

THE EVENING NEWS.

Wednesday, May 4, 1870.

THE ART OF THINKING.—One of the best modes of improving in the art of thinking is to think over some subject before you read upon it, and then to observe after what manner it has occurred to the mind of some great master. You will then observe whether you have been too rash or too timid, what you have omitted and in what you have exceeded, and by this process you will inevitably catch a great manner of viewing a question. It is right in study, not only to think whenever an extraordinary incident provokes you to think, but from time to time what has passed; to dwell upon it, and see what trains of thought voluntarily present themselves to the mind. It is a most superior habit of some minds to refer to all the particular truths which strike them to other truths more general, so that their knowledge is beautifully methodized; and the general truth at any time suggests all the particular exemplifications, or any particular exemplification at once leads to the general truth. This kind of understanding has an immense and decided superiority over those confused heads in which one fact is piled upon another without the least attempt at classification and arrangement. Some men always read with a pen in their hand, and commit to paper any new thought which strikes them; others trust to chance for its reappearance. Which of these is the best method in the conduct of the understanding, must, I suppose, depend a great deal upon the particular understanding in question. Some men can do nothing without preparation; others little with it; some are fountains, some reservoirs. — *Sidney Smith.*

NOT A GOOD PRACTICE.—The Boston *Journal of Chemistry* takes issue with high medical and scientific authorities relative to the common practice of evaporating water upon stoves and furnaces. It asserts that the practice is not conducive to health, that atmospheric air can not be "dried up or burned up" by any heating apparatus of the present day, and that heated air loses none of its moisture. The writer maintains that the trouble is that most housekeepers keep up too high a temperature, and have the sensation of dryness. If the heat of dwellings is kept at a normal standard, the warm air contains all the moisture needed for health or comfort. If the temperature is abnormally high, the train of evils which follow are not avoided by evaporating large quantities of water. In families where this is practiced there have been uniformly more catarrhal difficulties, more rheumatism, more headache, than in other houses where no evaporation is allowed and where the heat is kept at a uniform temperature. It is scarcely necessary to remark that there are other scientific and medical authorities in total disagreement with this theory.

ONE OF VICTOR HUGO'S LETTERS.—The *Rappel* publishes the following characteristic epistle from Victor Hugo:

I am oppressed as I write to you. There has been a catastrophe here. A packet has been lost. The island is in mourning, the flags are at half-mast high, the houses are shut up. This is the first time that a packet has been lost during forty years that steamers have been plying between England and the Antilles. The Captain died like a stoic. He was called Harvey. A large vermilion face, white whiskers, and good brave eyes. Three years ago I was on board his ship. The English fleet was at Sheerness for the Viceroy of Egypt and Queen Victoria. Some ladies who were on board the *Normandy* wished to see the fleet, and begged me to express this desire. It was two hours out of course. "Tell the Captain that you wish it." "But ladies," I answered, "a French ship would not do such a thing for me." Capt. Harvey heard this. He cried, "What a French ship would not do for Victor Hugo an English ship will," and he put up his helm and showed me the fleet, while the Queen was showing it to the Khe-deive. This amiable man was a hero. He has just died superbly. He saved all the persons he could, and remained behind to perish.

DICKENS tells the following story of an American sea captain: On his last voyage home, the captain had on board a young lady of remarkable personal attractions—a phrase I use as one being entirely new, and never met with in the newspapers. This young lady was beloved intensely by five young gentlemen passengers, and in return she was in love with them all very ardently, but without any particular preference for either. Not knowing how to determine in this dilemma, she consulted my friend the captain. The captain being a man of an original turn of mind, says to the young lady, "Jump overboard, and marry the man who jumps after you." The young lady, struck with the idea, and being naturally fond of bathing, especially in warm weather, as it then was, took the advice of the captain, who had a boat manned in case of accident. Accordingly, next morning, the five lovers being on deck, and looking devotedly at the young lady, she plunged into the sea head foremost, and four of the lovers immediately jumped in after her. When the young lady saw this, she said to herself, "What shall I do with them now, they are all wet?" Says the captain, "Take the dry one!" And the young lady accordingly did so, and they were married.

A SPECTER CITY.—This wonderful freak of nature is situated on the Missouri river, about fifty miles below Fort Benton. It is a city of solid rock. The river runs through the main street, and divides it into two parts, each side having a beach running down to the water's edge. The streets seem to be laid off with perfect regularity, and there are whole rows of business and dwelling houses. You can see, with the cannon projecting from the post-holes. There are statues about the streets, and in fact everything looks as natural as if it were a real city, and yet these houses, stores, forts and cannon were formed when the world was. They are all of solid stone. Rock City is the name given to this wonderful place. — *Kentucky Gazette.*

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