

had quite cheap, and also very tasteful, by the exercise of a little art and industry.

A common chair which costs a dollar, stuffed and covered at the cost of another dollar, may be a better and more beautiful article than one you may buy for ten; and five dollars and a few hours' labor will give you a couch really more elegant, as well as more comfortable, than a sofa that costs fifty.

But a good piano-forte, like a good mirror, has the element of cost, and to save a hundred dollars in one or twenty in the other, is poor economy. Plate glass keeps its value; and a good tone is worth more than all outside finish.

Don't make your rooms gloomy. Furnish them for light, and let them have it. Daylight is very cheap; and candle or gas-light you need not use often. If your rooms are dark, all the effects of furniture, pictures, walls, and carpet are lost.

Finally, if you have beautiful things, make them useful. The fashion of having a nice parlor, and then shutting it up all but three or four days in the year, when you have company; spending your own life in a mean room, shabbily furnished, or an unhealthy basement, to save your things, is the meanest possible economy.

Go a little further—shut up your house, and live in a pig-pen! The use of nice and beautiful things is to act upon your spirits—to educate you and make you beautiful.—[Manners Book.]

A Pair of Stockings.

The National Intelligencer publishes the following letter, written by a distinguished literary lady, Mrs. W., of Troy, and addressed to a learned Judge of New Haven, on the eve of his marriage. The letter accompanied the present of a pair of blue stockings, knit by the fair writer's own fingers. We commend it to the careful perusal of all married persons, as well as all who contemplate entering into that enviable and holy state.—[Ex.]

DEAR COUSIN:—Herewith you will receive a present of a pair of woolen stockings, knit by my own hands; and be assured, dear coz, that my friendship for you, is as warm as the material, active as the fingerwork, and generous as the donation.

But I consider this present as peculiarly appropriate on the occasion of your marriage.—You will remark, in the first place, that there are two individuals united into one pair, who are to walk side by side, guarding against coldness, and giving comfort as long as they last.—The thread of their texture is mixed, and so, alas, is the thread of life.

In these, however, the white is made to predominate, expressing my desire and confidence that thus it will be with the color of your existence. No black is used, for I believe your lives will be wholly free from the black passions of wrath and jealousy. The darkest color here is blue, which is excellent, where we do not make it too blue.

Other appropriate thoughts rise in my mind in regarding these stockings. The most indifferent subjects, when viewed by the mind in a suitable frame, may furnish instructive inferences. As saith the poet,

"The Iron dogs; the fuel and tongs;
The bellows that have leathern lungs;
The firewood, ashes, and the smoke;
Do all to righteousness provoke."

But to the subject. You will perceive that the tops of these stockings (by which I suppose courtship to be represented) are seamed, and by means of seaming are drawn into a snarl; but afterwards comes a time when the whole is made plain, and continues so to the end and final toeing off.

By this I wish to take occasion to congratulate yourself that you are now through with *seeming* and have to come to plain reality.—Again, as the whole of these comely stockings was not made at once, but by the addition of one little stitch after another, put in with skill and discretion, until the whole presents the fair and equal piece of work which you see, so life does not consist of one great action, but millions of little ones combined.

And so may it be with your lives; no stitch dropt when duties are to be performed; no widening made where bad principles are to be reformed or economy is to be preserved; neither *seeming* nor *narrowing* where truth and generosity are in question. Thus every stitch of life made right and set in the right place—none either too large or too small, too tight or too loose—thus you may keep on your smooth and even course, making existence one fair and consistent piece, until, together, having passed the heel, you come to the very toe of life.

And here, in the final narrowing off and dropping the coil of this emblematical pair of companions and comforting associates, nothing appears but white, the token of innocence and peace, of purity and light.

May you, like these stockings, the final stitch being dropt and the work completed, go together from the place where you were formed to a happier state of existence, present from earth to heaven!

(Hoping that these stockings and admonitions may meet a cordial reception, I remain, in the true-blue friendship, seemingly yet without *seeming*,
Yours, from top to toe,

ADVERTISING FOR A WIFE.—Mr. Michael M'Claskey, a short puffy old gentleman of forty-five, in the twelfth year of his widowhood, complained to the police of an assault committed on his person by Mrs. Hannah Sullivan, and showed several long purple stripes on his visage,

which he declared to be the impressions of Mrs. Sullivan's finger-nails. It turned out in evidence that Mr. M'Claskey had advertised for a wife, in one of the city papers, notifying applicants for the situation to call at No.—, Locust street, the residence of the advertiser. Mrs. Sullivan called early in the morning, half an hour after the advertisement was first published, and sent word up to Mr. M., that a lady wished to see him 'about a notice in the paper.'

M'Claskey was all in a flutter, supposing that some blooming beauty was about to fall into his arms. He spruced himself up and came down stairs, where Mrs. Sullivan was waiting. To say that he was disappointed, would be saying too little: he was horrified.

'Might it be you that was wanting a wife, Mr. What-d'ye-call-'em?' inquired the lady.

'Mr. M. eyed her with a look of dissatisfaction, and uttered a growling affirmative.

'Then I'm thinking its myself that might shoot you,' observed Mrs. Sullivan.

'Devil a bit of it,' remarked Mr. M'Claskey, 'I'm suspicious that you did not look at the advertisement attentively.'

'Sure I've got it here at the very tips of my fingers,' said Mrs. S.:—'Wanted, a nate, tidy woman of thirty or upwards—that's me; I'm thirty or upwards.'

'Yes, upwards,' replied Mr. M. with sarcastic bitterness.

'Well qualified for a wife, and good looking,' continues Mrs. Sullivan, reading the advertisement.

'Humph! 'good looking;' that's you, too, I suppose, Madam?' growled M'Claskey.

'Sure I can look well enough to see a rogne at a yard's distance, Mr. What's-your-name; and is it qualified I am! troth I've had four husbands already, and it's me that ought to know something about the juties of a wife.'

'Four husbands, madam!'

'Yes, faith, I can show you the graves of all of them, mighty plisant ground they are laid in too, and I hope you may have no worse ifiver it should be your good luck to be beried among Christians.'

'You won't do, madam,' roared M'Claskey.—'What the thunder should I do with a wife with a headlike a blazing chimney, and nose and chin like a pair of gimlets?'

This seems to have closed the conference, for M'Claskey, when relating his story to the Mayor, on coming to this period, expressively pointed to his half-skinned countenance. Mrs. S. was held to bail for the assault.—[Sunday Mercury.]

SWEDISH LAWS AGAINST INTOXICATION.—The laws against intoxication are enforced with great rigor in Sweden. Whoever is seen drunk, is fined, for the first offence, \$3; for the second \$7; for the third and fourth a still further sum; and is also deprived of the right of voting at elections, and of being appointed a representative. He is besides publicly exposed in the parish church on Sunday. The New York Sun says:

If the same individual is found committing the same offence a fifth time, he is shut up in the house of correction, and condemned to six months hard labor; if he is again guilty, to a year's punishment of a similar description. If the offence has been committed in public, such as at a fair, an auction, &c., the fine is doubled; and if the offender has made his appearance in church, the punishment is still more severe. Whoever is convicted of having induced another to intoxicate himself, is fined \$3, which sum is doubled if the person be a minor. An ecclesiastic who falls into this offence, loses his benefice; if he is a layman who occupies any considerable post, his functions are suspended, and perhaps dismissed.—Drunkenness is never admitted as an excuse for crime; and whoever dies when drunk, is buried ignominiously, and deprived of prayers of the church. It is forbidden to give, and more explicitly to sell any spirituous liquors to students, workmen, servants, apprentices, or private soldiers. Whoever is observed drunk in the streets, or making a noise in a tavern, is sure to be taken to prison, and there detained until sober: without, however, being exempt from the fines. One half of these fines go to the informers, (who are generally police officers) the other half to the poor.

If the delinquent has no money, he is kept until some one pays for him, or until he has worked out his enlargement. Twice a year these ordinances are read aloud from the pulpit by the clergy; and every tavern-keeper is bound under a penalty of a heavy fine, to have a copy of them hung up in the principal rooms of his house.—[Ex.]

THE NEW DOME ON THE CAPITOL.—We had yesterday an opportunity to examine the plans and drawings, of which we make the following brief description:—The old dome is to be taken down entirely to the roof of the Capitol, and a base constructed of 25 feet in height and 132 feet in diameter, somewhat of an octagonal plan. On this stands a noble colonnade of 123 feet in diameter, consisting of 35 columns, with appropriate entablatures, balustrades, &c., from which rises an enriched attic of 38 feet in height by 107 in diameter. This attic forms the base of the cupola, the diameter of which is 88 feet and the height 56 feet. The whole is crowned by a graceful proportioned lantern, supporting a colossal statue of the goddess of liberty.

The entire elevation from the ground on the eastern front of the building is 300 feet.

The interior is exceedingly rich, and the ornaments are of a bold and striking character. The present rotundo is preserved as high as the top of the cornice; above this will be a gallery over which a belt of sculpture nine feet high, and nearly 300 feet long, extends around the entire dome. Above this there is a succession of galleries, colonnades, entablatures, attics, and balustrades, surrounded by a hemispherical ceiling, crowned with a lantern at the height of 218 feet from the floor.

The highest point of lookout is 275 feet above the ground on the eastern front, and the highest point from which the interior may be seen is 218 feet above the floor.

The whole work is to be of iron, from bottom to top, inside and outside. It will be the first structure of the kind ever built entirely of this material. The design, as well as the working drawings, is by Mr. Walter, the architect of the Capitol extension, and the execution of the work is under the direction of Captain Meigs, of the topographical bureau.—[Washington Union.]

Written for The Flag of our Union.

THE INDIAN'S LAMENT.

BY R. T. A. MACEY.

I have left the land where my fathers dwelt,
Neath the sunny eastern sky;
And have crossed the mountains' azure belt,
Where the peaks loomed wild and high.

For I longed to have a barrier dread
To my far off western home,
Which would mock the white man's restless tread,
And leave me in peace to roam.

I turned me around, while I proudly stood
On the mountain, wild and bleak;
And the fire coursed madly through my blood,
Though my lips refused to speak;

For I thought of my father's distant grave,—
Of the relics it contained—
Of the hallowed rest of the free and brave,
By the white man's step profaned.

I thought of the woods I had roved of yore,
And the glad streams dashing by,—
Of the sunny lakes, which would beam no more
To the exile's longing eye.

And my bosom was filled with burning tears,
Though my eye was dry and calm;
Ah, the bursting heart still subdued its cares,
And despoiled the childish balm.

But I said in the depths of my desert soul,—
"Hath the earth no valley lone,
Where the forests wave, and the rivers roll,
For the red man's joy alone?"

"Shall the pale face tear up the spreading plains?
Shall he tell the ancient woods?
Shall he claim all lands for his wide domains?
Shall he rule the sweeping floods?"

"Shall the red man slink from his eager track,
As he comes careering on?
And the cry still ring, 'Back, yet farther back'—
Till our latest hope is gone?"

Ah! I heard it then, 'twas my people's knell,
'Twas echoing through my breast,
When I bade the east a last farewell,
And turned to the gloomy west.

A GOOD WORD FOR WOMAN.—From the lips of woman every infant hears the first accents of affection and receives the first lessons of duty in tenderness and love. For the approbation of woman the grown-up youth will undertake the boldest enterprise and brave every difficulty of study, danger, and even death itself.

To the happiness of woman the man of maturer years will devote the best energies of his mind and body; and from the soothing and affectionate regards of woman the man who is become venerable by years derives his chief consolation in life's decline.

Who, then, shall say that the one half of the human race, and they confessedly the most virtuous and the most amiable, may not be intrusted with an intelligence and an influence equal to our own?

To them, when sorrow afflicts us, we consign half our sufferings, and they cheerfully relieve us by lightening them. When joy delights, we give the half of our pleasures, and they are ready consent to share them. They lessen, by their sympathy, the pangs of all our privations, and they increase, by their participation, the ecstasy of all our delights. The deserved, therefore, the full enjoyment of every privilege that it is in our power to confer on them.—[London Paper.]

NATURAL BRIDGE.—Among other California curiosities, the Shasta Courier is informed that a natural bridge has been discovered near Watson's Gulch, in Trinity county, which is described as being sixty-three paces through, sixteen paces in width: from the bottom of the gulch to the arch, about twenty feet; and the entire height, from the bottom of the gulch to the top of the bridge, about one hundred feet.—[Sac. Union.]

On the right hand as you enter the arch from the east side, is an apartment about 14 feet long by 10 feet in width, and 7 feet high, in which there are quite a number of curiosities, in the shape of rude bowls, basins, &c. No Digger, either male or female, ever passes here without depositing either a stock or stone on the top of some rock near this bridge. About half way from the top of the arch to the top of the bridge is another cave or apartment, but which, because of its position, has not as yet been examined. This bridge is composed entirely of limestone. The water flowing beneath it, is of a most excellent quality—making the teeth ache because of its excessive coldness.

INSTRUMENTS OF WAR.—The Liverpool Times says that the first gun for the English steamer *Horatio* is nearly finished, and will be ready for trial in a few days. It will weigh with its carriage fifty tons. According to the estimates which have been made of its capabilities, it will

throw a shot of half a ton weight a distance of four miles. Two and a quarter barrels of gunpowder, or two hundred and twenty-five pounds will be required for a single charge. If such guns as these are ever brought into practical and successful operation, they will make little of the walls and fortresses of engineering skill.

A correspondent of the New York Mirror, writing from Washington, says that the great twelve inch gun with which Lieutenant Dahlgreen has been experimenting, burst after nineteen hundred shots were fired, falling into three pieces, the breach dividing into two equal halves, and the chase or forward part of the gun remaining entire. The same correspondent states that the ordnance department have decided on adopting a uniform gauge or calibre for all their small arms—the musket, rifle and pistol, viz:—fifty-eight one hundredths of an inch. This will simplify the supplying of ammunition.

How to PROSPER IN BUSINESS.—In the first place, make up your mind to accomplish whatever you undertake; decide upon some particular employment and persevere in it. All difficulties are overcome by diligence and assiduity.

Be not afraid to work with your hands, and diligently, too. "A cat in gloves catches no mice."

Attend to your own business, and never trust it to another. "A pot that belongs to many is ill stirred and worse boiled."

Be frugal. "That which will not make a pot will make a pot lid."

Be abstemious. "Who dainties love, shall beggars prove."

Rise early. "The sleeping fox catches no poultry."

Treat every one with respect and civility.—"Everything is gained and nothing lost by courtesy." Good manners ensure success.

Never anticipate wealth from any other source than labor. "He who waits for dead men's shoes may have to go for a long time barefooted."

Heaven helps those who help themselves.

If you implicitly follow these precepts, nothing will hinder you from accumulating.—[Ex.]

CELLAR FLOORS.—The cheapest, best and most durable cellar floor, which is also impervious to rats, may be made in the following manner: Suppose the cellar wall already laid, with a sufficient drain to the cellar; then dig a trench all around the wall on the inner side, a foot wide and deep, connecting with the cellar drain. In the centre of this trench make a drain by standing two stones, bracing against each other, at an angle of about forty-five degrees.—Then fill the trench with small stones, to within two or three inches of the top; cover these stones with a layer of pine shavings, and then with the earth thrown out of the trench, leveling off the same with the floor of the cellar.

If the ground of the cellar should be gravel, nothing further will be required; but if clay, make it perfectly smooth, and strew over it a coating of clear gravel; one load of thirty bushels will be ample for a cellar of twelve hundred square feet. The cost of such a floor, estimating the gravel at a dollar, will not exceed eight dollars; the cellar will be rat-proof, and the floor smooth, dry and hard. This theory is verified by experience.—[Rural Intelligencer.]

FLOWER-POTS FOR ROOMS.—Fill a pot with coarse moss of any kind, in the same manner as it would be filled with earth, and place a cutting or seed in this moss; it will succeed admirably, especially with plants destined to ornament a drawing-room. In such a situation, plants grown in moss will thrive better than in garden mould, and possess the very great advantage of not causing dirt by the earth washing out of them when watered. For transportation, plants rooted in moss are said to be better adapted, on account of their lightness. The explanation of the practice seems to be this: that moss rammed into a pot, and subjected to continual watering, is soon brought into a state of decomposition, when it becomes a very pure vegetable mould; and it is well known that that very pure vegetable mould is the most proper of all materials for the growth of almost all kinds of plants. The moss would also not retain more moisture than precisely the quantity best adapted to the absorbent powers of the root, a condition which can scarcely be obtained with any certainty by the use of earth.—[Exchange.]

FIRE AND WATER-PROOF PREPARATIONS.—Slake common stone-lime in a close vessel, and when cool pass eight quarts through a fine sieve; add to it one quart of fine salt and two gallons of pure water. Boil and skim. Then to every four gallons of this mixture, add one and a quarter pounds of rocky alum, threefourths of a pound of copperas, half a pound of potash, and five quarts of fine beach sand. This wash will now admit any coloring matter that may be desired, and may be applied with a paint or whitewash brush, in the same manner as oil paints. A writer remarking on the good qualities of this preparation for roofs, says, "It looks better than paint, will stop leaks in the roof, prevent moss growing, and when laid upon brick-work will render it impenetrable to rain or moisture." A wash of this kind might be beneficially applied to the roofs of houses, &c., instead of paint.—[Ex.]

AN IMPROVED MICROSCOPE.—We are informed by a correspondent that Mr. Hinds of Ohio, formerly of New York, has recently constructed in our city a Compound Microscope which, for magnifying power, is not equalled by any in the world. In 1851 he constructed, we are informed a Microscope capable of magnifying 17,000,000 times. The one just completed has a diamond lens with a power surpassing by nearly 2,000,000.