

Sunday Reading.

Is Duelling Honorable?

It is evident that the framers of our State Constitutions did not regard this as an honorable practice. If so they would not have prohibited it; they would not have denied the public an efficient and creditable mode of settling difficulties.

If there be any thing noble in the fatal encounter why are men compelled to fly to distant and unknown ground in order to accomplish it? Why not enact the brilliant scene at home, in the presence of kindred and friends, and before the gaze of admiring thousands?

To violate the laws of the land can, by no possibility, be considered as a mark of true greatness. He who does it places himself in antagonism to the Legislators, Judges, and Officers whose business it is to enact and enforce law.

So far as he is considered the majesty of government is trampled under foot, and a flood of violence and blood let loose upon the innocent and helpless.

But he who appears on the field in person, the beloved son of aged parents whose days and nights have been devoted to his wellbeing for to these many years, and he is also the husband of an amiable and affectionate wife, as well as the father of tender babes.

Some years afterwards, when on a visit to a place five miles from Plymouth, on the Lord's day, she went to church, where she heard an excellent sermon.

As she was returning through the church-yard a gentleman accosted her, and said: "Do you remember, madam, giving a copy of a New Testament, after distributing some tracts, on board of a man-of-war, and desiring him to read it through twice?"

"Yes, sir," she replied. He added, "I am the man to whom you gave it, and I have been preaching to you to-day. Through your instrumentality God has taught me to love that Book which I once despised."

THE GIBBY GIRL.

Not long since three or four thoughtless girls in southern Massachusetts resolved to attend a prayer-meeting, to make light of and ridicule its solemnities.

"What will a man give in exchange for his soul? One of the most thoughtless among the girls turned to her companion, and said, 'I will sell my soul to anybody for a ninny-pin!'

"You are a poor worm of the dust to bid defiance to his Maker is contemptible in the extreme. He who fights a duel, fights above the ever-burning lake. If he falls, he falls in the very act of transgression, and must meet the transgressors down."

It is honorable to violate the law of God? He has said—"Thou shalt not kill," and he enjoins it upon us to protect our own persons. Is it mainly and magnanimously for one who has been previously instructed willfully to transgress a positive command of the Almighty?

In darkest night, a lantern to my feet; In gladsome days, as dropping honey sweet. When first I parted from my quiet home, At the command, for I was good to roam.

THE CAPTAIN TURNED PREACHER. A lady who was actively engaged in circulating the Holy Scriptures and religious tracts, went, on one occasion, to the quay at Plymouth, and requested permission of a captain to go on board a man-of-war, in which were eight hundred men, and many dissipated females.

"Madam, it will be of no avail; you will meet with abuse." She answered, "With your leave, I will go."

"Certainly, madam," he replied; and she went. Something occurring at the time, which irritated the captain, who swore a most dreadful oath; the lady said: "Sir, as you have granted me one favor, I hope you will confer another."

"It is, then, that you will please to keep from swearing while I am on board your ship." This he complied with. After the lady had gone around the ship, and had given away some tracts, (and to the honor of British sailors, he it spoken, they treated her with greatest respect.) she returned to the captain, who was standing at the entrance of the vessel.

"I have yet one more favor to ask of you, sir; I hope you will comply with it." "Yes certainly madam," was the reply. "I will madam, for my word's sake."

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A BLESSED PROSPECT. The ties which bind together a family who all have a good christian hope, shall never be dissolved. Death comes among them, but we take the Bible in our hands, and inscribe on their tombstones—"Pleasant in life, and in eternity not divided."

THE CHRISTIAN'S CROWN. That ye may close with Christ, remember there is a six-fold crown which shall be put upon your head. Would ye have a long life? Then come to Christ, and ye shall have a crown of eternal life.

HAPPINESS. O Thou, our first and ceaseless care, The object of each wish and prayer. How shall I trace thy secret road, Where first thou ever lead'st abroad.

GOOD ADVICE. "Never be cast down by trifles. If a spider breaks his thread twenty times in a day, he patiently mends it each time. Make up your mind to do a good thing—it will be done. Fear not troubles—keep up your spirits—the darkness will flee away. If the sun is going down—look at the stars if they are hid by the clouds, still look up to Heaven. Rely on the promises of God and be cheerful. Never yield to misfortune. Mind what you run after; avoid bubbles that will burst, and fire-works that end in smoke; get that which is worth keeping and can be kept."

TRUE PRAYER. A little deaf and dumb girl was once asked by a lady, who wrote the question on a slate, "What is prayer?" The little girl took her pencil, and wrote in reply, "Prayer is the wish of the heart."

ADDRESS TO THE BRIDE. When the Rev. Mr. McNamee was baptizing in Palestine, his companion accidentally dropped in his life into Jacob's well, at Sychar, whereupon he pronounced the following fragments:

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DO YOU PRAY. It is morning. A dark and stormy night has passed. The winds have howled about your dwelling as though they would tear it down. Many of your fellow-beings have been in great peril, and some are no more in this world.

It is evening. The day has passed; and during it you have dashed on in your work. You have been fed and clothed, and have had strength to meet its many engagements. No accident has befallen you—no loss to your property. You feel that you have done a good business. The hour of rest draws him. Will you sleep without thanking God for the blessings of the day, and asking him to keep you through the night? How hard must be your heart, and how stupid if all God's mercies call forth no grateful remembrance.

The Sabbath has come. The church-bell is beginning to make its peals.—The people are going to the house of God. You are permitted to join them. You hear the prayers and praises of the sanctuary; the Gospel too, its warnings and promises. You are edified and comforted, perhaps. Do you pray, and praise, and thank God for all these privileges.

You are in health. A short time since you were sick. You were confined to bed. You could not see to any of your business. It was thought that you might not recover. Who raised you? Who has given you health and strength again? From God cometh every good and perfect gift. Do you thank him for it? Should you not esteem it a great privilege to do so?

Reader, you can live without prayer. You can be unmindful of all your obligations to God. You can neglect all the vital duties of religion, and go through life as stupid as an ox. But what then? There is a God, and a heaven, and a hell. You are bound to the judgment, and must answer for it all. You are most unwise to be irreligious. If you live without prayer, it will be a sad matter to settle in the end. Those who pray not have no grace, and no ground to hope. Oh! if you have lived prayerless till now, do it no more. Pray in the morning; pray in the evening; pray upon the Sabbath; pray in health; pray always with all prayer, and watch thereunto; pray without ceasing. It will do you good; it will fit you to live or die. Pour out your heart before God.—Religious Recorder.

"A strong man will carry me over the mountains." These were the words of a sweet little dying boy in the city of Boston a few weeks ago.

About the middle of the night in which he died, he saw something beautiful which he could not very well understand. He was much delighted with the vision, and his parents assured him that God had given him a glimpse of heaven. But they soon perceived that the vision was marred, by the appearance of mountains which he saw before him. Almost in a moment, however after they were discovered, he exclaimed: "A strong man will carry me over the mountains!" and soon after departed on his journey. Gentle child! and gentle faith!

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