

Miscellaneous.

A SCRIPTURAL PANORAMA—
FITTED TO MUSIC.

Mark Twain tells the following "entertaining history of the Scriptural panorama:"

There was a fellow travelling around, in that country, (said Mr. Nickerson,) with a moral religious show—a sort of Scriptural panorama—and he hired a wooden-headed old slab to play the piano for him. After the first night's performance, the showman says:

"My friend, you seem to know pretty much all the tunes there are, and you worry along first rate. But, then, didn't you notice that sometimes last night, the piece you happened to be playing was a little rough on the proprieties, so to speak—didn't seem to jibe with the general gait of the picture that was passing at the time, as it was—a little foreign to the subject, you know—as if you didn't either trump or follow suit, you understand?"

"Well, no," the fellow said; he hadn't noticed, but it might be; he had played along, just as it came handy.

So they put it up that the simple old dummy was to keep his eye on the panorama after that, and as soon as a stunning picture was reeled out, he was to fit to a dot with a piece of music that would help the audience get the idea of the subject, and warm them up like a camp meeting revival. That sort of thing would corral their sympathies, the showman said.

There was a big audience that night—mostly middle-aged and old people, who belonged to the church, and took a strong interest in Bible matters.

Well, the showman began to swell himself up for his lecture, and the old mud-dauber tackled the piano and ran his fingers up and down once or twice to see that she was all right, and the fellows behind the curtain then commenced to grind out the panorama. The showman balanced his weight on his right foot, and dropping his hands on his hips, flung his eyes over his shoulders at the scenery, and says:

"Ladies and gentlemen, the painting now before you illustrates the beautiful and touching parable of the Prodigal Son. Observe the happy expression just breaking over the features of the poor suffering youth—so worn and weary with his long march, note also the ecstasy beaming from the uplifted countenance of the aged father, and the joy that sparkles in the eyes of the excited group of youths and maidens, and seems ready to burst in a welcoming chorus from their lips. This lesson, my friends, is as solemn and instructive as the story is tender and beautiful."

The mud-dauber was all ready, and the second the speech was finished he struck up:

"Oh, we'll all get blind drunk
When Johnny comes marching home!"

Some of the people giggled, and some groaned a little. The showman couldn't say a word. He looked at the piano sharp, but he was all lovely and serene—he didn't know there was anything out of gear.

The panorama moved on, and the showman drummed up his grit and started fresh:

"Ladies and gentlemen, the fine picture now unfolding itself to your gaze, exhibits one of the most notable events in Bible history—our Savior and his disciples upon the sea of Galilee. How grand, how awe-inspiring are the reflections which the subject invokes! What sublimity of faith is revealed to us in this lesson from the sacred writings! The Savior rebukes the angry waves, and walks securely upon the bosom of the deep."

All around the house they were whispering: "Oh, how lovely, how beautiful!" and the orchestra let himself out again:

"Oh, a life on the ocean wave,
And a home on the rolling deep!"

There was a good deal of honest snickering turned on this time, and considerable groaning, and one or two old deacons got up and went out. The showman gritted his teeth and cursed the piano-man to himself, but the fellow sat there like a knot on a log, and seemed to think he was doing first rate.

After things got quiet the showman thought he would make one more stagger at it, anyhow, though his confidence was beginning to get mighty shaky. The supes started the panorama to grinding again, and he says:

"Ladies and gentlemen, this exquisite painting illustrates the rising of Lazarus from the dead by our Savior. The subject has been handled with rare ability by the artist, and such touching sweetness and tenderness of expression has he thrown into it, that I have known

peculiarly sensitive persons to be even affected to tears by looking at it. Observe the half-confused, half-inquiring look, upon the countenance of the awakening Lazarus. Observe, also, the attitude and expression of the Savior, who takes him gently by the sleeve of the shroud with one hand, while he points with the other hand towards the distant city."

Before anybody could get off an opinion in the case, the innocent old ass at the piano struck up:

"Come rise up, William Ri-i-ey,
And go along with me!"

It was rough on the audience, you bet. All the solemn old flats got up in a huff to go, and every body else laughed till the windows rattled.

The showman went down and grabbed the orchestra and shook him up, and says:

"That lets you out, you know, you chowder-headed old clam. Go to the door-keeper and get your money, and cut your stick—vamoose the ranch. Ladies and gentlemen, circumstances over which I have no control compel me peremptorily to dismiss."

SPIDER SILK.—At a late meeting of the Boston Society of Natural History, Dr. B. G. Wilder exhibited a yellow band of the silk of *Nephila plumipes*, the geometrical spider, which has been woven in the middle of a ribbon, by a power-loom. The thread consisted of eighteen threads, reeled directly from the living spider. Twenty threads from the cocoon of the silkworm were necessary to make a thread large enough to be woven in the usual way.

DEBT AND POPULATION IN EUROPE.—According to Mr. Gladstone, Prussia owes 215 millions of dollars; Holland, 425 millions; Russia, 1,385 millions; Italy 750 millions; Portugal, 165 millions; and Turkey, 255 millions. According to the latest census reports, Prussia has 18½ millions of people; Holland, 3½ millions; Russia, 59½ millions; Austria, 35 millions; France 37½ millions; Italy, 21½ millions; Portugal, 3½ millions; and Turkey, 2½ millions. That is to say, the Prussians owe nearly \$12 per head, the Hollanders \$121 per head, the Russians over \$23, the Austrians over \$45, the French over \$53, the Italians about \$34, the Portuguese nearly \$40, and the Turks \$115 per head of the entire population. The English owe \$125 per head, and the United States owe about \$100.—[N. Y. Sun.

ELECTRICITY IN DEEP SEA SOUNDING.—In deep sea sounding the greatest difficulty is felt, even by experienced persons, in ascertaining the precise moment at which the lead of the sounding line touches the bottom—a matter on which the whole value of the sounding depends. An apparatus invented in France, at Lyons, removes, it is said, every difficulty in the point. The sounding line contains within it, along its whole length, two insulated conducting wires, the upper ends of which are connected respectively with the poles of a galvanic battery in the ship. The lead is in two parts, the lower one of which is partly inserted into the upper, and is capable of a limited vertical motion within that of the other, so that, when left to hang freely, a small empty space is left within the upper portion by the spontaneous descent for a short distance of the lower portion. To the upper end of the lower portion, and within the upper portion, is attached a commutator, which is contained in an insulating and water-proof sheath, and which, when the lower portion of the weight is raised by contact with the ground, comes in contact with the ends of the conducting wires, so as to complete the circuit. Instantly, by means of the ordinary electro-magnetic apparatus, a bell is rung on board the ship to attract the attention of the sounder, and a ratchet is thrown into action, which arrests the unwinding of the line from the drum on which it is coiled, so that no more can run out. This apparatus is capable also, when the lead is kept hanging down at a certain distance from the ship, of indicating the presence of rocks or reefs, or that the water has become shallow, so as to give timely notice of approaching danger.

PRAISE YOUR WIFE.—Praise your wife, man; for pity sake give her a little encouragement; it won't hurt her. She has made your home comfortable, your hearth bright and shining, your food agreeable; for pity sake tell her you thank her, if nothing more. She don't expect it; it will make her eyes open wider than they have these ten years; but it will do her good for all that, and you too.

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION OF PRISONERS.—A return has been published which shows the religious denomination of prisoners committed during 1865 to the following prisons:—The House of Correction, Tothill-fields; House of Correction, Coldbath-fields; House of Detention, Clerkenwell; and the City Prison, Holloway. The total number of persons committed was 26,643, and 18,096 of them are described as belonging to the Church of England, 7,239 to the Roman Catholic body, and 408 to all other denominations. — [Reynolds's Newspaper.

TO KEEP EGGS.—The reason eggs decay is that the atmosphere penetrates the pores of the shell, evaporates the watery portions inside, and decay begins. A remedy is to immerse the eggs in boiling water for a few seconds. It is easily done, for a hundred eggs in a basket can be dipped at once into a tub of boiling water. They are to be held in the water long enough to count 20 at a fast rate. The heat of the water congeals the surface of the albumen immediately under the egg-shell, thus forming an air-tight coating, which prevents evaporation and decay.

A TEETOTAL TOWN.—There is not a liquor shop in Beverly, Mass., and no one can be found to take the state liquor agency.

WANTED.
A SMART INTELLIGENT YOUNG MAN, who wishes to learn the art of MILLING in all its different branches, can find a situation by applying soon at the EXCELSIOR Mill on Big Cottonwood, or to F. KESLER, 16th Ward, G. S. L. City.
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A GOOD REFERENCE REQUIRED.
w26-1m†

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Produce taken at Market Prices.
w25-1f† D. B. HUNTINGTON.

STRAYED OR STOLEN.
FROM Toole, May 30, two American MAKES, one a black, branded S R on left hip and a ring on right shoulder; the other a bay, rather heavy set shoes on front feet, walks pigeon toed, branded on left shoulder with the Isle of Man Coat of Arms, [three legs] not very plain.
Any person finding the above animals and will return or give information of them will receive a suitable reward.
WM. DERR,
16th Ward, G. S. L. City.
w29-3†

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