

Literary and Miscellaneous.

CELIA'S SMILE.

Oh, smile not so those looks of thine
Fall on my heart as bright and chill,
As sunbeams upon snows that shine...

Smile on me thus!—that look will wake
Thoughts of the heart that long have slept,
And bid all Eden's freshness break...

FORMATION OF CHARACTER.

It is ever to be kept in mind that a good name
is in all cases the fruit of personal exertion.
It is not inherited from parents; it is not created
by external advantages...

Thousands of young men have been ruined
by relying for a good name on their honorable
parentage, or inherited wealth, or the patronage
of friends...

In the formation of a good character, it is of
great importance that the early part of life be
improved and guarded with the utmost carefulness.
The most critical period of life is that which
elapses from fourteen to twenty-one years of age...

Youthful thoughtlessness, I know, is wont to
regard the indiscretions and vicious indulgences
of this period, as of very little importance.
But, believe me, my friends, they have great
influence in forming your future character...

[Haves' Lectures to Young Men.

PROFESSOR OF SIGNS.

King James VI. on removing to London,
was waited upon by the Spanish Ambassador,
a man of erudition, but who had a crotchet
in his head that every country should have
a Professor of signs, to teach him and the like
of him to understand one another...

The Ambassador arrives, is received with great
solemnity; but soon began to inquire which
of them had the honour to be Professor of
Signs? and being told that the Professor was
absent in the Highlands, and would not return
nobody could say when, says the Ambassador...

his fist, and looks stern. The Ambassador
took an orange from his pocket, and then
he took it up; Geordy takes a piece of barley
from his pocket, and holds that up. After
which the Ambassador bows to him, and
retires to the other professors, who anxiously
enquired his opinion of their brother...

MR. JEFFERSON'S OPINION.—"The basis of
our government," says that distinguished
apostle of liberty, in a letter to Col. Carrington,
dated 1787, "being the opinion of the people,
the great object should be to keep that right;
and were it left for me to decide, whether we
should have a government without Newspapers,
or Newspapers without a government, I
should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter..."

Extract of a letter to the Editors of the N. Y.
Journal of Commerce, dated
—, Ohio, April 12, 1831.

From my youth up I have been a pioneer of
the West. I am now aged 45 years; and feel
as a European or a citizen of the old Atlantic
States would at 90! I have seen the rise and
progress of western navigation from a bark to
a steam-boat, civilization, from a shirt of nettle
weed to one of fine Irish linen...

NEW INVENTION IN BLINDS.—MR. WM.
Cooke, 328 1-2 Washington street, has contrived
a very ingenious set of blinds, which he
calls the "Spring Barrel and Awning Transpa-
rent Blinds." A contemporary speaks of it in
the following terms:—"It is calculated to secure
within itself, or let out at such distances as may
be required, transparent curtains for windows;
and is also well adapted to secure maps and
charts from damage by dust, &c. and to display
them in an easy and convenient manner..."

DISTINGUISHED CHARACTERS.

EPICETUS, the celebrated Stoic Philosopher,
was born a slave, and spent many years
of his life in servitude. This was the fact also
with Esop, Publius, Syrus, and Terence.
The Abby Haüy, who died in Paris, a few
years since, celebrated for his writings and
discoveries in Crystallography, attained his
distinguished elevation in spite of every disad-
vantage of birth.
Wincklemae, one of the most distinguished
writers on classic antiquities and the fine arts,
that modern times have produced, was the son
of a shoemaker. He contrived to keep himself

at college, chiefly by teaching some of his
younger fellow students, while at the same
time he, in part, supported his poor father at a
hospital.
Anigio, an Italian poet, of the sixteenth
century, of considerable genius and learning,
followed his father's trade, that of a shoemaker;
and in the course of his life published a very
elaborate work on the "Shoemaking of the An-
cients."

The celebrated Italian writer Gelli, when
holding the high dignity of Council of the Flo-
rentine Academy, still continued to work at his
original profession of a tailor.

Metastasia was the son of a common me-
chanic, and used when a little boy to sing his
extemporaneous verses about the streets.

The father of Hayden, the great musical
composer, was a wheelwright, and filled also
the humble occupation of a sexton; while his
mother was at the same time a servant in the
establishment of a neighbouring nobleman.

The father of John Opie, the great English
portrait painter, was a working carpenter in
Cornwall. Opie was raised from the bottom of
a saw-pit, where he was employed in cutting
wood, to the Professorship of Painting, in the
Royal Academy.

The parents of Castallo, the elegant Latin
translator of the Bible, were poor peasants,
who lived among the mountains of Dauphny.

Long Speeches.—In the year of Rome 702
a law was passed, called de ambitu, limiting
the pleadings in criminal cases to one day, al-
lowing two hours to the prosecutor and three
to the accused. There was some sense in
this, independently of the saving of time.
There can be no greater absurdity than to sup-
pose a good cause can be benefitted by plea-
dings, the beginning of which must be quite
forgotten before they come to an end.

Trim's explanation of the Fifth Commandment.

"Pr'ythee, Trim," quoth my father—"what
dost thou mean, by honoring thy father and
mother?" "Allowing them, an't please your
honor, three half-pence a day, out of my pay,
when they grow old." "And didst thou do
that, Trim?" said Yorick. "He did, indeed,"
replied my uncle Toby. "Then, Trim," said
Yorick, springing out of his chair and taking
the Corporal by the hand, "thou art the best
commentator upon that part of the Decalogue;
and I honor thee more for it, Corporal Trim,
than if thou hadst had a hand in the Talmud
itself."—Sterne.

A short Parliament.—The shortest Parlia-
ment on record, was that of 1399, which had
but one session of a single day; and during that
short space, they contrived to upset one king
and set up another.

The following amusing verses are from a late
volume of poems, by James Hogg, the "Ettrick
Shepherd."

A SCOT'S LOVE SANG.
Could this ill world have been contrived
To stand without mischievous woman,
How peaceful bodies wad have lived,
Released frae a' the ills sae common!
But since it is the waeft' case
That man maun hae this teasing mony,
Why sic a sweet bewitching face?
O had they no been made sae bonny!

I might hae wandered dale and wood,
Brisk as the breeze that whistles o'er me,
As careless as the roe-dur's brood,
As happy as the lands before me;
I might hae screwed my tunef' pegs,
And carolled mountain streams so gaily,
Had we but waitin' a' the Megs,
Wi' glossy e'en sae dark an' wily.

I saw the danger, feared the dart,
The open laid, the air, an' a' sae taking,
Yet open laid my waeless heart,
An' gart the wound that keeps me wakening.
My harp waves on the willow green;
O' wild wicket-nots it has nae ony,
Sin' e'er I saw that pawky queen,
Sae sweet, sae wicked, an' sae bonny!

WHEN MAGGY GANGS AWAY.

O what will a' the lads do
When Maggy gangs away?
O what will a' the lads do
When Maggy gangs away?
There's na a heart in a' the glen
That disna' dread the day:
O what will a' the lads do
When Maggy gangs away?

Your Jock has ta'en the hill for't—
A waeft' wight is he;
Poor Harry's ta'en the bed for't,
And laid him down to dee;
An' Sandy's gane upon the kirk,
And learning fast to pray,
And O what will the lads do
When Maggy gangs away?

The young laird o' the Lang-Shaw
Has drank her health in wine,
The priest has said—in confidence—
The lassie was divine—
And that is mair in maiden's praise
Than any priest should say:
But O, what will the lads do
When Maggy gangs away?

The wailing in our green glen
That day will quaver high,
'Twill draw the redbreast frae the wood,
The laverock from the sky;
The fairies frae their beds o' dew
Will rise and join the lay,
An' praise her! what a day will be
When Maggy gangs away!

Father Sullivan.—On board the steam boat
to Boulogne, an Irish gentleman gave us, on
honor, a specimen of a sermon which he de-
clared he heard Father Sullivan, of Bally—,
deliver. Father S., says the narrator, was a
worthy stout man, with a red face, who found
his parishioners rather slack in paying their
Easter dues, and he took the following simple
means to quicken their apprehension. Preach-
ing to them about the gathering-time he said—
My "Christian hearers and worthy parishioners,
we must all die. You must die, Tim
Hearty, though fat and big you are; and you
must die, Mistress Hennessy, though you are
a likely and decent woman. You must die, Ned
Casey, though you have slated your new house
and I must die, though I am a priest of the
parish, and have the care of all your souls—
the Lord between you and harm—to account
for the great and the last day. Eh! then, I
am thinking, honest men, what account I will
be able to give to God Almighty of ye all,

from the top to the bottom of the parish. I
will have to walk at your head, on the day of
judgment, carrying all your sins on my back,
and standing before goodness to excuse you
from the devil and his angels, who will be
roaring and stirring the fire to roast ye—the
Lord spare ye from his hands. Eh! then,
when I am at your head, Goodness will ax me,
"Wha kind of a congregation have ye there,
Father S—?" and I will say, "Pretty like
other congregations, my Lord." Goodness
will then ax me, "How are they off for drunk-
ness, Father S—?" and I will answer,
"Mighty decent please the Lord." And so
Goodness will go through the ten command-
ments, and the precepts of the Church, and
the cardinal virtues, and the seven deadly sins,
and maybe its a good Karakter I will be able
to give ye, my Christian hearers. But when
Goodness axes "How they were off, Father
Sullivan for paying their Easter dues?" what
answer shall I give to that, ye blackguards?
Now mind me, honest men, next Sunday will
be Easter-day, and let me see what an answer
I'm to give the Lord."

Mutual Consolation.—An old clergyman, who
had an old tailor as his beadle or officer for many
years, returning from a sacrament, where Thom-
mas was in the constant habit of attending him,
after a thoughtful and silent pause, thus ad-
dressed his fellow-traveller, the "minister's man":
"Tammas, I cannae tell how it is that our
kirk sure is getting aye thinner and thinner—
for I am sure I preach as well as e'er I did, and
should hae far mair experience than when I gae
among ye." "Deed," replied Thomas, "auld
ministers, now a days, are just like auld tailors—
for I am sure I sew as weel's ere I did, and the
clait's the same, but its the cut, sir, its the new
cut!"

AGRICULTURAL.

RECLAIMING SWAMP LANDS.

Copy of a letter from J. S. Skinner to Robert
Sinclair, with the answer of the latter.

I wish, my worthy friend, that when you
have leisure you would give me your ideas
and experience on converting low swampy
grounds into meadow lands. You are aware
that on almost all the large farms south of the
Chesapeake, there is a great proportion of
swamp land, grown up in briars and bushes,
and occasionally overflowed, that might be
made valuable for tillage or for grass. Sup-
pose yourself to be a young farmer, owner of
such land, how would you proceed with it?
How and at what season would you begin?
I shall feel thankful for your suggestions, as well
for the benefit of a young friend in Virginia,
as for that of the readers of the American Farmer.
Command me when I can render you a
like service, and oblige, your's truly,
J. S. SKINNER.

Respected Friend John S. Skinner:

In reply to thy request to give my ideas
of the best and most expeditious method of
converting swampy lands, partly grown up
with briars, and occasionally overflowed with
tide or fresh water, such as is common south
of the Chesapeake bay in meadow lands.

Such lands are often so differently circum-
stanced as to render it difficult to lay down any
particular rule or line of procedure, but I hope
the following practical researches may prove
in a small degree useful to some of the very
numerous readers of thy valuable paper. If
the land is so wet as to require draining before
it can be grubbed or ploughed, cut open ditches
in such places as will effectually receive and
assist the water to pass off freely; rain falling
in the adjoining high grounds, settle and pass
through them and spring out at or near their
junction with the bottom land. In order to
collect this water into a ditch before it passes
further into the low grounds, cut a ditch along
the edge of the rising ground, about the com-
mencement of dampness, of sufficient width
and depth to carry off all the water that rises,
or runs down the hill when it rains, of the fol-
lowing proportions, four feet wide at the top,
one and a half feet at the bottom, and two and
a half feet deep—may be made larger or smaller
as circumstances require—and dug on an even
and gentle fall to the main ditch, stream or
tide; for where the bottom or marsh is wide
it is necessary to have one or more central
ditches, besides the above, all directed in their
course to the main outlet; experienced ditchers
can give the proper fall to the water as they
dig, but for hands less experienced, it will be
best to assist them by levelling as they pro-
ceed; a cheap level may be made as follows:
nail three narrow boards together like a pair
of rafters, with a collar beam, then fasten the
plumb line to the top of the rafters, passing
the line down to the collar beam, on which
have a line marked at right angles, with a hori-
zontal bearing of the lower part of the level,
which may be made to span fifteen or more
feet, with which great despatch in levelling
may be performed; and should there not be
sufficient fall at the intersection of the main
ditch, and tide, to let out the fresh water
in time of a high tide, a strong and durable
embankment must be made, of sufficient length
and height to keep out the highest tides. In
making the bank take the earth from the side
next the water, otherwise the muskrats will
undermine and burrow through the bank;
through this bank make one or more tide-
trunks of sufficient size to discharge the fresh
water; if a trunk of not more than twelve or
fifteen inches wide in the clear is required to
discharge the fresh water, it may be made by
spiking thick oak scantling to the inside of
these frames, nail the jointed thick boards
made water tight, in order to prevent leakage
around these trunks; prepare a kind of mortar,
such as is suitable for making bricks, and
ram or pack a body of it around the trunk
next the tide water; fit in and hang with hin-
ges by the upper edge a strong door, which
must be so constructed as to open with the
pressure of the fresh water when the tide is
low, and as it rises its own weight presses the
door into the rabits, and keep out the salt
water: by this means in low tides the fresh
water is all discharged through the trunks,
and the embankments and trunk doors keep
out the tide water to the complete drying of
the whole marsh; but it will be proper here
to remark, that inasmuch as the fresh water is
kept in the main ditch during flood tide, it must
be made large enough to hold it until ebb tide,
otherwise it would overflow the meadow land.

From the main ditch make as many smaller
ones as will completely dry the land, many of
which had best be made after the sod is rotted,
and the soil becomes fine, as hereafter di-
rected; after the land has become dry, grub
and burn the bushes; this work, as also the
ditching, may be done during the fall and win-
ter months, when other business of the farm
will best permit; plough the land deep and
well during the winter or spring months, com-
pletely turning under all rushes and other
trash. Oxen are much best for ploughing such
lands, on account of their great strength and
steadiness. Then harrow, cultivate, or shal-
low plough, to keep weeds down while the sod
is rotting, but as soon as the sod is completely
rotted, plough deep and harrow until the soil
is fine. By this management the fresh water
marsh may be mostly got in order to sow with
grass seed the first fall, and the salt water
marsh the second fall, requiring at least one
season after ditching to dry, and evaporate
its saltness. When the soil by repeated til-
lage has become dry, and mellow enough to
sow wheat in, it may also do to sow grass
seed, but if there appears at this season, say
about the first of August, (frequently the dry-
est season of the year,) damp places, they
should be entirely removed, by making small
drains, so as to convey the water into the prin-
cipal ditch, to perform which the cheapest and
best way is, (as the ground is now mellow,) to
plough from two to eight furrows, open from
each other, finishing with a water furrow in
the middle; by repeating this ploughing it
raises the ground on the outside, and lowers it
in the centre, the earth thus ploughed must be
removed to low spots near which may be per-
formed very expeditiously by a yoke of oxen
attached to what is generally called a scoop or
scraper, and in Flemish husbandry is called
the mouldebaert; which is made like a large
shovel, but the kind most in use here has two
handles, one for the man to hold, while the
oxen or horses draw the scoop edge foremost,
into the mellow earth, by which means the
scoop fills with earth equal to one-third or half
of a one horse cart load, which they draw
away, sliding on its own bottom, and is un-
loaded by the driver, who raises the handle
without stopping the cattle. To form a drain
with this instrument, fix the teams across the
above ploughed land, and with the edge of
the scoop in the centre, and load with the
ploughed high edge, and haul it off to the near-
est low spot, not more distant than twenty-five
yards; on returning, cross the ploughed land
and carry a load out on the opposite side, and
so plough and scrape until the whole drain is
completed to any desired depth. The work
may be done in this way at one-fourth the usual
cost of ditching leaving a handsome cavity
gently raising from its centre, convenient to
pass over with a plough or cart, and may be
cultivated with the rest of the field or meadow,
consequently the brambles will not grow as
they do on the ditch bank, yet capable of con-
veying as much water; this implement has
long been used by road makers and cellar dig-
gers, and is very useful on a farm for remov-
ing pitch banks, and other mounds of earth,
and filling deep washed gutters; &c. The
cost of this implement is about eight dollars.
The land being ready to receive the grass
seed, proceed to sow timothy or orchard grass
seed, very evenly, when there is no wind, at
the rate of about six quarts of the former, and
of the latter one and a half bushel per acre;
from the twentieth of August to the tenth of
September is the best time in the latitude of
Baltimore; they will do to be sown something
later on rich stiff land, but on poor sandy land
the seed ought to be sown as soon as the heat
of summer is past, to give the grass time for
their roots to get sufficient hold to stand the
winter frost.
ROBT. SINCLAIR.

RURAL ECONOMY.

RULES FOR MAKING GOOD BUTTER.

If you have four or five cows, it is best to churn
every day; and by no means less frequent than
every other day. If you cannot churn every
day, throw into the cream when gathered, a
handful of nice salt. In very warm weather,
when milk sours soon, put two heaping table
spoonfuls of salt in every pail of milk, before
straining. The quantity as well as the quality
of the butters is greatly improved by this method.
If you have ice, put a small piece into every
pan of milk, and also into the cream when you
churn. If you have no ice, put the cream into
a pail, and hang it into the well, twelve hours
before churning. In the warm season, cream
should be skimmed as soon as it is in the least
sour; and in the coldest weather, milk should
not stand more than thirty-six or forty-eight
hours. The utmost care should be taken to
keep every article used in making butter per-
fectly sweet, by frequent and thorough scalding.

REARING POULTRY.

From an interesting communication in the
Southern Agriculturist, by a lady, we gather
the following directions. Poultry of a middling
size and a black color are the best. Fowls too
fat do not lay abundantly. No profit in raising
fowls if you have to buy grain. They should
be fed early in the morning, and about sunset.
Regularity of feeding, both in time and place,
is of great importance. Cleanliness and shelter
from storms and winds, are essential to their
health. Clean water is a preventive of the
pip. The fowl-house should be often cleansed
and perfumed with herbs: Straw, in the nest,
changed every ten or fifteen days. Hay is
better than straw, not so liable to breed ver-
min. Ashes and sand should be convenient,
where they might roll and trim their feathers.
To make them lay in winter, they should be
shut up in a warm place. Boiled potatoes and
turnips are cheap and good food. Melons and
salad are refreshing in summer. Young hens
should be put to set in a quiet place. Eggs
may be preserved by a coat of varnish; by
pouring over them warm mutton suet so as to
fill up the cavities between them, by surround-
ing them with a paste of ashes and strong
brine, or by immersing them in water, contain-
ing a solution of salt and lime. When
setting, hens frequently require fresh and clean
water.

Method of Preventing Milk from Turning Sour.

Put a spoonful of wild horse radish into
a dish of milk; the milk may then be preserved
sweet, either in the open air or in a cellar,
for several days, whilst such as have not been
so guarded will become sour.