

WIT AND WISDOM.

ORIGINAL AND SELECTED—PREPARED EXPRESSLY FOR THE LEDGER BY GEO. D. PRENTICE.

"HUSBAND, I wish you would buy me some better feathers."

"PAPA, when are you going to buy me a soldier cap?"

"An African chief wishing to put an end to idolatry in his dominions, issued an edict forbidding any one to worship anything, the sun, thunder, or other ter-

PHILOSOPHERS say that shutting the eyes makes the sense of hearing more acute. Perhaps this accounts for the habit some people have of always closing their eyes during sermon time.

An Indian seeks to make proselytes on the same principle which causes little children to cry at night for a bed-fellow—he is afraid of being left alone in the dark.

"COME, don't be proud," said a couple of silly young roysters to two gentlemen; "sit down and make yourselves our equals."

SEVERAL graceless fellows have written their names upon the tomb at Mount Vernon. Ah, ye miscreants, the world would rather see your names upon your own tombs than upon Washington's.

An Indiana paper says that a scientific farmer in that State has succeeded in obtaining a grain, seeming to partake equally of the nature of wheat and barley. He must have used a cross-grained process.

"YOU'LL kill yourself, smoking so much, husband." "Indeed, wife, I must use the weed." "Oh, very well, I guess I shall have occasion for weeds myself, pretty soon."

THERE are three kinds of power—wealth, strength, and talent; but, as old age weakens the two latter, the aged are induced to cling with the greater avidity to the former.

"WEAR is that?" asked a teacher of a little girl, pointing to the letter X. "Why, that's papa's name, I've seen him write it ever so many times."

"HAVE you ever seen a mermaid, Commodore?" "I've seen a good many fish-women, madam, if that's what you mean."

"WILL you pay my bill at sight, sir, as you promised?" "Oh, certainly, but I shall be sure to shut my eyes when it is presented to me."

"WHY don't you ask your sweetheart to marry you?" "I have asked her." "What did she say?" "Oh, I've the refusal of her."

FEROACITY is sometimes assumed, as well as gentleness. There are many sheep in wolves' clothing as there are wolves in sheep's.

By the use of eye-glasses, you may see as much as is to be seen; by the use of another kind of glasses, you may see twice as much.

The phrase "down in the mouth" is said to have been originated by Jonah about the time the whale swallowed him.

An inordinate desire to obtain possession of secrets is an unerring indication of inability to keep them.

"DON'T your tents leak, Captain, when it rains?" "Oh, no, Madam, we always pitch them."

To lose our charity in defense of our religion is to sacrifice the citadel to maintain the outworks.

If seconds were not much fonder of duels than their principals, duelling would very soon be obsolete.

We follow the world in approving others, but generally go ahead of it in approving ourselves.

A WIFE that wears her husband's breeches is a wolf in sheep's clothing.

We may owe it to our enemies to forgive; we owe it to ourselves not to forget.

ONE of the very best of all earthly possessions is self-possession.

The miser lives poor to die rich, and is the more jalous of his house, and the turnkey of his wealth.

A MAN in the finest suit of clothes is often a shabby fellow than another dressed in rags.

ONE swallow, to be sure, doesn't make a summer; but a few swallows too many often make a fall.

TIMIDITY in a young man is better than cool impudence. 'Tis a pity the ladies won't think so.

THE next best thing to a really good woman is a really good-natured one.

CURRENT ITEMS.

A CLERK in an establishment in this city was lately called upon in the course of his duties to do what he considered a dishonest action. Being a conscientious young man, he told his employer that he could not do the thing required, and stated his reasons therefor; he expected to be discharged for so doing, but to his astonishment and gratification his employer soon after advanced him to a position of great trust and responsibility which commanded a salary nearly double that which he had formerly received.

A WOMAN living at Mount Sterling, Ill., recently got up about midnight, went to a bed where her daughter, thirteen years of age, was sleeping, out the child's throat, and then cut her own. Her husband heard her fall upon the floor, and on going to see what was the matter, he found the mother and daughter both dead. It is supposed that the unfortunate woman was in a sort of insane somnambulic state.

It has recently been discovered that there are people still living who are firm believers in the Millerite doctrine. A number of these deluded creatures in North Vermont and New Hampshire, and a club of them in Newark, N. J., every few weeks prepare themselves for the final winding-up of earthly affairs, and their faith is never a whit shaken by their frequent disappointments.

From the tables of marriage, duration of life, &c., kept by insurance companies and others, it appears that at the age of thirty the probability of a widower's marrying within a year is four times greater than a bachelor's. The chances in the widower's favor go on increasing from year to year, and at the age of sixty he stands eleven chances to a bachelor's one.

A SERVANT-GIRL in the employ of a widow lady living in East Tenth street, being left to take care of the children one afternoon, and wishing to have a quiet time with her beau who called to see her, gave them each a dose of laudanum and put them to bed. The youngest, a child two years old, never waked again.

MRS. LAURA BISHOP has been giving "Readings" to fashionable and critical audiences in this city, with flattering success. Her voice, appearance and manner at once command the attention and engage the sympathies of the audience, and her chaste and finished elocution completes the charm.

It is stated by a New Hampshire paper that a respectable family in one of the villages of that State, lost their only child some five years ago, and kept its corpse, which was well-preserved, in the house as a pet until quite recently, when the authorities compelled them to bury it.

A GIRL nineteen years of age, dressed in men's clothes, was recently discovered on the route to Pike's Peak. She was from Canada, and not being able to endure the fatigues and hardships of the journey, she owned up as to her sex, put on female apparel, and was aided to return home.

A LARGE elk horn was lately found imbedded in the trunk of an oak tree twenty inches in diameter, near Zaneshaw, Wisconsin. The tree was perfectly solid, and none of the savants of that region can make out how the horn became imbedded in it.

A COUPLE of brothers residing in this city, recently got to quarrelling one evening while occupying the same bed; from quarrelling they got to fighting, and after a prolonged struggle one of them choked the other to death.

WITHIN the last month nine persons have been hung for murder in different parts of the country, and seventeen more are now in prison awaiting trial for the same crime.

A FRENCHMAN aged fifty years, and a German woman of the same age, were recently married at St. Louis, the man not being able to speak a word of German, nor the woman a word of French.

THE Canadians have a new cent coin which is just one inch across and one hundred of which weigh exactly one pound. It is thus not only a token of value but also a standard of weight and measure.

A FEW days since a horse got caught between two city railroad cars that were coming from opposite directions, and was so badly injured that he had to be killed.

AN ORPHAN'S ADJURATION.

BY SALLIE M. BRYAN.

Spirit—returned to Heaven, thy place of birth I Dearest and sweetest of the saints on high! Oh, tell me—tell me, is the love of earth Lost in the boundless glory of the sky? Perchance the music of thy voice is now Too deep and perfect for a mortal ear? Then tell me silently while here I bow Alone, half thrilled with joy and half with fear.

ALMOST A MURDER.

BY EMERSON BENNETT.

Some years ago I became acquainted with a middle-aged man whose early life had been spent in the avocation of a foot-peddler. With two tin trunks, supported by a broad belt over his shoulders, and closely packed, on setting out from head quarters, with articles of value—such as silks, laces, jewelry, shell-combs, and what are now generally classed under the head of "notions"—he had wandered in his time over a large region of country, over many a lonely road, and had visited many out-of-the-way places, where he often found his trade more lively and profitable than in more populous districts.

A disagreeable night outside, sir; but you'll find it quite comfortable here. Mag, this man wants some supper; and so fetch it on, while he warms and dries himself." "I proceeded to relieve myself of my trunks, and, in doing so, partly turned my back to the company; but my eyes were busy the while, and I detected an exchange of glances that made me feel quite uneasy. I concealed all show of this, however, and, by a great effort of self-control, advanced to the fire with a cheerful air, remarking that it was very pleasant indeed to get into such comfortable quarters on such a disagreeable night.

fall upon them, in case of any accident happening to me while lowering myself. I next drew the bedstead noiselessly to the window, made the second sheet-ropes fast to one of the rails, and carefully and cautiously worked my way down, till I came to the end, when, finding my feet did not yet touch the earth, but believing the distance to be trifling, I let go my hold with all confidence. But I went down, down; and when I struck it was with a force that for the time deprived me of consciousness.

as Cain wandered, and gaze upon scenes as fair. Gaze upon them listlessly at first—then sadly—lastly, lovingly. Much has happened when you can look upon Mother Nature's face with an affectionate eye—it is then that you are fit to return and begin the battle with life once more. You go back—but slowly—for you know well what awaits you at the end of your journey.

He has gone—at last! That ever you should say those two words of him! But the strain was almost too much for endurance, and when it came to the good-bye, you had nearly given away—you are glad you did not. You lock the door and sit down before the fire. The packet of letters tied with the blue ribbon—and with that last letter loose upon the top—is in your desk still—you take it out without looking at it—drop it gently on the fire—cover your face with your hands, and sigh. A moment, and there is but a heap of ashes in its place—and you look up—not with tears—the day for them has gone by—but with a grave, steady smile. You know that the worst has come and gone—that you can never feel a pang like that again.