

A STEADY AIM.

BY CALEB DUNN.

A fearless heart, a steady aim, a mind to plan, a will to do— these have the power to conquer fame. To win a glory that is true.

WATCHING A RIFLE BALL'S FLIGHT.

Three gentlemen, members of the Amateur Rifle Club, yesterday afternoon were in the town of Brighton, ride shooting. The distance was 200 yards; all three were shooting "Creedmoor" rifles.

A SACRED OLD RELIC.

A colored man yesterday turned auctioneer to work off two old stoves for a dealer on Gatriot avenue. One was sold without trouble, but the other "held over" on him, he mounted a barrel and began:

"Gentlemen and woman, dis yere stove was once de property of George Washington."

A huge laugh of derision greeted his statement. Singling out the biggest man in the crowd, the auctioneer asked: "Doan' you believe dat George Washington once owned dis yere stove?"

"No, sir."

"Dat's de same as callin' me a liab, sah, and you'll hev to chaw dem words, sah."

He jumped down and waltzed over to the stranger, but was knocked down in a York minute. That was plenty for him, and after feeling of his head to see how much of it was left, he mounted the barrel and called out:

"How much do I heal for dis stove—once de property of Gen'l Grant. De stove dat Washington owned was busted up doarin' de war!"—Detroit Free Press.

PAT'S DREAM.

A son of the Emerald Isle was observed one morning to look very blank and perplexed, and a friend asked what ailed him. Pat said he had had a dream. "A good or bad one?" asked his friend. Pat answered it was a little of both. "Faith, I'll tell ye, I dreamed I was wid the Pope, who was as great a jintleman as any in the district, an' he axed me would I drink? Thinks I, would a duck swim?"

SATURDAY NIGHT.

Among the multitude of suggestions for spending Sunday in a profitable way, we say that Saturday night is one of the resting places in the journey of life, when it becomes every man to settle his accounts. Observe the following:

1. Settle with the world. The business of a single week is easily reviewed—its mistakes may be easily rectified, its experience turned to good account. The man of business should some time on Saturday look over his books, examine his outstanding debts, and see that all is straight and safe. This is all the more important if his accounts are numerous. Great watchfulness is required if he would escape embarrassment and trouble. He who knows exactly how he stands every Saturday night will not be likely to live a poor man; or, if he does, he will hardly ever be found in debt or in want.

2. Settle with conscience. Let him review his words and his actions, his motives and his feelings during the past week. If anything is seen to be wrong or defective (and who is he without fault?) let the remembrance of it be carried into the next week, that a repetition of it may be avoided. Let him in prayer seek not only forgiveness for what he has been amiss in the past, but grace to do better the coming week.

3. Settle with the Lord's treasury. Every man owes constant returns of gratitude to the Giver of all good. Is it not meet to finish the settlement of Saturday night by reviewing all the merits of the week, and setting apart of the portion of its profits to serve some good cause that will promote the glory of Him "who gave Himself for us?" How much better and happier might life be with a downright honest settlement every Saturday night! How much brighter would Sunday morning be; how much more profitable the whole day.

THE POLITE MAN.—"A polite man," said the Duc de Morny, "is one who listens with interest to things he knows all about when they are told him by a person who knows nothing about them."

FRUIT CULTURE IN N. C.

(Farmer and Mechanic.)

The display of native fruits at our late fair was a matter of both pride and gratification to all who feel an interest in the welfare of our State. The various exhibitors are entitled to the thanks of the public, but in an especial manner should praise be awarded to those gentlemen who exhibited the growth of their own orchards. Most prominent among these was Mr. J. R. Neill of Yancey county. His display, we venture to say, was the most splendid ever made from one orchard by one grower in North Carolina, both in size, quality and variety.

Mr. Neill's career as a pomologist imparts a useful lesson to all who are disposed to make an independent living with small means to begin with. Before the war he was a carpenter in the town of Asheville, noted for intelligence, industry and integrity, but possessed of little capital. About the beginning of the war, having married in that country, he settled in Yancey on a small mountain farm on Bald Creek, a tributary of Caney River. On this farm was the nucleus of an orchard, and perceiving the capacity of this country for fruit growing, he set to work, resolved to devote himself to the business.

He pruned, grafted and planted, selecting the best varieties, and expending all his time and means beyond the support of his family, and labored with diligence, patience and practical intelligence until he succeeded in establishing the best orchard of the size perhaps in the State. His example has had a happy influence on all his neighborhood, and he is so far from market—about 45 miles from the market railroad depot—as to make his present profits less than they should be, he has laid the foundation of a fortune for his children, and pointed the way to a great prosperity for his county. "Riley Neill's apples are already known further away than any man's in North Carolina, and their celebrity is still advancing. Four years ago Gov. Vance sent two barrels of them to a friend in England who reported them among the best he had ever seen in any part of the world."

Such men are worth something to the country. We would be glad to have the benefit of his experience for the readers of the Farmer and Mechanic, and if any occasion should arise for North Carolina fruits to be displayed abroad, J. R. Neill is the man to do it.

Die Lewis has turned up again. This time he wants straw pillows for babies.

Milk river is in Massachusetts. They named it Milk because milk is about the same thing as water.

The pope's eldest brother died at ninety, his mother at ninety-eight, and his grandfather at ninety-three.

Habberton accounts for the foolishness of the small boy. "The small boy had a father, and this father was once a small boy himself."

The Chicago Journal says: "When a man imagines that he is a prophet and a philosopher he takes to long hair and a dirty overcoat."

Two million years ago, a bird twelve feet high was promeneing along the bank of the Connecticut river, and Prof. Hitchcock has just discovered its tracks.

Faith is sometimes personified as a French female clinging to a sea-washed rock; but a better personification would be a bald-headed man buying a bottle of patent hair restorer.

Mr. Watterson tells in his lecture of a Mississippiian who was asked whether it was worth while to carry a pistol. "Well, stranger," he answered, "you must move about for a year and not want it, and then again you must, and if you do need it, you will need it powerful."

The Charleston News indulges extravagant hopes. "One of these days," it says, "the ideal president will take up his quarters at the white house, and frame a message that can be read in five minutes, and will leave the public in no uncertainty as to his views on every matter of importance."

Denton, Texas, has a desperado of African descent named Faust, whose ideas of fun are rather peculiar. Cocking a pistol on a divine, he made him get down on his hands and feet, bleed like a sheep, and compelled him to beat an oak tree until he made the acorns fall. Mephistopheles will run off with that fellow some day.

CATHOLICISM AMONG NEGROES.—There are said to be 50,000 colored people in Georgia who profess the Catholic faith, and the one thing which the priests regard with the most fear and detestation, is a Methodist camp-meeting anywhere in their vicinity. That is one thing the negro cannot resist.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—In a recent charge to his clergy, Archbishop Trent, of Dublin, takes a very desponding view of the prospects of the English State Church. He thinks that the chief danger comes from the interference of the State, and says that "the State, as a political organism, is far less Christian than it used to be; can hardly be said, as such, to be Christian at all."

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