

WEEKLY ERA.

FAMILY READING.

Fact and Fiction.

A correspondent of Notes and Queries, an English periodical, sends to that journal a communication in which he gives some interesting particulars in regard to "Dotheboy's Hall, immortalized in Dickens's "Nicholas Nickleby," and which is no longer a school. The writer says that Mr. Shaw, the original of Squeers, married a cousin of his father. Dickens, he says, was in the neighborhood only one day and got a great deal of gossip from a quondam usher of Shaw's and a "bad lot" who had been turned off for bad conduct. Shaw is said to have taken Dickens' caricature quite to heart, and to have become childish and paralytic and soon died. His wife broken-hearted, and the school went down fast. Yorkshire schools are said to be bad, but not as bad as Dickens made them. The great moralist said his description was not meant to apply to any particular man or school, but that it was a type of Yorkshire schools in general, which seems to be considered as true. There is a strong feeling of indignation in Shaw's neighborhood against Dickens, who is looked upon there as the author of his ruin, as well as of four other large schools in the village. So there are two sides to every story, and it is not always easy to decide which is fact and which is fiction.

No FEATURE of the Centennial will be more interesting than the presence of our fellow-citizens of the southern states, including those who fought in the Confederate service. Brave men never remember the quarrels of war, and there can be no more fitting occasion to celebrate the victories and the humanity of peace than the 4th of July, 1876. Hence we copy the following with pleasure:

"A meeting of Union and Confederate soldiers was held at Fernandina recently, to consider the propriety of initiating a celebration by the soldiers of both armies of the anniversary of Washington's birth day. Prominent men of the north and south addressed the gathering, among them General Finnegan, of Savannah, and the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas, the soldiers of both sections, who were engaged in the late war, are anxious to bury all asperities of feeling engendered thereby, and with a purpose and object to unite in commemorating the birthday of Washington, the father of our common country, and to inaugurate an era of harmony and fraternal feeling, therefore, "Be it Resolved, That a committee of seven be appointed to make suitable arrangements, having in view a reunion of the Federal and Confederate soldiers now residing in Florida, to take place on the 22nd of February, 1874."

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, a city whose name will henceforth be heard with a shudder, was formerly the capital of Cuba. It is a maritime city, and in 1853 contained a population of 24,253. It is the second city in size on the island, and is situated on the Santiago river, six miles from its mouth, on the south coast. It is well built, with wide streets, and houses chiefly of stone. The principal buildings are the cathedral, several other churches, a college, and numerous convents and schools. Its port is four miles in length, is well sheltered, is defended by several forts, and is deep enough for ships of the line. It is romantically situated, being hemmed in by mountains, but the climate is said to be very unhealthy.

The strongest expression is generally the briefest and best. Take the old ballads of any people, and few adjectives will be found. The singer says, He laughed; she wept, perhaps the poet of a more advance age might say, 'He laughed in scorn; she turned away and shed tears of disappointment.' But nowadays the ambitious young writer must produce something like this: 'A hard, fiendish laugh, scornful and pitiless, forced its passage from his throat, through the lips that curled in mockery at her appeal; she covered her despairing face and a gust and whirlwind of sorrowing agony burst forth in her irresistible tears.'

The end of the world, which was set down by the too sanguine Adventurers of Terry Island, in the Connecticut river, for the 5th of November, has failed to come off as advertised. If these folks are going up at all, we wish they would go, and not wait longer for the final smash. They hang on worse than Bazaine's trial.—Boston Advt.

Methodist Singing.

The Pittsburg Advocate laments, as we all do, the decadence of Methodist congregational singing. It says:—  
The singing of Methodism used to be grand—a glory and a power. It is not so any more. Ichabod is written on it. Some Delilah has had it in her lap. That Delilah is the modern choir. It has done a miserable work—it has well-nigh destroyed congregational singing. It has given us a substitute. And what a substitute it is! Solos, duets, quartettes, and a ceaseless succession of new tunes, many of them after the most approved operatic styles. The congregation sits by and silently witnesses the performances. That might do well enough for an opera house, but it certainly ill befits God's sanctuary.

A clergyman informed his people at the close of his sermon that he intended in a few days to go on a mission to the heathen. After the congregation was dismissed, a number of the members waited for their pastor, and, crowding around him, expressed their astonishment at the new turn affairs had taken, asked how long he would remain and where he was going. He said to them, "My good friends, don't be alarmed—I'm not going out of town."

Smokers will please take notice of one Robert Wright, of London, who smoked at all hours, and especially after getting into bed at night. The other day he was found dead with a cigar in his mouth, and a post mortem established, so says the physicians, that he fainted from too much smoke on an empty stomach, and that through too great use of tobacco the heart was not energetic enough to resume action. A glass of whiskey would have saved him, but he didn't have it.—Inter-Ocean.

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CITY ADVERTISEMENTS.

To Members of the Legislature.

Remember that the Yarboro House has been remodeled and enlarged to double its former size. Please call before making your arrangements for the Winter. 21—3t G. W. BLACKNALL,

CITY HOTEL,

Corner of Wilmington & Davie Streets, centre of the city.

Fare equal to any in the city. Charges \$2 per day. 21—1m J. B. BRYANT, Prop'r.

PROSPECTUSES.

Prospectus for 1874—Seventh Year.

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THE ALDINE, while issued with all the regularity, has none of the temporary or timely interest characteristic of ordinary periodicals. It is an elegant miscellany of pure, light and graceful literature; and a collection of pictures, the rarest specimens of artistic skill, in black and white. Although each succeeding number affords a fresh pleasure to its friends, the real value and beauty of *The Aldine* will be most appreciated after it has been bound up at the close of the year. While other publications may claim superior cheapness, as compared with rivals of a similar class, *The Aldine* is a unique and original conception—alone and unapproached—absolutely without competitor in price or character. The possessor of a complete volume cannot duplicate the quantity of fine paper and engravings in any other shape or number of volumes for ten times its cost; and then, there are the chromos, besides!

Art Department, 1874.

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The quarterly tinted plates for 1874 will be by Thos. Moran and J. D. Woodward.

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Every subscriber to *The Aldine* for the year 1874 will receive a pair of chromos. The original pictures were painted in oil for the publishers of *The Aldine*, by Thomas Moran, whose great Colorado picture was purchased by Congress for ten thousand dollars. The subjects were chosen to represent "The East" and "The West." One is a view in the White Mountains, New Hampshire; the other gives The Cliffs of Green River, Wyoming Territory. The difference in the nature of the scenes themselves is a pleasing contrast, and affords a good display of the artist's scope and coloring. The chromos are each worked from thirty distinct plates, and are in size (12x16) and appearance exact fac-similes of the originals. The presentation of a worthy example of America's greatest landscape painter to the subscribers of *The Aldine* was a bold but peculiarly happy idea, and its successful realization is attested by the following testimonial, over the signature of Mr. Moran himself.

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Gentlemen,—I am delighted with the proofs in color of your chromos. They are wonderfully successful representations by mechanical process of the original paintings.

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PROSPECTUSES.

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Large Commodious Dwelling, all necessary out-buildings needful to a farm this size, newly and neatly fitted up.

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