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LOCAL & GLEANINGS.

BY A REGULAR CONTRIBUTOR.

We were delighted and agreeably disappointed, upon visiting the Universalist Church, on Christmas Eve, to find there a "Christmas Tree," skillfully and artistically arranged and arrayed, glowing under the weight of a "thousand and one" presents, pre-destinated, as the distribution revealed, for Sabbath School Scholars, Members of the Church, and not a few outsiders. After taking a seat, we cast about to see something to attract our attention for a short season. Remembering that we were in a sacred place, and upon witnessing such a vast concourse of the little ones, the following passage of Divine History inadvertently crossed our mind:—

"Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

They sat peacefully, silently, and hopefully, and we are pleased to say that not many, if any, were disappointed. A few minutes elapsed, when a preliminary exercise was indulged in by the entire assemblage—repeating a few passages from Scripture, and also saying over a prayer after Mr. Trezise. At the conclusion of which, it was announced that the distribution would commence, and commence it did.

As each article was announced, by Mr. N. T. SHEPARD, who acted in the capacity of "teller," it was affecting to see the little hand stretched forth, or a distant backoning in the crowd, to indicate the owner of a precious "toy." From parent, brother, sister, or relative. Of course, the older ones received their gifts, entertaining, perhaps, a mental gratefulness for the giver. In particular, we would say that our many little acquaintances, Mr. CLARENCE STREET, was the happy recipient of a very handsome and comfortable suit of clothes, and will add that it was not unworthily bestowed.

A few boys are as prompt in the discharge of their duties, nor as obedient to their parent. In fact, with but few exceptions, the gifts were of a commendable kind, and amounted to several hundred dollars. We hope that the recipients thereof are enjoying the fullness of renewed friendship and entertain peace and good will toward one another. To those little ones throughout our town, who, from some unforeseen cause, were so unfortunate as not to receive a gift, we would say, be patient, for Christmas will come again, we never know one to fail!

When a good deal of muscle and a great deal of common sense are embodied in one person, it often results in good; provided, always, that it is judiciously expended—the former to be used in repelling invasion, the latter to be brought to bear in a voiding danger; hence, the good citizen. But on Saturday morning last, boxes lay in profusion over our streets, and signs were portending from their original abode to adorn the business house of some enterprising man, whose business was altogether foreign to the inscription thereon. The inference is, that "muscle" was entirely in vogue, to the exclusion of good, common sense, and a wanton disregard of men and business. Young men who weekly get their faces scraped by the barber and pride themselves on their manhood should be above such transgressions; and, if they think they are men, let them show it by being gentlemen.

On Christmas Eve, a handsome somebody presented a very pretty somebody with a bunch of scrap tin as a token of his affection!—This gift was suspended and dangled at the end of a piece of "printer's twine." If economy was the object, we suggest that the donor be ferreted out and a tin hat conferred upon him for his generosity, so that in the end he may be enabled to lay up a sufficient amount of "nickles" to present somebody with a block of matches! It reminded us of a placard we once seen, attached to the back of an urchin, placed there by the economical promptings of a Quaker, as was evident from the language, which was as follows:—"These will please give this boy no candy or nuts—he is destined for Illinois. Fare thee well, my little friend."

An old saying: "A green Christmas makes a fat graveyard." We don't pretend to interpret the above, but will be content to leave that to those who can, that they may tell their neighbors. It bids fair, however, to be "green" on both of the holidays, that is, if it don't rain; and we rather it would than rain!

TALK about your "business-discounting" days—two days of this week here—and we presume it was the same all over the country—hung like a pall over McConnellsville, even gloomier and darker than the "Ebony" of the Fifteenth Amendment, which now overshadows the United States.

YOUNG BIGAMY-BRIGHAM-YOUNG is or has been lecturing in New York State, having for his subject "Abuse of the Press." The more that Brigham Junior's system of pressing women into their adulterous matrimony and religion, is abused the better for the whole world.

"CHUR," (who don't know "CHUR") upon being importuned to help the coal-box to some coal, very coolly replied: "I'd as love eat pig-iron!" and, with his usual pleasant grin, lumbered out with a coal-scuttle on each arm.

"ONCE on a time," a droll individual, upon failing to attract the attention of another person, and becoming somewhat exasperated in consequence, passionately exclaimed: "By Georgetown! you can't hear Jerry lightning!"

A NOVEL style of introduction is the following: "Mr. —, this is a new person!" Of course, brevity is a spice, and frequently contains wit, and it's possible that this style may supersede the heretofore lengthy preamble to an acquaintance; but, we think, it's highly improbable, under the reign of former and exquisitely formal "high dicken-florum."

The Zanesville Signal says that a gentleman went from that city to the city of Pittsburgh (easily done) and inquired of a policeman to show him to a hotel, (very clever), which he did; afterwards conducted the verdant Zanesvillian to a house of ill-repute, (all very kind), where he remained just long enough to lose nearly all of his money. Certainly, there's the place to find eye-tooth cutters and money-extractors from your pocket.

A VERY clever young man received, on Christmas Eve, a large peach-blow potato as a memorial from the hand of some fair friend. Potatoes are a good thing. For instance: we read, the other day, of a thief entering a house in which was a lone young lady, who, apprehending his design, and having, just at that time, a pot of hot potatoes on the stove, she commenced pelting him until his entire contents were thrown, and that, too, in such quick succession, that "thiefy" became totally discomfited and fled in dismay—deservedly burned, we suppose. "See him eat!"

McATEE, the individual who was arrested, tried, and discharged for stealing seventy-five dollars from Mr. Henderson, of Bristol township, paid "WILLIE," of A. Kahler & Son's Herald, a compliment for his effort in behalf of the prisoner, McATEE said: "Ah, Mr. Fyle, I know the reason you wear them speckled shirts!" "Why, Mc.?" said the little knight of the pencil. "Oh, because; so you can slip about o' nights where nobody can see you!" If McATEE was idiotic, this prognostication was rational.

A CURIOUS compound of the human species made an exhibition of itself, on our streets, on the day that it is supposed Christ was born—a holy day. We saw no bills for this "Exposition," therefore, can't say as to strict carrying out of the letter of the poster, if any. There appeared to be some dispute between its head and legs; the former wanted to go up, and the latter down street!—How they made it, we can't say; but they say that legs predominated, against the vociferous remonstrances of head, and was afterwards seen in the whirl of "eternal gait," humming, "O, think of my head in the morning!"

The largest and only fertile crop raised in Alaska is said to be—tomatoes!

Political.

GEORGIA.

The bill declaring that the State of Georgia has to be reconstructed over again was passed hurriedly through both Houses of Congress and been signed by the President, and Governor Bullock has commenced active operations in this farce of "reconstruction."

Death of Hon. E. M. Stanton.

The telegraph flashed the announcement over the country, on last Friday morning, that Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War, during the greater part of Lincoln's administration, and until ousted by Andrew Johnson in 1868; and recently appointed to the Supreme Bench of the United States by the present administration, had suddenly died. He was buried on Monday. The death of Mr. Stanton reminds us of a toast given by the Hon. Benjamin Tappan, at a Democratic festival, in Columbus, some years since:

"The Bank of the United States—We will not speak of the dead, nor rail at the damned."

What the Radical Organ at Washington says of Judge Thurman.

The Washington Chronicle, the Radical organ in that city—one of Colonel Forney's "two papers, both daily"—in speaking of the debate in the United States Senate, has this notice of Judge Thurman:

"THE COMING DEMOCRATIC LEADER.—Judge Thurman, of Ohio, who succeeded to the seat lately vacated by Mr. Wade, has given indications by his numerous and ready utterances of the past two days, that the Democracy has at last found its Coming Man. That diminutive body in the Senate has suffered a serious loss by the defeat of Mr. Hendricks, and its leadership has hitherto been uncertain. That doubt has now been dispelled, and Judge Thurman stands forth as the most authoritative exponent of Democracy in our highest legislative body. His speeches yesterday indicated remarkable lucubrations as a debater, and also showed the ex-Chief Justice of Ohio to be an accomplished parliamentary tactician. His unflinching courtesy toward his opponents, his great frankness and fairness in conceding every legitimate inference from their facts, will undoubtedly give him great personal popularity even with the Senatorial majority, who recognize him as a foe man worthy of their steel."

Coming from the source the above does, it is a high compliment, and all who know Judge Thurman will join in saying that it is well deserved.

FROM a recent trial before one of the Washington City Courts, some idea of the enterprise and expense of modern journalism may be had. The case was one in which the New York Tribune was sued for two hundred dollars, claimed as a balance due to a party who had furnished that journal with an advance copy of Grant's testimony before the impeachment Committee, surreptitiously obtained. The Clerk of the Court swore that he was offered \$1,000 for the document by a correspondent whom he did not name, and that he thought he could have got even a higher figure, if he had been willing to compromise himself by selling it. "Mack," of the Enquirer, was one of the witnesses. He was asked by the lawyers how important documents were usually obtained in advance and in violation of the orders of the Departments, and he replied that it was done by the liberal use of money; and that all the great newspapers were generally willing to pay liberally for such things, and that when a report of any kind was really worth an effort it was always obtained. Other witnesses corroborated this statement, and the testimony was, on the whole, very creditable to the enterprise of the American press, though, perhaps, detrimental to the morals of some of the Government officials.

THANK heaven that there is but one man in Congress who has been mean enough to abuse the memory of the dead George Peabody, and that is Schenck. So says the Boston Post.

Donn Platt on Reconstruction.

Donn Platt, in his latest letter to the Commercial, in speaking of the so-called reconstruction act, by which Georgia, as he says, was "reconstructed for the sixteenth time"—each time it was promised was to be a final reconstruction.—says:

"There is a toy, common among children, that consists of a grotesque little figure, with lead in its seat that will keep it in a certain position. You tumble it over, you put its head down, and in a few seconds, as if after some reflection, the absurd thing bounces up in the most unaccountable manner. This illustrates reconstruction. So long as we sit on the figure, or load it down with muskets and cannon, it remains prostrate. But the moment we remove the burden, the figure assumes its upright position, with the head and seat in their predestinated position."

Will the State of Georgia Accept the Terms?

Our Washington correspondent states that Georgia will quietly succumb to the atrocious outrage which has been perpetrated upon her by Congress, and will apparently give her consent to the condition imposed. While we would not assume to criticize our friends in that State, we can say with truth that public sentiment among the friends of the Constitution in the North counsels them to maintain a passive submission, but to do nothing of a positive character that would commit them to this revolutionary violence. If the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment is required, let it be done by negroes and carpet baggers alone; the people should have no hand in it. An active compliance with the conditions will not propitiate, as some may weakly imagine, the Jacobin dynasty. The more that is yielded the more will be required. One demand is the basis of another, just as their partisan necessities may seem to require. What is really necessary is the exercise of a little patience and endurance by the persecuted South. This state of things can not exist long, and will soon, we trust, be swept away; but it can not be hastened by any abridgment in the pool of humiliation and political disgrace.—[Cin. Enq.]

RELIGION OF THE PURITANS.

A writer in the Christian Witness, reviewing the different religious societies of the world, gives the following vigorous picture of the religious creed and practices of the sect of Puritans:

"The Puritans who left England and settled at Plymouth, and founded New England, professed to have fled from persecution, and to seek a place to worship God according to the dictates and rights of conscience, and to christianize the Indians. They were not settled before they robbed the Indians, enslaved their women and children, sold them into foreign bondage, and visited the most inhuman and self-degrading cruelties upon all classes with whom they came in contact. They plundered the towns of the natives. They employed and paid assassins. Bribes were paid for the assassination of chiefs. They burnt hundreds of the natives alive. They roasted at the stake women and children, and burnt them in heaps. Their ablest and favorite divines declared that the burning of four hundred Indians at once, mostly women and children, seemed a sweet savor to God, while they admitted that it was awful to see their blood running and quenching the violence of the burning wood, and to smell the stench.—Mather himself boasted that they had that day sent four hundred souls to hell."

"They turned upon the Quakers." They imposed heavy fines for hearing them speak. They passed laws against all other sects. They flogged Indian men, women and children. They put them in prison and whipped them daily. They cut off their ears. They bored their tongues with red hot irons. They hanged men, women and children as witches, and continued it for fifty years. The colonies of New England were threatened with absolute extermination by their fanaticism. They exiled Baptists and Catholics. They drove women and helpless children, under severest penalties, to seek protection among the savages where they were all murdered, because they differed with them on metaphysical divinity. Mather, the entire clergy, the Governors and Legislatures all combined and vied with each other in radical fury and hate. As late as 1710, they enacted the most barbarous laws

against secretaries and enforced the Baybrook platform.

"And this was all done after the geniuses above named had written—Chaucer had three centuries before written the Canterbury Tales. Spenser had given the world the Fairy Queen and drawn the character of Arthur. A man whose calling was to please the world in an age of almost universal corruption, had made Fortia to plead like an angel, had drawn the characters of Duncan, Miranda, and Antonio; Messenger had written; and Milton had sung the sublimest epic in the world. Bacon had written Novum Organum; Essex, Russell, Raleigh, and Algernon Sidney had bled on the scaffold or in the tower. Magna Charta had been a law over four hundred years. The Petition of Right had been obtained, fifty years before, and Locke had written on toleration in exile."

Miscellaneous.

From the Phila. Post, Dec. 15.
Miserable Death of a Wealthy Old Lady.

Mrs. Ann Kelly, a miserable female of eighty-five years, died suddenly yesterday morning in one of those miserable rockeries that make the name of Baker street distasteful. Her abode was No. 619, a frame building but a single story high, looking as if a strong breeze would demolish it in a twinkling. Here this aged piece of humanity had lived alone for half a century or more. A single room was all that the house contained, and an almost paneless window cast a glimmer of light over the picture of wretchedness and apparent want. The deceased was clad in old tattered garments, scarcely sufficient to hide her nakedness. She lay upon a carpetless floor. An old bed, worn out stove, dilapidated chair and a lifeless table composed all that the room contained, may we except an emaciated dog who stood guard over the remains of his departed mistress. The poor animal was faithful to the last. When Coroner Taylor entered the wretched habitation the canine snarled, and as he approached the body the animal flew at him, and had to be driven from the room.

Mrs. Kelly's death resulted from debility. The only witness in the case was a young man whose cheeks were puffed out with ruin. He mumbled out, in answer to a question by the Coroner, that the deceased had been supplying him with funds to purchase liquor. "Only yesterday morning," he said, "she gave me a ten cent note, and while away getting it changed she died." The deceased had wasted a way to a mere skeleton, her lifeless form weighing less than forty pounds.

The Coroner, after summoning a jury, and ascertaining the cause of her death, was preparing for her burial at the expense of the city, believing that she was poverty stricken, and that her death had been hurried on by want, when a gentleman made his appearance and announced himself as the agent of the deceased. It was then that her history was made known. She was not poor, yet she had lived a wretched life in that iniquitous locality, and had by some means amassed a little fortune. She had from time to time invested her money in real estate in the neighborhood, the income from which was sufficient to support her alone.

THE GENESIS.

Professor Agassiz denies that he has been publicly charged, recently opened a lecture with the statement that he wanted no one to listen to his lectures who believed in the first chapter of "Genesis."—This charge bears on its face the evidence of its falsity, yet Professor Agassiz deems it worthy of notice. He says in a letter to a friend:

"I am little in the habit of noticing things of this kind, being unconvinced that often it is useless, and having become from long habit somewhat callous to misrepresentation. Something in the tone of your letter makes me answer, and unwilling to leave it unanswered, I write to say that the statement you sent me is false. In some opening remarks of a course on geology, which I am now delivering in the University, I said that the 'theological interpretation of the Book of Genesis, giving six thousand years as the age of the world, was a hindrance to the understanding of geological evidence, and no one who started with this idea, and allowed his researches to be influenced by it, could be a geologist. I do not remember my exact words, the lecture being extemporaneous, but this is the substance, and I know that I did not say what your newspaper extract reports."

Gov. Geary, of Pennsylvania, has withdrawn his order for the execution of Dr. Schoeppe, for the supposed murder of one of his patients.

Advice to Unmarried Ladies.

The following advice to ladies remaining in a state of single blessedness, is extracted from the manuscript of an old dowager:

If you have blue eyes, languish. If black eyes, affect spirit. If you have pretty feet, wear short petticoats.

If you are the least doubtful as to that point, wear them long. While you are young, sit with your face to the light.

When you are a little advanced in age, sit with your back to the window.

If you have a bad voice, always speak in a low tone. If you dance well, dance seldom. If you dance ill, never dance at all.

If you sing well, make no puerile excuses. If you would preserve beauty, rise early in the morning.

If you would preserve esteem, be gentle. If you would obtain power, be condescending.

If you are disposed to be pettish or insolent it is better to exercise your ill humor on your dog or cat, or your servant, than your friend.

If it is always in your power to make a friend by smiles, walk folly to make an enemy by frowns.

If you are envious of another woman, never show it by allowing her every quality and perfection except the good she really possesses.

If you wish to let the world know you are in love with a particular man, treat him with formality, and every one else with ease and freedom.

How to be a Spiritualist.

Many persons are inquiring for some explanations of the wonderful spiritual phenomena which they have witnessed, and of which we have heard so much during the last few years. The following item may assist them a little in this work:

A contribution to the literature of spiritualism is made in a published letter from Mr. Faulkner, philosophical instrument maker, No. 40, Russell street, London. Mr. Faulkner writes that for many years he has had a large sale for spirit rapping magnets and batteries expressly made for concealment under the floor, in cupboards, under tables, and even for the interior of the center support for large round tables and boxes; that he has supplied to the same parties quantities of prepared wire, to be placed under the carpets and oilcloth, or under the wainscot and gilt bending around ceilings and rooms; in fact, for every conceivable place; that all these obviously were used for spirit rapping, and the connection to each rapper and battery was to be made by means of a small button, like those used for telegraphic, bell ringing purposes, or by means of a brass headed or other nail under the carpet at particular patterns known to the spiritualist. He describes these rappers as "calculated to mislead the most wary," and adds that there are spirit rapping magnets and batteries constructed expressly for the pocket, which will rap at any part of the room. He has also made drums and bells which will beat and ring at command; but these two latter are not so frequently used as the magnets are, because they are too easily detected.

A REMARKABLE INVENTION.—A steam plow of novel construction has lately been invented in Rochester, which has awakened considerable interest among farmers. The machine is an ordinary double cylinder steam engine and boiler, mounted on two main wheels, five feet in diameter, of eight inches in tread—two smaller ones being placed in front for guiding—and weighing altogether about two tons. The distinguished feature of this machine lies in the main or driving wheels. The rim of each wheel is perforated in twelve equal distant places, and through the apertures twelve spoon-shaped "anchors," each seven inches long by five inches wide, are made to operate in this way: As the wheels revolve, the anchors are made to protrude from them and enter the earth to any desired depth, withdrawing as they pass under the centers of the wheels, and thus obviating all back strains and its consequent waste of power. The hold taken on the ground by the anchors is so great as to withstand almost any strain; and in case they meet with an obstruction through which they can not penetrate, the springs which hold the cams and levers in position recoil to allow them to pass back into the wheels until the cause of resistance has been passed.

A SOLDIER having, by order of a court-martial, been sentenced to receive corporal punishment, one of the drummers ordered to inflict it absolutely refused, saying it was not his duty.

"Not your duty," repeated the adjutant; "what do you mean?"

"I know very well," replied the drummer, "that it is not my duty as well as you, and I heard the Colonel say he was to receive corporal punishment. I am not a corporal, I am only a drummer."

IMPORTANT EVENT.—An event will occur in 1872 which will be of nearly as much importance, as well as interest, to astronomers, as the great eclipse of Aug. 7th. We shall then see the transit of the planet Venus across the sun's disc. The event occurs periodically, but at alternating intervals of remarkable irregularity, the periods being 81.2 and 105.75 years. After 1872, the transit will be again visible in 1890, 2002, 2011 and 2023, and so on, beyond the ken of the youngest inhabitant now on earth. This transit will be observed with peculiar interest, as its condition will aid in the elucidation of several questions, and among others that of the exact distance of our earth from the sun. The last transit was seen in 1850.

GO TO OLD MOTHER.—That old-fashioned mother; one in all the world, the law of whose life was the divinity of our infancy, and the sacred presence in the shrine of our first earthly idolatry, one whose heart is far below the frosts that gathered so thickly on her brow; one to whom we never grow old; but in the plumed troop, or in the grave council, are children still; one who welcomed us as going, and never forgot us as never. And when in some closet, some drawer, some corner, she finds a garment or a toy that once was ours, how does she weep as she thinks we may be suffering or sad? Does the battle of life drive the wanderer to the home-land? Her hand is upon his shoulder, her dim and fading eyes are kindled with something of "the light of other days" as she gazes steadily upon his worn and troubled face. "Be of stout heart, my son; no harm can reach you here." But sometimes that arm chair is set back against the wall, the chair is vacant, or another's, and they seek the dear old occupant in the graveyard.—[Ex.]

Fitz young ladies of Tipton recently met in council and passed the following resolutions:

"Whereas, We mean business; therefore be it:

"Resolved, That we will not accompany any young man to church or other places of amusement who uses tobacco in any manner; and

"Resolved, That we discard all young men who play billiards, euchre or poker, and

"Resolved, that young men who indulge in profane language need not apply, and

"Resolved, That we will not, by 'hook, look or crook,' notice any young man who indulges in lager beer or whisky, and

"Resolved, That we will not harbor young men known to keep late hours."

ADULTERATION OF LIQUORS.—The New Orleans Crescent, advertising to the poisonous adulterations of liquor, now-a-days, very sensibly concludes:

"Abstinence from so-called liquors will soon become a necessity with those who desire to live and enjoy health. The social cup is, indeed, a poisonous cup in these latter days. With strychnine in the whiskey, and drugs and vitriol in the brandy to give it 'body,' 'flavor,' and 'coloring,' the man who quaffs much of either must be made of oak, and copper-fastened, to stand long."

PATRICK saw a bull pawing in a field and thought what fun it would be to jump over, catch him by the horns and rub his nose in the dirt. The idea was so funny that he lay down and laughed to think of it. The more he thought of it the funnier it seemed, and he determined to do it. But quickly tossed him back over the fence again. Somewhat bruised, Patrick leisurely picked himself up with the consolatory reflection:

"Well, it's a mighty fine thing I had my laugh at first."

THE readiness of the Hebrew race in finding specious answers to the very many complaints of those who deal with them, was never better exemplified than in an instance which lately came to our knowledge. An eating house keeper of that persuasion sells soup at five cents a basin. A customer, having consumed his basinful, complained that he had not had his money's worth—the soup was bad, and he had found a piece of worsted sticking in it. Isaac retorted, "I've think we can put bits of silk sticking in soup for five cents a basin?"

LORD DERBY checked the traditional devotion of his party for good old port. Once a wine merchant sent him some Amontillado to try, with the recommendation that if he drank nothing else he would never be troubled with the gout. "I have tasted your cherry," wrote Lord Derby, in reply, "and prefer the knot."

A SOUTHERN paper tells of a negro who insisted that his race was mentioned in the Bible. He said he heard the preacher read about how "Nigger Demus wanted to be born again."