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## The Eastern Mail (Vol. 03, No. 14): October 25, 1849

Ephraim Maxham

Daniel Ripley Wing

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# The Eastern Mail.

A Family Newspaper....Devoted to Agriculture, Literature, the Mechanic Arts, and General Intelligence.

VOL. III.

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## SELECT TALE.

### THE GAME OF CHESS.

By the Author of 'The Cottage in the Glen,' 'Bonafidelity,' 'Loving and Winning,' &c.

"I can scarcely believe my senses," said Mr. Chauncey, as he was one morning sitting with Mrs. Atkins. "I can scarcely believe my senses, when I see my old classmate, whom I left just out of college, and my little friend, Susan Leigh, whom I found sitting on her father's knee, when I called to take leave before my departure into Europe—now married—settled, established in life! It seems impossible! I have always thought of you as a child!"

Mrs. Atkins smiled. "You forget that we are all six years older than when you left us; and perhaps you forget, too, that I was the youngest child, and had the privilege of setting on my father's knee much longer than daughters are wont to do. You and Charles are about the same age, and I am but five years my husband's junior. Do you feel too young to marry?"

"O no, I am now twenty-six—one year your husband's senior; and now that my wanderings are over, I should really like to marry soon, could I find a woman possessing those qualities I wish in a wife, who would unite her fate with mine."

"I conclude your taste has been fastidious, from your observation of beauty and accomplishments in Europe," said Mrs. Atkins.

"No—not exactly so—but from close observation of domestic life, I design to be guided by judgment rather than fancy in my choice; and I sincerely hope that I shall never be so much fascinated by the charms of any one, as to be unable to form a correct opinion of her real character."

"You will not find it particularly easy to fall in love, *designedly*," said Mrs. Atkins, laughing, "nor to save yourself from falling in love, by the efforts of reason and judgment. Of one thing, however, your remark has satisfied me; at present you are completely heart-whole."

"That is certainly true; and it is equally true that I am perfectly willing to fall in love with the first lady I meet, with whom there is a reasonable hope of living happily."

"You really contemplate the subject with the most enviable coolness," said Mrs. Atkins, again laughing. "I do not recollect to have heard any young gentleman talk of love and matrimony with such perfect calmness and self-possession. How charming it will be, should the lady of your choice exercise as much judgment, and have as little enthusiasm as yourself! Truly, nothing would be likely to disturb the even-temper of your way of life!"

"It is very possible to talk of fire without growing warm," said Mr. Chauncey, smiling. "But seriously, I hope to love my wife, should I ever marry, with my whole soul. What misery to have one with such discordant qualities, as would alternately kindle and quench the flame of affection! The heart must soon grow under such a process! It is my full belief, that—"

"L'hymen et ses liens

Sont les plus grands des maux ou des biens, selon et moi je l'enferme sous une circonspection en un mot de si bonne conséquence. Let me rather pursue the journey of life alone, than to feel a doubt whether the society of my wife will increase or diminish my happiness! Should my heart ever be warmed to love," he added, while his eyes beamed in a manner that showed how deeply he could love—Should my heart ever be warmed to love, may its fire be heartily fed by the same gentle hand that first kindled the flame—and may it burn brighter and clearer, until lost in that world, the element of which is love! May my wife be a gentle spirit to accompany me in the path to heaven, and not a scourge to drive me thither as the only place of refuge from herself!"

"You have grown so solemn, Mr. Chauncey," said Mrs. Atkins, "and seem to look for a wife so free from human imperfections, so angelic, that I am almost afraid to tell you that I am expecting a visit from two of my young friends, with one or the other of whom I had hoped you would be pleased."

"I do not expect freedom from human imperfections, Mrs. Atkins; but I do hope for freedom from gross defects. But who are these friends of whom you speak?"

"The eldest who is not far from my age, is my cousin, Augusta Leigh—and the other is Abby Eustace, my favorite school friend, who is a year younger."

"And can you tell me nothing concerning them but their names and ages?" asked Mr. Chauncey.

"No—positively, I will tell you nothing else, except that either of them is pretty enough for a man who does not make beauty his first requisite in a wife; and each has fortune enough for one who does not marry expressly for money. This is all I will tell you; but as they will be here in the course of a week, you will have an opportunity of studying their respective characters for yourself."

"After a few minutes thoughtful silence, Mr. Chauncey said, 'I think I shall not be fastidious; I shall be able to overlook imperfections in my wife, as I hope she would be willing to do in me. Qualities and acquirements which might be deemed indispensable, I could dispense with; but there is one quality that I consider of primary importance—and next to pure and firm principles, and that is what I shall seek for in my choice.'"

"And what is that?" asked Mrs. Atkins.

"You forgive me if I do not answer that question. I wish to observe and judge for myself, and shall be more likely to judge correctly, if it is not known for what I am looking."

"Well," said Mrs. Atkins, "you appear very moderate and reasonable in your demands—and yet, were I an unmarried lady, I should be more afraid of you than of any young gentleman I have seen. Really, you are so calm, and reasonable, and scrutinizing, as to be quite terrifying. Give me the creature of impulses"

—of passion, of enthusiasm, who will be too much carried away by his own feelings to investigate my character too nicely; whose warm imagination will clothe me in virtues and attractions of its own rosy hues. 'Surely,' she added, after a momentary pause, 'surely, had Charles been of your temperament, I should never have known the happiness of being his wife.'"

One day, about a week after the preceding conversation had taken place, Mrs. Atkins was seated in her parlor with two friends, who had arrived a day or two before, when Miss Leigh, raising her eyes from the work that was in her hand to an opposite window, inquired who that elegant-looking man was, conversing with a lady, on the other side of the street.

"That?" said Mrs. Atkins, advancing to the window, "that is Mr. Chauncey, one of Charles' old friends."

"Horace Chauncey, who recently returned from Europe?" asked Miss Leigh.

"The same," answered Mrs. Atkins. "He will give us a call, presently, I dare say, as he comes here very often."

Before Mr. Chauncey arrives, there is just time to sketch a hasty outline of the portraits of the two young ladies. Miss Leigh was tall, well made and commanding in her person. Her face was brilliant, with black eyes, and dark hair, but rather pale than otherwise, except when tinted by some degree of excitement. Miss Eustace was rather below the medium stature of women, beautifully formed, and the most cheerful, happy looking creature in the world. Her eyes, shaded by long silken lashes, were of undefinable color, and were dark or light, as intellect and feelings were awakened or lay quiet. Her face was blooming; yet the color was so constantly changing its shade, that it seemed but the attendant on a heart alive to every touch of joy or woe.

Mrs. Atkins was right. In a few minutes Mr. Chauncey came in, and was made acquainted with the young ladies. When Miss Leigh's name was mentioned, she calmly raised her eyes, and answered his civilities with the self-possession that is common to well bred young ladies, on being made known to a stranger; but when Miss Eustace's turn came, her color was heightened to a burning glow, and a slight and rather tremulous courtesy, was the only answer she made to the few words of compliment he uttered. "Has he forgotten?" thought she, as she resumed her seat—"Can he have forgotten?"

Mr. Chauncey lengthened his visit to nearly an hour, but differed not materially from other visits of a similar kind. The conversation was of a general and desultory character, and carried on in a lively manner by Mrs. Atkins. Mr. Chauncey and Miss Leigh—Miss Eustace never uttered a word except when directly addressed. On taking leave, Mr. Chauncey promised to profit by the invitation of Mrs. Atkins, to visit them very frequently. He was literally in search of a wife; and it was his wish to become really acquainted with those young ladies he met, in whom there was nothing which from the first moment told him that a union with them was impossible. "The two friends of Mrs. Atkins were certainly not of this number, and his study of their characters became deeply interesting; that of Miss Leigh, because she had a great deal of character; was free, entertaining, and even fascinating in conversation with a heart overflowing with kindly feelings, and head filled with noble sentiments, and independent thought; that of Miss Eustace, because he had to judge by her countenance, as she was extremely retiring and taciturn when he was present. Her face, however, was very dull study; for of her, if of any one, it might perhaps have been said—"her body thought," and occasionally, when he met her eye, there was a flash across his memory of something he had long before seen, or felt, or dreamed—an indefinite sensation of pleasure, but too evanescent to be caught or retained."

"How do you like Susan's guests, Horace?" Mr. Atkins inquired one day, after Mr. Chauncey had seen them a number of times.

"How am I to form an opinion of Miss Eustace?" asked Chauncey. "She indeed looks very much alive, but never utters a word when she can avoid it."

"How!" said Mrs. Atkins. "I have never discovered that she is not as conversable and entertaining as Augusta, and far more playful!"

"Indeed!" said Mr. Chauncey. "But it has certainly not been so when I have met them. I think Miss Leigh to be peculiarly brilliant and pleasing in conversation. She appears to be a fine—a noble girl."

"They are both fine, noble girls," said Mr. Atkins. "It is not every day we meet those who are equally so."

Mr. Atkins had not often been at home when his friend was at his house, but Mr. Chauncey's remark led him to notice Miss Eustace particularly whenever he witnessed their succeeding interviews. One evening Mr. Chauncey was with them, and Mr. Atkins chanced to be seated apart from his wife, her cousin, and Mr. Chauncey, who were, as usual, in full tide of conversation, when Miss Eustace, on rising to leave the room, passed near him. He caught her hand and drawing her towards him, said in a low tone—

"Where's your voice this evening, Abby?"

"My voice!" said Miss Eustace.

"O, I am glad you have not lost it—but why have you not spoken for these two hours?"

"And have I not?" asked Miss Eustace.

"Scarcely," answered Mr. Atkins.

"Then I suppose it was because I had nothing to say," said the smiling girl.

"But you are not usually so silent, remarked Mr. Atkins.

"Perhaps it would be better if I were. But truly though you may doubt it, there are times when I had much rather listen than talk."

"Especially when my friend Horace is exerting his colloquial powers, is it?"

"Just as you please, sir," said Miss Eustace, again smiling, but with some little embarrassment, and withdrawing her hand, she left the room.

Mr. Chauncey did not profit by the invitation of Mrs. Atkins, to visit her very frequently—Miss Eustace interested him. He loved, when not too much engrossed in conversation himself, to watch the bright, cheerful, intellectual, the ever varying expression of countenance. Her eyes seemed fountains of light, and love, and happiness, and the dimples about her mouth and cheeks, the very abode of joy and content. There was something about her to soothe and exhilarate at the same time. But Miss Leigh soon awakened

in him a deeper and more engrossing interest. Her talents which were not concealed or displayed, commanded his compassionate feelings and her elevated principles won his esteem; so that scarcely three weeks had elapsed from the commencement of his acquaintance with her ere he was more sedulously aiming to learn how he might render himself acceptable to her, than to ascertain whether the *indispensable quality* for a good wife, was a component part of her character.

One fine morning, Mr. and Mrs. Atkins, Mr. Chauncey and the young ladies, were to go out on horseback. The three former were ready and waiting in the parlor when the two latter came from their chamber.

"You have very becoming riding caps, young ladies," said Mr. Atkins, "but I think neither of you have put them on quite right. Come Abby, he added playfully, 'let me adjust yours more to my mind.'"

"O, do," said Miss Eustace, holding up her blooming face, 'make me look as pretty as you possibly can.'"

"There," said Mr. Atkins, after drawing the cap a little more on one side; 'I will leave it to the company if that is not a great improvement. Now, Augusta, let me try my hand at yours.'"

"No, thank you, sir," said Miss Leigh, elevating her head, while her color was somewhat heightened—"I will wear my cap according to my own taste this morning, if you please."

"O, I beg a thousand pardons for my presumption," said Mr. Atkins—"your taste is certainly much more correct than mine—I really beg your pardon."

Miss Leigh made no reply, but gave her hand to Mr. Chauncey, who was waiting to receive it, and the little party immediately started on their excursion. For awhile they were all rather silent, and seemed entirely engrossed in the management of their horses; but the weather was charming—their exercise exhilarating; and ere long each one was enjoying a fine flow of spirits. They rode several miles, and on their return home encountered a company of Irish people, men, and children. They looked way-worn and weary; and the faces of some of the children even wore an expression of anxiety and depression, as if they felt all the force of the friendlessness, the helplessness of strangers in a strange land. Mr. Atkins and his friends stopped to talk to them a few moments, and bestow charity according to each one's ability or inclination, and then rode on.

"O, Mr. Chauncey," said Miss Leigh, in a low tone, after riding a little way in silence, "what pitiable objects those people were! As good by nature, and undoubtedly, some of them at least, much more amiable in disposition than myself—why is there so vast a difference in our lots? How is it that I can ever be ungrateful or perverse, while thus distinguished by unnumbered blessings?" Her tone was that of the deepest sympathy and humility, and her eyes were swimming in tears as she spoke.

Had Mr. Chauncey uttered the thought of his heart, he would have told her that she was the most amiable, the most lovely, the most deserving among the whole family of man! And his eyes did utter it, so far as eyes are capable of utterance, though his tongue only spoke of the vast disparity that Infinite Wisdom sees best to make in the outward circumstances of its creatures in this world. When about to take leave at Mr. Atkins' door, Mr. Chauncey received a pressing invitation to return to take tea, and spend the evening—an invitation he promptly accepted.

At an early hour in the evening Mr. Chauncey was seated amid his circle of friends in Mrs. Atkins' parlor. Before tea was brought in, and while at the table, conversation flowed as usual; and it was conversation—the exercise of the mind—the collision of wit—the interchange of opinion—the expression of sentiments; and not the idle and frivolous chit-chat, nor the mischievous and envenomed gossip that is sometimes so mis-called. After the tea things were removed, and the ladies had set down to their several employments, Chauncey read to them. His voice was rich and mellow, his intonations and emphasis perfect; so that what he read produced the full effect, that the author intended. His present little auditory paid him the compliment of the most profound silence, till he had finished the tale and closed the volume.

"That is a faultless story," said Mr. Atkins. "Do you not think so?" All except Miss Eustace, expressed their approbation of it in warm terms. "She remained silent."

"What says my little Abby to it?" said Mr. Atkins. "Do you dissent from the common opinion?"

"I think it highly interesting and instructive," Miss Eustace replied, "but not faultless." "Pray point out the faults," said Mr. Atkins. "Let us have the benefit of your criticism upon it."

Miss Eustace blushed, and begged to be excused. She was sorry she had expressed any feeling of disapprobation. But Mr. Atkins persisted that she should point out the defects she discovered, in which he was joined by the rest of the circle. Blushing still more deeply, Miss Eustace said—

"Clara could not have felt true friendship for Eleanor or she would not have manifested such indelicate joy, when the latter was proved so base."

"Clara's own explanation, that she had a dearest friend, at whose escape she rejoiced, was a sufficient apology."

This opinion though differently expressed, was uttered by every one at the same moment, Mr. Chauncey excepted.

"That, as I think, is another defect," said Miss Eustace. "Was there no indelicacy in her permitting that dearest friend to see that she loved him, and calculated on the offer of his hand, while he yet had made no declaration of attachment to her?"

"Her amiable sincerity would atone for that fault, if it could be called, a fault," said Mr. Atkins.

"Hardly, I think," said Miss Eustace. "I always was sorry the passage was written, especially as it was written by a woman, and have ever been inclined to jump in when reading the tale. I like not that female delicacy should be sacrificed, even at the shrine of sincerity. But Mrs. Opie is not unfrequently sunk against the more refined and retiring delicacy of her sex."

"In what other instance do you think she has done it, Miss Eustace?" asked Mr. Chauncey.

"O, in many," Miss Eustace replied. "And

one who understands the true female character, and who will read her works carefully, will easily detect them."

"O name them—name them, Abby," said Mr. Atkins.

"Yes, name some other," said Mrs. Atkins. "There is one in 'Madeline' that now occurs to me," said Miss Eustace, "that struck me as grossly indelicate; and, indeed not true to nature. Madeline says of herself 'that she sang louder than usual one evening when she supposed that Falconer was listening behind the hedge, that he might hear her.'"

"Was that false to nature as well as indelicate, Abby?" asked Mr. Atkins.

"Coloring more highly than ever, while her silken lashes fell over her eyes, as if to conceal their deep expression, she replied—

"I should have supposed that the idea of the proximity of one so dear to her, under such circumstances, would have rendered it impossible for her to sing as loud as usual, if indeed she could sing at all."

"Mr. Atkins, who was seated by her, whispered in her ear—'What happy fellow taught you so much of the effect of the tender passion, Abby?'"

This question covered her whole face and neck with a glow of carmine; but in a low and somewhat tremulous tone, she said—

"May not instinct teach a woman how she should be probably affected under such circumstances?"

"Possibly," said Mr. Atkins, "but for all that I do suspect you most grievously."

All the little party continued to converse in the most animated manner, Miss Eustace excepted. She was making a feather screen for Mrs. Atkins, and she now applied herself to her work with the most persevering diligence and in perfect silence.

"Do let us hear the sound of your voice again, Abby," said Mr. Atkins in an undertone. "You have now maintained the most profound silence for more than an hour. Pray speak once again."

"I will," said Miss Eustace, "for I am just going to ask Augusta if my screen will do."

"I can tell you that it will," said Mr. Atkins, "it is very handsomely made."

But Miss Leigh differed from him in opinion. "It is not so pretty as it might be," said she. "The different colored feathers are not so arranged as to produce the best effect."

"Are they not, said Miss Eustace. I have been trying to make it as pretty as possible. But you are correct, Augusta," added she, after holding the screen in different points of view; "it is really a gaudy looking thing. I will give it to some child who needs a fan, and will be delighted with its gay colors, and make another for my friend."

"O no, Abby," said Mrs. Atkins, "you shall not take that trouble." This is really a handsome screen."

"So I thought," said Miss Eustace, "until Augusta helped to open my eyes to its glaring defects. No, no, I will make another for you. Should you wear this, it might be thought that a Sachem had robbed some fair one of his tribe and laid the spoils at your feet. I should take no pleasure in giving you anything so ill looking—in such bad taste!"

"Just as you please, dear," said Mrs. Atkins, "though I am sorry that you have given yourself so much trouble."

"I shall not esteem it a trouble," said Miss Eustace, and she resumed her seat, and at the same time her taciturnity.

Miss Leigh was peculiarly happy this evening. Mr. Chauncey did not, it is true converse with her any more than usual, nor say anything to her that he might not have said to another; but there was something in his manner, in the tone of his voice, and in the expression of his eyes, when he addressed her, that betrayed his admiration, and his growing preference. Mrs. Atkins observed it with much pleasure. She truly loved Miss Eustace, and would not have been dissatisfied had she become the object of Mr. Chauncey's choice; yet her cousin Augusta was the one she had in her own mind selected for his wife. But Mr. Atkins said it with something like regret, that he really thought that Miss Leigh was, as he had said to Mr. Chauncey, a fine noble minded girl, yet she was not his favorite of the two young ladies.

He loved Mr. Chauncey with a warm attachment; and Miss Eustace, according to his opinion, was the very person to secure his happiness.

After Mr. Chauncey took leave, Mr. Atkins and Miss Eustace chanced to be left alone for a short time, when the former abruptly said—

"You really vex me, Abby."

"Vex you how? I am very sorry," said Miss Eustace.

"Why here is my friend Horace, who is decidedly the finest fellow I ever knew, whom you are permitting Augusta to carry off, without one effort to save the prize!"

"Effort! Mr. Atkins!" said Miss Eustace. "Would you have me make an effort to attract his attention?"

"No—not exactly make an effort; but I would have you do yourself justice—would have you let him see a little what you are. Why cannot you talk as much when he is here as you do sometimes?"

"You are now laughing at me!" said Miss Eustace. "I have been quite ashamed of myself, ever since I was drawn on to say so much of Mrs. Opie's works."

"The only time you have spoken this evening," said Mr. Atkins. "Truly you have great cause to be ashamed of your loquacity! Why, Augusta said more words to him in half an hour to-night, than he has heard you utter since you have been here!"

"It may be so," said Miss Eustace; but you may depend on it, Mr. Atkins, that I will never speak a word when I should otherwise be silent, nor say anything different from what I should otherwise say, to secure the attention, or merit the approbation of my gentleman in the world."

"You are incorrigible," said Mr. Atkins. "And another thing—either you dislike Horace, or are attached to some other man. I suspect the latter. I have watched you a little this evening, and noticed a shade of sadness or melancholy, on your brow, that I never saw there before. I do not wish, my dear Abby, from idle curiosity to pry into the secrets of your heart, but tell me—is not my suspicion correct?"

"I do most truly assure you it is not," Miss Eustace had just time to reply, ere Miss Leigh re-entered the parlor, and the former immediately left the room.

"O, how thankful I am," thought she, as she shut herself in her own chamber—"how thankful I am that he framed his question as he did! otherwise what could I have done? Dislike Horace Chauncey? Love some other man? O, would the former were true! Would I had passed through the same Lettie in which he seems to have been plunged! But no matter, I will soon go home, and then strive to grow forgetful myself; for never will I try to refresh my memory! Said I said Mr. Atkins? I will not be said—at least no one shall see me so—I will not be so if I can help it!" Humming a cheerful air, which however, lost some of its sprightfulness though none of its melody, as she warbled it, she returned to the parlor.

As day succeeded day, the visits of Mr. Chauncey became more frequent, and the interest Miss Leigh inspired more obvious. The seat next her he always, if possible secured; if that was occupied, the back of her chair frequently afforded him support. He interested himself in her pursuits—looked over the book she was reading—examined and admired her work—and never seemed completely happy unless near her, and having some object of mutual interest.

Meantime, despite Miss Eustace's resolution, she was frequently sad; and notwithstanding her efforts at concealment, which led her to appear unnaturally gay, Mr. Atkins saw it. He was observing her closely, but silently as not even suggesting to Mrs. Atkins that any change was coming over her friend. But he noticed that the moment after the frolic or the joke was passed, a seriousness rested upon her features, as unnatural to them as frivolity was to her manners. When Mr. Chauncey was present, she indeed appeared not much different from formerly, except that her cheek was less frequently dimpled with a smile, her eyes were more intently fixed on her work, and her silence, if possible, was more profound than ever. Sometimes when a pang of peculiar bitterness shot through her heart, she would release on closing her visit immediately; but when she had hinted such an intention to Mrs. Atkins, that lady seemed so much hurt, and so strenuously opposed such a measure, that she abandoned the idea. Yet how could she stay, three months longer, which was the term originally fixed for her visit—witnessing that which she witnessed—that which was constantly enhancing her disquietude? Often in the retirement of her chamber she would take herself severely to task. "How foolish—how worse than foolish I have been, thus year after year to let one idea engross my heart, without ever looking forward, for a moment, to a result like this! Common sense, common prudence, common discretion would have taught me better! I! I consulted neither, but permitted my foolish imagination to indulge itself at the expense of my peace. Childish infatuation! But I will thus indulge myself no longer. This attachment shall be routed out. He and Augusta will make a noble couple. I see it!—much as my heart rebels against it. They will love as we happy. What if she will not study his every wish, as I could not help doing, and lose her very being in his. He will love her; and the observation of her shining qualities, will leave him no time to regret the absence of trifling and minor attentions or virtues. I must, I will forget this dream of years, which else will involve me in misery, if not in grief. Too much already has my heart been divided between heaven and earth; and richly do I deserve this suffering, for permitting a creature, however exalted in virtue—and O, how exalted he is—how far above all others that I have seen; yet how wicked I have been to permit him to engross so much of that love, which before his sacred altar I promised should be first of all for my God. 'Father,' she cried, while she raised her tearful eyes to heaven, 'draw my affections to yourself, though my heartstrings should be severed.'"

Both Miss Leigh and Miss Eustace were much attached to Mrs. Atkins, and were frequently employed in making some fancy article—some elegant trifle, to leave behind them as tokens of their regard. Miss Eustace had finished a screen, which could not but satisfy the most delicate taste, and was now engaged in embroidering a white satin reticelle for her friend; while Miss Leigh was making a pyramid of various kinds of shells, an ornament for the mantle-piece. This last was quite an arduous undertaking, as many of the shells were exceedingly small and required great skill and taste to arrange them as at once to match them with precision, and display their beauty to the greatest advantage.

All the little circles at Mr. Atkins' watched the progress of this pyramid with interest, and with admiration of its beauty, and the taste of the fair architect. Mr. Chauncey was almost a daily witness of its increasing height, and certainly not behind any one in the praise he bestowed on it. He would sit for an hour together, asserting the shells, and admiring the delicate fingers that fitted them in their places so neatly; above all, admiring the power that enabled the architect to carry on a work that seemed to require so much care and ingenuity, while her mind seemed quite free to engage in any subject of conversation, however foreign to her employment.

One morning as Miss Leigh was seated in the recess which was devoted to her use while erecting her pyramid, Miss Eustace came, as she frequently did, to overlook her for a few minutes. She looked on in silence for some time, and then said—

"It is the most beautiful thing, Augusta, that I ever saw. But is it quite perpendicular?"

"Perfectly so," said Miss Leigh.

"Perhaps it is the position from which I now view it, that makes it seem to lean a little towards your right hand," said Miss Eustace.

"It undoubtedly is," said Miss Leigh; "for it is precisely perpendicular."

"It is really the most beautiful thing I ever saw," repeated Miss Eustace; and soon after took a seat on the other side of the room.

She had been but a short time settled to her work when Mr. Chauncey made his appearance, and just passing the compliments of the morning, he drew a chair toward Miss Leigh's table and seated himself beside her.

"What are you doing, Miss Leigh?" he had, in a tone of surprise, as soon as he said had time to observe that instead of adding shells to the fabric, she was deliberately removing them: "Have you made a mistake?"

"Abby has been finding fault with my work," she replied. Her words seemed to almost choke her, and her eyes sparkled with unusual fire, while a very bright spot burned on her cheek.

"Fault! what fault?" asked Mr. Chauncey.

In an instant Miss Eustace was beside the table, and catching the hand that was about to remove another shell, she cried—

"Dear Augusta, what do you mean! you must not remove another shell from this beautiful fabric!"

With a motion not perfectly gentle, Miss Leigh withdrew her hand from Miss Eustace's grasp, and in silence proceeded to remove the shell.

"Do persuade her, Mr. Chauncey," said Miss Eustace with eagerness. "Do persuade her to let alone this work of destruction. I only asked her if it was quite perpendicular; and no doubt it was my point of observation that made it appear otherwise. 'Dear Augusta,' she added, throwing her arms around her friend's neck, 'do desist from your present purpose. I wish I had kept my foolish tongue quiet. You know not how sorry I am that I made the remark!'"

But Miss Leigh would not yield. Releasing herself from Miss Eustace's arms, she returned to her work of demolition, while she said—

"I shall take it to pieces, Miss Eustace. I like not that any thing should go down beneath my hand that is not perfect!"

"That is a right principle," thought Mr. Chauncey, "and is an excuse for ———." He stopped short, for he found himself in danger of having judgment warped by the emotions of his heart. Fixing his eyes on the pyramid he fell into a train of musing.

"It is quite perpendicular, is it not, Mr. Chauncey?" said Miss Eustace, supposing his mind to be engrossed by the object he seemed so intently viewing. Is it not quite perpendicular?" she repeated.

"It is not," said Mr. Chauncey, roused by her reiterated question to examine the pyramid with a critical eye—"it is not; though I did not notice its declension till led to look for it. The defect, however, is so slight, that few persons probably notice it."

"You will not take it to pieces, Augusta?" said Miss Eustace, in an entreating tone.

Miss Leigh removed her work to a greater distance from her, and turning it slowly round, examined it carefully.

"Yes, I must take it down Abby—at least thus far," said she, placing her finger on the pyramid. "The defect is not so slight as Mr. Chauncey says. Every one will observe it—I should have done so myself if I had completed it. I am very glad you noticed it so seasonably, notwithstanding my petulance—my ill-humor. Will you forgive me, Abby? she added, as she looked up with an expression of regret on her features, while she held up her lips for a kiss."

"I have nothing to forgive," said Miss Eustace as she placed her lips on those of her friend with the warm kiss of affection.

Mr. Chauncey drew a long breath, as if relieved of an oppressive burden.

Yet notwithstanding this speedy reconciliation, Mr. Chauncey's visit was not as pleasant as usual. Miss Leigh seemed too intent on taking her work to pieces, to converse with her usual vivacity. Nor did her countenance wear exactly its most agreeable expression. In a few moments after the mutual kiss had been given, a look of uneasiness—or discontent, settled on her features, and a certain something



## MISCELLANY.

## DRESS OF COUNTRY GIRLS.

We have before introduced Mrs. Swishelm, editor of the Pittsburgh Visitor, to our readers. Here is some radical good sense on the matter of dress.

I have wanted, girls, for a long time to give you a long lecture on dress, not because you do not think enough about it, but because you do not think right. It is a very important matter to be well dressed, and most people feel this; but very few ever learn the art. Women waste more time and money disfiguring themselves, than in all other occupations and amusements. Yes, and they waste health and happiness along. There is an inconceivable amount of worse than useless sewing done in this country. Thousands of women ruin their health, and send themselves to an untimely grave, putting in stitches that are neither useful nor ornamental. I believe you country girls are peculiarly addicted to this folly. Most of you make your own dresses, and few of you understand it well, consequently you imagine the more stitches you put in the better. Then, for want of a properly cultivated taste, you are addicted to buying cheap finery. You need not deny this to me, for I know you too well. I have lived among you too long not to know how country girls dress. Your storekeeper knows it too, and brings out such a parcel of cheap, tawdry, many-colored finery as would be likely to take the fancy of a set of Indians. If they can get lawn or calico with sixty-seven dozen colors in it, so much the better. You buy it—spend a great deal of time to make it nicely—scatter it over with ruffles, folds, and frumples, that would disfigure anything. Then, the first time it is washed, fifty-two dozen of the colors fade; you have a dirty rag that is fit for nothing but to wipe the floor. You lament the loss of your money, but what of your time? The habit of sew, sew, sewing at a garment sixteen times as much as necessary to make it, has become an evil of sufficient magnitude to require legislative interference. I once saw a city lady go to the country for health—pale, nervous, cross, miserable; with a little child as miserable as herself. By way of enjoying fresh air and, she sat down and sewed diligently for two full days to make an apron for the child. There were folds, buttons, and braid—frumples and fandangoes past count, and she had some dozen to make of the same sort while the poor little child-martyr was condemned to imprisonment and stripes to prevent its disfiguring the evidences of mothers' insanity, which it wore on its poor miserable little person. I never felt more strongly tempted to do anything than to roll mother and child, finery and work-basket in a mudpuddle. I really thought her husband should have been entitled to a divorce. Health, happiness and comfort were banished from his fireside by the sewing demon. She completely ruined her health by sewing, then murdered her children by inches to keep them from spoiling her work. A woman who cannot make a half-dozen blubs for her children in one day and with all the requisites of comfort and convenience, should never take a needle into her fingers.

## THE GOLD REGION.

The following article from the Alta California, published at San Francisco, contains some opinions in relation to the deposits of gold in California, which are evidently the result of mature observation:

"The region which here is known as the gold mines is closed on the east by the Sierra Nevada, or Snowy Mountains, running nearly north and south. Two large streams descend from the Sierra Nevada, one at the north called the Sacramento River, the other on the south known as San Joaquin. These two rivers run, as if purposely, to the apex of the triangle they inclose, there to meet and make a common and united irruption upon the waters of San Francisco bay. In this triangle thus formed by these two rivers and the Snowy Mountains are numerous streams; but they are all tributaries either of one or the other river; the largest of them are at the north, and empty themselves into the Sacramento.

The surface of the country, looking westward from the ridge of the Snowy Mountains, which may be from five to six thousand feet above the level of the sea, is broken up into ridges, giving direction to the streams that separate, some west by north, others west by south, and gradually growing smaller, they get confused into hills, till finally they soften into plains inclosed by the two above-mentioned rivers. The plains, generally speaking, are covered with luxuriant grass, skirted along the rivers with oak timber. As the hills rise, vegetation becomes scantier. The range of mountains in which gold is found is distinguished by a uniformity of its vegetable kingdom, which is neither meagre nor very abundant. The oak predominates here, only now and then relieved by several varieties of the pine family. As the gold disappears, the reign of pine and granite extends. The depositaries of gold look universally more smiling to the beholder than their barren neighbors; the former always have the figure described by the line of beauty, viz: the curved line, be they ever so precipitous, as they frequently are—a distinction never to be lost sight of.

The extent of these auriferous hills is greater than the public know or imagine, but not in the direction it is supposed. They extend beyond the Sacramento, and even San Joaquin, northwest of the former and southwest of the latter, bending round towards the southeast. Nay, the same formation, with more or less difference, runs along the whole Pacific shore, till it is lost in the southern portion of the Chilean Republic; but gold has not been, nor probably will be, found any where in such abundance as in Upper California. This abundance, however, is much exaggerated, by the heated imagination of the public. It is not in the nature of placer gold to be durable long. A very few years, when there will be many arms at work, will exhaust it; its origin is a guarantee of this fact. The breadth of this auriferous region limits itself to the lines running north and south from forty to sixty miles from the ridge of the Sierra Nevada, and on the west, as the hills begin to soften into the plains.

At some remote period in the history of the globe, the same internal convulsions that heaved up the Sierra Nevada, have also upheaved the auriferous hills, which at first presented a naked surface to the atmospheric changes, by the influences of which the quartz, constantly breaking up, left the precious metal on its surface. In the progress of time, the same atmospheric influences caused to accumulate on these hills soil which grew deeper with every decay of vegetation, till it grew strong enough to support the majestic oak. The freed particles of gold thus became covered by the soil and mixed up with it, and the process of the separation of the metal from the stone was arrested. How gold was injected into the veins of the quartz it is more than we can say, but the fact that it was so in a liquid state is beyond question, as we see it adapt itself to the sides of the stone in all imaginable forms, from the finest filament to the largest lump ever found, with a most variously indented surface, filling up com-

pletely the crack of the stone, always tending to a rounded, tearlike appearance, as is the case with all melting substances. When freed, external friction of course modifies its appearance more or less; hence we find it, in rivers particularly, in fine flakes, but when it is in larger bulk, it puts on a platelike appearance, as if it were hammered out by the hands of an artisan—as frequently it is under the enormous weight of stone under which it is deposited. Water, that universal carrier, washing the sides of the hills, brought the gold from their surface into the ravines and rivers, its own weight facilitating the process.

According to the strength of the current of water, the weight of the particles of gold and the obstacles in the way, it is deposited in one or another spot, the lighter particles of course floating away farthest from their original bed. As this process of gold deposition has taken place in some remote period of the earth's existence, we find all these deposits, generally speaking, covered with greater or less depth of soil, sand, gravel, and stone. Strictly speaking, gold does not belong to the rivers, it was washed into them from the adjoining hills; hence it is useless to look for gold at the head of those streams when the neighboring hills are not of the auriferous nature; and we find this fact corroborated by our personal examination of the heads of the streams of the gold region. The same rule holds good, for the same reason, in regard to the lower portion of a gold-carrying stream, except that it is limited by the fact that light particles of gold may be deposited a considerable distance below their original source.

The mode of deposit being made clear, it will be equally clear that it is not on every spot in this auriferous region that we must look for gold, which fact experience proves to be true; or at least, it is not on every spot that we can find enough of it to make it an object to bestow our labor on it. Hence it equally follows, the limitation of the quantity of gold to be expected from the mines as a general aggregate, however rich they may prove. The first comers had the best chances to hit upon rich deposits; but as diggers multiply, the chances of falling upon virgin deposits grow smaller, and they will have to be content with what the others through imperfection of their labor, have left; consequently the work becomes more heavy and less profitable, although it may be yet sufficiently compensatory, if the expenses of living be not excessive. This is precisely already the case—the labor is much harder this year than it was last.

At present there are not so many of those happy lads as formerly, although we may yet hear now and then of a lucky haul, which, however, when it reaches the ears of the public becomes extremely distorted, particularly so when companies that have dammed some spots of some of the rivers wish to dispose advantageously of their shares; these easily find letter-writers who communicate the lucky event to the public through the press. The accounts of successful digging in gold that went abroad, have never been accompanied with statements of hardships attending the process, yet we are free to confess that there is no harder labor than that of gold digging and washing; this species of labor requires the strongest sinews, inured to fatigue. Peculiar localities, together with general discomfort attending upon life in the mines, may make gold digging particularly irksome. Yet all this can be borne, and one's labor may sometimes be crowned with a brilliant success.

We have made the above statement with a view of laying the subject before those who may yet be novices in the matter; that they may understand their own case; we are far from discouraging the new aspirants after the favors of dame Fortune; we tell them, take your chance, it may be a very good one, but such and such circumstances are attending this courtesan. Those from distant parts who, on a mere sound of a discovery of gold in California, rush headlong, sometimes leaving good business and comfortable living, cannot but rue the day if they put their sole dependence upon success in the mines. If they would come here with an intention of following some patient calling, they could not but grow rich with time. We have already plenty of miners; a large number of them only diminishes the profits of all. However, come they must, for they are bent on it, be the consequences what they may.

When this gold mania ceases to rage, individuals will abandon the mines; and then there will be a good opportunity for companies with heavy capital to step in; there will be enough of profitable work for them; and it is then that the country will enter on a career of real progress, and not till then. Such companies with superior mechanical facilities to do much labor, in a short space, will be enabled to go over the whole mineral field, though already dug over by individuals, and reap yet a rich reward of their efforts. And when there will be no more gold-washing to be done, then a new era in the mining of the country will commence—we mean a regular system of mining by sinking shafts into the very bowels of the rocks will be entered upon. Spots for this system of mining are to be found in the auriferous region."

GRACE GREENWOOD'S PATTERN FOR A POET.—Grace Greenwood writes from Lynn, to the National Era, of an accidental meeting with Longfellow; and she makes it the occasion of giving the following sketch of the sort of poets she fancies:

"Mr. Longfellow does not look poetical, as Keats looked poetical, perhaps, but as Hood says of Gray's precocious youth, who used to get up early,

"To meet the sun upon the upland lawn"—  
"he died young." But, what is better, our poet looks well, for, after all, health is the best, most happy and glorious thing in the world. On my Parnassus, there should be no half-demented, long-haired, ill-dressed bards, lean and pale, subject to sudden attacks of poetic frenzy—sitting on damp clouds, and harping to the winds; but they should be a hearty, manly, vigorous set of inspired gentlemen, erect and broad-shouldered, with features more on the robust than the romantic style—writing in snug studies, or fine large libraries, surrounded by beauty, elegance, and comfort—receiving inspiration quietly and at regular hours, after a hot breakfast, the morning paper, and a sugar given to hospitality and great dinners—driving their own bays, and treating their excellent wives to a box at the opera, a season at Newport, a trip to the Falls, or a winter at Rome.

The comforts of life have been long enough monopolized by thrifty tradesmen—men in the coat and cattle line—and good living by bishops and aldermen. It is the divine right of genius to be well kept and cared for by the world, which too often "entertains the angel unawares" on thin soups and sour wines, or, at the best, on unsubstantial puff-paste."

HUSK BEDS.—Now (the husking season) is the time to secure the best and most durable under-beds. All the inner husks of the corn should be saved for this purpose. True, it takes a great many to make a bed, but when once the sack is filled, it is a bed for life, and

is the lightest and softest thing of the kind that one could desire.  
The husks curl up as they dry and never mat down afterwards. Moreover, no insects ever lodge in them, as vermin do in straw. They are perfectly clean; and being of a strong and tough texture, they will not wear out for years. We regard a good husk bed as cheap at five dollars. A young married couple, to the end of life, live they ever so long, will have no occasion to fill a new under-bed, if they once have the husks filled with good, soft, well-dried corn husks. We had all of ours filled fifteen years ago, and they are to this day "as good as new."—[Goepel Banner.]

## SEA SKETCHES.

## JOURNAL

VOYAGE AROUND CAPE HORN, IN THE BRIG "CHARLOTTE," Which sailed from Newburyport for California, Jan. 23, 1849.

By GARDNER WATERS, JR.

Friday, March 2.—Lat. 15, 42 S., lon. 33 W.; air 85, water 74.

The gaudy bow,  
Whose colors glow,  
Whose arch with such skill is bent,  
To Phœbus' ray,  
Which bends so gay,  
By the watery wave was lent.

Pleasant weather and a fine breeze throughout to-day; a shower early in the morning, just as the all-cheering sun rose above the horizon, skirting Aurora with its golden hues, and forming at the same time in the west a most brilliant and perfect double rainbow, arching the whole concave, and otherwise penciling the gorgeous skies with pencilings of divine beauty. 'Tis hard to tell if the colors of the rainbow contribute more to its beauty, or its figure to its magnificence—but with what indifference do both seem to be beheld! This brilliant and beautiful meteor seems to excite in the beholder now a days no wonder, nor praise to Him who made it—hardly excites curiosity enough in many to look upon it at all; and when men do look upon it, as Carlyle would say, straightway they begin to account for it, which essentially hides the wonder there is in it. "Look upon the rainbow and praise Him who made it; very beautiful it is in its brightness; it compasseth the heavens with its glorious circle, and the hands of the Most High have bended it." Such was the impression made two thousand years ago upon him who had no theory to account for it; such the poetic description given by the son of Sirach.

Evening. The North Star, Dipper, and other constellations on which we have been accustomed to gaze from infancy, sink one after another behind the waves of the ocean, and in the southern sky new groups of stars arise, which we have never seen before presenting a "new heavens" brightly glowing with celestial beauty. The Belt of Orion, the Great Bear, the Southern Cross, and the "Magellan clouds" are the most remarkable of the Constellations. The latter, so often spoken of by navigators, and with so much surprise by sailors, (that they should always retain their position, unlike other clouds,) are clusters of stars—fixed constellations in the heavens, revolving in their respective orbits. They resemble three fragments of light fleecy clouds, two of which are quite near each other, the other darker and, relative to us, farther east. But the constellation which the most attracts the eye is the Southern Cross, formed of four stars, and arranged in such manner that in a certain lat. they are seen perpendicular on the meridian at midnight. This Cross was noticed by Amerigo Vespucci. The Portuguese traveller and poet Camoens speaks of it as a new star, seen before his time by no other nation; and the Poet Dante speaks of it as

"Four stars ne'er seen before save by the ken  
Of our first parents. Heaven of their light  
Scemed joyous. O, then northern sight, bereft  
Indeed and widowed, since of their light deprived."

Wednesday, March 14th. "Out of the south cometh the whirlwind and the storm." After having had a fine run from the line, (40 Lat. and 20 Lon. in 16 days,) today for a change we are having a regular gale. At 4 o'clock P. M., vessel was hove to, 50th day out, and the first time the top-gallant sails have been clewed down for 46 days, since we left the gulf; some passengers are considerably frightened.

Thursday, 15. The day has been fine and beautiful, with a heavy sea—but the night "Dark as was chaos e'er the infant sun First dawned upon the world," during which we were visited by several of those gusts, which came upon us so suddenly and with such violence that it seemed they would shatter the vessel's masts into splinters and shiver the sails into shreds. They come in the form of small, pent-up clouds, with tremendous force, and as they strike the vessel, exploding like the thundering bomb, belching out volumes of rain, sleet, and hardened hail. It is impossible for any one to face these frightful gusts, and it is unsafe for an inexperienced person to stand on deck at all when they are found, as their approach cannot be detected. The rain came down in torrents and the sea ran mountains high; it seemed as if the wind and troubled ocean were fiercely contending with each other to see which should gain the ascendancy.

Sunday, March 18th. "John Shark" has been hanging about our vessel all day—have tried several times to catch one of these pirate monsters, but always in vain, they would not bite; they don't seem to have any relish for hard ware. These greedy cannibals were very plenty about the line, especially when we were bathing overboard. Once several of us passengers were compelled to hurry on deck by the too near approach of one of these man-eaters, which are always sneaking round when they are not wanted, trying to catch a person unawares. Some sailors, thinking they might frighten a little, sung out, when we were some considerable distance from the vessel, that sharks were so near us that they could see them expand their "devilish" jaws, and that

we were surely victims! But as we had been previously informed, these cowardly things never dare to trouble a person as long as he is in motion, which we were obliged to be in to keep up with the vessel. Although we pretended not to be at all alarmed, yet we made for the vessel with all convenient despatch, not caring to associate with those who force themselves into company when they are not wanted. The only fish of any description we have caught since we have been out, is one albicore—a fish generally about from three to four feet long, very beautiful in form and graceful in their movements; a very shy fish, for if from the distance they discern anything at all suspicious about our vessel, they will start away as quickly as a trout. Have made several vain attempts to lure them with bait and hook, for the would shun it as a lawyer would a penniless client, or a physician a dose of his own pills. Little flying fish sometimes visit us in the evenings—fly aboard; but enough of them never have come on board at one time or in one night for a meal. There are several species of this fish; one commonly about nine inches in length, the back is colored like a mackerel, the belly flat and white, the mouth without teeth, the lower division of the tail the longest, the wings are two membranous fins, of a triangular form, about 4 inches long, with 11 strong ribs branching off from a single point, and are attached to the shoulders of the fish between the gills; they can give to their wings but a slight quivering motion, just after they rise from the water, and seem to be of no use in flying except to sustain the body for a time at the elevation which in leaping from the water it previously acquired. They cannot fly against the wind, but as they rise drop quickly down again; when the wind strikes them obliquely, it gives them a circular course. Sailors call these fish "Portuguese men-of-war."

## The Eastern Mail.

WATERVILLE, OCT. 25, 1849.

V. B. PALMER, 8 Congress-st., Boston and at his offices in New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, is our advertising agent.

## A BREAK OF MESMERISM.

Something must be done for our neighbors down the river. Mesmerism is serving them worse tricks than "much learning" stood accused of in old times. It not only sends men to California and back in half an hour, compelling them to play fantastic tricks all the while before a delighted audience; but it even sends a rumseller to the legislature, and comes within an ace of sending the whole legislative "calaboose" to Portland. The world has been deemed comparatively safe against this subtle influence so long as certain "powers of the air" could stand out against it. Among these the press has been regarded as the giant to keep it at bay; and when the fingers of Delilah were first seen dallying with his curls, the alarm should have been sounded. Now the wanton has his head in her lap, and it is too late.

The reverend and venerable editor of the Banner—the long accredited conservator of almost every public interest—the annihilator of "Andrew Jackson Davis," and the patron and moving vitality of the "river route" railroad—even he, has fallen under the spell of Mesmerism! The operator may be angel or imp, saint or devil, we know not—but the mysterious slumber has been upon him, and the result is reported in the Banner. The moment he was fairly "under the influence," as the phrase is, the operator, as usual, sent him on a clairvoyant tramp; and without knowing anything of his predilections, had to "head him" several times before he could make him move an inch towards Waterville.

"Where are we now?" says the operator. "In—where? There was a labored effort to speak, and the face of the subject was drawn to near twice its usual length. The operator ally slid his hand over the organ of conscientiousness, and the following was heard in a low, whining tone:

"We never entertained a feeling, and never uttered a word, of unkindness towards Waterville—and we never can. It has its errors, so have we all: it has its faults—who has not? But if there were neither errors nor faults in those we love, there would never be an occasion for the exercise of that noblest and most christian of all virtues—charity."

"Prophecy," says the operator, at the same time laying his hand on the organ of marvel-lousness, and jingling some pennies in his ears: "Serviceable as the railroad may be to Waterville, it can never supersede the uses of the river. Passengers and freight will always be conveyed, in the traveling season, from the wharves in Waterville to Boston, cheaper, either by the ocean steamers or by the Kennebec and Portland Railroad than they can be by any other conveyance; and this circumstance, together with the occasions for business on the route, will at such seasons always give the river route the advantage."

"Now," says the operator, "I leave you to utter your own sentiments—just what you first think of."

"Orthodox Congregationalism is a modern Society in Waterville. The Baptist is older. That cause aimed, originally, to take and possess the town by force. The Baptist denomination thought it important to establish itself strongly in some central point in Maine, and in 1813 had a Divinity School incorporated there for the education of its ministers. It was called The Maine Literary and Theological Institution. This promising, but little, in order to obtain the patronage of the State, and to exert a more widespread literary influence in behalf of the denomination, as well, if possible, as to 'head' the Congregational influence concentrated in the halls of Bowdoin, that Institution was, in 1820, changed to a College, and identified itself with the reigning political party in the State. All its Trustees were Baptists, without regard to politics, or Democrats, without regard to religion."

"Now," says the operator, "slily rubbing the tip of his finger upon a bit of soap in his pocket,

et, and laying it upon the organ of acquisitiveness, 'say something for your own benefit.'

Br. Gardiner is as much of a fixture at Waterville as is the rocky island that rears its venerable head midway of Ticonic Falls. The Society is not very large, for mere numbers, but embraces a very large part of the wealth, intelligence and moral influence of the town. What it does it does surely, and with as little noise or pretensions as the deep, ever-moving stream, which nothing can long resist.

"You are hungry," says the operator, "will you eat here?"

"Yes, but I am sorry—"

"Sorry for what?"

"Sorry to see it is not a temperance house."

"Why sorry?" says the operator, laying his finger lightly on the organ of conscientiousness again.

"Because I shall have to wait!"

Here was a rustling in certain parts of the audience, which nearly aroused the reverend sleeper to consciousness; but the operator ceased to excite the aforesaid organ, and he soon became quiet.

"Where are we now?" says the operator, laying both hands upon the organ of self-esteem.

"We always feel 'at home' in a printing office, and were happy to find the proprietor of the Mail at his post,—evidently of an active mind in a stirring body. Almost every one of his papers, we believe, for time out of mind, has contained some fling at our humble name, or town we live in, or its morals, or some of its distinguished citizens; but to not one of them did we ever reply. We were glad to learn that brother Maxham has an ample subscription list, and does a good job business. Long may he prosper in every thing honorable."

[We ought to remark here, for the benefit of this science, that we have never had the pleasure of an introduction to our neighbor of the Banner. Many strangers are in our office, but none have ever made themselves known as that gentleman—though, should he ever visit Waterville, bodily, we may hope for the pleasure of a call.]

"This is 'Waterville Town Hall,' says the operator, 'what say of this?'"

"As we passed that house of so many sacred associations, we could but motion our hand hat-wise,—which a certain distinguished citizen noticing, who never noticed us before, responded to by a similar compliment to his own beaver."

[Here science demands another fact. On the day of this exhibition, so far as dates can be ascertained, the venerable president of the A. & K. Railroad was passing on the west side of the common, when he saw a tall, shadowy-looking figure making singular motions in the direction of the Town Hall. The president is always polite, and in this case he over-acted from the impulsive idea that there was to be a waste of the raw material—he touched his hat to the shadow and the Town Hall got the substance.]

"Well," says the operator, with his fingers on half a dozen bumps at once, "you will now convince the audience of the truth of mesmerism beyond all doubt. Look carefully, and let them be convinced that you utter what you never could be induced to utter, except in the true mesmeric state. Now—"

"The A. & K. Railroad is nearly completed to Waterville, and the cars will commence running in November."

Here a stockholder of the "river route" sprang from his chair and threw an old file of the Banner directly in the operator's face—the sleeper jumped "about a foot," and our reporter, like a shrewd fellow, seized a few torn numbers and fled for home. When we have time, we propose to look them over, and see what they contain that should "get up such a muss."

LETTER FROM SHINGLEVILLE.  
SHINGLEVILLE, Oct. the 19th day, 1849 and 49.  
E. Mazham and D. R. Wing,  
Publishers of the Eastern Mail: }

There now, don't that look a feeble letter than my tuther letter did? If it don't then I'm mistaken a long chock, that's all. You no, gentlemen, that my tuther letter said E. Mazham, and nothen else. Now, the reason why I made such a mistake afore was, as I tole yo in that same letter, I didn't have no chance at all to take a look at your paper; so you see I didn't no there was a Wing in your office at all. I'd hearn tell, tu, that you'd got mately brushed up lately.

Wal, that tin I sent-over to you in that letter started the paper rite strale along. Munney makes the mare go, you no, and makes the bread and butter cum, I reckon, tu. Yes, that paper cum last Satterdy, and I wish you'd a been hear when the stage cum, and seen the rush after the Mail. It wood a made you felt proud, I guess, tu no how poplar your papers are over hear in Shingleville. And then agin, I shudent wonder if I didn't feel a little bit up, when, as soon as the papers was opened, our Postmaster, after looken some time, says, "Square Sampson, your paper, I bieve." Exactly, says I, walking rite up as strale as a bean pole and took the paper, and held it up so every body could see Ike Sampson Esquaro ritten in large letters on it. What a staring there was! I couldn't stop to see if there was nothen else for me, but went rite strale home. When I got into my—our—house, Becky says she,

"Ike, you've got the paper?"  
"What makes you think so, Becky?" says I.  
"Cause you step kinder longer, and look more like a man than you ever did afore, and I no you've got the paper."

"Well, Becky," says I, "when you cum to see the rith on it you'll feel proud to think that you was ever allowed to be Ike Sampson's wife, that I'm sartin of—for jest look—taking the paper out of my hat and handing it to her. She took it and read 'Ike Sampson Esquaro, Shingleville, Me.' I could see the red dye rise up in her face as she read it—ah! that was a proud minute for Becky. Well, I knew Becky would read it all threw afore she'd let anybody have it; so I took off my hat and hung it on one cand of the punkin pole, and

set down with all the pashans in the world—when who should cum in but Becky jun. and Patty. Peaky critters, I knowd they'd want it as soon as their marn was dun with it; so thinks I, I may as well give up getting a look at it to nite. So I put on my hat again, and went out to feed the hogs and put up my—our cattle. [Now, Becky, good critter, don't like to have me call anything mine, so I say cum, still you know it's all mine, and she tu.] Well, thinks I, tomorrows Saterdag, and I can read it all threw afore and after meeting; and so, after having a good smoke I went off to bed and left Becky reading the paper, and the gals looking on. How long they set up I don't no. Nex morning I got up arely and tho't I'd read a little afore breakfast. But what should I see but the gals with the paper, both reading the best they could. I see Becky was spitting her foot on the floor, as ef she was reading something that didn't suit her; and when I looked at the paper I see the color—cum—into her face, and she got rite up and went out. I sot down and looked to see what 'twas that troubled her so. I soon found out that twas a part of Mr. Water's Journal around Cape Horn, where he told about going in swimming with the gals. That rather touched her modesty, and didn't know that this was the fashionable way of going in a swimming in Boston and other grate places. Poor gal, she didn't get over it all day, but looked kinder reddish in the face when she was goin tu meetin. Her marn told me after meetin she guessed twas cause Becky hadn't no shoes on, that made her face so blusky, and mebbly twas, for Becky jun. was 19 years old some time last spring. So you see she's about old enough to ware shoes Saterdag; and tu the truth, I was calculating to get her a pair of shoes with the dollar I bought the paper with. She dont like to have her feet nude—[yes, that's the word; you see I'm learning something already by taking the Mail.] No, she dont want to have her feet nude, and Becky must have some shoes, any how. Proper nice gal, Becky is, worth a dozen city gals, that know nothing about milking, feeding pigs and hens, making butter and cheese, spinning, & Co. They can spin street-yarn better than my gals; get on their silk vandike that they haint paid for, thin gloves, and a little bunnet about half big enuff, and then they go kinder twisting along on the side wock, making little short bows tu every boy as has a new coat on; no matter if they borrowed it. And then they go into all the stores, and bother and plague the store keepers enanmost to death, and dont buy nothing—cops why? they haint got no money nor no credit. Wall, they run about most all the forenoon, and then go home and scold their marn cause she haint made their bed for em, and go putting around till dinner redly; eat that, and then begin to brush up again for an afternoon romp. Now du tell, somebody, what sich gals is good for, ef you can, and I'll waste a while afor I say enny more about em; cause mebbly some one will tell what they are good for, and after they're told I'll ax em then what some boys is good for—so we'll keep trying to find out these puzzlers. It's best to keep trying to find out what sich critters is good for, and ef we can find out, it's best to git em into the traces. That's my way of thinking.

Your humble Servant,  
IKE SAMPSON, Esquaro.  
P. S. I'm cummin over tu your place soon, tu see the Ralerode and the Depo. They du say their Depo bidens looks real hansum, and I must have a look at em, anyhow.

We hope Square Sampson will pardon us for publishing his letter, which be no doubt intended for a private one. Hope he will call, and give us the pleasure of introducing him to the depot and all other appendages of the railroad—and if he and Becky should ever ride over the road, we shall expect a sketch for the Mail.

LARGE SQUASHES. There were exhibited at the Cattle Show in this village, last week, three Squashes of the following weight: one raised by Mr. J. T. Leavitt, Esq. of this village, weighing 105 lbs., one raised by Mr. Goodwin of Fairfield, weighing 79 lbs., and one raised by Mr. Moses Titcomb of this village weighing 66 lbs. The seeds from which those of Mr. Titcomb's and Mr. Leavitt's were raised came from a squash that weighed 164 lbs.—[Skowhegan Clarion.]

Well—we had on exhibition at the late Fair in Waterville several squashes of enormous size—one weighing 133 lbs., and boasting for its ancestor one that weighed 165 lbs. A new race of squashes seems to have sprung into existence the past season—the result, we think, of emigration from the Penobscot, where the 165-pounder grew and was catch. Dr. Pollard distributed the seed in this section, and the crop has proved it no hoax—if the proof shall be found in the eating—which we regard an important point in a squash. The value of squashes like that of other folks, depends less on the size than the quality—so we think.

GODEY'S LADIES' BOOK.—We give the palm to Godey. We formerly thought him a great bragart, till we found by watching him that he always exceeds his promises, and now the Book exceeds every similar magazine in the country, not only in its reading matter, but in the beauty and richness of its embellishments. There is nothing like Godey's Ladies' Book—especially for the ladies. The Nov. number exceeds any we have ever seen.

FAIRLY BEATEN. Col. Johnson Williams, of this village, has left at our office a generous sample of corn, of which he has raised the past season one hundred bushels to the acre. It is of the 12-rowed kind, similar to that of Messrs. Emery. The Col. states that the land was manured with 38 small loads, one half spread before the harrow in the spring, and the other half put in the hill. It was plowed deep, in the Fall, and planted the middle of May. The first of October it was harvested, having been twice hoed.







