

## Seamen's Friend.

## The Meeting in Judgment with the Dead who are in the Sea.

That hour is coming, and we should draw from it motives for our daily conduct. There are things which may or may not befall us in the future; but we must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. What a day of revelation will that be of all our neglects and transgressions! and how little in the retrospect, will many of these things seem, which now occupy all our thoughts and passions!—There is one coming, who will say to some, "Inasmuch as ye did it, not unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye did it not to me." The hour hastens. Behold he cometh, and every eye shall see him! Hear the beloved disciple: "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it," (the shadowy vagueness of the representation only makes the approaching cloudy tribunal more fearfully sublime) and *Him that sat on it* (no name is needed, for there is one object now for every eye; and one sound reverberates in every ear and through every cavern of earth and sea) from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them." This judgment-bar is awful, is real, is approaching, is for us—you and I shall be attracted by irresistible fascination to that burning centre, and form part of that countless assemblage. Sinner! sinner! prepare to meet thy God! "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God"—before God! before him from whose presence heaven and earth just now, fled. The dead in all their races are there, of all tribes and nations, of every age, a ghastly multitude whom no man can number. All graves and sepulchres release their prisoners, of all time and ranks, from Abel downwards, to stand before God. "And the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it."

Now is the time of revelation from the mighty waters. Here are the deposits of solitary disasters, of thousands of shipwrecks, of vast fleets, and this through centuries of years. The faithful sea shall give them up, at the voice of the archangel and the trump of God. The voice that awoke Lazarus and the youth of Nain, and which unseals all sepulchres, shall find obedience in the seas. No matter what the variety of life or death, there shall be one rising again to look upon the face of God. How gladly would some call on mountains and rocks to cover them; or seek a deeper plunge into the concealment of the ocean! but no—

"Seas cast the monsters forth to meet their doom,  
And rocks but prison up for wrath to come."

Is it possible for me to urge on you a more solemn motive, than the anticipated awe of that day and that appearance; when before the august throne, the sea shall give up its dead! How will it aggravate the solemnities of that bar, to behold multitudes who have perished for lack of knowledge, and after having been born in Christian lands, have died and gone to judgment without hope in God! And how will it sweeten the joy of Christ's people, to welcome from among the treasures of the deep, those who by our means have beheld the Bethel—welcome, and by our means have fled for refuge to the hope set before them in the Gospel!

Other motives respect temporal things, but here is one which draws all its cogent influence from coming eternity: and these are the motives which bear the test of reason and the Bible. The true touchstone of every feeling, word and act—of every labour, expenditure, enterprise and even pleasure—is the question: "How will it bear the light of that great white throne?" How will it stand in that presence which heaven and earth cannot endure?—How will it confront the eyes which are like a flame of fire? How will it abide the judgment? There are ten thousand great things, which shall vanish in that ordeal, as stubble before the conflagration: name, riches, honors, learning, professions. And there are little things which shall abide the day of his coming: such as a cup of cold water—a visit of mercy—a look of helpful affection—a weeping with them that weep. Think you in that second advent, Christ will disregard the humblest contribution to the salvation of poor mariners? Think you, when the sea shall give up the dead which are in it, and among them some whose souls have been saved by your instrumentality, that He who sitteth upon the throne will look on with indifference!—

Nay, my brethren, his loving eye will be a recompense for a life-time of labor.

And you, my respected friends, who live upon the ocean—for it is *your* cause I plead—you also shall be with us. It may be that *your* bodies shall be among the relics of the great waters. Though you may expire among the stormy waves, yet if Christ is yours, and if in that day you should meet with any who have aided you on your heavenward progress, methinks the joy would be reciprocal, and the union of praises great, to Him who hath loved us and made us kings and priests. And though your earthly career may have been stormy, and though you may have come through great tribulation, all sorrow will be forgotten, when you have washed your robes and made them clean in the blood of the Lamb.

Fix then in your minds the certainty of this revealed, this momentous event—that the sea shall give up its dead—that it shall give them up in vast number—that it shall give up those whose death has been such as to need all the consolations of religion; yet many who from neglect have not enjoyed them. Look forward to this grand reality, and suffer it to sink in your hearts as a motive.

Let this great commercial city know, that inasmuch as her wealth is from the abundance of the seas, she shall have a judgment to meet, when the sea shall give up its dead. In our pride we may grow like ancient Tyre: the parallel is striking; "O thou that art situate at the entry of the sea, which art a merchant of the people for many isles, thus saith the Lord God, O Tyre, thou hast said, I am of perfect beauty." Let the men of our western Tyres know, that the day is coming when it will be less matter of congratulation, to know that her "wares went forth out of the seas," to "enrich the beings of the earth," her "merchants" being "princes"—than that some of her gains by the sea had been bestowed on the cause of Christ among seamen. The waves shall restore to adventurous merchantize none of the wares or the gains of successful traffic, none of "the fine linen with embroidered work from Egypt," nor the "blue and purple, from the isles of Elisha," nor the "emeralds, purple, coral and agate," nor any of all the items in that rich prophetic inventory; but they shall restore the dead and with them, accompanied with gracious and glorious remuneration, all the good thoughts, words and deeds bestowed on those dead. The ransomed sailor shall rise to bless you. His widow and his children shall bless you. Your most hidden prayer, your most despised mite, your left-hand alms, shall be poured back as from God's horn of plenty into your bosom, as with a full measure, shaken together and running over. For with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And *thy Father*, and the Father of the desolate mariner, who seeth in secret, himself shall reward thee openly.

For the same solemnities in which the sea shall give up the dead which are in it, will witness the gracious proclamation, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world!"—*Sailors' Magazine.*

## Science and Arts.

## FACTS IN BUILDING.

A writer in the *American Mechanic*, mentions the following very sensible facts, for those who propose to construct dwellings with reference to comfort, economy and convenience:

One fact is that a square form secures more room with a given cost for outside walls, than any other rectangular figure. Great length and little width may afford convenient rooms, but an increased expense.

Another fact is, that ventilation is an essential in a human dwelling. No other consideration should exclude this. The halls, windows and doors should be so situated with regard to each other, that a full draught of air can be secured, at any time, in the summer season, by day and night through the whole house. The stories should also be sufficiently high to afford a sufficiency of air in all the rooms. Nine feet is a good height for lower rooms, and eight for upper. Bed-rooms should also be larger than they commonly are. Great injury to health is the result of sleeping in small close apartments.

The third fact is, that a steep roof will not only shed rain and snow far better than a flat one, but will last immensely longer.

The fourth fact is, that a chimney in or

near the centre of the building will aid to warm the whole house, while if built at one end or side, will be thrown out and lost.

The fifth fact is, that a door opening from the outside into any principal room, without the intervention of a hall or passage, costs much more than it saves, in the free ingress of air into it.

The sixth fact is, that the use of paint is the best economy, in the preservation it affords to all wood-work.

The seventh fact is, that if the front door is made at one side instead of the middle of the front a partition will be saved and for small houses this should not be forgotten; but for large houses, have the main door and lobby in the middle of the house.

## Preservation and Restoration of Sight.

A late number of the *Phrenological Journal* contains an article on the subject of improving short-sightedness. The short sight being occasioned by a roundness and prominence of the eye ball, the following curious remedy is suggested. Rub the eyes from the inner to the outer angles. By this process the eye is flattened and the angle of sight extended. Long sight is caused by the flatness of the eye. Rubbing from the outer to the inward angle the eye is rounded, so that by these methods one may adjust his sight to his liking, so as to read with the naked eyes as well when old as when young.

Professor Bronson claims to have made this discovery. But it is shown by the *Journal* that John Quincy Adams understood this process and practised it himself, and suggested the idea to some other individuals, one of whom was a Lawyer Ford of Lancaster, Pa. Ford was short-sighted, and wore glasses. He practised on the suggestion of Mr. Adams, and restored his sight perfectly, and preserved it by continuing the practice.

Bronson is certainly doing short-sighted mortals some good by helping them to better sight through so simple and safe a method, whatever discoveries others may have previously made. It is notorious that Mr. Adams never wore glasses, and yet his sight continued good to the last. Those who knew him, recollect his habit of manipulating his eyes while listening to the conversation of other persons. —*Providence Transcript.*

## INTERESTING FACTS.

At the Scientific Convention, held in Philadelphia, on Thursday last week, a communication was made by Lieut. Davis, U. S. N., on the "Geological action of the Tides," and this paper was presented by Prof. Pierce. By a study of the tidal currents on the North-eastern Coast of the United States, Lieut. Davis has been led to the discovery of a connection between the ocean tides and currents, and the alluvial deposits on its borders and in its depths. In order to illustrate Lieut. Davis's views more fully, Prof. Pierce entered into some of the details upon which they have been formed.

For this purpose he exhibited a number of charts, the first of which represented the deposits around the Island of Nantucket. The tidal current there comes freighted with sand, and as it strikes the island it is deposited. Yet the current which is acting there all the time is not only depositing, but it is also taking away—so that, all the time flowing in every direction, and universally distributed, not very much is accumulated in any one place. The deposits are nearly equally made at various points.

The extremity of the Island has been supposed to be formed by deposits coming from the Island itself (i. e. by the shifting influence of the changing current) but this is shown not to be the case, that portion of the Island being formed solely by the tidal currents. As an instance of the force of these currents, Professor Pierce cited the following: A short time ago a ship was wrecked at one end of the Island, and the Keeper of the Lighthouse at the other end actually supplied himself with fuel from the coal which was originally deposited with the wrecked vessel. The coal was brought clear round the Island and deposited at its farthest extremity, by the mere force of these currents. Bricks have in the same manner been carried, and at Siasconset there is now standing a chimney actually built of bricks which were carried all round the Island in the same way.

Dr. Dickeson related a remarkable incident where, at the Island of Galveston in 1839, a vessel from New Orleans was wrecked (at the South end) with a considerable amount of specie. The Officers of the Custom House took

immediate measures to recover the valuable cargo, and in a very little time the workmen reported the vessel nearly covered with sand. A few weeks after, at the other end of the Island—some twenty-eight miles or thereabouts—some fishermen brought up some of the doubloons. They were arrested and imprisoned on a charge of robbing the wreck, their protestations of having found the gold at so great a distance not being credited for a moment, till scientific research convinced the authorities that the metal was really carried to that distance, of course by the force of the current. An instance of the way heavy bodies are transported.

Dr. Gould observed that he was never able to find sea-weed on the beach when the wind was toward the shore, but always when blowing off the land, deposits were made upon the beach. This he had heard accounted for (he presumed correctly) as the effect of an undertow, which acts always in a reverse direction to the action of the wind.

## Wonderful Works and Workers.

The coral builders form a tribe by themselves, and of their remarkable productions we have accounts which are undoubtedly true.

"Captain Flinders, (an English ship-master) describes a coral-reef on the east coast of New Holland which is 1000 miles long. In one part it is unbroken for a distance of 350 miles. Enormous masses of this structure also brave the fury of the wide-spread waters of the Pacific. These groups are from 1100 to 1200 miles long, by 300 to 400 in breadth. The following extract from that most interesting work, 'Darwin's Journal,' will convey a good idea of the extent of these labors in one spot—we mean Keeling Island, which is an entire mass of coral:—'Such formations rank high amongst the wonderful objects of this world.—Captain Fitzroy found no bottom with a line 7200 feet long, at a distance of only 2200 yards from the shore. Hence this island forms a lofty submarine mountain, with sides steeper even than the most abrupt volcanic cone. The saucer-shaped summit is ten miles across; and every single atom, from the least particle to the largest fragment of rock in this great hill which, however, is small compared with very many other lagoon islands—bears the stamp of having been subject to organic arrangement. We feel surprised,' he adds, 'when travellers tell us of the vast dimensions of the Pyramids and other great ruins; but how utterly insignificant are the greatest of them when compared to these mountains of stone accumulated by the agency of various minute and tender animals.'

## ILLUSTRATIONS OF TRUTH.

SUGGESTED BY A FEW READINGS IN NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.

1. "By communicating its properties, a magnet, instead of diminishing, increases its power." And so as it respects the acquisition of influence by the diffusion of knowledge: in the same proportion as a man becomes the source of knowledge to others, he will augment his own.

2. "In magnetism, every magnet has two poles. Poles of the same name repel each other, and the contrary poles attract each other." So you may find Christians of different denominations, who converse agreeably enough in company on general subjects, but who, almost as soon as religious topics are introduced, are "wide as the poles asunder."

3. There is as surely a moral as there is a physical attraction, repulsion, or cohesion.

4. A whale requires a sea to sport in; 150,000,000 of animalculæ would have sufficient room for their evolutions in a tumbler of water. The whole field of human science seems barely wide enough for the philosopher, while the soul of the untaught rustic finds ample scope within the bounds of his own green fields.

5. The principle that, "as you gain in power you lose in time," does not seem to be confined to mechanical science. It holds equally in reference to the generality of prolific writers, the feebleness of whose productions is generally proportionate to the velocity with which they are composed.

6. Is not the Christian, in his journey to heaven, like a ball on an inclined plane, which unless supported, must fall, and cannot ascend without applied power? If Divine grace be not "underneath and about him," he slides down, and no power of his own is adequate to move him onwards and upwards.—(*London*) *Penny Magazine.*