THE EVENING NEWS.

Friday, . . . January 3 18 3.

DIGBY'S REFORM CLUB.

A Sketch for Whom it may Concern.

BY SYLVANUS COBB, JR.

[CONCLUDED.]

And his companions agreed with him.

In another part of the town, on the outskirts of the village, in a poor, thatched hut, lived Ben Driscoll and his wife Sally. In other years they had been well and happy, and although never forehanded, yet they had not known want until old age and sickness had deprived them of the ability to work. And on this cold Winter's night Uncle Ben and Aunt Sally sat and shivered over the embers of such poor stuff as they had been able to gather from the snow covered hedges, and the old man sighed as he thought of the alms-house.

"If we could only get through the Winter. But who's to help us?"

And Uncle Ben and his wife were aroused from their stupor of chill and hunger by the tramp of feet and the hum of voices; and very shortly the door of their cabin was opened, and John Digby and his companions entered. A fire speedily blazed upon the hearth, and a goodly store of provisions was opened upon the table.

The old man wondered, and Tom Lowden made answer—

"It's all right, Uncle Ben. This is Jack Digby's Reform Club. We've stopped our rations of spirit and tobacco and are going to invest the result in a missionary enterprise. We want to convert you and Aunt Sally if we can."

"Convart us, Tom?"

"Aye—convert you to comfort and peace; and, perhaps, also convert you to the belief that there's a grain of good left in humanity still. We mean to take you in hand for the Winter, and you sha'n't suffer if we can help it."

The boys did not leave the cot until they had helped the aged couple to a hearty meal, and had piled up fuel enough to last till they came again; and when they finally withdrew the song of blessing was sounding in their ears.

And so the reformers went on until their night's work was done, and when they came to separate they declared that they had found such enjoyment as they had never known before.

During the succeeding week three new members were added to the club—men who were willing to cut off expense for rum and tobacco and devote the proceeds to the relief of the poor and distressed of the town.

And ere long Digby's Reform Club became a noted institution in the town. The projectors thereof could hardly credit the evidence of their own senses in contemplating the results of three months' labor. Two and twenty members had joined, and the fund for relief amounted to almost forty dollars a week, as each man was pledged to pay in weekly the exact sum his spirit and tobacco had cost him. If he continued to use tobacco he took a lower place in the company, and the use of spirit as a beverage was sufficient cause for expulsion.

When people saw the great good that was being done, they were anxious to give their aid, and be counted in with the happy crew; but the laws of the club were fixed—no money would come to its fund except such as had been saved by the donor from the conquest of some evil habit, or the cutting off of some useless luxury.

It was a bright Sabbath in springtime, and it had been told that Parson Meekly was going to preach a sermon upon Digby's Reform Club, and the old meeting-house was filled to overflowing. The clergyman read his text from St. John's Gospel—"*Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Come and see.*" And when he had told the story of Digby's cure, and pictured the good results of its labors, he proclaimed to all—"Go ye, and do likewise."

Once John Digby and his compatriots had fancied that it would be a proud moment when they had brought the old clergyman to recognize the worth of their labors; but the blessings of those upon whom their bounty had fallen had made such sweet music in their ears, and the satisfaction of duties truly done had dropped so soothingly upon their souls, that they found no room for that baser pride which they had aforetime anticipated.—*New York Ledger.*

BREVITIES.

Two Detroit sisters ran away and got married the other night. When they returned to pacify their papa, they found the old gentleman in such a high state of hilarity at the removal of the burden of their millinery bills that the newly made husbands became painfully sad.

Small dogs had better not "fool" much with elephants. At Westport, Mass., we are told, as a menagerie was going through the streets, a fierce canine made on assault on the elephant. An "eye witness" says that in about one minute the dog was "spread over several yards of ground about the thickness of a sheet of iron."

One of the most essential things in order to have health is a good circulation of the blood. This can only be had by living a true life of temperance in all things. To insure warm feet, invigorate the general circulation, avoid over eating, and the use of improper food. Secure plenty of sleep in a well-ventilated room. Keep the skin clean by bathing twice a week. Bathe the feet frequently, first in warm water five minutes, and follow with dry friction.—*Health Reform.*

The Pioche *Record* of December 27th says: The Christmas holidays have given rise to a great amount of conviviality, which may be excused upon the annual recurrence of this festive season. But the sight of half a dozen men helplessly intoxicated and lying upon the sidewalks, exposed to the inclemency of the weather, reminds us forcibly that "there is no vice which, in one black and awful gulf, swallows up so much of hope and happiness as intemperance."

A recent calculation relative to the principal European languages shows that English is spoken by 90,000,000 of persons, inhabiting Great Britain and Ireland, North America, the Bermudas, Jamaica, Cape of Good Hope, Australia, Van Diemen's Land, Newfoundland and the East Indies; German, by 55,000,000, in their own country, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Russia, North and South America, La Plata, Australia and the East Indies; Spanish, by 55,000,000 in Spain, Cuba, Mexico, the republics of South America, Manilla, &c.; and French by 45,000,000, in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Canada, Cayenne and North America.

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JNO L. BURNS.

Jan 2, 1873.

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