

MISCELLANEOUS.

A TEST OF CHARACTER.—The use of money has become, in modern society, the test of character. As men use money they use everything and every body. If they are honest and equitable in that, they will be honest and equitable in other things. If not, not. In the intense and universal pursuits of society, it follows that men will manifest in it what manner of spirit they are of. The eagerness with which they pursue the "main chance" absorbs all other feelings and desires. Even the internal laws and ordinances of God, which have been established as a bulwark against the mad assaults of human passions, are no barrier to the master passion. It may be that test comes in the matter of mills or of millions but whenever it comes, and however large or small the transaction is, how few, comparatively, out of the immense multitude engaged in business, can lay their hand on their hearts and say, "I have not overreached or taken advantage, or put a cent into my pocket that was not honestly my own." How few have so scrupulous a sense of honor and honesty that they would no more overreach the Government than their own brother! For beside the amazing ambition of getting rich, another feeling comes into play. To gain the better of a man in a bargain, is counted smartness. The flip of a greater intellectual keenness is added to the love of money. There is something peculiarly fascinating in being quicker, earlier, brighter, faster than your neighbor. It is not that you care so much for the "filthy lucre;" O, no; but you are resolved not to be beaten in a trial of wits. Thus it is that false intellectual pride often joins in the dominant passion of riches to trample the golden rules of honor and fair dealing under foot.

But in spite of all solicitations, how beautiful beyond compare is unswerving uprightness!—[Christian Enquirer.]

CURIOUS FACTS ABOUT WATER.—The extent which water mingles with bodies apparently the most solid, is very wonderful. The glittering opal, which beauty wears as an ornament, is only flint and water. Of every twelve hundred tons of earth which a landholder has in his estate, four hundred are water. The snow capped summits of Snowdon and Ben Nevis have many million tons of water in a solidified form. In every plaster of Paris statue which an Italian carries through our streets for sale, there is one pound of water to every four pounds of chalk. The air we breathe contains five grains of water to each cubic foot of its bulk. The potatoes and the turnips which are boiled for our dinner, have, in their raw state, the one seventy-five per cent., the other ninety per cent., of water. If a man weighing ten stone were squeezed flat in a hydraulic press, seven and a half stone of water would run out, and only two and a half of dry residue remain. A man is, chemically speaking, forty five pounds of carbon and nitrogen, diffused through five and a half pailsful of water. In plants we find water thus mingling no less wonderfully. A sunflower evaporates one and a quarter pints of water a day, and a cabbage about the same quantity. A wheat plant exhales in a hundred and seventy-two days, about one hundred thousand grains of water. An acre of growing wheat, on this calculation, draws and passes out about ten tons of water per day. The sap of plants is the medium through which this mass of fluid is conveyed. It forms a delicate pump, up which the watery particles run with the rapidity of a swift stream. By the action of the sap, various properties may be communicated to the growing plant. Timber in France is, for instance, dyed by various colors being mixed with water and poured over by the root of the tree. Dahlias are also colored by a similar process.

THE EARTH MADE COLD BY HEAT.—Professor Agassiz lately delivered a course of three lectures before the Smithsonian Institute. Washington and the greater part of the last one was devoted to a description of the phenomena which indicate that the continent of North America had at one time been overlaid by dense and unbroken masses of ice, moving from the North to the South. The traces of such an agency are found in the peculiar drift deposited on the surface of the continent, from the Arctic to the 36th or 40th parallel of latitude, being in its nature and composition such as would be deposited by immense cakes of ice, pushing forward the debris of the soil over which they moved, and bearing on their top the irregular masses of stone which are found in the region designated. That the direction of this moving ice was from north to south is proved by the abrasion of hills having an acclivity facing toward the north, where the southern descent is without such characteristic marks.

After stating the grounds on which the "earthquake theory" was inadequate to explain the phenomena of this drift, Prof. Agassiz estimated that the ice which deposited this drift and produced its other attendant phenomena must have been five or six thousand feet thick. But whence came the cold which produced such a thickness of ice? This query was answered by supposing that there had been ejected into the sea from the subterranean fires of the earth below it a vast mass of melted material, thus generating an immense volume of vapor, which escaping for years into the upper air, and was condensed and fell in the shape of snow and hail. By this mass of snow and hail the temperature of the earth's climate was reduced from the comparative warmth which preceded it, even in arctic re-

gions, and the world entered on the "cold period" which it was the object of the lecturer to describe and to account for while describing. Prof. Agassiz said that this period was the winter which preceded man's advent in the world.—[Scientific American.]

AN "OPIUM HELL" IN JAVA.—What spirituous liquors are for the European, opium is in Java for the Mahomedan and Chinaman. A European of the lower classes may sit in his tap-room and debase himself by his sordidness; but he does it with an uproarious merriment which would make one think he was really happy, spite of the headaches and delirium tremens he may know are in store for him. But in an opium hell all is as still as the grave. A murky lamp spreads a flickering light through the low-roofed suffocating room in which are placed bales, or rough wooden tables, covered with coarse matting, and divided into compartments by means of bamboo-reed wainscoting. The opium smokers—men and women—lost to every sense of modesty, throw themselves languidly on the matting, and their heads supported by a greasy cushion, prepare to indulge in their darling vice. A small burning lamp is placed on the table, so as to be easily reached by all the degraded wretches who seek forgetfulness or elysium in the fumes of opium. A pipe of bamboo-reed, with a bowl at one end to contain the opium, is generally made to do service to two smokers. A bit of opium about the size of a pea costs sixpence (a day's wages); but is sufficient to lull by its fumes the sense of the smoker. These fumes they inhale deliberately, retaining them in the mouth as long as they can, and then allowing them gradually to exhale through the nostrils. After two or three inhalations, however, the opium is consumed, and the pipe falls from the hands of its victim. At first the smokers talk to each other in a whisper scarcely audible, but they soon become still as the dead. Their dull sunken eyes gradually becoming bright and sparkling; their hollow cheeks seem to assume a healthy roundness; a gleam of satisfaction—nay, of ecstasy—lightens up their countenances as they reveal in imagination in those sensual delights which are to constitute their Mahomedan paradise. Enervated, languid, emaciated as they are, in fact, they seem and feel for the time regenerated; and though they lie there, the shameless and impassive slaves of sensuality and lust, their senses are evidently steeped in bliss. Aroused, however, from their dreams and delusions, the potency of the charm exhausted—driven from their hell by its proprietor—see them next morning walking with faltering step, eyes dull as lead, cheeks hollow as coffins, to their work.

INGENIOUS CLOCK.—We once saw, says the St. Louis Republican, a clock in a factory at Cincinnati, which performed the remarkable feat of reporting in the morning every half hour the watchman may have devoted to sleep during the previous night, instead of looking after the interests of his employer. The factory was five stories high, and the clock was in the lower story. Around its face, just outside its figures, is a circle of pins, jutting out from the dial, and capable, by means of machinery, of being drawn in even with the dial. Outside of these is an index which points to each of these pins consecutively every half hour. At the expiration of each half hour, the index, owing to the broadness of the head of the pin, requires five minutes to pass over, thus allowing the watchman that length of time to remove the pin, which duty is made obligatory upon him. To effect this, so ingenious and complicated is the machinery, he has first to ascend to the fifth story; then pull a wire, which prepares the machinery for the next move and then descend to the third story and there pull another wire connected with the clock below, which removes the pin from the face of the clock in the first story. This must be done at the time pointed out by the index before alluded to, or else the pin cannot be pushed in until the index has traversed the whole circle, and returned to the same point again, which would be sometime during the next day. Consequently, if the watchman is neglectful, the dial in the morning will point out each half hour of his delinquency during the night. It will be perceived also that he will be compelled to go over the whole building once every half hour.

VAST ARMIES AND THEIR MOVEMENTS.—There have been vast armies and grand movements before these days. Here is a record of some of them.

Sennacherib, the Bible tells us, lost in a single night 185,000 men by the destroying angel.

The City of Thebes had a hundred gates, and could send out at each gate 10,000 fighting men and 200 chariots; in all, 1,000,000 men and 2,000 chariots.

The army of Terah, King of Ethiopia, consisted of 1,000,000 men and 300 chariots of war.

Seostris, King of Egypt, led against his enemies 600,000 men, 24,000 cavalry, and 27 scythe-armed chariots; 1491, before Christ.

Hamilca went from Carthage, and landed near Palermo. He had a fleet of 2,000 ships and 3,000 small vessels, and a land force of 300,000 men. At the battle in which he was defeated, 150,000 were slain.

Ninus, the Assyrian king, about 2,200 years before Christ, led against the Bactrians his army, consisting of 1,700,000 foot, 200,000 horses, and 16,000 chariots armed with scythes.

Semiramis employed 2,000,000 men in building the mighty Babylon. She took 1,000,000 prisoners at the Indus, and sank 1,000 boats.

A short time after the taking of Babylon, the forces of Cyrus consisted of 600,000 foot, 120,000 horses, and 2,000 chariots, armed with scythes.

An army of Cambyses, 50,000 strong, was buried up in the desert sands of Africa by a south wind.

When Xerxes arrived at Thermopylae, his land and sea forces amount to 2,614,610, exclusive of servants, eunuchs, women, sutlers, etc., in all numbering 5,283,220. So say Herodotus, Plutarch and Isocrates.

The army of Artaxerxes before the battle of Cunaxa amounted to about 1,200,000.

Ten thousand horse and 100,000 foot fell on the fatal field of Issus.

When Jerusalem was taken by Titus, 1,100,000 perished in various ways.

The army of Tamerlane is said to have amounted to 1,600,000, and that of his antagonist, Bajezet, 1,009,400.

EMINENT WOMEN.—Madame Roland could prepare her husband's meals with her own hands, and at night delight the most literary company of France by her brilliant powers. Mrs. Washington, the mother of the General, always attended to her domestic affairs, even in the presence of the most distinguished guests. Lafayette paid her a visit before his departure for Europe, in the Fall of 1784. He was conducted to her mansion by one of her grandsons. "There, sir, is my grandmother," said he, as they approached the house. Lafayette looked up, and saw at work in the garden, "clad in domestic made clothes, and her gray head covered with a plain straw hat, the mother of his hero." She gave Lafayette a cordial welcome, observing—"Ah, Marquis, you see an old woman, but, come, I can make you welcome to my poor dwelling without the parade of changing my dress."

Mrs. Martha Washington, the wife of the General, was no less distinguished for her management of household affairs. She was a "good seamstress, a good cook, and a good mother." She understood every department of domestic labor, and was ever ready to do what was required. Mrs. Troupe, the accomplished wife of a captain of the British navy, once visited her, and she gave the following account of Mrs. Washington's appearance:

"Well, I will honestly tell you I never was so ashamed in all my life. You see, Madame, and Madame, and myself, thought we would visit Lady Washington; and as she was said to be so grand a lady, we thought we must put on our best bibs and bands. So we dressed ourselves in our most elegant ruffles and silks, and were introduced to her ladyship. And, don't you think, we found her knitting, and with a check apron on! She received us very graciously and easily, but after the compliments were over, she resumed her knitting. There we were, without a stitch of work, and sitting in state; but General Washington's lady, with her own hands, was knitting stockings for her own husband."

THE EVERY-DAY LIFE OF A NEW YORK POLITICIAN.—"The Counselor" sends us the following Pen and Ink portrait: Who is the original? Few persons living outside of the city of New York have any idea what kind of a life a ward politician in the Empire City of the Empire State leads from day to day. Well, the first thing he does in the morning after waking is to swallow two or three bourbon cocktails, or else brandies and soda, before he leaves his bed, as his nerves are not steady enough in the morning, after last night's debauch, to dress himself without he takes a few braces in the shape of whisky cocktails or brandy smashes. Having dressed himself he makes his way to the barber shop, where he gets shaved and has his head well rubbed with plenty of hair tonic and bay rum, and then feeling, with the help of a few more bourbons, pretty good, he tries something to eat; generally a little broiled mackerel or a few sardines and a cup of coffee, with a glass of brandy in it satisfies him, as his appetite is not very good in the morning; as it is now almost noon he takes a conveyance and rides down town as far as the City Hall, where he meets a crowd of city thieves and dead beats, just like himself, whom he goes with over to De Montic's or Bangs', or some other well known resort for politicians, and partakes of several more cocktails; he stops there for a couple of hours, during which time he has several times smiled; and now feeling a little better and livelier than he did when he first woke up in the morning, you can hear his voice above all the rest of the company, telling what influence he has got in his ward, and what he can do at a primary in the way of stuffing ballot boxes, etc. Alderman Roball having entered, our Ward politician talks louder and louder, and by way of emphasis strikes the counter with his fist in an impressive manner, and perhaps breaks a tumbler or two, the way that every person's attention in the room will be drawn to himself. After getting pretty well filled, he makes for his own ward where he resides, arm in arm with Alderman Roball or Councilman Takeall, as the case may be, who he is continually telling what an amount of influence he controls and what he can do at a primary and how he can use the boys on election day. Having arrived at a noted gin-mill, he invites his company in with him to have a smile. Of course, now is the time to show himself both liberal and influential at the same time; so he treats all the house, or in other words invites all the bummers, bloats and hams, who hang around every liquor store to take a drink with him. He calls them all by name, as he knows every one of them personally, being in the habit of frequenting the store every evening, blowing about politics, and drinking benzine, cam-

phene and burning fluid, under the false names of rum, whisky and brandy, until he becomes so drunk that he has to be carried home on a shutter, and put to bed like a child, to wake up in the morning and go through the same rounds as he did the day previous. Now, the ignorant portion of the community might think that he led this kind of a life because he liked it. Not at all. He makes his living by it, as he generally holds some position worth from three to five dollars a day, and for which wages he never does an hour's mental or physical labor. Oh, not not he; he has a sinecure in the shape of clerk of a market, or else is employed on the dumping ground, or is health-warden, or a dock inspector, or he holds a position under the Croton Board, who never see him only when he is after his pay; at any rate, he is provided for, by holding one of the many hundreds of positions which are useless and of no benefit whatever to the city and to support which the poor laborer has to pay extra rent to the landlord, who has in turn to pay enormous taxes to support this wholesale system of robbery.—[New York Dispatch.]

DEATH OF SAM COWELL.—The comic singer, Sam Cowell, who visited this country a few years ago on a starring tour, but who was only indifferently successful, lately died in Blandford, Dorsetshire, England, in the forty-fourth year of his age. He left his family in destitution, having been sick and unable to sing for some time previous to his death. Cowell was very popular in the concert halls of London, and used to make about two hundred dollars a week.

Cowell has at various times belonged to various theatrical and opera companies, and in the days of a Fred Bunn took part at Covent Garden in an English opera with Sims Reeves. He once sang before Queen Victoria at a court concert at Windsor Castle. He was afterwards engaged in Canterbury Hall, in London, and thenceforth devoted himself to comic songs, which seemed to hit the public taste in England better than here. He died at the country residence of a friend, and was attended in his last illness by the rector of the parish, to whom he spoke his last words—"God bless you; safe, safe."

It is not generally known that Sam Cowell was a member of the distinguished dramatic families of the Siddonses and Kembles. He certainly possessed greater histrionic and vocal ability than his career in this country would have led one to suppose.

—A Jew, an officer in the British navy, during the last war in China, discovered 30 miles up a great river an immense city, surrounded on all sides by walls and fortifications, which contained about a million of inhabitants, all Jews. In no other part of the Chinese empire are there any Jews.

ABSTRACT

Of Meteorological observations for the month of April, 1864, at G. S. L. City, Utah, by W. W. Phelps.

MONTHLY MEAN.

Barometer not in repair.			
Monthly Mean.		Thermometer Attached.	
7 a.m.	2 p.m.	9 p.m.	
57	62	58	
Monthly Mean.		Thermometer open air.	
7 a.m.	2 p.m.	9 p.m.	
46	60	51	
Monthly Mean.		Thermometer. Dry Bulb.	
7 a.m.	2 p.m.	9 p.m.	
59	64	60	
Monthly Mean.		Thermometer. Wet Bulb.	
7 a.m.	2 p.m.	9 p.m.	
50	58	54	

Highest and lowest range of the Thermometer in open air during the month was,

Max. 80°. Min. 33°

The amount of rain and snow-water measured 13 8ths of an inch, i. e. 1.375. Prospects for cropping fair.

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- 1 Rain and cloudy.
- 2 Snow and dreary.
- 3 Clear.
- 4 Stormy and windy.
- 5 do do do. Thunder storm of hail.
- 6 Cloudy and windy.
- 7 Clear.
- 8 do.
- 9 Mostly cloudy.
- 10 Clear.
- 11 do.
- 12 do.
- 13 do.
- 14 do.
- 15 do.
- 16 do.
- 17 do.
- 18 do.
- 19 do.
- 20 do.
- 21 do. Some hazy.
- 22 do.
- 23 do.
- 24 Cloudy. Two gales at 12 and 4.
- 25 Sprinkled twice, but mostly clear.
- 26 Partially clear.
- 27 Cloudy.
- 28 Cloudy and hazy.
- 29 Partially clear.
- 30 Clear.