grover's velocipede hall to witness the proficiency and skill of the professor's pupils on the wooden horse. It appears that a few of the professor's most advanced scholars have been practicing on an inclined plane, which has heretofore been placed on the south side of the room, but in cleaning the hall in the afternoon the decline part had been removed, and the incline part was moved close to the east side of the hall, so that the highest part rested on a window sill, the window having been removed in the afternoon. Several of the new beginners had been showing their skill in riding round the room, and when Mr. Dunlap came into the hall he was called upon to ride, and immediately complied, mounted the machine, and away he went at lightning speed around the hall. As soon as he had got the velocipede up to full speed, he went straight for the incline plane; (all who were posted in the movement of the plane supposed that Mr. Dunlap knew of the change, and was only trying some new trick, but as the sequel shows, he was entirely ignorant of the change.) up he went like a bird, and did not discover his mistake until it was too late. Away he went, through the window, like a flash, and disappeared.' All stood spell-bound for a second, and then rushed to the windows, expecting to see his mangled body on the ground below. But he was not 'born to die' in that way, for the speed at which he was going carried him across an alley ten feet wide, and he alighted 'right side up' on Carter, Beasley & Co's drug store, a two-story building with a very steep roof; down they came and over the edge he went, sailing on his back, and saved himself from going over to the ground. As soon as possible he sprang to his feet, swung his hat, and gave three cheers, which were responded to with a yell by the scattered crowd, which filled the windows of the hall, and in a few minutes he was back in the hall, and the incident was forgotten."

a carpenter or a smith? Spinoza, Mr. Froude reminds us, compressed the lucubrations of life into three volumes, which revolutionized philosophy, but which unfortunately 'have no attractions for the multitude.' Yet the multitude want attractions, and attractions, properly devised, are good for the multitude. Mr. Dickens has written nearer thirty volumes than three, and has not, we hope, done writing yet. Are his works any the worse because they do not attract the multitude? Has he not probably, in his way, done mankind as much service as Spinoza?

"Sir Walter Scott once said that the greatest compliment he ever received in his life was from a working man, who told him that his novels had charmed away many a night of care. That is the very end and object of popular literature, nor do we suppose that Mr. Froude would deny that it is a worthy end, though he would perhaps rejoin that all novels are not like Scott's. But to this we say, as we have more than once said before, that, saying always harmlessness of tendency, any writing which produces the desired end is useful writing, and represents a legitimate employment of literary power. If the 'Belgravia Novelist' derided by Mr. Froude provides a wholesome distraction for an overworked or overburdened mind, he does the world good service in his way. It signifies little which way a man turns for such relief, whether to 'Zanoni' or 'Pickwick,' 'East Lynne' or 'Waverley,' 'Lady Audley's Secret' or 'Ten Thousand a Year.' It is all as purely a matter of taste and condition as daily diet; but the diet is necessary, and they who get their living by purveying it, even in humble fashion, have no need to be ashamed of their calling. So important is that calling in the present day that the wages of what we may term the literary profession are probably as large as those of many handicrafts, and, as we maintain, are as honorably earned. At all events, we hope the young scholars of Scotland will not go away with the belief that the pen is a less respectable implement than the spade or the hammer in the discharge of that great duty of bread-winning which their teacher truly told them is at the head of all human obligations."

The origin of the trouble between Jackson and Randolph was this: Some few years ago, it will be remembered, a person named Boungani eloped from New York with the property and niece of his wife, whom he had then recently married; the forsaken wife was once the wife of General Eaton, Secretary of War to General Jackson; and prior to that the wife of one Timberlake, who died a purser in the United States Navy. On the death of Timberlake, Randolph, who was then lieutenant in the navy, was appointed to act temporarily as purser in his place. He found his accounts in a mixed condition and a deficiency existing against him. Before he had a chance to settle his accounts, Mrs. T. became the wife of General Eaton, Secretary of War, who was also surety for her former husband. It became apparently of interest to both that the deficiency charged should be shifted to other shoulders than those of the dead purser. An attempt was made to carry out the scheme, with Randolph as the victim. Randolph asked for a court of inquiry, which being granted, he was cleared of all suspicion by his report. But, nevertheless, President Jackson ordered his dismissal from the navy. Not long after this, while old Hickory was passing down the Potomac on a steamer, in front of Alexandria, and during a pause of the boat at that place, Randolph came on board and deliberately and most effectually wrote "the nose" of his Excellency.

A FAMOUS PULL OF THE NOSE

Two hundred and fifty-six years ago this month, Pocahontas, daughter of Powhattan, was married to John Rolfe, at Jamestown, Va. She died in England in March, four years after her marriage, leaving one son, who returned to Virginia to reside, and there left descendants, among whom was John Randolph, of Roanoke. Robert B. Randolph, cousin of John died at his residence on the corner of Four-and-a-half and C streets, Washington, on the morning of the 20th inst., at the age of 78. He was the man who tucked the nose of Andrew Jackson, Old Hickory being then President of the United States.

The pulling took place in the cabin of a steamer which stopped at Alexandria on its passage down the river. Randolph went aboard, marched up to Jackson, who supposed he was confronted by a friend till the thing was done. Randolph got beyond the jurisdiction of the county police before a process could be issued, and escaped arrest. The scene when Jackson found himself with a pulled nose is described by those who saw it as one of stupendous rage. The cities of the District of Columbia were in a foam over the indignity, and the whole country, in fact, was for a time in a tempest, the triumphant Jackson party feeling that its own nose had been twisted by this audacious descendant of Pocahontas. General Van Ness, then Mayor of Washington, sent a solemn message to the Councils on the event, and the Boards responded in a solemn resolution of condolence and indignation.

No wonder that Randolph had to dodge from place to place for two years to avoid arrest. Finally, it is reported that an officer now living, was authorized to inform Randolph that if he would apologize for his insult to the President, he would be reinstated. This Randolph declined to do until the President had first apologized. It is hardly necessary to say that no apology came. After twenty-three years of service in the navy, and much gallant conduct, Randolph without much property, and without a profession, was turned adrift upon the world. During the administration of James Buchanan, John B. Floyd, then Secretary of War, gave Randolph the position of Superintendent of the Army in Washington; but he only held the place a short time, as Buchanan hearing of the appointment, ordered it to be revoked for reasons best known to himself.

The animal known as "the fat boy" is thus apostrophized: Smart youth! You are going it with a rush—you are outambering your years. You have slipped your collar, wild colt, and broken loose from all parental restraints. You determined not to tarry in Jericho till your beard be grown; and so you dash into this world as if had been through it a dozen times, and you know every cock and hen from one end to the other. If you can drink rum, chew tobacco, and swear like a trooper, while just starting upon your career, you hardly know what you will be, but you are sure to be a good deal better than when you got into the world.

General Lee in Baltimore—Remarkable Enthusiasm. Gen. Lee has recently been to Baltimore at the head of a committee of stockholders of the Virginia Valley and Lynchburg and Dauphin Railroads, to solicit assistance from the Baltimore capitalists. At a meeting of the City Council, held to consider these projects, after the close of his address, the Sun says: Mr. Brout said he was happy to inform the ladies that they would have an opportunity of taking Gen. Lee by the hand. Arrangements were then made to enable the ladies to pass upon the platform for that purpose. The privilege appeared to be eagerly and generally availed of, and Gen. Lee was engaged for some time in receiving presentations.

in clearness and power of expression. In his eyes and nose alone were perceptible traces of his Indian origin. He leaves a wife and four children, one a son.

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The ladies passed from the west side of the hall over the platform, passing the General, who shook the hand of each cordially, and in return was complimented by all the ladies, a large number of whom saluted him with kisses. After the presentation was over, the General, escorted by Mayor Banks, left the building, and on reaching the sidewalk was greeted with uproarious cheering, and the greatest enthusiasm prevailed among the large throng that had assembled at the doorway. After liberating himself from the many friends that continued pressing forward to shake his hand, the General entered a carriage and was driven to the residence of Samuel H. Taggart, Esq., whose guest he is during his sojourn here, the crowd following the carriage for several squares, cheering loudly.

Previously, Gen. Lee had read an address to the business men. Upon concluding, the audience again warmly applauded, and on the General resuming his seat, cheer after cheer rent the air, and hats and handkerchiefs were waved from all portions of the hall. It was a scene of genuine enthusiasm not often witnessed.

Before this, when Gen. Lee went to the hall, as he ascended the stairway, he was greeted with three cheers by the multitude, who stood around respectfully with uncovered heads. When he was introduced there arose a perfect storm of applause, which continued uninterrupted for several moments.

TRAVELING STONES.—They have walking stones in Australia, and, as we are informed, they have traveling stones in Nevada. Here is a description: They are almost perfectly round, the majority of them as large as a walnut, and of an iron nature. When distributed about upon the floor, table, or any other level surface, within two or three feet of each other, they immediately begin traveling toward a common center, and there huddle up in a bunch, like a lot of eggs in a nest. A single stone, removed to a distance of three and a half feet, upon being released, at once started off with wonderful and somewhat comical celerity to join its fellows; taken away four or five feet, it remained motionless. They are found in a region that, although comparatively level, is nothing but a barren rock. Scattered over this barren region are little basins, from a few feet to a rod in diameter, and it is in the bottom of these that the rolling stones are found. They are of the size of a pea to five or six inches in diameter. The cause of these stones rolling together is doubtless to be found in the material of which they are composed, which appears to be loadstone, or magnetic iron ore.

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Among other things which the progress of discovery compels us to learn over again is the distance of the sun from the earth. Ninety-five millions of miles is found to be too great by the trading distance of four millions. When one authority reported that the distance of the sun was 95,000,000 miles, another said it was 94,000,000 miles, and a third said it was 93,000,000 miles. The distance of the sun from the earth is 93,000,000 miles.

The Old-Fashioned Housekeeper.

That the art of living, so far as the body and its surroundings are concerned, can be, and often is, carried to a very high degree of perfection, the superlative housekeepers we all have known are ample proof. My whole girlhood was spent just across the street from the greatest genius in this respect that I have ever met. The fresh exterior of her square white dwellings, with its immaculate board walk crossing her greenest sward, and its shining windows, through which smiled her eyes and carnations upon the passer-by, gave pleasant promise of the absolute spotlessness of everything within. She was not one of that dismal type of housekeepers who exclude the light and muffle everything into shapelessness, lest the damask and curtains should fade. On the contrary, her house was flooded with the brightest sunshine, challenged to find a speck of dust if it could. The air, laden with the perfume of cut flowers or houseplants, seemed purer than the outside; and, whatever the weather, its temperature was perfect. Nothing was for show, and but little for pure ornament, but everything was the best of its kind, and in true taste and keeping. As for her table; "never till life and mem'ry perish, can I forget" the vision of that tea-cloth, far whiter than snow, with its gleaming silver and glass and china, displaying incomparable viands, whose delicacy and perfection are all her own—that sweet and solid cube of golden butter; the foam light and foam white biscuit, each a separate thought; the cake crowned with every ideal attribute that cake can possess; the ruby and topaz of her preserved strawberries and plums; and oh, oh, the flavor of that deep red tongue—the meltingness of her cold corned beef!

At this ambrosial board she sat, a lady of sixty or seventy, upright as an arrow, wearing no cap, nor needing any, with her beautiful chestnut hair braided in almost as thick a tress as a quarter of a century ago; low voiced, intelligent, self-contained; with a comprehension in her eyes, a firmness in her mouth, a concentrated and disciplined energy speaking from her whole quiet person, that convinced one that she could have administered the affairs of an empire with the same ease and exactness that she did those of her household. With one elderly servant she did all; and as she never was in a hurry, nor ever unprepared, she seemed to accomplish it with no more effort than the glittering engine which one finds stowed away in some lower corner of a great building, playing easily and noiselessly as if for its own pleasure, while in reality it is driving with mighty energy a hundred wheels, and employing ceaselessly a hundred hands.

MAKE THE HORSES WORK.—Horses were designed as beasts of burden to relieve mankind of fatiguing drudgery. It does not hurt them to work hard, if they are treated kindly. It is not the hard drawing and ponderous loads that wear out horses, and that make them poor, balky and worthless; but it is the hard driving, the worrying by rough and inhuman drivers that use up more flesh, fat and muscle than all the labor a team performs. Consider the ponderous loads that many teams are required to cart every day, and several times a day, and yet they appear to grow fatter and stronger every year. They are treated kindly. On the contrary, other horses that do not perform half the labor, soon grow poor, and give out, and the next we hear of them is, they died with the harness on. Hard work does not kill them. But the fretting, worrying, and abuse did the job. Horses will do all the mowing and reaping on a large farm, break the grain, pitch the hay, turn the grindstone, saw the wood, almost all the heavy labor that farmers have been accustomed to do, and grow fat, if they are not worried and jerked, and kicked about as if they were a living football.—N. T. Times.

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BEST HOGS FOR THE SOUTH.

Among the difficulties the planter of the South has to contend with, in a meagre supply of meat. With the negro there can be no substitute for hog meat. A full stomach of it will only make him dream more of it next meal. How important it is then, for us to fall upon some plan to obtain a full supply of this desirable article. The bulk of the labor must and will be done by the negro, and we must feed him to make him valuable. Steps are being taken to import the best breeds of hogs, as many conceive. At present a perfect mania prevails in favor of Chester whites, and every other variety of the white hog—when every man who has tried the white hog, knows it the least desirable of any variety ever produced into the South; not that it lacks size or possesses objectionable qualities, but that all white hogs in this climate become worthless from diseased skin and die up. The Berkshire and Woburn crossed properly, surpasses every other breed. The Berkshire is a compact hog, can be fattened at any age, whilst the Woburn has immense size, and cannot be fattened under two years; but by blending the two breeds, that difficulty is obviated. In twelve months your hogs, with ordinary treatment, will weigh from two hundred to four hundred pounds. In Kentucky, within the last few years, the hog raisers have imported the large bald face Berkshire, black body, tips of tail and feet white, and these are now being crossed by the Woburn to give additional size. The Chester White will do on muck for a silver cup at an agricultural fair, but will not do to fill the smoke house. You who want a hog that will yield the most meat, apply for information to some of the Kentucky mule drovers, and my word for it, ten dollars will bring you a pig that will do to breed from.—Southern Cultivator.

MEN WANTED.—The great want of this age is men.

Men who are not for sale. Men who are honest, sound from centre to circumference, true to the heart's core. Men who will condemn wrong in friend or foe, in themselves as well as others. Men whose consciences are as steady to the pole. Men who will stand for the right if the heavens totter and the earth reels. Men who can tell the truth and look the world and the devil right in the eye. Men that neither brag nor run. Men that neither flag nor finch. Men who can have courage without shouting to it. Men in whom the courage of everlasting life runs still, deep and strong. Men too large for sectarian bonds. Men who do not cry nor cause their voices to be heard on the streets but who will not fall nor be discouraged till judgment be set in the earth. Men who know their message and tell it. Men who know their places and fill them. Men who mind their own business. Men who will not lie. Men who are not too lazy to work nor too proud to be poor. Men who are willing to eat what they have earned and wear what they have paid for.—Southern Home Journal.

A SMALL-POX REMEDY.—A correspondent of the Stockton (California) Herald writes as follows:

"I herewith append a recipe, which has been used to my knowledge in hundreds of cases. It will prevent or cure the small-pox, though the piteous are filling. It is as unailing as fate, and conquers in every instance. It is harmless when taken by a well person. It will also cure scarlet fever. Here is the recipe, as I have used it, and cured my children of scarlet fever. Here it is, as I have used it to cure the small-pox when learned physicians said the patient must die. It cured: Sulphate of zinc, one grain; foxglove (digitalis), one grain; hair's ointment of sugar, mix with two table-spoonsful of water. When thoroughly mixed, add two ounces of water. Take a spoonful every hour. If the disease will disappear in twelve hours. For a child, smaller doses according to age. If Courtes would counsel their physicians to use this remedy, it would save more than the number of a human hair, lives at the present time. The remedy is as follows: Sulphate of zinc, one grain; foxglove (digitalis), one grain; hair's ointment of sugar, mix with two table-spoonsful of water. When thoroughly mixed, add two ounces of water. Take a spoonful every hour. If the disease will disappear in twelve hours. For a child, smaller doses according to age. If Courtes would counsel their physicians to use this remedy, it would save more than the number of a human hair, lives at the present time. The remedy is as follows: Sulphate of zinc, one grain; foxglove (digitalis), one grain; hair's ointment of sugar, mix with two table-spoonsful of water. When thoroughly mixed, add two ounces of water. Take a spoonful every hour. If the disease will disappear in twelve hours. For a child, smaller doses according to age. If Courtes would counsel their physicians to use this remedy, it would save more than the number of a human hair, lives at the present time. 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