

Miscellaneous.

A MARRIED WOMAN'S SOLILOQUY.

[BY ONE WHO HEARD IT.]

Yes, it's go! go! go! and get! get! get! for everybody on earth but one's own wife. If I should ask Mr. Slocum to go out at such a time of day for a water pail and a basket of oranges, d'ye think he'd go? Not he! I might want one while, and take it out in wanting! Oranges, forsooth! 'Twas only yesterday I asked him to call at William's for Charley's shoes. Wouldn't you have liked to have heard him scold though! If he didn't tune up. Always something wanting! Wished he could go to the store and back again without calling for a dozen parcels! And when he came in and put them on Charley's feet slapped him for crying, because the pegs hurt him! Poor fellow! he limped round till his father had gone, and then pulled them off. The pegs were an inch long at least calculation. And now just because Mrs. Brown hints at a water pail, he's up and off in a minute! Why couldn't Brown go? Just as though her own husband wasn't good enough to wait on her. I'd show him the difference if I was Brown! A pretty how'd do we shall have of it, if things go on at this rate, I'll ask Brown to do my errands, see if I don't and then see how he likes it.

If the girls only knew! But no; they wouldn't believe a word of it. You might talk to them till doomsday and they'd determine to try it! "Bought wit is the best if you don't get it too dear." Dear! I wonder what some folks call dear? There's Nelly Bly. You might talk to her till next July and she wouldn't believe a word of it. But she'll see! She will learn a lesson for herself she'll not forget very soon. If I were a girl again I wouldn't change my condition again in a hurry! Not I! There was Slocum always ready to run his legs off—but how—he'll go sooner for that Mrs. Brown, than for his own flesh and blood. But I'll pay him; see if I don't! won't get him a mouthful of supper. He may get his meals where he does his work! See how he'll like that! If I should do so, always trying to please other folks' husbands instead of my own, we should have a pretty kettle of fish. There's Willie, he's teased for an orange these three days; and not the peel of one has been seen yet. There he comes puffing like a steamboat! If I had sent him he wouldn't have been back these two hours. Calling at Mrs. Brown's too! If it ain't enough to provoke a saint, I'll tell him I'll quit—I'll—I'll but no! he'll like that too well! the brute! I won't please him so much. I'll stay if it kills me, and Willie shall have an orange if he wants it, and no thanks to him either. There he comes again, and both hands full. Wonder what he has got now, and who else he is running for! Coming through the gate and—yes, both pockets full of oranges—The dear soul! I knew he wouldn't forget his own children. Won't Willie have a good meal? And I will—yes, he shall have muffins for supper, Slocum loves muffins! * * * * *

That's all we have heard, reader, for when Slocum opened the hall door Charley, Willie, wife and all, ran out to meet him and get some of those same oranges. Mrs. Slocum did get supper, and Slocum had muffins.—[*Ex.*]

DANGER IN TRIFLES.—The road to home-happiness lies over small stepping-stones. Slight circumstances are the stumbling-blocks of families. The prick of a pin, says the proverb, is enough to make an empire insipid. The more tender the feelings, the more painful the wound. A cold, unkind word checks and withers the blossom of the dearest love, as the most delicate rings of the vine are troubled by the faintest breeze. The misery of a life is born of a chance observation. If the true history of quarrels, public and private, were honestly written, it would be silenced with an uproar of derision.

DR. CHALMERS AS AN ORATOR.—Nature had given to Dr. Chalmers a mind capable of great contemplations, so she had given him in a marked degree the *os magnanimiturum*, the mouth formed for great utterances. Whether he knew it as yet or not, he was born to be an orator. It was not in this habitual fervor alone that this was apparent—in the blazing enthusiasm which he carried into everything; in the force and earnestness with which he felt his own meanings; in the deep fund of indignation from which every now and then there would be a surge that would

bear him to the verge of frenzy; or even in (what I think is the one infallible indication of a true orator) the reserve which he always had of rage beyond rage, and the power which he always had of becoming more and more able, more and more intellectually inventive, as he became more and more excited. In all the minor indications resulting from these and belonging to them, the orator was proclaimed. The style which he had formed for himself, and which, as I have said, remained Chalmers to the last, was a style for the ear rather than the eye. There was the rhythm and cadence of the spoken style, the sense of impulse upon a living resistance, the structure of the sentence for face-to-face utterance before an assembly. And, as the thoughts were big, there was a certain bigness and unwieldiness in the expression. Though he had pithy and racy Saxon or Scottish words in abundance at command, there was a tendency, when he wrote to the polysyllabic and the Latin, and especially to words ending in *ation*, or otherwise containing the sound *sh*. There was the roll and ringing emphasis of the voice in the act of delivery, the grip of each syllable as it came, the balanced to-and-fro movement of the body, the nervous rush to the face, and at least by way of gesture, the frequently uplifted arm. What was the strangest peculiarity of all, however the incapacitating peculiarity, as it might have seemed—was the provincial rudeness of the pronunciation. The question that would have been asked by any Englishman, on first hearing him would have been, how this mouth, "formed for great utterances," would ever be able to manage them in that extraordinary dialect. He pronounced "Adam," "Aidam;" "Parish," "Pai-rish;" "Pope of Rome," "Popp of Romm;" "issue of which," "isshey of whuch." By no chance did he pronounce any three words in any one sentence correctly according to the English standard; and for all his own countrymen out of Fifeshire he was equally a vocal wonder. It was impossible to cure him. All the pebbles on the beach of St. Andrews would never have brought the mouth and tongue of this young Demosthenes into conformity with the rules of Attic elocution. As it happened, it did not matter much. To his fellow Scots, when they came to hear him the Fifeshire dialect was as good as any other of the provincial dialects of which they had their choice, and racier than most; and, when his audiences came to be English as well, there was no thought of the dialect after the stunning astonishment of the first few sentences.—[*Macmillan's Magazine.*]

THE Surrey Theatre, a large building situated in Blackfriars road, London, took fire during the performance of the pantomime on the evening of the 30th January. The *Times* says:

The last scene of the pantomime was being performed when, it is said, a part of the ceiling immediately over the large chandelier by which the building was principally lighted, caught fire, and a feeling of alarm immediately took possession of the whole of the audience that remained. At this crisis, Mr. Green, the stage manager, presented himself in front of the proscenium, and implored the people for their own sakes to remain as quiet as possible, and to leave the theatre in an orderly manner. They could see for themselves that it was the ceiling alone which had at that time caught fire, and he appealed to their reason that it must burn upwards, and that there was ample time for them to leave the building uninjured, if they only did so in a calm and collected manner. The audience, on the whole, it is said, followed this very sensible advice, and were so enabled to leave the place unhurt. Little, if any, of the movable property in the building was saved, so rapid was the progress of the fire.

THERE are only two newspapers published in Persia, the Rouz Nameh El-mirjah (scientific journal) published in Teheran, and the Journal of the Nation, published at Tauris. Both papers are lithographed, letter press printing not being practiced in Persia. The Persians fancy their style of printing the finest in the world, and prefer it to the pure Arabic characters from which it is derived.

MATRIMONY FROM A SWEDENBORGIAN POINT OF VIEW.—From a recent work on marriage by the Rev. W. B. Heyden, of the New Jerusalem Church we learn that, in the author's opinion, there is no celibacy in heaven, those who people it consisting mainly of married pairs, and none remaining single

after the age of maturity. Indeed, the union of males and females is necessary to the angelic, all the angels being married pairs. No single individual in the whole heavenly world is an angel by himself or herself; it is only as two become one angel. This is rather hard upon old maids and bachelors, yet they are not unprovided for. "Those who have confirmed themselves in a celibate state, from a principle of religion, being admitted into heaven, and dwell there only about the circumferences."

At Aberdeen, Scotland, evening services lately held in one of the churches have been discontinued on account of the bad behavior of the young people of the congregation. There were many young men and young women who made the church a place of resort for the sole purpose apparently of having "a lark" and meeting afterwards. Laughing aloud, paper-pellet throwing, lucifer match lighting, and wholesale of lads and lassies, from opposite sides of the Church, walking out in dozens by preconcerted signals, were common occurrences. So bad did things become latterly that the male and female portion of the gathering were kept separate by the one sex being only allowed to the galleries of the church, while the other were confined below. Even this did not cure the evil, and so the church was closed.

SIGNS.—A correspondent of a Massachusetts country paper makes the following report of clerical and other matters in Springfield (Mass.): "It is not yet two years since Springfield was divided into as many social circles as it had parishes—no more and no less. The Orthodox minister then looked daggers at the Freethought minister; the Episcopal rector snubbed the Baptist parson; the colored divine always pulled up his shirt collar when he met the Catholic priest; but those days are over. A sentiment of enlightened charity has cast its beams on Springfield. The Orthodox and Freethought minister now sup together on oysters at John Madden's; the Episcopal rector and the Baptist parson play at billiards in the Phelan saloon, and the colored preacher dances in the same quadrille with the Catholic priest. It is just so with their flocks. Two years ago their members were as distinct from each other as the Esquimaux from the Hottentots, or the Wababees from the Digger Indians. Now they mingle in genial communion, and High Churchmen go off on benders with Orthodox and Universalists."

THERE were built last year in all the districts on the lakes, eighty-seven steamers and one hundred sail vessels, with an aggregate burthen of 47,854. The greatest number were built at Cleveland, viz., twenty-six steamers and forty-one sail-vessels; Buffalo, thirty-four steamers and seven sail; Chicago, thirteen steamers and two sail vessels.

THE NEW TELESCOPE FOR THE CHICAGO OBSERVATORY.—The great Clarke telescope is shortly to be set up in the Dearborn Tower at the University of Chicago.

This instrument was manufactured by Mr. Alvin Clarke, of Cambridge, Mass. It was ordered for the Mississippi College by Dr. Barnard, who was then at the head of that institution, but is now president of Columbia College. The object-glass was nearly completed in 1861, but the instrument could not, of course, reach its destination. The friends of Harvard College immediately began a subscription to secure it to that institution, designing to put it up in place of their own famous Fraunhofer; but the subscription lagged for a while, and the University of Chicago stepped in and carried off the prize.

Mr. Clarke received \$11,187 for the object-glass, and was engaged to mount it for \$7,000. This latter work is already completed, and the telescope will be shipped and put up early in the coming spring. The tower which is to receive it was built by the munificence of Mr. J. Y. Scammon at an expense of \$25,000, and is named by him the Dearborn Tower, in memory of his wife, who died while abroad some years since.

The Clarke telescope is a refractor, with an objective eighteen and three-quarter inches in the clear aperture, and a focal length of twenty-three feet. "Compared with the Harvard instrument, the largest of the kind in existence," wrote the late Captain Gillis, superintendent of the National Observatory at Washington, "it is as thirty-four to twenty-one, being thus more than one-half larger than any now in use. The eyes of the whole scientific world are turned to Chicago awaiting

the results. When the instrument is properly mounted and manned no one can predict its future." When first completed the object-glass was inserted in a rude board tube, and drawn up by means of a tackle for trial. In thus sweeping but a small belt of the heavens, it caused at once a discovery for which it received the most favorable notice of foreign scientific associations, and also took the largest astronomical reward at Paris—the Leland prize of five hundred francs. It is a matter of just pride and congratulation that this instrument was manufactured by one of our countrymen.

Professor Mixer, who has managed this enterprise from the beginning, is now in this city completing the equipment of the Observatory. As the most recent result of his efforts in this direction a *meridian circle* is ordered, of the largest size which has ever been manufactured, and similar to the Olcott circle of the Dudley Observatory at Albany. It is to be made by Messrs. Pistor & Martins, of Berlin, Prussia, and will cost about \$5,000. The sum necessary for the purchase has been generously given by Walter S. Gurnee, late of Chicago, but now of this city. It is to be called the Gurnee Meridian Circle.—[*N. Y. Evening Post.*]

THE COMMON SCHOOLS OF NEW YORK.—The annual report of Mr. Rice, Superintendent of Public Instruction, shows that there are 11,717 school districts in this state—a decrease of seventeen since 1863, accounted for by consolidations and the formation of Union free school districts. The number of school-houses is 11,712; children between 5 and 21, 308,822, of whom 881,184 attended school last year; volumes in the district libraries, 1,125,538. In 1864, \$26,890 was expended for libraries, and \$137,613 for school apparatus.

There are 663 free schools, including the Union free schools. The number of private schools is 1,490, with an attendance of 32,302 pupils. Four of the cities, (including New York and Buffalo,) and several of the commissioners have, however, omitted this item in their reports. In the academies, the entire number of pupils registered was 36,768; average attendance, 21,464. In the colleges, (not including students in theology, medicine and law,) there were 1,423 students.

The relative per centage of attendance upon the different classes of schools, are as follows:

Colleges—Less than fifteen hundredths of one per cent. (0.0149).
Academies—A little more than three and a half per cent. (0.03863).
Private Schools—A little more than three per cent. (0.03394).
Common Schools—Over ninety-two per cent. (92.9292).

The total school expenditure in 1864, was \$4,549,771. Balance remaining in the treasury, \$519,479. The total receipts were therefore \$5,069,250.

The Institution for the Deaf and Dumb has 354 pupils, and is in a prosperous condition. The Blind Institution has 125 state pupils. The superintendent urges the duty of the state to provide for the care and culture of all her blind children by furnishing them, in this institution or elsewhere, a home. He says: "They are generally dependent, even after they are educated, and ought not to be committed to the uncertain and fickle charity of individuals. When the state does her duty in the care of the unfortunate, her example is recognized by individuals and becomes their standard of obedience to acknowledged Christian duty."

The Idiot Asylum has accommodations for one hundred and twenty state pupils. The number of Indian schools are eight. The State Normal school has three hundred and one pupils, and graduated sixty-five persons last year.—[*N. Y. Evening Post.*]

WHAT A ONE-LEGGED MAN CAN DO.—A young man named Crockett, who lost a leg above the knee, on the Boston and Maine Railroad, when a child, can perform feats, with one foot, that few if any lads of his age in this neighborhood can perform with two feet. He will swim like a duck; he can run as fast as the fastest, bounding on like a deer; and his skating is marvelous. A dozen lads may start with him on the ice, but he is sure to come out ahead. Nor is it in a straight course alone that he shows his speed; with a crutch in one hand and a skate upon the foot, he will defy them to catch him, and dodge as nimbly as a cat. We doubt if there is a boy that can jump higher. He will leap a fence as high as his head, and surprises his associates by standing with his back to a fence that will come to his shoulders, turningsomerset and coming down right end upon the other side.—[*Newburyport Herald.*]