

Morning Star and Catholic Messenger, NEW ORLEANS, SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 1876. IMPROVIDENCE OF GREAT MEN.

The folly of some men renowned for great wisdom is conspicuous in every country. Their foolishness is made manifest in common affairs of private life, even when the world is ringing with public applause for the exhibition of profound wisdom in public affairs.

The proverbial unthriftiness and folly in expenditure characteristic of our Daniel Webster is well known. He was always receiving large sums as income, and yet always involved in debt. He could take care of the affairs of the nation, but not of his own.

Lord Bacon was another instance of similar improvidence. Bacon himself did not follow his own advice, but was ruined by his improvidence. He was in straits and difficulties when a youth, and in still greater straits and difficulties when a man. His life was splendid, but his excessive expenditure involved him in debt, which created a perpetual craving for money. Bacon took bribes, and was thereupon beset by his enemies, convicted, degraded, and ruined.

Pitt managed the national finances during a period of unexampled difficulty, yet was himself always plunged in debt. Lord Carrington, ex banker, once or twice, at Mr. Pitt's request, examined his household accounts and found the quantity of butchers' meat charged in the bills at one hundred weight a week. The charge for servants' wages, board wages, living and household bills, exceeded £2300 a year. At Pitt's death the nation voted £40,000 to satisfy the demands of his creditors; yet his income had never been less than £6000 a year, and at one time, with the wardenship of the Cinque Ports, it was nearly £4000 a year more. Macaulay truly says that 'the character of Pitt would have stood higher if, with the disinterestedness of Pericles and DeWitt, he had united their dignified frugality.'

But Pitt by no means stood alone. Lord Melville was as unthrifty in the management of his own affairs as he was of the money of the public. Fox was an enormous spender, his financial maxim being that a man need never want money if he was able to pay enough for it. Fox called the outer room at Almack's, where he borrowed on occasions from Jew lenders at exorbitant premiums, his 'Jerusalem Chamber.' Passion for play was his great vice, and at a very early age it involved him in debt to an enormous amount. It is stated by Gibson that on one occasion Fox sat playing at hazard for twenty hours in succession, losing £10,000. But deep play was the vice of high life in these days, and cheating was not unknown. Selwyn, alluding to Fox's losses at play, called him Charles the martyr.

Sheridan was the hero of debt. He lived on it. Though he received large sums of money in one way or another, no one knew what became of it, for he paid nobody. It seemed to melt away in his hands like snow in summer. He spent his first wife's fortune of £16,000 in a six weeks' jaunt at Bath. Necessity drove him to literature, and, perhaps, to the stimulus of poverty we owe 'The Rivals,' and the dramas which followed it. With his second wife he obtained a fortune of £5000, and, with £15,000 which he realized by the sale of Drury Lane shares, he bought an estate in Surrey, from which he was driven by debts and duels.

The remainder of his life was a series of shifts, sometimes brilliant, but often degrading, to raise money and evade creditors. Taylor, of the Opera House, used to say that if he took off his hat to Sheridan in the street it would cost him £50, but if he stopped to speak to him it would cost him £100. He was in debt all round—to his milkman, his grocer, his baker, and his butcher. Sometimes Mrs. Sheridan would be kept waiting for an hour or more, while the servants were beating up the neighborhood for coffee, butter, eggs, and rolls.

While Sheridan was a master of the navy, a butcher one day brought a leg of mutton to the kitchen. The cook took it and clapped it in the pot to boil, and went up stairs for the money; but not returning, the butcher coolly removed the pot-lid, took out the mutton, and walked away with it in his tray. Yet, while living in these straits Sheridan, when invited with his son into the country, usually went in chaises and four—in one, and his son Tom following in the other. The end of all was very sad. For some weeks before his death he was nearly destitute of the means of subsistence.

His noble and royal friends had entirely deserted him. Executions for debt were in his house, and he passed his last days in the custody of sheriff's officers, who abstained from carrying him to prison merely because they were assured that to remove him would cause his immediate death.

When Cowper's 'John Gilpin' first appeared, it was not a success. The public were insensible to its wit and humor, and it is quite possible the poem would have continued entirely neglected, had not Henderson, a famous actor of the time, who, during the Lent season of that year (1785), was giving, what was then a novelty, a series of dramatic readings, included 'John Gilpin' among his humorous selections. Henderson's masterly elocution brought Johnny Gilpin's comic adventures at once into notoriety, and the poem soon became so popular, that the printer was busy almost night and day striking off impressions to supply the demand. 'John Gilpin' is not the only poem that has owed its success to the art of elocution. The ordinary public would never have made much of Poe's 'Bells,' unless experienced readers had shown them how marvellously well the changing sentiment of the poem could be expressed by various intonations of the word 'bells.' When Poe first printed this poem—it was in Graham's Magazine, we think—there was a general exclamation that he had gone mad. 'It is impossible to make anything of this jargon,' exclaimed an accomplished critic to us at the time; and we are inclined to think the poem, to the general ear, would have remained a 'jargon,' if the elocutionists had not taken hold of it. They soon showed a meaning out of the chaos, and showed how the repetitions of the word 'bells' might be used to express the golden harmony of wedding-bells, the loud clangor of fire bells, and the solemn monotone of funeral bells. Even Poe's 'Raven' owes something of its popularity to the dramatic reciter. Mr. Trowbridge's picturesque and effective poem, 'The Vagabonds,' has found a much keener appre-

ciation and wider fame than it could ever have obtained without the aid of the public reader. So also have many passages in Shakespeare; and, in fact, there is no poet who either has not gained something in popular recognition, or could not gain it, by the means of the art of elocution. And yet the art is dying out. It is disappearing from the stage, and only just holds its own elsewhere. The realistic acting, now coming so generally into vogue, whatever may be its merits, is not accompanied with that careful, close study of the delivery of language that marked the old style. It may seem somewhat sweeping to assert that none of our younger actors know how to read, but we think it is very nearly the fact. When several of Shakespeare's comedies were revived at the Fifth-Avenue Theatre, a short time since, there were only one or two actors on the stage that possessed a finished or careful elocution. By 'finished elocution' we mean principally that skill in the employment of emphasis and inflection whereby the author's meaning is made to stand out clear, definite, and impressive. 'Word-painting' is a term often applied to the art of description; as something kin to this, we would use the phrase 'word coloring,' as applicable to that art of a reader by which the meaning of an author is illuminated, is rendered vivid, picturesque, glowing. This art is almost the rarest of recognized accomplishments, and one of the most delightful. And yet it is very rarely heard in the pulpit, almost never at the bar, is nearly unknown on the platform and in the lecture-room, and is fast getting to be a lost art on the stage. As it once rescued 'John Gilpin' from oblivion, and has done good service in opening many another poem or drama to our comprehension, it is assuredly worthy to be conserved; and, to this end, we believe that accomplished readers, like Mr. Vandenhoff, Mr. Hows, and Mr. Murdock, deserve encouragement. We could wish to see dramatic readings more generally recognized as a means of culture and as a refined entertainment.—Appleton's Journal.

The Legislators of the Kingdom of Bavaria are going on with the work of purification. They might have compelled their ill-advised young King to part with his counselors by simply refusing to grant the estimates; but they have preferred to bring about the desired result by a turning movement rather than by an attack in front. Several members who were returned had been obtained by fraudulent means, and have been unseated; and by this time the Catholic majority has risen from two to eight, so that if one of the Catholic members is ill or away from Munich at any time, the Patriot majority is no longer jeopardized, as it used to be. The most obnoxious member of the ministry is Herr von Lutz, the minister of Public Worship, who is doing every mortal thing to contend against the salutary influence of the clergy in those parts of the country in which the Catholics are in the majority. At the time of the elections he had charged the venerable bishop of Ratisbon, Mgr. Senestrey, with 'undue practices,' and, when called upon to substantiate this charge, he had not another word to say for himself, but on the contrary, had to eat the words he had said previously. Last week the estimates for the General School Board came on. This board have hitherto done all they could to undermine Catholic teaching, and the Bavarian Chamber have now resolved that a period shall be put to the existence of this board on the 1st of January next. This constitutes a glaring defeat for the ministry, and especially for Herr von Lutz, but they take it all coolly, and stick to their places as if nothing had happened.

MONEY FORTHCOMING TO MAKE A SEA OF SAHARA.—The news that the money to turn the Mediterranean into the salt marshes and sand deserts of the interior of North Africa may be forthcoming, and that the work may begin next year, is gratifying for not a few reasons. The advantages to civilization will not be inconsiderable if a new, direct and easy pathway for commerce, exploration and Christian effort be opened to the interior, while as a triumph of engineering the work of restoring the inland sea will not only deserve eulogy, but stimulate the execution of other great enterprises of an equal or even greater consequence, as the cutting of the interoceanic canal at the Isthmus of Darien or the creation of a new and fertile country in the Caucasus. Old generations that left abiding works like the Pyramids, left, as a rule, useless monuments to perpetuate the story of ambition, war and slavery; the legacy of the present generation to posterity promises to be great works of utility literally cut in continents. Such as the Alpine tunnel, the Andee Railway and the Suez Canal, already executed, and the tunnel between France and England, the Darien ship canal and the new beds for the Caspian and Mediterranean, proposed and on the verge of execution. It will, by the way, rather surprise those who contend that there is only one race in the world, the Anglo-Saxon, to notice that members of the despised Latin race have still a remarkable capacity for engineering on the very grandest scale.

There was a strange public at Jerusalem on the accession of Murad V. to the Turkish throne. The issue of cartridges by the Chief of Police to his men to be fired in celebrating the accession of the new Sultan, and the consequent necessity of sending most of the muskets to the gunsmiths for repairs, gave rise to the report that a general massacre of Christians was to take place the next day after the midday prayer. Christians and Jews closed their shops and barricaded themselves in the various convents and hospices in the city. The streets were full of families fleeing with their property. Seeing this the Moslems took fright. They thought the Christians were about to massacre them. So they closed their shops and hurried to places of safety. Soon the streets were deserted. Everybody was waiting for the evil hour. Then the authorities took the matter in hand, showed the people that there was no cause for their fright, and by degrees persuaded them to open their shops or go home.

An English gentleman was strolling out with a Cockney—a genuine Cockney—when they finally approached a meadow, in which was spread out a heavy crop of hay. The cockney gazed at it wonderingly. It wasn't grass, it wasn't wheat, it wasn't turnip-tops. 'Vy, vatever does you call this stuff?' said he to his companion. 'That! Why, hay, to be sure,' was the reply. 'Hay!' exclaimed he. 'That's cutting it a little too thick. If that's hay, just show me the hay-corns. Come now.'

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This Institution is pleasantly situated in a healthy and picturesque part of Frederick County, Maryland, half a mile from Emmetsburg, and two miles from Mount St. Mary's College. It was commenced in 1859, and incorporated by the Legislature of Maryland in 1874. The buildings are convenient and spacious. The academic year is divided into two sessions of five months each, beginning respectively on the first Monday of September and the first of February. Letters of inquiry directed to the SUPERIOR, 1y 2m

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, Thirty-Ninth and Pine Streets, WEST PHILADELPHIA.

This Institution, conducted by the Religious of the Good Shepherd, has for its object the training of young girls in habits of piety and industry, imparting at the same time the advantages of a good education. Terms for Board and Tuition, including Washing and Bedding, per annum, \$150. Music, Gold Embroidery and Artificial Flowermaking form extra charges. For further particulars apply to 25 1y THE SUPERIOR.

ST. STANISLAUS COMMERCIAL COLLEGE, BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI.

This Institution, chartered by the State Legislature, and conducted by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, has been in successful operation since 1855. Beautifully situated on the shore of the Bay, commanding an extensive view of the Gulf, and affording all the advantages of the sea breeze and bathing in the Summer, its splendid location is a great inducement to healthful recreation and amusement for the pupils. The Commercial Course comprises all the branches of a good English education. Board and Tuition, per session, payable half yearly in advance, \$250 00. Washing, per session, 10 00. Bedding, per session, (optional), 30 00. Doctor's Fees, 10 00. — PAYABLE IN ADVANCE — \$280 00. The Academic year is divided into two Sessions of five months each, beginning respectively on the first Monday of September and the first of February. Letters of inquiry directed to the SUPERIOR, 1y 2m