

The Livingston Journal.

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A CAPITAL NUMBER.—The *Southern Cultivator* for March, has a full and varied table of contents. In addition to editorials, interesting answers to inquiries, and original articles from correspondents, it contains "Prof. White's Analysis of Different Parts of the Cotton Plant," his "Analysis of Different Fertilizers," and copious extracts from "Dr. Pendleton's Reports of Experiments at Experimental Plant of University of Georgia," besides practical articles on the various topics connected with the farm and garden. Terms \$2.00 a year. Address W. L. Jones, Athens, Georgia.

THE RURAL CAROLINIAN.—The March number of the *Rural Carolinian* is on our table, with its characteristic promptness. This number, like its predecessors, is replete with information which makes its regular monthly visits so welcome to the home of the farmer. The articles generally emanate from the pens of practical farmers, whose familiarity with the subjects on which they treat is portended in every line and word. Besides the several departments of the Magazine are likewise filled with useful information, making the *Rural*, as we have often said one of the most valuable agricultural publications issued in the Southern States. The terms are \$2 per annum. Address the Publishers at Charleston, South Carolina.

—There are 25,200 post-offices in the United States.
—Since 1848, the California gold mines has yielded \$1,380,700,000.
—Mrs. Hampton, wife of General Wade Hampton, died at Charlottesville, Va., Saturday last.

—The National Grange has suspended Grange No. 4, of Boston, and now it is an independent Grange.
—Florida papers state that a rattlesnake has been killed on Lake Okeechobee, with fifty-four rattles. It may be truly said that this snake-skin presented "a thrilling narrative."

—The rice crop of Louisiana the last season reached 100,000 barrels. The New Orleans *Picayune* looks upon this industry much more hopefully than upon the sugar culture in that State.
—A party of Indians moved 25 cords of wood in order to capture a rabbit. Properly they were reduced to the extremity of the bay who was digging for a gopher, on a Sunday morning.

—We place no reliance in the rumor that a committee of dentists is to be entrusted with the important duty of considering the most practicable mode for improving the mouths of the Mississippi.
—A colored man in Indian looked his two children in his house and went visiting. When he returned his house and children were reduced to ashes. The inference is that the colored man was an emigrant from the South.

—The coal question—Who is to tote it out of the cellar when Biddy resigns, you or your wife?
—"Let's go and inflate" is the way the statesmen in Washington put their convivial invitations now.
—The three things most difficult are to keep a secret, to forget an injury, and to make good use of leisure.

—Some young chap thinks it easy to enter an old man's house, because his gait is broken and his locks are few.
—At what time of life may a man be said to enter the vegetable kingdom? When long experience has made him sage.
—"Gracious me!" exclaimed a lady in a witness box, "how should I know anything about anything that I don't anything about?"

—"Come to his death while being hit on the head with a long-tailed steppan in the hands of his wife," was the verdict in a recent case in Illinois.
—We have been informed that a pair of lovers will sit up half the night, and not use as much kerosene as the family uses in an hour during the evening.

—A San Franciscoan being annoyed by a mud-puddle in the street, reported that he had lost a twenty dollar piece therein, whereupon the pool was speedily emptied by eager seekers after the money.

For One Night Only.

"An ass, having put on a lion's skin, roamed about, scaring all the silly animals he met with." That brief sentence, from old Aesop, is the text of our article. It is not a sermon, mind you, but an article of facts, and nothing but facts, suggested by the following incident:
One night, at the opening of the present ball-season, the writer emerged from the gloom of Houston street in the brilliantly-lighted floor of a casino, then occupied by about two hundred persons in varied masquerade costume. Only a few of the number were in plain evening dress, and they at the first glance, appeared as fashionable as the most fashionable butter-fies of the Academy—the men in swallow-tails and fine linen, with cravat-bands dangling in their hands; the women in silks, satins, and muslins, with a profusion of ornaments about their arms, necks, and wrists. The fancy dresses were less perfect; some of them nondescript, and most of them trashily spangled—kings, peasants, harlequins, and barbarians, alike. Who were they? Were they honest folks? A carol in this very hall had been interrupted by the police not many nights ago, and the revelers, who were for the most part thieves, stripped of their splendors and hurried in the cheerless check-and-gray garments of the prison. "Not thieves," said the detective who accompanied us, as we questioned him in an undertone; but some of the "gentry" were sure to attend every assemblage of this kind; but the men here were mostly clerks, seafarers, mechanics and salesmen; the women factory hands, dress-makers, saleswomen and domestic servants. "Impossible!" we exclaimed. The detective treated our contradiction with good-natured forbearance, and more civilly, we asked for an explanation. "You wonder how all these asses have obtained the lion's skin?" That was our question. "They are all borrowed. Observe young pretty girl in the pearly silk. The dress on her body, the shoes on her feet, the sham jewelry that is thick about the sham hair on her head, are borrowed; and to-morrow will fit some other beauty as neatly as they fit her to-night. The young fellow leading her into the dance is a shoemaker by trade—how elegant he looks! His swallow tail, his breeches, and his crush-hat—do you suppose they are his own? The lining of each is stamped with the name of a Bowery customer, on whose shelves they will be packed in lavender within twenty-four hours. Scarcely one of the persons present owns a stitch of the cloth that covers him. Fine birds they look in their feathers, to be sure; but to-morrow they will be plucked and threaded, too exhausted to work, and berated by their employers for their sluggishness. Their brief dream of pleasure will be blotted out by the oppressive reality of under-pay, and ungenerous toil. Vanity is at the front of it, sir—vanity, vanity!" The detective sighed, and nodded familiarly to some of the mistresses, who were abashed at his recognition, and barely appreciated it. "Would we remain? He had a little matter in hand—a raid on a gambling den, in fact—and must bid us good-night. We left the casino and the noisy dancers together, and at the door of police headquarters we parted from our guide, moralizing over the strange things he had told us.

The verification of his statement was not a difficult task. From the east side of the city, chiefly in the Bowery, Third avenue, Allen and Forsyth Streets, the costume-depots are found almost in every block. Commonly they are over stores, and are approached from a side-door leading to a flight of dark stairs. In one of the windows you find a transparency exhibiting a grotesque figure, costumed in night, and from within; and the more pretensions are indicated by large and gaudy signs. The interior resembles a pawnbroker's or an old-clothes store. There is an indescribable and all-pervading odor of musk, lavender, camphor. The walls are hidden by high wardrobes filled with dresses, chests of drawers also filled with dresses, and you cannot move about without brushing your head with the petticoats and linens that hang limply from the ceiling and from every possible projection. Several girls are busy at sewing machines, making, repairing, and altering costumes. The proprietress, a stout German woman of severe manners, demands our business the instant we enter. Do we want a costume? All yet have they not the satisfaction of admiring themselves in a mirror, and fancying themselves lions?—Let us not be too harsh in our judgment upon them. We know ladies of social standing who are not above borrowing their friend's jewels, or even articles of dress, for an afternoon or evening only.

Thus far we have only referred to the customer as an agent of vain pleasure seekers; but he is also of service in another way to different people. The trappings and the suits of woe, are found in his stock, as well as the tawdry liveries

blue coat with gilt buttons, and a yellow beaver hat? Or, if we have a lady in our party, we had better look at the Columbias, costumes which rent at from four to thirty-four dollars a night, the cheapest being made from calicoes and the best from satins. Very rich and tasteful the latter; worth about two hundred and fifty dollars; was made for the last Liederkreis ball, and sold to the customer by the original purchaser, "a young lady in high life, well known in Fifth Avenue." Only a few of the costumes rent for more than ten dollars a night, and the money-makers living there are of humble station. But it occasionally happens that the customer is visited by some august young man or woman of the better class, who is unwillful or unable to buy outright a dress that will not be wanted for a few days. For their convenience a few expensive costumes are on hand, and are loaned at extravagant rates. When the fiery is returned, it is carefully examined, and if the slightest stain is discovered upon it, a deduction is made from the deposit. But it is the O'Flannagan Order, the McBrickbat Fraternity, and such social companies, that are most indebted to this good German woman and her admirable system. Without her aid, where would be the splendors of their annual fancy-dress balls. Without her, faith! 'tis but a sorry time they'd be having.

At this establishment, as we have said, there are only masquerade costumes; but over the way there is a tailor and gentleman's outfitting store, with a sign in front, announcing that evening dresses may be hired within. About thirty dress coats are put aside for this purpose, an equal number of opera-hats and a few pairs of trousers. The coats are borrowed often rather than articles, the trousers only seldom. But there are nights when all the proprietor's loaning stock is exhausted, and taken out for an airing by the meek clerks and apprentices, who are crazy to hide their timorous little selves in the lion's skin. Yet it is not a very fine article, after all. The coats could be bought for fifteen dollars, and the cloth they are made of is poor stuff indeed. It catches some lustre in the ball room, however, and the silly creatures who see it on my brave Tompkins' back think him a very magnificent fellow, and not Tompkins at all, but a lion. Sensible observers can perceive the little chap's ears, withal, and know too well what a wretched and beggarly impostor he is. For the loan of his coat he pays three dollars a night, and for his trousers and vest two dollars. It is not improbable that the girl who accompanies him is as great a fraud as he in the matter of dress. In fact, women are the most extensive and numerous borrowers of this kind. A man may dress himself for an evening at an expense of five or six dollars, but the loan of a woman's ball-room rappings cost as much as the purchase of a gown for the night. She may clothe in toilet worth three or four hundred dollars from the stock of a fashionable customer, provided she provides sufficient security, and the dress will be altered and fitted to her as neatly as if it were her own. In some of the larger establishments the stock always includes several very rich garments of the latest fashion, which have served as pattern-dresses in the windows of a milliner's or sewing machine show-rooms. These are rented at forty or fifty dollars a night, and the trimmings are partly changed to suit the taste of each borrower. An opera-coat costs two or three dollars more. The jewelry can be obtained at another house, where sets which pass as valuable in a crowd are rented for about \$5 a night. Thus a woman, by the expenditure of fifty dollars, may appear in the ball-room in such style as calls for a descriptive paragraph in the morning paper. The girls in some diamond-brokers in the city who loan their guests to responsible persons on good security, but their patrons are usually persons who would disdain to borrow any other part of the toilet. The most frequent demands on the evening-dress customers are from work-girls, whose own wardrobe is too scant and shabby to allow their appearance in "society." These vain, ambitious creatures gratify their passion for dress in an economical way. They are accounted in a cheap silk, trimmed with imitation laces, and bespangled with sham jewelry, for between five and ten dollars a night. A greater part of all their week's earnings is exhausted by this frivolity, and they are punished, sometimes, by hunger. Yet have they not the satisfaction of admiring themselves in a mirror, and fancying themselves lions?—Let us not be too harsh in our judgment upon them. We know ladies of social standing who are not above borrowing their friend's jewels, or even articles of dress, for an afternoon or evening only.

Thus far we have only referred to the customer as an agent of vain pleasure seekers; but he is also of service in another way to different people. The trappings and the suits of woe, are found in his stock, as well as the tawdry liveries of Momus, and he equips mourners for a funeral as readily as roisters for a dance. Black silk and alpaca dresses are provided for the women, and doekies for the men. Hats, hat-bands and gloves are included in the outfit—all at an expense of three or four dollars for each person. In winter time, too, he has suits of furs and overcoats to rent, at a charge of a dollar a night. Considering the risks incurred, his fees are not exorbitant, and, whether his business is for good or for evil, we will not decide. Certainly with his presence a time-honored and familiar nuisance is likely to become extinct. Students and victims of that literary confederacy, "The Complete Letter-Writer," will remember the effusion provided for the gentleman soliciting a loan in order that he may procure a suit of clothes, wanting which he is debarré from a most eligible situation. His shabbiness can be covered by the customer, promptly and economically, and with this hint to beggar and alms-giver, we retire.

WILLIAM H. RIDGEBY,
in *Appleton's Journal*.

Brains and Business.
The English papers are agitated by the discovery that the Germans are rapidly gaining ground in many branches of industry in England, while in the matter of commercial competition they are carrying off the palm in Africa, China, and Japan. It begins to look as though the German is to be the successful manufacturer and merchant of the future. His victory in arms is only a premonition of a more signal triumph in the broader field of industrial and commercial enterprise.

The success of the Germans in the recent war with France was largely owing to the superior intelligence and training of the German soldiers. The German bayonets thought. It was the German school-master who gained the victory over the ignorant and untrained peasantry of the empire. But the school-master trains something else besides sharpshooters. He makes something else besides thinking bayonets; and the superior skill, knowledge of details, industry, patience, and prudence of the German mechanic and trader tell decidedly in their favor in all the competitions of industrial life.

Incident in the Life of Chief Justice Taney.

BY JAMES PARTON.

The remarks of Mr. Beecher, in a late number of the *New York Leader*, upon public morality, recalled to my mind the singular conscientiousness displayed by most of the public men of this country in former times. Let me relate an incident or two in the life of the late Chief Justice Taney. Never was there a public man more scrupulously honest than he.

One day, in 1834, he received from New York two boxes of cigars, without any card or letter accompanying them. The cigars were of the peculiar brand which he liked best, and were not easy to be procured. Few smokers have ever lived who enjoyed the weed more thoroughly than the Chief Justice. At that time, however, he was not the Chief Justice, but Secretary of the Treasury. In daily expectation of receiving a letter respecting these cigars he laid them aside unopened. Several days passed; during which, as the Senate refused to confirm him in his office, he became a private citizen, and as such free to receive presents from the whole world.

A gentleman holding a high place in the Treasury Department asked him one day, as he was closing up the business of his office, if he had received two boxes of cigars lately. "Yes," replied Mr. Taney. "To whom am I indebted for them?" He learned that the giver was an old friend of his family, Samuel Thomson, by name, who then held a temporary appointment in the New York Custom-house—an appointment within his gift and control as Secretary of the Treasury. He made up his mind at once not to accept the gift.

"I sincerely thank you," he wrote to Mr. Thomson, "for this proof of your kindness, and you must not feel mortified at what I am about to say. I cannot accept the cigars from you as a present. But I will be glad to keep them, and pay you the market value of them. And I must ask the favor of you to say what they are worth, that I may send you the money."

He proceeded at some length to explain the grounds of his conduct, so as to avoid wounding the feelings of the giver.

"It has been a fixed rule with me," he said, "to accept of no present, however trifling, from any one, the amount of whose compensation for a public service depended on the department over which I presided. You will perhaps smile at what you think my fastidiousness about such a trifle as your cigars; but I have thought it the true rule for a public man, and that it ought to be inflexibly adhered to in every case, and without any exception in the smallest matters."

Mr. Thomson made an ingenuous reply. First of all, he confessed that considering his peculiar connection with the Treasury, he ought not to have sent the present. "Although," he added, "it would be concerning your integrity as a very simple affair, indeed, to suppose that it would be influenced by a box of cigars." But, he went on to say, Roger Brooke Taney is now a private citizen, to whom the rule for a public man does not apply.

"You will oblige me much," added he, "by accepting in this character, the trifle now in your possession, as a mark of my respect for your great private worth, and for your fine public services; and if your fine feeling and independent spirit will not allow this, then either return the cigars or enclose me ten dollars."

"Mr. Taney was not to be seduced by this plausible reasoning. He thus replied: "Although, in conformity with the rule which I have always prescribed to myself, I must send you, as I now do, enclosed, ten dollars for the cigars I received from you, yet I hope you do not doubt that I feel as much obliged by your kind intentions as if I had accepted them as a present."

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; and the dedication of the speech to him, by permission, would be an approach to taking sides. He declined the compliment.

"Ever since I have been on the bench," he wrote to Mr. Seward, "I have felt very unwilling to have my name in any way connected with a measure pending before the Legislature or Executive Departments of the Government; and having studiously abstained from doing anything that might be construed into interference on my part."

At the same time he was firm and resolute in maintaining the rights of the Court. When the income-tax, in 1863, was deducted from the salaries of the Supreme Bench, he protested against the act as unconstitutional—a just, though highly unpopular, proceeding on his part. The constitution expressly says, that the compensation of judges of the Courts of the United States "shall not be diminished during their continuance in office." The protest, which was attributed at the time to party feeling, and disregarded by the Government, received attention in after years, and in April, 1872, Mr. Boutwell declined to deduct any portion of the salaries of the judges.

Another curious instance of Judge Taney's punctiliousness has been recorded by his biographer, Mr. Samuel Tyler. He had invested all his small private fortune in Virginia State stocks. When the war broke out, it was intimated to his agent that, although the Virginia Legislature had passed a law forbidding the payment of interest to stockholders in non-seceding States, an exception would be made in favor of the Chief Justice. He needed the money, but he refused to accept it. "If mine is paid," he wrote, "it is a matter of favor and not of right, under the existing laws of the State. If I were a private individual I would accept it; but in my official position, and in the present posture of public affairs, I cannot consent to an exception in my favor, when other stockholders in Maryland are refused payment."

During the whole war he lost his interest. He must have missed it in those years, when the inflation of the currency, the deduction of the income tax, and the high price of commodities, converted his six thousand dollars a year from competence to penury.

In his private dealings we observe the same scrupulous integrity. When he emancipated his slaves which he inherited from his father, a number of them were old and past service. These, of course, he maintained as long as they lived. He was bound to do this by law; but in the mode of doing it he went beyond the law, and showed thoughtful consideration for their convenience. Each of these old pensioners brought to his house once a month a leather wallet provided by him for the purpose of holding the monthly allowance. These monthly sums were always paid to them in small silver pieces, halves and quarters of dollars, convenient for the old folks to handle, and not so likely to be taken from them unjustly by dealers presuming upon their ignorance.

—Experiments made in some of the Southern counties of the San Joaquin valley, California, are so encouraging that a good deal of land will be planted in cotton this year.

—A Nebraska journal says invitingly: "Who save farmers cannot get rich in this State. Fifteen years ago a young man came to this State without a dollar in the world. Last week he went out of the State carrying with him the sum of one dollar and thirty-eight cents, the savings of fifteen years of frugal life. 'Come West, young men, come West.'"

—Substitute for Preserves.—A lady writer in an exchange communicates the following bit of information, obtained where she "took tea last": "A dish of what I took to be preserves was passed to me, which upon tasting, I was surprised to find contained no fruit. The case with which it was prepared, and the trifling cost of its materials, are not its chief commendations, for, unless my tasting apparatus deceived me, as it is not usually wont to do, it is emphatically a tip-top substitute for apple sauce, apple butter, tomato preserves, and all that sort of thing. Its preparation is as follows: Moderately beat a pint of molasses from five to twenty minutes, according to its consistency, then add three eggs thoroughly beaten, hastily stirring them in, and continue to boil a few minutes longer, when season come before him in some form as with nutmeg or lemon."

PRINTING,
Blank Forms,
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Posters,
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