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Congressional Manners.

Congress has several times had under consideration a plan for organizing a school of instruction for those who shall enter the civil service of the government. It would not be a bad idea, if the plan were adopted, to require that all candidates for Congress shall be matriculated in this institution, and graduated only after passing through a full and complete course in good manners. The scenes which have occurred during the present week are not such as to inspire the people with respect for the breeding of their representatives.

On Wednesday, Mr. Fernando Wood earned a vote of censure by speaking of the reconstruction bills as "the most infamous measures of this infamous Congress," and refusing to retract when asked so to do. Shortly afterward, Mr. Ross, as if not to be outdone in discourtesy, alluded to the joy which Gen. Hancock's policy gave the "rebels at the South, and their rebel brethren on the floor of the House." But he had sufficient lingering good sense to withdraw the offensive expressions applied to his peers. Yesterday, Mr. Ross, of Illinois, spoke of Mr. Washburne as a "muck soldier, who rotated from the station of brigadier to that of congressman, and took pay for both," and who had "all his relatives quartered upon the government." Thereupon Mr. Washburne, defending his colleague, complimented Ross as one of those who "took heavy contracts from the government, and, while fattening upon the spoils, attempted to destroy it—entering the House while their hands were dripping with blood." This suggested to Mr. Ross the fact that Washburne is "the groomman of a Presidential candidate in the bondholders' interest"—with which observation, and others of the same sort, the unprofitable debate closed.

There is something very pitiful in this tourney of blackguardism, which would disgrace a pot-house and make a loafer blush. What shall we think of the statesmanship of those who cannot discuss the gravest questions of public policy without calling each other names; nor settle the fundamental principles of government without raking the vocabulary of billingsgate for offensive epithets to apply to each other? Just now it is in the highest degree important that Congress should enjoy the respect and confidence of the country. Members who thus make it the arena for an exhibition of coarseness, not only degrade themselves, but do infinite harm to the cause of constitutional liberty, of which they are the defenders. At a period when the country is passing through a crisis that may decide its destiny for all time, our congressmen, at least, should approach their duties with a grave decorum that comports with their magnitude and importance. Let buffoonery and rallery be reserved entirely for the President and his allies. Such scenes as those of the present week remind us too forcibly of those in the French Chambers which accompanied the dawning of revolution. [Albany Evening Journal, Jan. 18th.]

It was the saying of a heathen that he who would do good must either have a faithful friend to instruct him, or a watchful enemy to correct him.

"Who owns the city of New York today?" asked Mr. Beecher, in his sermon recently, and his prompt reply to his own query was, "the Devil."

AVARICE AND GENEROSITY.—An anecdote is told of Velpeau, the eminent French Surgeon, who died a few years ago. He had successfully performed on a little child five years old a most perilous operation. The mother came to him and said:

"Monsieur, my son is saved and I know not really how to express my gratitude; allow me, however, to present you with this pocket book, embroidered by my own hands."

"O Madame," replied Velpeau sharply, "my art is not merely a question of feeling. My life has its requirements, like yours. Dress even, which is a luxury for you, is necessary for me. Allow me therefore, to refuse your charming little present, in exchange for more substantial remuneration."

"But, Monsieur, what remuneration do you require? Fix the fee yourself."

"Five thousand francs, Madame?"

The lady very quietly opened the pocket book, which contained ten one thousand franc notes, and counted out five, and after politely handing them over to Velpeau, retired.

A PARCEL OF PROVERBS.—If the cap fits, wear it—out.

Six of one, and half-a-dozen of the other—exactly twelve.

None so deaf as those who won't hear—hear! hear!

Faint heart never won fair lady—nor dark one either.

Civility costs nothing—nay, is something to your credit.

The best of friends must part their hair.

Any port in a storm—but old port preferred.

One good turn deserves another—in waltzing.

Youth at the plow and Pleasure at the helm—very seasick.

NEW PRINTING PRESS.—M. Marioni, a Parisian, has invented a new and remarkable printing press, which strikes off six hundred copies a minute. Four of these presses are now in operation in the office of the Petit Journal, a morning journal, and work off 144,000 copies an hour, the circulation of the paper being 446,000 daily.

Reform in Courtship.

Wonders will never cease. In this progressive age and this rapid land it is never safe to imagine we are at the end of our rope, and that no more new ideas are going to be presented. After all the affluence of strange notions, intellectual, religious, political, and social, that have marked these last twenty-five years, we to-day ask attention to one not less strange, not less revolutionary, not less opposed to all our time-honored prejudices and usages than any of its predecessors. We refer to a movement lately set on foot for the purpose of introducing a new system for preparing for marriage, or, in other words, a new system of courting. To this interesting subject we this morning devote a considerable portion of our columns, as our readers may convince themselves by turning to another page, where they will find the argument for this rather unexpected reform presented with eloquence and effect by one of the most distinguished and admired of our female authors. As we understand the proposition, it is that in the future, in all those tender little acts of admiration and devotion which make up so large a part of that most delicious stage of human experience which begins with falling in love, and ends—if events proceed favorably—with a proposal of marriage, the initiative shall be taken by the lady. It shall be her part to make the first trembling, fearful, anxious advances. She shall send the bouquets and sing the serenades. She, finally, taking advantage of some lull in the intoxicating whirl of the dance, or of some kindly shade in the afternoon stroll, or of any of those thousand protecting accidents that are ever wont to befriending true lovers, shall whisper the momentous question, and, we presume, offer the first thrilling kiss when the hoped-for affirmative response has been sighed forth in blushes.

We declare that we are as yet unable to form a decided judgment upon this important project. Our prejudices—and we confess it with terror, lest the fair advocate of this interesting reform should class us among those "imbeciles of both sexes" against whom she launches her sarcasms in advance,—our prejudices are decidedly in favor of the old method. It is convenient; it is also pleasant; and its results have so far been pretty satisfactory. It is true, however, that experience may prove to be in favor of the new plan, and the fervor with which Mrs. Oakes Smith advocates it makes us feel that there is probably something in the whole subject that transcends our knowledge. Accordingly, we will take the course which prudence indicates; and for the present, at least, will decline to be counted either among the friends or the antagonists of the proposed reform. We hope, nevertheless, that the movement will not be allowed to languish; measures should at once be taken for a thorough agitation of the country in its behalf. Conventions should be held, societies formed, and every other means of public discussion resorted to. In this way, whatever truth there may be in the idea will soon be established like a great rock that can never be overturned. [New York Sun.]

There are thirty pounds of blood in the human frame, and two hundred and forty-eight bones. Women have the same number, not including whalebone.

A Connecticut infant was so fortunate as to be born with three noses. Would do for a Congressional smelling committee.

The entire amount of gold in the world at the present time is estimated at about \$5,950,000,000 in value. If melted together it would make a lump of 600 cubic yards. If beaten out into gold-leaf it would cover an area of about ten thousand square miles, a tract one hundred miles square, less than the extent of Vermont, and little more than a fifth of either Pennsylvania or New York.

An Ohio gentleman had a dream six months ago, in which the day of his death was predicted to him. On the day of his intimation, he took out an insurance policy for \$3000, got on a railroad train and was burned to death at Angola.

John Van Buren once sauntered into one of our city courts, and seated himself beside a friend who was conducting an important suit. After several questions had been put and exceptions taken, Mr. Van Buren, thinking that the ruling of the bench was a little odd, asked, in his peculiarly quiet way: "who is on the other side, in this case, besides the Judge?"

Congress has given to the different Pacific Railroad companies one million and a quarter acres of land, worth now at least two hundred millions of dollars, and in five years it will be worth a thousand million—perhaps twice as much.

A new style of veil has been invented. It allows the lady to see—the covering for the eyes being of different material from the portion that covers the face.

The London Times publishes a statement that the foundation of Solomon's Temple has been exhumed, and that even the pinnacle on which the tempter placed our Saviour has been uncovered to its base.

An illicit distiller in Chicago kept the revenue officers away by posting the sign "small pox" over his door.

SOLOMON'S THRONE.—The following account of this remarkable piece of mechanism purports to be taken from the Persian manuscript, called "The History of Jerusalem."

The sides of it were of pure gold, the feet of emeralds and rubies intermixed with pearls, each of which were as large as an ostrich's egg. The throne had seven sides, on each side were delineated orchards full of trees, the branches of which were of precious stones, representing fruit, ripe and unripe; on the tops of the trees were to be seen figures of plumaged birds, particularly the peacock, the emah and kargas. All these birds were hollowed within artificially, so as to occasionally utter melodious sounds, such as the ear of mortal never heard. On the first step were delineated vine branches having bunches of grapes, composed of precious stones of various kinds, fashioned in such a manner as to represent the various colors of purple, violet, green and red, so as to render the appearance of real fruit. On the second step, on each side of the throne, were two lions of terrible aspect, large as life, and formed of cast gold.

The nature of this remarkable throne was such that when Solomon placed his foot on the first step, the birds spread their wings and made a fluttering noise in the air. On his reaching the third step, the whole assemblage of demons, and fairies and men, repeated the praise of the Deity. When he arrived at the fourth step, voices were heard addressing him in the following manner: "Son of David, be thankful for the blessings which the Almighty has bestowed upon us." The same was repeated on his reaching the fifth step. On his reaching the sixth, all of the children of Israel joined them; and on his arrival at the seventh, all the birds and animals became in motion, and ceased not until he had placed himself on the royal seat, when the birds, lions and other animals, by secret springs, discharged a shower of the most precious perfumes on Solomon, after which two of the kargas descended and placed the golden crown upon his head.

Before the throne was a column of burnished gold, on the top of which was a golden dove, which held in its hands a volume bound in silver. In this book were written the Psalms of David, and the dove having presented the book to the King, he read aloud a portion of it to the children of Israel. It is further related that on the approach of evil persons to the throne, the lions were wont to set up a terrible roar, and to lash their tails with violence, the birds also, and the demons and genii to utter horrid cries; so, for fear of them, no one dared be guilty of falsehood, but all confessed their crimes. Such was the throne of Solomon, the son of David.

FUN AT HOME.—Don't be afraid of a little fun at home, good people! Don't shut up your houses lest the sun should fade your carpets; and your hearts lest a hearty laugh shakes down some of the dusty old cobwebs there. If you want to run your boys, let them think that all mirth and social enjoyment must be left on the threshold without, when they come home at night. When once a home is regarded as only a place to eat, drink, and sleep on, the work is begun that ends in gambling houses and reckless degradation. Young people must have fun and relaxation somewhere; if they don't find it at their own hearthstones, it will be sought at other and perhaps less profitable places. Therefore let the fire burn brightly at night and make the homestead delightful with all those little arts that parents so perfectly understand. Don't repress the buoyant spirit of your children. Hall an hour of merriment, round the lamp and firelight of a home; blot out the remembrance of many a care and annoyance during the day; and the best safeguard they can take with them into the world is the unseen influence of a bright little domestic sanctum.

A new daily paper has been started in Paris. It is printed on a paste formed of confections, and can be eaten after it is read. All its news will be well digested, of course.

The word "tariff" comes from the old Moorish fortress of Tariff on a promontory at the straits of Gibraltar. The Moors occupying this fortress exacted a duty on all merchandise coming in or going out of the Mediterranean sea.

The Round Table is authority for the statement that Gen. Grant's reticence is carried into religion as well as politics, and that he attends Dr. Gallaudet's Church for deaf mutes.

The Paris papers insist that the object of the English expedition to Abyssinia is to establish themselves permanently in that country, as an offset to the French establishment in Africa.

MISSED IT.—"Do you believe in appearance of spirits, father?" asked a rather fast young man of his indulgent sire.

"No, Tom, but I believe in their disappearance, since I missed my bottle of Bourbon last night," replied the old gentleman.

What is your height Pat? The man that measured me said it was five foot ten, or ten foot five, I am not exactly sure which, but it was either one or the other.

It is stated that the funds removed from the Treasury of the State of Georgia by the Gov. Jenkins before his removal amount to \$350,000.

NECESSARY RULES OF SLEEP.—Dr. Winslow wisely says there is no fact more clearly established in the physiology of man than this, that the brain expends its energies and itself during the hours of wakefulness, and that these are recuperated during sleep. If the recuperation does not equal the expenditure, the brain withers—this is insanity. Thus it is that, in early English history, persons who were condemned to death by being prevented from sleeping, always died raving maniacs; thus it is also that those who are starved to death become insane—the brain is not nourished, and they cannot sleep. The practical inferences are three:—1st, Those who think most, who do most brain work, require most sleep. 2d, That time "saved" from necessary sleep is infallibly destructive to mind, body, and estate. Give yourself, your children, your servants—give all that are under you, the fullest amount of sleep they will take, by compelling them to go to bed at some regular hour, and to rise in the morning the moment they awake; and within a fortnight, Nature, with almost the regularity of the rising sun, will unloose the bonds of sleep the moment enough repose has been secured for the wants of the system. This is the only safe and sufficient rule; and as to the question how much sleep any one requires, each must be a rule for himself—great Nature will never fail to write it out to the observer under the regulations just given. [Scientific American.]

WHO IS SAFE.—God has never yet created a mind that can safely challenge combat with the appetite for drink. Earth has no ambition that is not engulphed, no hope which is not blasted, no tie which is not broken, no sanctuary which is not invaded, no friend, kinsman, brother, wife, or child that is not forgotten; no fibre of human agony which is not wrung. Minds of common mould will go through life without excess while those gifted with God-like powers are smitten with weakness. The gifted author of Childe Harold walked in fetters, and died at Missolonghi of a drunken debauch. He who led the prosecution in the British Parliament against Hastings, was hurried to the grave to escape the clutch of his landlord. Poor Charles Fox; and the author of Gertrude of Wyoming, died a drivelling imbecile. How the "Gentle Elia" wept of the habit that enthralled him. Ah! how the tragedies of human individual history—of temptation and fall—stalks before us! The history of the best minds of our land is darkened by these episodes of weakness and ruin.

THE PAPER BUSINESS.—It is estimated that there are 1000 paper mills in the United States, with about \$40,000,000 capital, and producing about 1,200 tons of paper daily. The rags that are used annually are said to be worth \$60,000,000, and amount to 37,500 tons.

Press.—A Frenchman having heard the word "press" made use of—to imply, persuade, press the gentleman to take some refreshments, press him to say, etc.—thought he would show his talents by using what he imagined a synonymous term, and he therefore made no scruple to cry out in company, "Pray, squeeze that lady to sing."

Some of the results of the census taken throughout Germany on the 31 of December, 1867, have already been published. Breslau has now a population of 186,4; Erfurt, 40,555; Cologne, 119,516; Eberfel, 68,000; Aix-la-Chapelle, 68,000; Leipzig, 91,598; Nuremberg, 71,798; Dusseldorf, 62,806; Essen, 40,430; Wurzburg, 41,606; Osnabruck, 19,574.

A negro delegate offered a resolution in the Georgia Convention to the effect that "no man or woman, of either race, be allowed to intermarry, unless he and she, the contracting party, want to."

The total number of emigrants that sailed from Liverpool to all parts of the United States, British North America, the Australian colonies, South America, etc., for the year just closed, amounted to 115,681, and for the previous year 123,383, showing a decrease as compared with 1866 of 7702.

The entire corn crop for 1867 amounted to 775,820,000 bushels. One-fifth smaller than the year preceding.

The girls of Northampton have been sending a bachelor editor a bouquet of tansy and wormwood. He says he don't care—he'd rather smell that than matrimony.

The New Haven Register tells of one of the best mechanics in that city, who cannot obtain work at any price—and his case is not an exception—while his family for a month have been living on one meal a day. His color is white, otherwise he might go South and draw his rations from the Bureau.

An editor in Michigan, talking of corn, professes to have a couple of ears fifteen inches long. Some folks are remarkable for the length of their two ears.

Gentleness and forbearance are so sweetly tempered and mingled in the constitutions of women, that they bear the hardship of their lot, however peculiarly severe it may be, without leveling a satire against such as are, by the generality of their sex, regarded as more fortunate.

Whatever is lovely changes—the sea and the barren rocks will remain forever as they are.

The Hebrew population in the world numbers 7,000,000.

There are 54,000 places of worship in the United States.

OLD MAN GRANT SOUNDS HIS BOY

"ULYSSES"—The General's father came to town the other day, and stopped with "Ulysses," as he calls his boy, whom he found seated at his fireside, smoking, of course, and surrounded by members of his private and military family. About the first thing the old gentleman did after shedding his overcoat, was to come at his unpumpable offspring with, "Ulysses, are you in favor of negro suffrage?" [No response, only vigorous puffs.] "I say Ulysses, are you in favor of negro suffrage?" "What do you think of it?" inquired the General, with Yankee shrewdness. The old one stated his position—he's for an intelligence qualification, and so on.—"Well, now, Ulysses, I've answered your question, I want you to answer mine. Are you in favor of negro suffrage? If you are, you'll get beat all hollow, with all your popularity, for Ohio went fifty thousand against it, and if she was to vote on it again tomorrow, she'd go a hundred thousand the same way." "I haven't talked politics much in the last five or six years," was the reply of Ulysses, the Silent.

At last accounts, the old gentleman was in doubt as to the position of "Ulysses" on negro suffrage.—Wash. Cor. Columbus Journal.

A ball was recently given in Chicago "for the benefit of the poor," which came within four thousand dollars of paying expenses. The Chicago Tribune publishes the balance sheet and calls upon the poor to liquidate the bill forthwith.

No young man in Cyclades, where the principal business is diving for sponges, is allowed to marry until he can descend easily to a depth of twenty fathoms. They dive deep out there for a wife.

The codfish aristocracy propose to hold a convention to look after the interest of the fisheries.—N. B. Mercury.

PLEASURES OF READING.—Of all amusements that can possibly be imagined for a working man, after a day's toil, or in the intervals, there is nothing like reading a good newspaper or interesting book. It calls for no bodily exertion, of which the man has had enough—perhaps too much. It relieves his home of dullness and sameness. Nay, it accompanies him to his next day's work, and gives him something to think of besides the mere mechanical drudgery of his every day occupation—something he can enjoy while absent, and look forward to with pleasure.

Robert Stevens, colored, of Charleston, has entered suit in the United States District Court against the Richmond and Fredericksburg Railroad, for compelling his wife to ride in a second class car, when she had a first class ticket. He lays damages at \$18,000.

A paper notorious for its veracity says that a man in New Hampshire went out gunning one day last spring—he saw a flock of pigeons sitting on a branch of an old pine, so he dropped a ball into his gun and fired. The ball split the branch, which closed up and caught the toes of all the birds on it. He saw he had got them all, so he fastened two balls together and fired; cut branch off, which fell into the river; he then waded in and brought it ashore. On counting them there were three hundred pigeons, and in his boots were two barrels of shad.

A badly-bunged-up Emerald-Islander, in response to the inquiry, "Where have you been?" said, "Down to Mrs. Mulroony's wake and an illegitimate time we had of it. Fourteen fights in fifteen minutes; only one whole nose left in the house, and that belonged to the tye-kettle."

SOUTHERN INDUSTRIAL CONVENTION.—Dr. A. L. Plough is endeavoring to inaugurate a Southern Industrial Convention, which shall have for its object the education of the young men of the South as practical mechanics, and the establishment of mechanical schools, where they may be taught.

The day fixed for holding the Convention is the 13th of next April.

The preliminary arrangements and the plan for the final operation of this project will be given at an early day. We were shown a circular, setting forth the objects of the convention, which was numerously signed by some of our largest merchants and most influential citizens.

That the South needs mechanics of her own, and that she has been too long dependent upon the North, in this, as in many other respects, does not admit of a doubt, and any plan looking to the education of our own mechanics, and to the development of our own resources, should meet the approbation and cordial support of every Southern man. We wish the Dr. success in his very laudable undertaking.—[N. O. Picayune.]

There is a story of a party of ladies on board a ship in a storm off Cape Hatteras, who blamed their male friends for their superior resignation to the immediate prospect of shipwreck, but who, fortunately arriving at Newbern, broke into wailing and feminine execration over the saturated condition of theinery in their trunks. A woman can endure any form of death better than injury to her point lace, or having her dress stepped on.

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