COUNTING-ROOM EDUCATION.

In looking over the life of Alexander Hamilton, by Dr. Renwick, says our contemporary of the Philadelphia *Merchant*, we were struck with a just acknowledgment made by the distinguished writer respecting the influence of counting-room education. It is seldom that literary men have a favorable word to say of the initiatory department of mercantile life, and all who have read the introduction to Hawthorn's 'Scarlet Letter,' have met a good specimen of the severity with which day-book and ledger life can be treated, as though it were adverse to everything dignifying and noble. —But in the Life of Hamilton, by Dr. Renwick, we have an admission no less remarkable than just. It appears that in early age Hamilton's father became embarrassed in his pecuniary matters, and the son looked about him for self-maintenance. A situation was secured for him in a commercial house in St. Croix, and he entered the counting-room of an eminent merchant.

He advanced so rapidly in the acquirement of the knowledge of business affairs and the tact of good management, that while very young, most important trusts were committed to his keeping. But mercantile affairs did not suit him, and those fine abilities which he afterwards displayed were permitted to find a fitting sphere of rapid developement. Means to pursue classical studies were furnished him, and the world knows that one of the ablest and most influential minds of America was that of Alexander Hamilton. Dr. Renwick says:—

'We cannot, however, but consider his early introduction to the business of a counting-house as having a favorable influence on his subsequent career. The habits of order and regularity in a well-conducted commercial establishment are never forgotten, and are applicable to every possible pursuit. Nor is the exercise of mercantile correspondence without its value in a literary point of view. To those with little previous education, or who have not an opportunity of improving themselves afterward, this exercise may communicate no elegance of style, but where the use of language has once been attained, the compression of thought and conciseness of expression, on which merchants pride themselves, give a terseness and precision of diction which those educated in any other profession can rarely equal. '

Now this is high praise, coming as it did from within the walls of a college. It is a broad view of counting-room education, and suggests many ideas that it would be well to dwell upon. Too many minds, especially those inclined to literary pursuits, regard the counting-room merely as a sort of magician's retreat, where the art of changing the dollar into a double eagle is taught and learned—where the faculties of the mind are trained into a sort of dray-horse business, and what is learned there has to them no more connection with any other portion of life, than the blotter has with the prayer-book. They see the clerk, his pen and ink, his invoices and his books, his letters, and they deem the copying-press a capital invention to break up the monotony of the pen-ink life of the poor drudge. As to the training of the faculties, the development of habits of order and regularity, the stern discipline of moral powers, clear, concise expression of what must be said, and kindred matters—these are all overlooked, and they must be indebted to some discerning and comprehensive mind for any means of seeing, how a counting-room education may exert a 'favorable influence' on any subsequent career. We have frequently been struck with the rapid advances made by those who have left mercantile life for the bar or the pulpit, attributable only to the tact by which they were able to seize opportunities promptly—tact developed in the counting-room, where emergencies sometimes stir a man's soul as no college examination or trial sermon ever roused up human nature.

Much of the results of which we have been speaking depends on the aims with which the counting-room is entered.—If the young man goes in as to a tread-mill, a treadmill he will find. He will shirk everything beyond the simplest routine of prescribed duties. The boundary of his vision will be exceedingly limited; and instead of seeing in him the promise of the intelligent, influential, and honored merchant, you behold almost certain evidence, that he will never attain to anything beyond the narrowest conception of mercantile life, and will furnish a good model for the sartist who hates everything like a Commerce because it suggests the possession of money, which he has not.

It is a good sign of the times, that so increased and improved have become the facilities for preparatory commercial education. Commercial institutes and colleges are increasing in all our large cities. In these, the young man finds his ideas of of counting-room life radically changed. He discovers, that the more accomplishments he can carry to the desk, the better the promise of true success; and instead of the old notion of confining attention to book-keeping and penmanship, we have now, in these educational establishments, professors and lecturers on commercial geography, commercial law, political science, &c., and such an education is imparted as impresses the student with he great fact, that no enlargement of his mental acquirements can fail to be of use to him in the long run of mercantile life. We are beginning to bring back the ancient ideas of the merchant, when he was deemed the paragon of accomplishment, furnished with all forms of knowledge, and holding himself bound to acquit himself nobly in possessing a comprehensive knowledge of the little world about him, but also of the greater world, with all its diversities, bringing from afar knowledge that poured the best light on things near.

Every day the ideal of the true merchant is increasing in dignity and attraction. The 'almighty dollar' is no symbol of him; but treaties, laws, courtesies, and amenities, binding discordant nations and peoples in bands of amity, making the interests of Commerce far better for man's regard than the fortunes of war. And however we behold the confusion of war now impeding the progress of mankind, it is to the merchant that we owe most potential influence to preserve peace where it is now enjoyed, and to hasten the end of wars where they are raging.—*Hunt's Merchant's Magazine.*

The New York *Shipping List* says:—"It is a remarkable fact that notwithstanding the immense receipts of gold from Australia and California within the past year, the great depositories in Europe and this country are steadily diminishing their specie reserves. The Bank of France, from September last year to September this year, has lost nearly two hundred millions of francs, equal to 32-1-2 millions of dollars; the Bank of England, since June, has decreased its coin and bullion in both departments from £18,186,000 to £11,220,000, equal to nearly 35 millions of dollars; The New York Banks, since February, have decreased from 17 1-2 to 11 1-2, a loss of 6 millions; and the Boston Banks, since June, from $3,600,000 to $2.400,000, being a loss of $1,200,-000; the aggregate decline amounting to over $75,000,000. The question naturally arises—What has become of all this money?" Probably a portion of it has found its way into the Crimea, another part has found its way into the general circulation of the commercial world, and the remainder is no doubt hoarded in small sums by persons of moderate means."

MILK CLEAN.—In some careful experiments made by Dr. Anderson, the quantity of cream obtained from the first drawn cup of milk was in every case smaller than the last drawn; and those between afforded less or more, as they were nearer the beginning or the end. The quantity of cream obtained from the last drawn cup from some cows, exceeded that from the first in the proportion of sixteen to one. In others, the proportion was not so great. "Probably," says Dr. Anderson, "on an average of a great many cows, it might be found to run *as ten or twelve to one.*" The difference in the quality of the cream was also much greater than the difference in quantity. From this it appears, that the person who, by bad milking of his cows, loses but half a pint of milk, loses in fact about as much cream as would be afforded by six or eight pints at the beginning, and loses, besides, that "*part of the cream which alone can give richness and high flavour to butter.*"

Man has three friends in this world—how do they conduct themselves in the hour of death, when God summons him before his tribunal?—Money, his best friend leaves him first, and goes not with him. His relations and friends accompany him to the threshold of the grave, and then return to their homes. The third, which he often forgets during his life, are his good works. They alone accompany him to the throne of the Judge—they go before him, speak, and obtain mercy and pardon for him.

During the year 1854, one hundred and sixty men were hanged in the United States for murder. Of this number, only seven could read and write. What a lesson.

HANNAH MORE says—"Though the arts which embellish life claim admiration, yet when a man of sense comes to marry, it is a companion he wants, and not an artist. It is not merely a creature who can dress, and paint, and sing, it is a being who can comfort and counsel him; one who can reason, and reflect, and feel, and judge, and act; one who can assist him in his affairs, soothe his sorrows, lighten his cares, purify his joys, and educate his children." "She should be well versed in the household labors of baking, washing, cleaning and sewing; otherwise she is unfit to be a wife as a 'Shoe-maker would be to navigate a man-of-war across the Atlantic,"

Seek for substantial as well as artistical excellences in her you would make your wife. She should be frugal, not wasteful; for an extravagant wife will bring embarrassment; if not poverty itself, into your habitation; her ambition for costly dress, costly furniture, costly living, will empty your purse, ruin your business, introduce you to the insolvent debtor's court; or worse than all, it will instal the demon of discontent by your fireside. She must be industrious, for a lazy woman is always fretful, odious, and disgusting.

It has been eloquently and truly said, that if Christianity were compelled to flee from the mansions of the great, the academies of philosophers, the halls of legislators, or the throngs of busy men, we should find her last retreat with women at the fire-side circle, her audience will be the children gathering round the knee of a mother; the last sacrifice the secret prayer, escaping in silence from her lips, and heard, perhaps, only at the throne of God.

Remarks on the Present Times, by The Hon. Myron H. Clark, Governor of the State of New York.

At a County Temperance Convention, held at Pleasant Valley, Dutchess Co., a letter was read from Gov. Clark. After noticing their request for his attendance, he says,—

"Allow me to say, that we are now in a very important crisis of the temperance reform. The cause is progressing, however amidst all its difficulties and opposition; and it will progress until the liquor traffic is swept away. Its success, I need not say to you, depends upon the persevering efforts of the temperance men throughout the State, acting together in unison and strength.

"It is encouraging to learn, as I do, from various portions of the State, that the law passed at the last session of the Legislature is operating with astonishing success. And it would at once triumph over all opposition, or be found entirely perfect, was more than ever its friends even, anticipated. Its defects must be remedied, and its universal observance secured. In this great work I shall ever rejoice to be with you an humble colabourer."

Extract from a letter, descriptive of a lengthened journey in the United States, by a person formerly resident in Oxford.

RETURNING to Boston, I take the car Portland or Maine, and arrive the same night. On the morrow, after the transaction of business, I visit the world-renowned Neal Dow, the celebrated author of the Maine law for prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors. * * * * I presume you are so well posted up that you do not require to be told much about this law; let it suffice for me to say, that during a journey of over 1500 miles, I have seen only two drunken persons. Such is the effect of this law, that people who will have liquor have a great deal of trouble to get it, and the natural result is, that pauperism, taxes, and crime, are all wonderfully diminished; that liquor will be annihilated entirely, nobody expects; but the rendering the sale of liquor illegal, is a great step in advance.

BALL IN AN ALMSHOUSE.—The inmates of the almshouse at Bridgewater celebrated Thanksgiving by a ball.

A MELANCHOLY STORY.—Among the twelve who were punished on Monday for drunkeness was one—a female—whose history is truly melancholy, though by no means unusual. She is not old, was once pretty, courted and admired by all. She was born in the South, of wealthy parents, and her earlier years were blest with all the blessings of one in her station. Her education was thorough, and she early gained a good reputation as a writer. She soon evinced a passion for the stage,—a passion so uncontrollable, that despite the entreaties of parents and friends she became an actress. In this sphere, she was very successful, and after a time made her appearance on the boards in this city, where she created no little *furore*. Her appearance was always hailed with enthusiasm, but after a time her fame and fortune began to wane. She fell, as many of her profession had done before, a victim to drink! Becoming daily worse, no manager would run the risk of engaging her. For a time, she gave evidence of an intention to reform, but the terrible passion predominated; she again fell. The formerly lovely woman, talented authoress and fine actress sleeps to-night a vagabond in the Tombs. —*New York Times.*

ASTOUNDING TELEGRAPHIC IMPROVEMENTS.

Wonderful as the achievements of electricity have been up to this date, all that has heretofore been accomplished is now about to be thrown in the back-ground by some astonishing improvements that had been recently made in the United States. The details of the principles upon which these are founded have not yet been given to the world, probably because their discoverers have not yet realized those first profits which constitute the only, and often the meagre reward of mind worn out in the service of mankind. A new Telegraph Company has been formed in the City of New York, composed of some of the most staunch business men, who are making preparations for the extensive operation of the Electro Magnetic Printing Telegraph; invented by Doctor E. Hughes of Kentucky. The prodigies performed by this instrument appear quite as impossible as the most fabulous fairy-tale, and yet we have every reason to believe that it is equal to all that is claimed for it. Comparison with any other is absolutely out of the question. "It will print," says the New York *Herald*," from three to five hundred letters, or from fifty to one hundred words in a minute, without the possibility of error. It will send two messages simultaneously in opposite directions over the same wire. It works with the most perfect secrecy, that is, it will send a communication from the point of its departure direct to its destination, without the possibility of any way-office on the route receiving a copy, except at the will of the sender. It is very simple in its operation. Any person who knows a letter of the alphabet when he sees it, can write as correctly with this instrument as the most experienced operator. All that is requisite to insure absolute correctness being, that the copy shall in the first instance be written plainly and correctly. The machine verifies itself, that is, at each revolution the operator can tell, by means of an unerring test in his instrument, whether it is in unison or not with the instrument with which it is communicating in a distant city. But its most wonderful feat, and that which will test the reader's credulity the severest, is its power to start into operation a similar machine in a distant office, without the help or even the presence of an operator, and compel it to write out whatever messages it chooses to send, in the same perfect manner in which they at first started on their transit. Thus for instance an operator at Washington may, at any time lock up his office and go to his meals or to his bed if he chooses, and on his return he may find on his desk a message perhaps from New Orleans, all fairly printed out and ready to be enveloped and sent to its address. It is said also to be much more economical in the mode of its working than any other machine. With such capabilities it appears, that nothing more in the way of perfection could be accomplished—that human genius has attained its acme—its culminating point of magic performance; and yet who knows how long it may be before other prodigies may be achieved that will as far outstrip these, as they do all their predecessors.

The American whaler John Henry fell in with the abandoned British Arctic ship Resolute, of Sir Edward Beleher's expedition, in Davis Straits. The crew took possession of her, and abandoned their own ship.

Bores should be lenient enough to bear in mind this truth—that it is with the fire of conversation as with any other fire—little sticks kindle it, great sticks put it out.