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The Elders and the Child.

[MARY E. MANNING.] Softly fell the touch of twilight on Judea's silent hills; The moon's pale gleam of moonlight o'er Judea's trembling hills. In the temple's court conversing, seven elders sat apart; Seven grand and hoary sages, seven of head and pure of heart.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

MRS. MARY BAYARD CLARKE, EDITOR. [All books received during the week will be mentioned by name in the next succeeding issue, and if worthy of it, receive a longer notice after the regular reading. They may be sent either by mail, or in packages of a dozen by express, and should always be addressed to Mrs. MARY BAYARD CLARKE, Newbern, N. C.]

disappeared, but from the time when Massachusetts sold the Pequot Indians as slaves and, as Mr. Derry says, built the first American slave ship at Marblehead in 1636, to the administration of Martin Van Buren, when John Quincy Adams scinted the question of its abolition in the District of Columbia, there was no active opposition to it, and none of that intense bitterness which has ever since characterized the subject.

Mr. Derry says that the chief reason of the war was "the danger to the rights of the States that the Southern people thought was to be degraded from the avowed principles of the Republican party." Perhaps he is correct, but if the question of slavery was not the cause of the war it was certainly, as he says, one of the causes. Hence the impossibility of an American history that does not touch upon the American slave, but a universal one, as the whole civilized world took sides in it, and a foreigner, writing of us, would be swayed for or against as much as a native born citizen of the United States.

THE BODY POLITIC.

[Correspondence of HALE'S WEEKLY.] Henry Parmel, as we have seen, is naturally a very talented young man, and in a certain way he is also industrious. For already, as many aspirants as there are to him for legal position and for legal money, he is fast winning a good practice at law, and, if he is not steadily building up a fortune yet he is making money enough to be very comfortable. He has lately married. His wife is an amiable young woman; she is beautiful and accomplished. She is the girl of her friends and the delight of her husband.

IV. SOMEWHAT OF ITS ELEMENTS.

Consider the picture they make. They have indeed an enviable lot. A comfortable home is theirs, which has the promise of becoming even more elegant in time. They are both well-bred and well-read. Both intelligent, both educated. They have many friends and as good as anybody has. They have also seen something of the world, for as a bridegroom they went to see the great Paris Exposition. Each of them professes a fondness for literature. She spends a good deal of her time in reading "nice" books, and they talk whole hours with you about French literature. But in spite of this, they are not the most highly polished; and the most precious when it is the most skillfully cut and most highly polished; and the most precious when it is the most skillfully cut and most highly polished.

Advice to a Young Man.

[From the Burlington Hawkeye.] My son don't be in too great a hurry to accept "advanced opinions." It is "the thing" to be "advanced" in this progressive day and generation, but there's a heap of shallowness in it. Did you never notice, my son, that the man who tells you he can't believe the Bible is usually the one who believes anything else? You will find men, my son, who turn with horror and after disbelief of the Bible and joyfully embrace the teachings of Buddhism. It is quite the thing just now, my son, for a civilized, enlightened man, brought up in a Christian country and an age of wisdom, to be a Buddhist. And if you ask six men who profess Buddhism who Buddha was, one of them will tell you he was an Egyptian soldier who lived two hundred years before Moses. Another will tell you that he brought letters from Phoenicia and introduced them in Greece; a third will tell you that she was a beautiful woman of farther India, bound by her lovers to perpetual chastity; a fourth will tell you that he was a Brahmin of the ninth degree and a hermit of the Confucius; and of the other two, one will frankly admit that he doesn't know, and the other will say, with some indignation, that he was either a dervish of the Nile (whatever that is) or a felloe, so, he can't be positive which.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

DECEMBER ON THE FARM. The crop is gathered and perhaps sold, and yet the year's work is not done. Those who took our advice and pushed their porkers in the early fall have taken advantage of the fine spell of last month to "kill hogs," and feel relieved that the job is over and the drain on the crib stopped. Those who did not should avail themselves of the first dry freezing spell to butcher their pork. Always commence killing early enough in the night to have all butchered, nicely cleaned and hung up by sunrise. We have usually commenced with the hogs at 11 a. m. As soon as it becomes light the rest of everything being ready, all available force is put to ribbing the fat from the carcasses. This is cut up and soaked in cold water twenty-four hours. Pork should not be cut up the same day that it is killed, but hung in a cool place until the following morning, when, if the weather is suitable, the only heat will be the fire of the kitchen. Much cows should receive attention now to keep up the full flow of milk. If our suggestions have been heeded, the early sown rye or barley will now furnish daily rations of green food. We are cutting and feeding green rye daily. We cut enough each afternoon to last until the evening and morning feed. Give them the sides the rye, to vary their diet, bran, cornmeal, peas, cooked cotton seed, roots, potatoes and pumpkins and some sweet hay, fodder or shucks; and provide them with warm stalls well littered with dry leaves or cut straw, removing every morning the manure and wet straw. Fodder stalls will taint the milk and reduce its quantity. There is no good living without a plenty of good milk and butter. To have these the cows should be well cared for in winter. Tools and implements not in daily use should be stored in a dry place, and protected by oil or paint from the corrosive influence of the air and moisture. In traveling through this State recently, we saw a threshing machine, horse power and all, standing in the field where it was used last summer. This needs no comment. If oats have not been sown we advise against sowing before next month. We usually have our severest weather in December. Hired wood before the holidays, and have it cut and stored, if possible, under shelter. Nothing so tries the temper of the good housewife as an effort to cook with wet wood. Balance accounts with the farm before new year, and examine carefully the debit and credit side, where expenses might have been reduced, and where receipts might have been increased, and note them for future guidance. Our lands are probably injured annually in this way nearly to the extent of the value of the stock. Any one who has plowed in the spring fields that have been trampled during the present winter has observed its bad effects. Such trampling, to state it mildly, injures, or rather reduces the yield of the crop of the next year to an extent far exceeding the benefit derived by the stock from the gleaming of the fields. Hiring labor for the next year will occupy the attention of farmers to a great extent during the next two months. This is a vital question, as on the sound judgment exercised in the selection of laborers and the character of the contracts made will depend the success of the next year's operations. The price of cotton controls the price of labor, and the profits of any single year depends very much upon whether cotton advances in the fall over the price of the preceding season. What makes a man a paying price for the demand for labor increases, and to that extent the price of labor advances. The demand for labor should not induce planters to give more wages, whether in money, share of the crop, or in the use of land as a tenant than a business calculation of profit and expense would justify. Another point in this connection, which we have before mentioned in these columns, is the want of a proper grading of prices paid to farm laborers according to industry, efficiency and reliability. In common practice, the worst wage is paid to the best man, and the best man is paid to the worst man. This is a great mistake, and one which should be corrected. The price of labor should be based on the original source of all soils—rocks. The soil of the garden should not only be broken once, but several times during our short winters, in order to expose as much of the soil as possible to the beneficial effects of freezing. It is said that out-worm is never very troublesome in gardens in which the soil is thoroughly exposed to the action of frost. Advantage may be taken of these plowings or spadings to thoroughly incorporate manure with the soil. Asparagus beds should be cleared of the old stalks, also soil forked up and covered two inches deep in well rotted stable manure, and a liberal sprinkling of salt. Celery may now be earthed up entirely and made ready for winter. Cold frames should be ready now for the lettuce intended for early use, and, in the upper portion of the cotton belt, for cabbage intended for the spring crop. If there is no hot-bed frame and glass in your garden; prepare them at once, and have a ton of fresh stable manure, well mixed with coarse litter, to commence the heat early in January. No garden is complete without a hot bed. Garden tools should be stored in their proper places, and a little oil applied to those of steel or iron to prevent rust. THE HOG-CHOLERA. The Commissioner of Agriculture has made diligent efforts to investigate and determine the cause of the contagious disease incident to domestic animals, and, if possible, find remedies for them. These diseases are chiefly the pleuro-pneumonia or contagious fever to which swine are subject, and the "hog cholera" or swine plague, which annually carries off about 20 per cent. of the hogs raised in the country. In 1877 the people of the United States lost \$16,000,000 from these diseases, of which two-thirds was "hog cholera." The conclusions reached and announced are that the swine plague is a disease of extremely contagious nature, propagated from one animal to another and from one herd to another by the dissemination of a malarial germ, the vitality of which is very difficult to destroy. Practically the disease is incurable when once planted in the system of the animal. There is a great variety of quack nostrums in vogue, the curative powers of some of which have been highly vaunted, but the experts have found all of them worthless. The only way to deal with it all successfully, the experts concur in saying, is by prevention and by the "stamping-out" process. It is strongly urged that all diseased animals should at once be killed and their bodies buried, and that all animals exposed to infection should be isolated, and all places and pens where they have died should be disinfected and cleaned up, all their offal being scrupulously destroyed. In this way any outbreak of the contagion may be arrested at once, confined to the district in which it originates, and its further spreading prevented. In a few years these processes, vigorously followed up, will have the effect of practically protecting our swine from this deadly infection. Sea-Sickness and Seafickness. [Mark Twain on his Sloop-Boys.] By some happy fortune I was not sea-sick. That was a thing to be proud of. I had not always escaped before. If there is one thing in the world that will make a man peculiarly and indifferently self-confident, it is to have his stomach behave itself, the first day at sea, when nearly all his comrades are sea-sick. Soon, a venerable fossil, shawled to the chin and bandaged like a mummy, appeared at the door of the cabin, and in the next lurch of the ship shot him into my arms. "Good morning, Sir. It is a fine day, isn't it?" Presently another old gentleman was produced from the same door, with great violence. "I said."

NEWS AND NOT NEWS.

A Berlin correspondent estimates that there are 150,000 persons suffering from famine in Upper Silesia. Kansas claims an increase of 144,097 in population in the past year, its next census showing 2,194,978 inhabitants. The arrival of Chinese during the year ending November 1st were 6,128, and departures 23,716. It is estimated that there are 42,000 Chinese on the Pacific coast; a few years ago, the estimate was 100,000. A dispatch from Pesth reports that the Koros River has risen rapidly in consequence of severe snow-storms, and has inundated the City of Grosswarden, Hungary. Thousands of the inhabitants are fugitives, in need of shelter. Many houses have been destroyed. The neighboring villages are threatened with destruction. The general distress in Hungary is increasing rapidly. Of growing European cities, London, of course, comes first with its 558,892 inhabitants in 1801, grown to about 4,000,000 at the present day. Paris, in 1817, had 714,000 inhabitants, and in 1878, 2,188,000. Berlin has become the numerous suburbs which it had 163,000 of a population; now it has about a million. The city which has made the greatest proportional progress in recent years is Hannover, which between 1867 and 1875 grew from a population of 107,000 to one of 1,070,000, or 44 per cent. increase. "The population of the globe," says an English paper, "may be roughly assumed at 1,421,000,000, divided thus: Europe, 309,000,000; Asia, 824,000,000; Africa, 139,000,000; Oceania, 4,000,000; America, 85,000,000. It has been calculated from the mortality tables of known countries that the annual number of deaths throughout the world is 35,693,350, or that, in other words, 97,790 die each day. On the other hand, the balance of population is more than kept up by births at the rate of 104,800 every day. Seventy-two lives are added every minute of the twenty-four hours."

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES.

The History of the United States, sent by Martin V. Calvin, Manager of Lippincott's educational department, South, is written by a Georgian gentleman who served in the ranks all through the war, and contains probably about as impartial an account of that period of our history as it is possible for this generation to produce. Of course if it is impossible to write a strictly impartial history, it is equally impossible for a Southern critic to detect defects that may strike a Northern one; therefore when we say that we have found no inaccuracies in this portion of the book, we mean to be understood as looking at it from a strictly Southern standpoint. It is not a history of the war alone, but of the United States; yet as the causes that produced the war may be traced from our birth as a nation, it is hard for the South to get a fair view of many years without history. In the gradual evolution of society, slavery, as an institution, must eventually have