







Miscellaneous.

Adventures of a Pearl-Diver.

During the year 1825, "The General Pearl and Coral Fishing Association of London," sent out Lieutenant Hardy, R. N., to Mexico, as their commissioner, to examine into the state of the fisheries, and their prospect of success.

"If it be difficult to learn to swim," says Mr. Hardy, "it is infinitely more so to dive. In my first attempts I could only descend about six feet, and was immediately obliged to rise again to the surface; but by degrees I got down to two or three fathoms, at which depth the pressure of the water is so great, that I can only compare it to a sharp pointed iron instrument being violently forced in to the ear.

This most important and most sacred day of the year, in the estimation of all pious Jews, occurred last week. The following account of it is copied from the Asmonean, a Jewish paper published in this city:—

The origin and institution of the Day of Atonement is to be found in Leviticus xvi, 29:—"And it shall be unto you a statute for ever: in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all; the denizen as well as the stranger that sojourneth among you: for on that day shall ye be atoned for, to purify you: from all your sins before the Lord shall ye be purified.

In a short time our adventurous hero became a most expert diver; and after numerous submarine excursions, he ascertained that on the coast of California, the pearl oysters are not lying, as he had always previously supposed them to be, in regular beds or heaps, but that they chiefly occurred in sheltered bays, the bottoms of which were covered with large rocks; and that they were most abundant in fissures or clefts of these rocks, adhering firmly by a strong byssus, so strongly indeed that it requires no little force to tear them away.

The Piacer de la Pierra Negada, which is a very large pearl-oyster found in a supposition which was at once confirmed by the great difficulty of finding this sunken rock. Don Pablo, however, succeeded in ascending it, and, in search of specimens of the largest and oldest shells, dived down in eleven fathoms of water. The rock is not above a hundred and fifty or two hundred yards in circumference, and the divers were seen round and examined it in all directions; but without meeting any inducement to pro-

long his stay. Accordingly, being satisfied that there were no oysters, he thought of ascending to the surface of the water; but first he cast a look upwards, as all divers are obliged to do who hope to avoid the hungry jaws of a monster. If the coast is clear, they may arise without apprehension. Don Pablo, however, when he cast a hasty glance upwards, found that a tintero had taken a station three or four yards immediately above him, and most probably had been watching during the whole time that he had been down. A double-pointed stick was a useless weapon against such a tintero, as its mouth was of such enormous dimensions, that both man and stick could be swallowed together. He therefore felt himself rather nervous, as his retreat was now completely intercepted. But, under water, time is too great an object to be spent in reflection, and therefore he swam round part of the rock, hoping by this means to avoid the vigilance of his persecutor. What was his dismay, when he again looked, to find the pertinacious tintero still hovering over him as a hawk would follow a bird! He described him as having large, round, and inflamed eyes, apparently just ready to dart from the sockets with eagerness, and a mouth (at the recollection of which he still shuddered) that was continually opening and shutting, as if the monster was already, in imagination, devouring his victim, or at least, that the contemplation of prey imparted a foretaste of the gout. Two alternatives now presented themselves to the mind of Don Pablo—one, to suffer himself to be drowned; the other, to be eaten. He had already been under water so considerable a time, that he found it impossible any longer to retain his breath, and was on the point of giving himself up for lost with as much philosophy as he possessed. But what is dearer than life? The invention of man is seldom at a loss to find expedients for its preservation in cases of great extremity. On a sudden he recollected that on one side of the rock he had observed a sandy spot, and to this he swam with all imaginable speed, his attentive friend still watching his movements, and keeping a measured pace with him. As soon as he reached the spot, he commenced stirring it with his pointed stick, in such a way that the fine particles rose and rendered the water perfectly turbid, so that he could not see the monster nor the tintero. He swam very far out in a transversal direction, and reached the surface in safety, though completely exhausted. Fortunately he rose close to one of the boats, and those who were within, seeing him in such a state, and knowing that an enemy must have been persecuting him, and that by some artifice he had saved his life, jumped overboard, as is their common practice in such cases, to frighten the creature away by splashing the water; and Don Pablo was taken into the boat more dead than alive."

As it is frequently asserted that "the Old School Law was good enough as it was;" that "anybody could educate his children under it;" that "it worked well enough," &c.; I propose to give a few examples of its "workings" that came under my own observation.

In the winter of 1839, an individual, (I will not call him a man) the owner of a large farm which was paid for, and who in the spring bought another, for which he was to pay \$10,000, and had cash in hand for the first payment, \$2,000, who had four children of a suitable age to attend school, whose oldest son, a young man of twenty years of age, could scarcely write his name, or read intelligibly, and had not thoroughly mastered the fundamental rules of arithmetic, said, he "could not afford to have the winter's school continue over three months, as the tuition would come high, and he should not be able to pay it." He was a trustee, and declared himself well satisfied with the teacher, saying "the school was the best they had in the district for many years." It closed in February, numbered forty-five, and the teacher received \$16 per month!

The Turkish Envoy. The daily papers have said a good deal of late about Ammin Bey, the Turkish Envoy, who recently arrived at New York. The following translation of his reply to the address of the Mayor welcoming him to the City, gives the best account we have seen of the objects of his visit:—

THE WILD PALM TREE. 'Mid rocks, and sands, and barrenness, How beautiful to see The wild Palm in its desert dress— The solitary tree. Alone, amid the silent wild; It rears its spreading crest; The boundless desert's favored child, In constant verdure drest. An emblem of that faith that cheers The pilgrim on the road; Through life's dark vale of care and tears Beneath his earthly load. For, like that faith alone it stands, A bright oasis in the sands, With hand-like leaves against the sky, Pointing to immortality.

Shipwreck, Suffering, and Endurance. George Davis, Captain of the schooner Thornton, was taken up by the steamer Julius D. Morton, four miles out from Michigan City, floating on a spar. The Chicago Tribune gives the following account of his sufferings, as detailed by himself:—

At the time of the disaster, the schooner Thornton, in charge of Capt. Davis, assisted by two hands, was on her passage from Muskegon, freighted with lumber belonging to Mr. Parks of the former place. The vessel was driven out of her course by the violence of the storm, and, on Friday afternoon, when about six miles north east of this port, she became unmanageable and capsized, precipitating the Captain and crew into the angry flood. Fortunately a spar, which had been lying loose upon the deck, floated near them, and all three grasped it, supposing the vessel had sunk, though she afterward floated ashore.

Land Monopoly in the West.—Austin C. Hewitt, who has been traveling through the North-West, writes from Beloit, Wisconsin, to the Wyoming Mirror, as follows:— "As evidence of the evil effect of Land Monopoly, I will mention one instance. On Rock Prairie Rock County, Wis., which is said to be the Queen County of the State, there are three or four contiguous square miles, owned by three or four individuals; and, for aught I know, many more, and even larger tracts of land, may be owned by as few individuals. Consequently, the land that originally cost the purchaser \$1 25 per acre, now cannot be had for less than \$5, or \$6, or \$10 per acre. Now, had the land been limited to actual settlers, in lots of 160 acres each, whole counties, that now contain not more than 2500 or fifty inhabitants, would, long before this, have supported an enterprising and happy population."

THE ACADEMIC YEAR of this Seminary, for 1850 and '51, will commence the third Wednesday in August, and continue forty-four weeks, including a short recess between the terms, and one of ten days for the winter holidays.

Board of Instruction. GURDON EVANS, President, and Professor of Mathematics and Natural Science. Rev. JOSEPH W. MORTON, Professor of Hebrew, Greek, Latin, French, Spanish, and Moral and Intellectual Science. Mrs. SUSANNA M. SPIGEE, Preceptress. ADOLPH ROSENHAYN, (Late of Friedrich Wilhelm College, Berlin.) Teacher of German, Piano Forte, and Assistant in Greek and Latin.

Other competent Teachers will be employed as occasion may demand. TEACHERS' CLASSES will be formed, as usual, at the beginning of the Fall and middle of the Winter Terms, and continue seven weeks. In the Common Branches, classes will be formed at the commencement of each term; but in the higher, the interest of the student, as well as the welfare of the Institution, demand that a more systematic course of study be pursued.

Classes will be formed in Latin, French, and German, as the commencement of the Fall Term; in Hebrew, Greek, and Spanish, at the commencement of the Winter Term, and continue through the course of study. In Mathematics, Geometry is studied in the Fall, Trigonometry and Conic Sections in the Winter, and Astronomy, Surveying, Navigation, &c., in the Summer Term. The course of instruction in Agriculture is thoroughly scientific, embracing a practical and theoretical in the best authors. Instruction is given in a well-furnished laboratory, in the analysis of soils, ashes of plants, manures, &c., and the modes of testing for their constituent elements. The attention of farmers who wish to give their children a practical education is especially called to this department.

THE AMERICAN Sabbath Tract Society publishes the following tracts, which are for sale at its Depository, No. 9 Spruce-st., N. Y., viz: No. 1. Reasons for introducing the Sabbath of the Fourth Commandment to the consideration of the Christian Public. 28 pp. No. 2. Moral Nature and Scriptural Observance of the Sabbath. 52 pp. No. 3. Authority for the Change of the Day of the Sabbath. 28 pp. No. 4. The Sabbath and Lord's Day. A History of their Observance in the Christian Church. 52 pp. No. 5. A Christian Caveat to the Old and New Sabbatharians. 4 pp. No. 6. Twenty Reasons for keeping holy, in each week, the Seventh Day instead of the First Day. 4 pp. No. 7. Thirty-six Plain Questions, presenting the main points in the Controversy; A Dialogue between a Minister of the Gospel and a Sabbatarian; a Counterfeit Coin. 8 pp. No. 8. The Sabbath Controversy. The True Sabbath. 4 pp. No. 9. The Fourth Commandment False. 4 pp. No. 10. The True Sabbath Embraced. 16 pp. No. 11. Religious Liberty Endangered by Enactments. 16 pp. No. 12. Misuse of the Term Sabbath. 8 pp. No. 13. The Bible Sabbath. 24 pp.

These tracts will be furnished to those wishing them for distribution or sale, at the rate of one page for one cent. Persons desiring them can have them forwarded by mail or otherwise, on sending their address, with a remittance, to GEORGE B. UTTER, Corresponding Secretary of the American Sabbath Tract Society, No. 9 Spruce-st., New York.

Christian Psalmody.—Pocket Edition. In compliance with requests from various quarters, the publisher of the New Hymn Book—Christian Psalmody—has issued a second edition, on lighter paper, and with smaller margins, by which the bulk and weight of the books are reduced, for carrying in the pocket. The price is also reduced 12 1/2 cents per copy. These new books, of either edition, can now be supplied, at the rate of the larger edition, from 75 cents to \$1 50, according to the style of binding. Price of the smaller edition from 62 1/2 cents to \$1 00. Orders should be addressed to Geo. B. Utter, No. 9 Spruce-st., New York.

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THE BALTIMORE SUN says: The announcement that an individual designed to walk a wire stretched 40 feet from the ground, a distance of 400 feet, at the lower end of Broadway, Market, yesterday afternoon, attracted some three or four thousand people to witness the feat. At 5 o'clock, he made his appearance on the wire, and accomplished his undertaking.

THE LIVERPOOL TIMES says, that the American line of packet ships arriving in the London docks from New York, continue to bring large quantities of wine, the produce of the south of Europe, as part of their cargoes, for reasons which make it more advantageous to carry the wine twice across the Atlantic than to import it direct.

MR. ALBERT G. WILLIAMS, a wealthy farmer of Bedford County, Va., was almost instantly killed in the neighborhood of Frederickburg on the 7th inst. by the accidental discharge of a fowling piece in the hands of a companion, while on a gunning excursion.

AN IRISHMAN named David Shanah was killed on Saturday by being thrown from the gravel train on the Cayuga railroad.

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