



OUR DAILY RECKONING.

If you sit down at set of sun, And count the acts that you have done; And counting, find One self denying act, one word That eased the heart of him who heard; One glance, most kind, That fell like sunshine where it went, Then you may count that day well spent. But if through all the livelong day You've cheered no heart by yea or nay; If through it all You've nothing done, that you can trace, That brought the sunshine to one face; No act, most small, That helped some soul, and nothing cost, Then count that day as worse than lost!

UNCLE SAM'S CLOCK.

At the Navy Observatory in Washington stands the clock that regulates time for the whole country. It is not beautiful, like many lovely French clocks that noiselessly tick upon the parlor mantle; in fact, it is large and tall, with plain face, and body of dark wood, and without ornamentation. It is much like the old-fashioned clock that stood in our grandmothers' kitchens. It nowhere touches either the floor or walls of the building, but is securely fastened to a stone pier, which rests upon a solid stone foundation, so that it may not be affected by any motion of the building or ground. Rains may descend, floods come, winds blow and beat upon the house, but the clock feels it not, for it is built upon a rock.

In order that people all over the country may have uniform time, so important for railroads, steamboats, and other public conveyances, at three minutes before twelve each day this clock is connected, by means of a galvanic battery, with the wires of the Western Union Telegraph, which extend into the room containing the clock. All other messages, however important, must give way for these three minutes, and in every town and station from Maine to California, where there is a telegraph operator, as the pendulum of the clock ticks, each second a click is recorded by the telegraph, and at the very instant of twelve two ticks are given.

At the same instant a huge black ball, which is drawn up a few seconds before, descends upon the dome of the Observatory, and hundreds all over the city stand, with watch in hand, to see it drop, keep, as we may say, 'ball time.' Thus, when this drops, a click in every large town in the land tells the hour of twelve.

This clock is also connected with the Fire Alarm in Boston, and the time is sent to the central office, and then sounded by the three church bells that give the alarm.

So while the clerks in Washington are watching the ball, the restless school-boy of Minnesota is waiting to hear the big clock upon the town-house sound its merry peal, the signal for dismissal, the tired factory girl of Lowell listens eagerly for the same sound.

But you must remember that only places on the same meridian with Washington have, after all, exactly the same time. The sun, in passing round the earth, which is divided into three hundred and sixty degrees of longitude, every twenty-four hours, must pass through one degree, which is about twenty-nine miles every four minutes. So, if the sun rises

in Boston at seven o'clock, it will not rise in New York, two hundred miles west, till twelve minutes past seven, or seven o'clock will not come to them for twelve minutes after it has reached Boston. Neither will it be twelve o'clock till twelve minutes later than it is in Boston.

Take the Pacific railroad and travel West, with your watch correct in Boston; when you reach Omaha you will be an hour and a half ahead of their time; and when you arrive at San Francisco your watch will be three hours and a half fast, because old Sol is still on his way. When you, in Boston, are going to church at eleven o'clock, the boys in San Francisco are just taking their breakfast at half past seven.

So, while I tell you that all the towns receive the click of twelve at the same time, you must remember that in places situated in longitude east or west from Washington, the number of minutes it takes the sun to pass those degrees must be added to or subtracted from twelve, to give them correct time.—Wide Awake.

GOOD COUNSEL.

Punch has the following hints for the guidance of School Boards, which may be more appropriate to the English climate than to our own:

To remember that the tongue is a dangerous member.

Not to set down opponents, and those who differ from you in opinion, as skeptics and atheists, or narrow minded and intolerant bigots.

To expect opposition, and to meet it with fairness and good humor.

Not to ride hobbies too far or too fast.

To use the organ of hearing rather than the organ of speech.

If there are any defects in your own education, to endeavor to remedy them.

To read all the best works on education, and to master the blue-books and statistics that have been published on the same important subject.

Never to speak except in a cool, calm, quiet, composed, and unruffled frame of mind.

Always to walk to the place of meeting—exercise being favorable to deliberation and reflection, and adverse to haste and impetuosity.

To dine together occasionally (not, of course, at the expense of the rate-payers.)

Before everything and everybody else—rates, rate-payers, creeds, churches, sects, parties and parents—to think of the children.

A PICTURE OF GEN. ZACHARY TAYLOR.

Gen. James Shields thus describes his first interview with Gen. Taylor: "I was sent with my brigade to report to him on the Rio Grande. After getting my command into camp, I put on the most showy uniform I had, and spent much time in rigging up to do honor to such an occasion as the meeting with the commander-in-chief of the army of occupation. Arrived at headquarters I inquired for Gen. Taylor, and was shown into a tent by the orderly who went away to announce me. Presently entered a hard-featured but still very benevolent-faced man, quite undersized, who, from appearance, would easily have been taken for a wagoner. A great flapping straw hat crowned his head, he

had no collar, a linen coat, and the coarse pantaloons he wore had no suspicions of rank about them, and his unstockinged feet were covered by common infantry shoes. While I was trying to figure out in my mind what this apparition could be, he grasped my hand and heartily exclaimed: 'I'm very glad to see you here, Gen. Shields, and will cut out some work for your command before long.' And this was actually Gen. Zachary Taylor, one of the bravest, kindest and noblest of men that ever lived."—Ex.

The nineteenth century has witnessed many and great discoveries. In 1809, Fulton took out the first patent for the invention of a steamboat. The first steamboats which made regular trips across the Atlantic ocean were the Sirius and the Great Western, in 1830. The first application to practical use of gas for illumination was made in 1802. In 1813, in Waltham, Mass., there was a mill, supposed to have been the first in the world which combined all the requirements for making finished cloth from raw cotton. In 1790, there were only twenty five post-offices in the whole country; and up to 1837 the rate of postage was twenty-five cents for a letter over four hundred miles. In 1807, wooden clocks commenced to be made by machinery, ushering in the era of cheap clocks. About the year 1833, the first railroad of any considerable length was built. In 1840, the first experiments in photography were made by Daguerre. About 1844, the first express business was established. In 1836, the patent for the invention of matches was granted. In 1847, the first telegraphic dispatch was sent. Steel-pens were introduced for use in 1833. The successful trial of a reaper was made in 1832. In 1846, Elias Howe obtained a patent for his first sewing-machine. The first successful method of making vulcanized India-rubber was patented in 1859.—Christian Advocate.

Sophocles being asked what injury he wished his enemy, replied, "that he might love where he was not loved again."

BOYS AND GIRLS.

We have on hand about a dozen boys and girls, small and sprightly, just such as childless couples might properly adopt. Persons wishing to adopt children are invited to come and see them, or correspond with us.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR A BOY.

My residence is in..... County, and my occupation is..... My family consists of..... I wish to employ a boy..... years of age, and (Here give description and qualities desired.) He will be required to..... and allowed to..... I will furnish..... and pay him..... a month. A. B. Recommended by.....

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR THE ADMISSION OF HALF ORPHANS.

..... N. C., } 1877. } This is to certify that..... is a half orphan, sound in body and mind, and without any estate. H..... father died in 18..... I being h..... mother, hereby make application for h..... admission to the Orphan Asylum at Oxford, and I also relinquish and convey to the officers thereof the entire management and control of said orphan till the..... day of..... (that being the day on which..... will be fourteen years of age,) in order that..... may be trained and educated according to the regulations prescribed by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. I also promise not to annoy the Orphan Asylum, and not to encourage the said orphan to leave without the approval of the Superintendent. Approved by..... W. M. of.....

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR THE ADMISSION OF ORPHANS.

..... N. C., } 1877. } This is to certify that..... is an orphan, sound in body and mind, and without estate. H..... father died 18....., h..... mother died in 18..... I, being h....., hereby make application for h..... admission into the Orphan Asylum at Oxford, and I also relinquish and convey to the officers thereof, the entire management and control of said orphan till the..... day of..... (that being the day on which..... will be fourteen years of age,) in order that..... may be trained and educated according to the regulations prescribed by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. Approved by..... W. M. of..... Lodge.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR A GIRL.

Our residence is in..... County, and our occupation..... Our family consists of..... We wish to employ a girl..... years of age, and (Here give description and qualities desired.) She will be required to..... and allowed to..... She will spend her evenings in..... and will sleep in..... We will furnish..... and will pay..... a month. A. B., Mrs. A. B. Recommended by.....

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