

Ex-Senator Edmunds says immigration is the vital problem to-day.

A Berlin journal makes the admission that the best and most skillful dentists in Germany are of "American citizenship."

Goldwin Smith spoke at an annexationist meeting in Ontario, Canada, the other day, declaring that the whole country was either at a standstill or declining in prosperity.

In the last year the American Bible Society printed and issued from the Bible House, New York City, 913,678 copies of the Bible, which is more than two books for every minute of the working days of the year.

The father of the Dalton boys, two of whom were shot recently while trying to rob a bank in Kansas, says they were influenced to begin their career of crime by reading sensational detective tales and other such books.

There is an unwritten law among astronomers that when new bodies are discovered in the heavens they are not to receive the names of their finders, nor of any other person. Without exception the celestial nomenclature is taken from Greek and Roman mythology—not only the gods and mortals enjoying this distinction, but beasts, from Pegasus to Medusa, and occasionally inanimate things of mythological association.

Says the St. Louis Republic: A sensible innovation which Mrs. Harrison introduced at the White House was the abandonment of handshaking at receptions that made the evening one of torture to all her predecessors. She managed this with much tact, by carrying a fan in one hand and a bouquet in the other, so that persons seeing her hands full, were spared the awkwardness of offering a handshake she could not accept.

"The dreaded disease beriberi is unfamiliar to New York, but on this coast," observes the San Francisco Chronicle, "we know it well because it is brought here on so many vessels from the Orient. No one has been able to explain its cause. It is something like elephantiasis, only far more swift and deadly in its effects, and science has not yet discovered any cure for it. It is like many South Sea island maladies which show that in an earthly paradise there is always the trail of the serpent."

Incidental to the war flurry occasioned by the Chilean affair officers of the various railroads received communications from Government officials asking information relative to the movement of troops in large bodies. Secretary Elkins has received a letter from J. T. O'Leary, General Manager of the Baltimore and Annapolis, stating that since the G. A. Able trunk lines, he says, can move from the interior to the coast, taking the mean distance at 1000 miles, 350,000 troops in thirty hours, together with their necessary equipment, horses, etc., and supplies. At the same time, he says, these roads can move enough commercial supplies so as not to affect the general business of the country.

According to the New York Times it is better in that city to be a criminal than to know anything of his crimes. It draws a very forbidding picture of the house of detention, a jail where witnesses are kept sometimes for long periods of time, and not infrequently while the criminal, of whose evil deeds they are supposed to be cognizant, is enjoying his liberty on bail. There is a detail of police attached to the house as a guard. No written communications are permitted to be received by any unfortunate inmate unless they are delivered unsealed to the Sergeant in command, who, upon reading them, determines whether they shall be delivered to the persons to whom they are addressed. No persons are allowed to visit or converse with the persons under detention except with the written permission of the Superintendent of Police, the District Attorney, or the committing magistrate, and then only in the presence of the Sergeant in command.

The Nineteenth Century, on the evidence of its first quarter only, and considering men and women of genius alone, can be shown to be one of the greatest centuries in the history of the world. Born in the first twenty-five years of this period were the following supreme spirits, picked out of a larger "category of the illustrious" in the order of their birth: Cardinal Newman, Victor Hugo, the older Dumas, Ranke, Landseer, Emerson, Liebig, Hawthorne, Cobden, George Sand, Sainte Beuve, Hans Andersen, John Stuart Mill, Longfellow, Lee, Kossov, Agassiz, Lincoln, Darwin, Mrs. Browning, Tennyson, Gladstone, Poe, Courvoisier, de Musset, Thackeray, Bright, List, Leverrier, Browning, Dickens, Greeley, Beecher, Wagner, Bismarck, Mommsen, Ruskin, Lowell, George Eliot, Herbert Spencer, General Sherman, Huxley. The fact that the omissions are nearly as imposing figures in the world as the list here presented emphasizes the grandeur of the Nineteenth Century.

AN OLD SONG WITH A NEW TUNE.

There's a saying old and rusty, But good as any new— "Never trouble trouble Till trouble troubles you." Trouble's like a thistle, That hangs along the way; It cannot fail to wound you, Some other bitter day. But why not walk around it? That's just what you can do; Why should you trouble trouble Before it troubles you? Trouble is a humble bee, It keeps you always vexed; It surely means to sting you, The next time—or the next. But bless you, bees think only Of breakfast dipped in dew; Keep right about 'em, this trouble Will never trouble you. O merry little travelers, Along life's sunny ways, When bumble bees and thistles Affright you at your play, Remember the old promise That your sorrows shall be few, If you never trouble trouble Till trouble troubles you.

THE TOMB-BLOSSOMS.

BY WALT WHITMAN.

A pleasant, fair-sized country village, a village, embosomed in trees, with old churches, one tavern, kept by a respectable widow, long, single-storied farm houses, their roofs mossy, and their chimneys smoke-black, a village with grass and shrubbery, and no mortar, nor bricks, nor pavements, nor gas—no newness; that is the place for him who wishes life in its flavor and its bloom. Until his life, my residence has been in such a place.

Man of cities! What is there in all your boasted pleasure—your fashions, parties, balls and theatres, compared with the simplest of the delights your country folks enjoy.

Our pure air, making the blood swell and leap with buoyant health; our labor and our exercise; our freedom from the sickly vices that taint the town; our not being racked with notes due, or the fluctuations of prices, or the breaking of banks; our manners of sociability expanding the heart and reacting with a wholesome effect upon the body—can anything which citizens possess balance these?

One Saturday, after paying a few days' visit at New York, I returned to my quarters in the country inn. The day was hot, and my journey a disagreeable one. I had been forced to disengage myself beyond comfort and dispatch my affairs quickly, for fear of being left by the cars. As it was I arrived panting and covered with sweat just as they were about to start. Then for many miles I had to bear the annoyance of the steam engine smoke, and it seemed to me that the vehicles kept swaying to and fro on the track with more than usual motion, on purpose to distress my jaded limbs. Out of humor with myself and everything around me when I came to my travel's end, I refused to partake of the comfortable supper which my landlady had prepared for me and rejoined to the good woman's look of wonder at such an unwelcome event, and her kind inquiries about my health, with a sullen silence. I took my lamp and went, as my way to my room. Tired and head throbbing in less than half a score of minutes after I threw myself on my bed, I was steeped in the soundest slumber.

When I awoke every vein and nerve felt fresh and free. Soreness and irritation had been swept away, as it were, with the curtains of the night and the softness of the pillow. I opened my eyes, and lo! I was in a new world. The dewdrops glistened on the grass; the fragrance of the trees floated up to me, and the notes of a hundred birds discoursed music to my ear. By my rays just shooting up in the eastern verge I knew that the sun would be risen in a moment. I hastily dressed myself, performed my ablutions and sallied forth to take a morning walk.

Sweet, yet sleepy scuffle! No one seemed stirring. The placid influence of the day was even now spreading around, quieting and hallowing everything. I sauntered slowly onward, with my hands folded behind me. I passed around the side of a hill, on the rising elevation, and top of which was a burial ground. On my left, through an opening in the trees, I could see at some distance the ripple of our beautiful bay; on my right was the large and ancient field for the dead. I stopped and leaned my back against the fence, with my face turned toward the white marble stones a few rods before me. All I saw was far from new to me, and yet I pondered upon it. The entrance to that place of tombs was a kind of arch—rough-hewn, but no doubt a hardy piece of architecture, that had stood winter and summer over the gate there, for many, many years. Oh, fearful arch! If there were for thee a voice to utter what has passed beneath and near thee; if the secrets of the earthly dwelling that to thee are known and by thee disclosed, whose ear might listen to the appalling story, and its possessor not go mad with terror!

Thus thought I; and, strangely enough, such imagining marred not in the least the sunny brightness which spread alike over my mind and over the landscape. Involuntarily, as I mused, my look was cast to the top of the hill. I saw a figure moving. Could some one beside myself be out so early, and among the tombs? What creature odd enough in fancy to find pleasure there, and at such a time! Continuing my gaze I saw that the figure was a woman. She seemed to move with a slow and feeble step, passing and repassing constantly between two and the same graves which were within half a rod of each other. She would bend down and appear to herself a few moments with the one, and then rise and go to the second, and bend there and occupy herself as at the first. Then to the former one, and then to the second. Occasionally the figure would pause a moment, and stand back a little, and look steadily down upon the graves, as if to see whether her work was done well. Thrice I saw her walk with a tottering and look alternately arrange something and come back to the midway place, and gaze first on the right and then to the left, as before. The figure evidently had some trouble in sitting things to her mind. Where I stood I could hear no noise of her footsteps, nor could I see accurately enough to tell what she was doing. Had a superstitious man beheld the spec-

tle he would possibly have thought that some spirit of the dead, allowed the night before to burst its cerements and wander forth in the darkness, had been belatedly returning, and was now perplexed to find its coffin-house again.

Curious to know what was the woman's employment, I undid the simple fastenings of the gate, and walked over the rank, wet grass toward her. As I came near I recognized her as an old, a very old inmate of the poorhouse at Delator. Stopping a moment, while I was yet several yards from her, and before she saw me, I tried to call to recollection certain particulars of her history, which I had heard a great while ago. She was a native of one of the West India Islands, and before I, who gazed at her, was born, had with her husband come hither to settle and gain a livelihood. They were poor; most miserably poor, I have no doubt, and she, as a woman, seldom like her fingers. So this man and his wife, in all probability, met much to discourage them. They kept up their spirits, however, until at last their fortunes became desperate. Famine and want laid their fingers upon them. They had no acquaintances, and to beg they were ashamed. Both were taken ill; then the charity that had been so slack came to their destitute abode, but came too late. Delator died, the victim of poverty. The woman recovered after awhile, but for many months was quite an invalid, and was sent to the almshouse, where she had ever since remained.

This was the story of the aged creature before me; aged with the weight of seventy winters. I walked up to her. By her feet stood a large, rude basket, in which I beheld, as I have noticed, two great white flowers, which I have seen so often were covered with flowers—the earliest, but sweetest flowers of the season. They were fresh and wet and very fragrant—those delicate soft offerings. Strange! Flowers, frail and passing, grasped by the hand of age, and scattered upon the tomb! White hairs, and pale blossoms, and stone tablets of death!

"Good morning, madam," said I, quietly.

The withered female turned her eyes to mine and acknowledged my greeting in the same spirit wherewith it was given. "May I ask whose graves they are that you remember so kindly?"

She looked up again, probably catching from my manner that I spoke in no spirit of rudeness, inquisitiveness, and answered: "My husband's."

A manifestation of a fanciful taste, thought I, this tomb-ornamenting which she probably brought with her from abroad. Of course, but one of the graves could be her husband's, and one, likewise, was that of a child who had died and been laid away by his father.

"Whose else?" I asked.

"My husband's," replied the aged widow.

Poor creature! her faculties were becoming dim. No doubt her sorrows and her length in life had worn both mind and body nearly to the parting.

"Yes, I know," continued I, mildly, "but there are two graves. One is your husband's, and the other is—"

I paused for her to fill the blank.

She looked at me a minute, as if in wonder at my persistence, and then she answered as before: "My husband's. None but my Gilbert's."

"And is Gilbert buried in both?" said I.

She appeared as if going to answer, but stopped again and did not. Though my curiosity was now somewhat excited, I forbore to question her further, feeling that it might be to her a painful subject. I was wrong, however. She had been rather reticent at my intrusion, and her powers flickered for a moment. They were soon steady again, and perhaps gratified with my interest in her affairs, she gave me in a few brief sentences the solution of the mystery. When her husband's death occurred she was herself confined to a sick bed which she did not leave for a long while after he was buried. Still, for many days passed in the agonies of grief, she was unable to go into the open air. When she did, her first efforts were essayed to reach Gilbert's when she found him sunk to her heart out to her! With the care she pointed out, which is shown to the corpses of outcasts, poor Delator had been thrown into a hastily dug hole, without any notice, or noticing it, or remembering which it was.

Subsequently, several other papers were buried in the same spot, and the sexton could only show two graves to the desolate woman, and tell her that her husband was positively one of the twain. During the latter stage of her recovery she had looked forward to the consolation of coming to his tomb as to a shrine, and wiping her tears there; and it was bitter that such could not be. The miserable widow even attempted to obtain the consent of the proper functionaries, for, even if another body should be buried in her grave, she would be permitted to do so, and her anxious heart told that this could not be done, she determined in her soul that at least the remnant of her hopes and intentions should not be given up.

Every Sunday morning in the mild season, she went forth early and gathered fresh flowers and dressed both the graves.

So she knew that the fight one was cared for, even if another shared that care. And lest she should possibly neglect the most of their testimony of love on him she knew not, but whose spirit might be looking down invisible in the air and smiling upon her, she was very careful to have each tomb adorned in an exactly similar manner. In a strange and odd manner, she had done so. When the baby was first put in its mother's arms, she looked at the hands, and with a wistful eye, and a look of coming to herself exhibited the little creature's hands to the attendants, who saw at once the strange likeness to the dead and gone sister. Mrs. Osborne was at first much frightened over the singular circumstance, but at last became convinced that this strange portrait was sent to comfort her. Physicians say, however, that the mother's caress of the dead child impressed the unborn infant, who merely repeated her mental pictures of the little girl as she last beheld it.

The image on the palm was much clearer the first few days of the baby's life than now, and is thought to be gradually fading away. The family are very sensitive on the subject, and have resorted to show the child except to relations and most intimate friends, but a dim repetition of her mental pictures of the little girl as she last beheld it.

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gray-haired crone had heart to swell with passion, and her pulses to throb and her eyes to sparkle. No nothing remains but a lively remembrance, coming as of old, and stepping in its accustomed path, not to perform its former object, or former duty—but from long habit. Nothing but that! Oh! is not that a great deal?

And the buried man—he was happy to have passed away as he did. The woman—she was the one to be pitied. Without doubt she wished many times that she were laid beside him. And not only so, thought I, as I cast my eyes on the solemn memorials around me; but at the same time there were thousands of others on earth who panted for the long repose, as a tired child for the night. The grave—the grave—what foolish man calls it a drearful place? It is a kind friend whose arms I'll compass us round about, and who will be ready to receive us, when we no care, temptation, nor corroding passion shall have power to disturb us.

Then the weary spirit shall no more be weary; the aching head and the aching heart shall be strangers to pain; and the soul that was fretted and sorrowed away its little life on earth will sorrow no more. When the mind has been roaming abroad in the crowd, and the sense is tired of hollow hearts and of human deceit, let us think of the grave and of death and they will seem like soft and pleasant music. Such thoughts then soothe and calm our pulses; they open a peaceful prospect before us. I do not dread the grave. There is many a time when I could lay down and pass my immortal part through the valley of the shadow, as composedly as I could water across a trossed walk. For what is there of terror in taking our rest? What is there here below to draw us with such fondness? Life is the running of a race—a most weary race, sometimes. Shall we fear the goal merely because it is shrouded in a cloud?

I rose and carefully replaced the parted flowers and bent my steps carefully homeward.

If there be any sufficiently interested in the fate of the aged woman, that they wish to know further about her, for I will add that ere long her affection was transferred to a region where it might receive the reward of its constancy and purity. Her last desire—and it was complied with—was that she should be placed midway between the two graves.

Ammonia is one of the most useful drugs in the household. It is most effective as an agent in dissolving dirt and grease. In cleaning a window, it should be used in about the proportion of a tablespoonful to a quart of water. It makes the water softer than rain water, and it is especially refreshing in the bath. Nothing will clean lamps, lamp chimneys, looking glasses and window panes like ammonia. In using it on colored cloth, first test it on a sample to see that it does not spot. When a stain is produced by iron juice or any other acid, nothing is so effective as ammonia in neutralizing and thus removing it. A few drops to a pint of water sprinkled on the roots of house plants will produce an abundant growth. Stains on marble can be removed by rubbing them well with a tooth brush dipped in powdered chalk and ammonia.

The steam radiator pipes are now a feature of many winter houses, and with their garish gilding are a blot of ugliness in a handsome parlor. One of the best ways of concealing these pipes, without reducing their usefulness, is to place a pretty ornamental screen around them, allowing the pipes to radiate through the slats. Some clever women arrange a series of shelves or a single shelf to project just over the radiator, from the bottom of which they hang curtains of soft white muslin. There is a suggestion in this drapery, however, similar to the piano legs in petticoats, and the ornamental screen seems to be a far more sensible and artistic way of dealing with this problem in decoration. Beautiful Japanese screens may now be had at a very low price in the city shops, for their attention to receive French screens, gilded and hung with brocade, and the massive ones which come from Vienna, for dining-rooms and libraries, and are covered with gilded and painted leather in renaissance designs.

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