The Place where Man should Die.

How little recks it where men lie,
When once the moment's past,
In which the dim and glazing eye
Has looked on earth its last—
Whether beneath the sculptured urn,
The coffin form shall rest,
Or, in its nakedness return
Back to its mother's breast.

Death is a common friend or foe,
As different men may hold;
And at its summons each must go—
The timid and the bold!
But when the spirit, free and warm,
Deserts it, as it must,
What matter where the lifeless form
Dissolves itself to dust?

The soldier falls, 'mid corpses piled,
Upon the battle plain,
Where restless war steeds gallop wild,
Above the mangled slain;
But though his corpse be dim to see,
How trampled on the sod,
What recks it, when the spirit free
Has soared aloft to God!

'Twere sweet, indeed, to close our eyes
With those we cherish near,
And wafted upward by their sighs,
Soar to some calmer sphere;
But whether on the scaffold high,
Or in the battle's van,
The fittest place where man can die,
Is where he dies for man!

The Thriftless Wife.

"The discomfort of the poor man's home is often the thriftless wife."

The above sentence from the deeply interesting sketch of "X," has awakened a train of thought, that with your permission, Messrs. Editors, I will transfer to the HERALD.

The observation of many years has convinced me, that two causes operate largely in producing thriftless wives,—false respectability, and actual ignorance of economy.

Where are these false views obtained? Many of them in our own kitchen. A large proportion of the wives of poor men have been servants in the families of the wealthy and medium classes, and have passed to the bridal hour utterly unprepared for the stations in which they were to be placed. They have attached great importance to dress, hence their wages were expended for external adornment, and the economy necessary for the poor man's wife was not learned.

As we look at the utter wretchedness of many families induced by false views, may we not exclaim, we are verily guilty respecting our sisters, in that we saw the future that awaited them and failed to give this suitible advice and instruction.

Let me mention an instance or two, that show the beneficial effects of such instruction.

A bright-eyed, rosy-cheeked girl once expressed great astonishment, at seeing the lady with whom she lived, mending a calico dress.—"Why Mrs. M., do you mend such old things?" "To be sure I do, don't you?" No indeed, (with a toss of her head) you won't find many poor people that would mend the like of that!"

The next day Mrs. M. found a piece of Chrissy's old dress used for scouring brass, though ample materials were provided for such purposes. The poor girl was miserably destitute of useful garments, while every penny of her wages was expended for flimsey articles that were showy and fashionable! It required many weeks of patient effort to convince Chrissy that she would be more truly respectable by dressing according to her station, and means, than by aping the wealthy. But at length right impressions were received, and the work of economy commenced. Appropriate purchases were made, and Chrissy's resources husbanded with care.—For instance, "Here are two old calicoes, Mrs. M., that I can't wear any more, what shall I do with them?" "The best breadths we'll take for a quilted skirt, and make an apron or two beside. Stop, Chrissy, don't throw that waist away. It must be carefully ripped. Here's a box for the hooks and eyes, and the cord can be sewed together to use again." "Well—if that don't beat all, and cord is only a penny a roll." "Never mind, you must save it. Ten pennies make a dime, ten dimes a dollar, and with a dollar you can buy a new dress." A bright flash passed over her speaking face, the idea was perfectly novel. "This waist lining, you see, is perfectly good, if starched and ironed, it will do for a new calico. Here are some pieces that you can quilt for holders, you'll want them when you get married." What a merry laugh, (she was only fifteen) and how her black eyes sparkled. "Last of all, here is a rag bag for the oldest pieces,—when you go to housekeeping you can buy tin pans to bake your bread in, from the contents of the rag bag."

Years passed rapidly. In due time Chrissy married a widower with two children. During a visit to Mrs. M., she described her snug home, told how nicely she fitted up the little girls with their mother's old dresses, how her husband praised her economy and good housekeeping. Then with a sudden burst of feeling, she caught Mrs. M.'s hand and kissing it, exclaimed, "I owe it all to you, I've told my husband so a hundred times; I can never thank you enough for giving me right views of life, and teaching me economy."

Another instance. More than twenty years have passed since a servant girl married and left a home where she had been taught frugality and conformity to her station. Come with me to a neat parlor in her Eastern home. It is handsomely not extravagantly furnished. The two young ladies, so graceful and refined, are the daughters of the former servant girl. There is no silly blush of shame as their mother refers to days of service, and tells of the industry and economy that secured their present ample means. "We own this house, have two more up town that are rented, and my husband has a good business besides." He was a drayman when she married him.—[K in Cleveland-Herald.

DRESSING SKINS FOR ROBES, SADDLES AND MATS.—A correspondent requests us to give him information concerning the method of dressing skins "with the hair on." It differs but little in principle from that of tanning them for leather.—In preparing skins for leather, they have to be deprived of their hair either by sweating or liming; this process is dispensed with in preparing robes.

The fresh skins, if they have to stand for some time before they can be treated, are first steeped in a brine of common salt; then lifted out of the brine and laid over a table or bench, with the hairy side downward, all the fleshy parts scraped off clean with a knife, and the ragged edges cut off and trimmed.

They are now ready for undergoing the preserving operations. If they are clean white sheep skins, intended for seats, saddles, or mats, they are steeped in a solution of alum for several days—from three to six—then lifted out, nailed on racks to stretch them to their fullest extent, and dried in the air; they are now ready for use.—The strength of the alum solution employed should be at the rate of one pound of alum to every four pounds of skins, the alum being dissolved in sufficient quantity to cover the skins.

Calf, dog or other skins designed for robes are prepared in a different manner. After having all the fleshy parts removed as heretofore described they are steeped in a bath of oak bark or sumac, or blackberry wood liquor, containing some alum in solution. A peck of ground oak bark is sufficient for tanning twenty pounds of skins; it will require twenty pounds of American sumac, or the same amount of young blackberry bushes to effect the same object. These are boiled in a close vessel for about three hours in water to extract their strength, then mixed with sufficient cold water to cover the skins in two separate baths (or else boiled at two several times).

Three pounds of dissolved alum are also placed in each bath when they are ready for the skins; these are all placed in one of the baths at one time and allowed to remain for three days being turned in the interim every succeeding day, and then lifted out, dripped and placed in the fresh bath where they undergo similar operations during the next three days. They are again lifted out, nailed on racks, dried in the open air, and are then fit for use.

Skins are composed mostly of gelatine which is very liable to decompose by exposure to moisture and the atmosphere. To preserve them, they are brought into chemical union with some substance or substances, so as to form an insoluble compound. An acid in oak bark, willow, sumac and hemlock, has been used from time immemorial as the chemical agent, to form an insoluble compound with the gelatine of the skins by the process called tanning. Any other chemical substance that will produce the same effect may be used for the same object, and hence alum, which is a colorless substance, is employed for this purpose for white skins.

Robes of skins require to be more elastic and soft than leather, hence they are not submitted to the tanning processes for such a long period.—Young blackberry bushes impart to the skins greater softness than oak or sumac liquors.

To preserve skin robes from the attacks of insects, they should be submitted to a slight smoking in a smoke-house, and then hung up in the wind for a few days afterwards. If found to be a little too hard when dried, they should be beaten with rods until they are quite soft. By attending to these directions carefully, persons living in the country may prepare their own skins with no more apparatus than a barrel, a table, and a kettle.—[Scientific American.

ADVICE TO THE BAR.—In an introductory address last week, we find the following passage:—"It is a sacred duty of yours to discourage legal strife at its incipient stages, unless you find yourselves compelled to vindicate some substantial right or redress a flagrant wrong. Trivial incidents and imaginary injuries are the most mischievous sorts of litigation—let these be sternly repressed."

On a kindred topic the Recorder puts it: "According as you act and demean yourself on such occasions, you may make the law appear a blessing or a curse—render it detestable as the mere instrument of meanness, trickery and oppression, or lovely and dignified as the guardian of peace and order—the very visible impersonation of Justice—the protector of the weak and oppressed—vindicating the rights of the most abject—and redressing wrongs, though inflicted by the haughtiest and highest of mankind."

CHEAP PAINT.—If any of your readers wish to use a very cheap and substantial paint, of a drab color without lustre, let them mix water-lime with skimmed milk, to a proper thickness to apply with a brush, and it is ready to use. It is too cheap almost to estimate, and any one can put it on who can use a paint brush. It will adhere well to wood, whether smooth or rough—to brick, stone or mortar, where oil paint has not been used, in which case it will cleave to some extent, and forms a very hard substance, as durable as the best oil paint. JAS. M. CLARK. Throopsville.—[Country Gentleman, March 12.

☞ It was a judicious resolution of a father, when being asked what he intended to do with his girls, he answered:—"I intend to apprentice them to their excellent mother, that they may learn the art of improving time, and be fitted to become like her, wives, mothers, and heads of families, and useful and ornamental members of society."

Biographical Sketch of Dr. E. K. Kane.

The constantly declining health of Dr. Kane had, in a measure, prepared the public for the reception of the news of his death, which, occurred in Havana, Cuba, on the 16th of March, 1857.

The history of the world presents but few instances of men who, in so short a life, have accomplished so much, honorable to themselves and beneficial to mankind.

Dr. Elisha Kane was born in Philadelphia in 1822. He graduated at the University of Pennsylvania, first in its collegiate and afterward in its medical department. He went out from his Alma Mater a good classical scholar, a good chemist, mineralogist, astronomer, and surgeon. But he lacked robustness of frame and soundness of health. He solicited an appointment in the navy, and upon his admission demanded active service.

He was first appointed as surgeon to the first American embassy to China. During this residence abroad he explored the Philippine Islands, descended into the crater of Taal to its very mouth, being lowered more than 100 feet of the way by a bamboo rope, ascended the Himalayas, walked over Greece, visited Ceylon, the Upper Nile, and all the mythologic region of Egypt.

At the commencement of the Mexican war we find him in the Navy Yard at Philadelphia. But his adventurous spirit could not be satisfied here, and he asked to be removed to a more active field. The government sent him to the coast of Africa. Here he visited the slave factories from Cape Mount to the river Bonny, and succeeded in obtaining access to the barracoons of Dahomey. In this service he contracted the coast fever from the effects of which he never entirely recovered.

On his return he called on President Polk, and asked an opportunity for engaging in service that accorded with his ambition. He was accordingly sent with dispatches of great importance to General Scott which must be carried through a region occupied by the enemy. In this service he was dangerously wounded.

When he recovered and returned, he was employed in the Coast Survey. While engaged in this service, the government by its correspondence with Lady Franklin became committed for an attempt at the rescue of Sir John and his ill-starred companions in Arctic discovery. Nothing could be better addressed to the Doctor's governing sentiments than this adventure. The enterprise of Sir John ran exactly in the current of one of his own enthusiasms—the service of natural science combined with heroic personal effort; and, added to this, that sort of patriotism which charges itself with its own full share in the execution of national engagements of honor; and besides this cordial assumption of his country's debts and duties, there was no little force in the appeal of a nobly brave spirited woman to the chivalry of the American navy.

He was "bathing in the tepid waters of the Gulf of Mexico, on the 12 of May, 1850" when he received his telegraphic order to proceed forthwith to New York, for duty upon the Arctic expedition. In nine days from that date he was beyond the limits of the United States on his dismal voyage to the North Pole. Of this first American expedition, as is well known to the public, he was the surgeon, the naturalist, and the historian. It returned disappointed of its main object, after a winter in the regions of eternal ice and a fifteen months' absence.

Scarcely allowing himself a day to recover from the hardships of this cruise, he set on foot the second attempt, from which he has returned, after verifying by actual observation the long questioned existence of an open sea beyond the latitude of 82° and beyond the temperature, also, of 100° below the freezing point. His "Personal Narrative," published early in 1853, recounts the adventures of the first voyage, and discovers his diversified qualifications for such an enterprise.

Before it was completed for the press he had effected his arrangements for the last Arctic expedition, appropriating to this cherished object his own pecuniary resources, as well as drawing largely on those of the scientific institutions of this country. The history of that expedition, and the remarkable discoveries to which it led, are now before the country. They constitute in themselves an imperishable monument to Dr. Kane's fame.

Dr. Kane was about five feet seven inches in height, and usually weighed about one hundred and thirty pounds. Complexion fair, hair brown, eyes dark gray with a sharp, hawk-like look.—He was never robust. With such general health as his, most men would call themselves invalids, and live on furlough from all the active duties of life; yet he has won the distinction of being the first civilized man to stand in latitude 82° 40 and gaze upon the open Polar Sea—to reach the northernmost point of land on the globe—to report the lowest temperature ever endured—the heaviest sledge journeys ever performed—and the wildest life that civilized man has successfully undergone; and to return after all to tell the story of his adventures.

The secret spring of all this energy is in his religious enthusiasm—discovered alike in his generous spirit of his adventures in pursuit of science, in his enthusiastic fidelity to duty, and in his heroic maintenance of the point of honor in all his intercourse with men.

It is a matter of painful regret that the source of his greatest renown should also have been the source of the wasting disease by which he has prematurely been called away. Never very strong, the constant hardships to which he was exposed in his last Arctic voyage, were too much for his physical strength. Finding that he did not derive from the climate of England the benefits to his health which he sought, he proceeded to the mild climate of Cuba. But the seeds of disease were too deeply sown. Nothing could arrest its progress. With mind unimpaired, and surrounded by his mother and some intimate friends, he breathed his last on the 16th ult, in the flower of his age, and the enjoyment of a well earned and world-wide renown.

The funeral of Dr. Kane at Havana was attended by a long procession of all the Americans in the city, as well as by the Vice-Captain General of the island, and many other Spanish officials.—[Life Illustrated.

[The remains of Dr. Kane were received with much ceremony in Philadelphia, and were interred in the Laurel Hill cemetery on the 12th of April.

DR. KANE AND THE MORAVIANS.—Dr. Kane, in his narrative of his Arctic explorations, makes the following pleasant mention of a visit to the Moravian missionaries who are laboring on the sterile coast of Greenland:

'While we were beating out of the fiord Fiskernaes, I had an opportunity to visit Lichten, the ancient seat of the congregations, and one of the three (four) Moravian settlements. I had read much of the history of its founders, and it was with feelings almost of devotion, that I drew near the scene their labors had consecrated.

As we rowed into the harbor of its rock-embayed cove, everything was so desolate and still, that we might have fancied ourselves outside the world of life; even the dogs—those querulous, never sleeping sentinels of the rest of the coast—gave no signal of our approach. Presently, a sudden turn around a projecting cliff brought into view a quaint old Silesian mansion, bristling with irregularly disposed chimneys, its black, overhanging roof studded with dormer windows, and crowned with an antique belfry.

We were met as we landed, by a couple of grave, ancient men, in sable jackets and close velvet skull caps, such as Vandyke or Rembrand himself might have painted, who gave us a quiet but kindly welcome. All inside the mansion-house—the furniture, the matron, even the children—had the same home-sobered look. The sanded floor was dried by one of those huge, white tiled stoves, which have been known for generations in the north of Europe, and the stiff-backed chairs were evidently coeval with the first days of the settlement. The heavy-built table, in the middle of the room, was soon covered with its simple offerings of hospitality and we sat around to talk of the lands we had come from, and the changing wonders of the times.

We learned that the house dated back as far as the days of Matthew Stach, built, no doubt, with the beams that floated so providently to the shore some twenty-four years after the first landing of Egede; and that it has been the home of the brethren who now greeted us, one for 29 and the other for 27 years. The 'Congregation Hall' was within the building, cheerless now, with its empty benches; a couple of French horns, all that I could associate with the gladsome piety of the Moravians, hung on each side of the altar. Two dwelling-rooms, three chambers and a kitchen, all under the same roof, made up the one structure of Lichtenfels.

Its kind-hearted inmates were not without intelligence and education. In spite of the formal cut of their dress, and something of the stiffness that belongs to a protracted solitary life, it was impossible not to recognize in their demeanor and course of thought the liberal spirit that has always characterized their church. Two of their 'children' they said, had 'gone home' last year, with the scurvy. Yet they hesitated at receiving a scanty supply of potatoes, as a present from our store.'

HOW TO REACH THE NORTH POLE.—Professor Sonntag, Astronomer to the 'Grinnell Exploring Expedition,' in his Narrative, says, the only way to ever reach the North Pole, is by dog-sledges, starting early in the season, before the ice becomes soft and slushy; he thinks the whole journey could be made in thirty days from the starting point. The professor says: 'The distance from Hakluyt's Headland to the Pole is six hundred geographical miles. Supposing that the traveler should proceed but twenty miles in twenty-four hours, only one month would be required to enable the adventurer to place his foot on the very pivot of the earth's axis. He might remain there a month, if necessary, to collect all desirable information, and then return in one of those easily constructed canoes which are made and used by the Esquimaux on the southern coast of Greenland. The southwesterly currents, within a fortnight, or less time, perhaps, would bring him back to Spitsbergen.

HORSE DISTEMPER.—I send you a recipe for this disease which I have received great benefit from:—Six tablespoonfuls soot, 1 tablespoonful salt, 3 eggs, and Indian meal enough to make a stiff batter. Mix all well together, and make it into four balls; give one morning and evening till gone. The four balls will generally effect a cure. Should it not do so entirely repeat the dose. I have never known a failure.—[Cor. N. E. Far.

THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE AND THEIR CZAR.—It is the common topic of surprise to every stranger who travels in Russia, to notice with what kindness the Czar permits the peasant to come prominently forward among the first magnates of the land. An Englishman writes from St. Petersburg that the Czar is on terms of closer intimacy with the peasants than the British Queen is with her people.

☞ A GENTLEMAN in the interior of France has built an amphibious steamboat, adapted to roaming on land and water. He navigated over the common roads to a port in the Mediterranean, where the boat walked into the water and kept straight on without any change of its arrangements. It is described as beautiful in its form; the engine of a novel construction; and the pipes so arranged that they can be used as masts.