American Union.

J. H. EMERSON, EDITOR.

DENTON MARYLAND.

Estate of Johns Hopkins.

SETTLEMENT BY THE EXECUTORS.

The executors, Francis White, Francis T. King and Charles J. M. Guinn, have returned their first account of this estate to the Orphans' Court of Baltimore county. The total real estate of the deceased, returned in connection with the inventory for the purpose of the payment of the collateral inheritance tax, was $1,522,320.67. The total appraised value of the leasehold and other personal estate subject to the same tax $5,624,521.18—making a total amount of real and personal estate, at the appraised values of $7,145,841.75. The Johns Hopkins University has received, under the will, real estate appraised at $160,000, Baltimore and Ohio railroad stock appraised at $2,197,400, and $793,447.51 on account of its interest in the rest and residue of the estate. The Johns Hopkins Hospital has received $939,006 in bank stocks $518,896 in leasehold property, $822,326 in real estate, and $795,659.51 on account of its interest in the real and residue of the estate. The members of the family of the deceased and all the devisees and legatees have received their respective portions of the estate, and the whole estate has been closed by the first account excepting a balance of $102,154.22 ultimately belonging to the hospital and university, which remains in the hands of the executors undisturbed, to await the result of certain litigations. The executors have at the same time closed the administration of the estate in Virginia and West Virginia, and after the payments of all the expenses connected with the administration of the estate in the States of Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland have, in compliance with the will, renounced in favor of the estate $227,000 of the commissions fixed by law and allowed them by the Orphans' Court. The total cost of settling the whole estate in the three States, not including the taxes imposed, has been less than three quarters of one per centum on the estate. These facts indicate most intelligent and efficient administration of a great estate on the part of the executors, as also that the testator evinced the usual wise discernment in the choice of his executors that he had in the management of his business affairs through life. The will of Mr. Hopkins had been drawn by Mr. Guinn during the latter years of the life of the deceased, and though it underwent some modifications later, they were effected in consultation with the same attorney, who thus came thoroughly to understand the spirit and purpose of the deceased in regard both to his great public as well as private bequests.

A Rival to Steam Power.

Of the many moters which their inventors have fondly believed were to supersede steam, the latest is the discovery of a Mr. John W. Keeley. It is a method whereby water is transformed by a mechanical process to vapor, with the application of heat, and yet the transformation results in the production of a motor far more powerful than steam. After many experiments, Mr. Keely succeeded in making an engine whose power was compressed air on one side and a vacuum on the other, which was the agent for holding the vacuum in suspension. This was in his opinion a vast improvement on the steam engine; but the inventor saw by the working of his model where he could better it by simplifying it. This he proceeded to do, and he now has a motor which is merely a cold vapor produced from water by mechanical means, yet so powerful that it can produce a pressure of ten thousands pounds to the square inch. In fact the tremendous results of this process quite astounded its discoverer.

It is also a peculiarity of this vapor that it can be used at any rate of pressure desired, from ten pounds to thousands of pounds to the square inch; it can also be generated and preserved in receiving vessels for an indefinite length of time without losing its force. Mr. Keely has proved this by repeated experiments, sometimes keeping the vapor for a fortnight without appreciable loss of power.

This process is simple and inexpensive, and its working models are so marvellous in their operations that not only many scientists but capitalists also have become converts to the new motive power. Already stock companies have been formed which have purchased the right to use this new and strange motor in various states, and an entire revolution in steamships, railway engines, horse cars, and in fact in every department of mechanical operations, is predicted.

How a Mean Man Fooled his Wife.

He was an awful mean man! He carried a fifty-dollar counterfeit bill to make a show of it sometimes when fingering for a single drink or a Wheeling stogy. His poor, hard working wife had been begging him for a nice gold chain which she had seen in a shop-window down-town. One day he felt in a merry mood, gave her the fifty-dollar counterfeit bill, and told her to buy the chain. Then he left home laughing so hard that he had to go and take a drink to wet it down. He may have taken several drinks. He went home to dinner feeling full of jokes. It appeared to be the happiest day of his life. He had made a fool of the old woman. But the old woman wore that gold chain at the dinner-table, and called the "brute her old darling!" That put another face on the whole affair. It had ceased to be a joke for him. The jeweler called before dinner was over, and, handing him the base paper, told him to "shell out' fifty good dollars if he wished to escape annoyance. He shelled out, and has never been able to see the point of his joke. But the poor woman enjoyed it.

Can You Afford It.

Can you afford to work hard all day, and read, study, or court the vagaries of society, all night, thus wasting your vitality, exhausting your nervous system, and bringing on premature disease, decay and old age?'

Can you afford to eat hastily, and then rush to study and business, withdrawing the nervous energy from the digestive system to the brain and muscles, and thus inducing dyspepsia, in a few years, at most, to scourage and haunt and make you miserable for years or for life?'

Can you afford to live on rich or highly seasoned food, eat champagne suppers, because an artificial appetite is thus gratified, rendering gout, dyspepsia, apoplexy in the middle of life almost a certainty?

Can you afford to commit suicide by the indulgence of appetite and passion, adopting the fool's motto, "a short life and a merry one?'

Can you afford to indulge in fast living, dressing beyond your means, driving livery horses, or keeping a horse yourself, when your income is not adequate to such expenses.

Can you afford to smoke and chew tobacco, thus spending from five to twenty or thirty dollars a month, injuring your nervous system, and thereby transmitting to your children a weakened constitution, making them puny invalids for life?

Can you afford to burn out you nervous system and demoralize your whole character by the use of alcoholic liquor?

Can you afford to make money at the expense of your manhood, your health, your just respectability and integrity?

Can you afford even to gain the whole world and thereby make of yourself a moral wreck?

Can you afford to rob your mind to clothe your back with silks and satins, and gratify a mere love of display?

Can you afford to be tricky, and defraud your employer of the just service you owe him, even though you get your pay, thereby making yourself a moral bankrupt?

Dyspepsia.

In answer to correspondents the *Scientific American* of January 30th, says. "* * * * * * * * Bad breath is generally due to unclean teeth or imperfect digestion (dyspepsia). Cider vinegar certainly would not remove the first cause, and the second would not be improved by it."

In this latter conclusion our experience leads us to differ from the *Scientific American*. The writer has for years suffered from dyspepsia, finding but temporary relief, until advised to try "hard cider," the harder the better. The use of hard cider was continued until no more could be obtained when pure cider vinegar, diluted with water, and taken after each meal was found to be an excellent substitute. In this connection we may add that patients who suffer from griping in the stomach and bowels, and the lassitude and exhaustion so frequently the accompaniment of dyspepsia, will be surprised at the beneficial results attending the use of carbolic acid in proportions of one drachm to six ounces of water, a teaspoonful dose after every meal. Catarrhal sufferers will, in nearly all cases, obtain speedy relief, and cure from the same mixture. It should be used for ten days or a fortnight and then intermitted for an equal length of time, and again resumed. For some patients a greater dilution may be necessary. Personal experience has taught us the benefit from its use in dyspepsia catarrh.

The Two Sides of the Face.

We should expect the convex cast of one side of the face to fit, line to line, into the concave cast of the other; but it is doubtful if there is to be anywhere found one single head of this ideal perfection. Neither the contour of the cheeks, nor the lines of the countenance, are the same on both sides, and they are all the less so because every one unconsciously tends to perform many unilateral facial movements, which in time cause a divergence between the two sides of the face. Besides, the head, projecting as it does freely into the air, is more dependent than we imagine on wind and weather. Suppose a person were constantly to sit at a window, turning one side to the cooler atmosphere out-of-doors, and the other toward a hot stove—the result would be a two-fold growth of the facial muscles. One side of the face might become rounded the other flat or concave; and, though such faces are not unfrequent, we do not notice the anomaly, simply because we are accustomed to it. In the Lapp we have a good illustration of this unequal development. Just as the trees of his native land are stunted, so, too, his features become monstrous, irregular, and one-sided; the frontal bones are forced, as though by spasm, down on the maxillaries, producing the most singular combinations and contortions of the features. A not uncommon form of symmetry, in more favored lands, is the presence of a dimple on one cheek, while the other has no such indentation, or but a very faint one. In such cases the face as it were, a summer and a winter side, just like the apple, which is round and ruddy on its summer side, but on the shade side flattened and wan.

A THEOLOGICAL QUESTION SETTLED.—A man died recently at Suter Creek who had never adhered to any particular belief in any specified system of religion, but who bore the reputation of being a liberal, kind-hearted man and good citizen. A minister was requested to conduct the funeral service, and the good man during his discourse said in effect that the deceased had not the least chance of salvation, but had made a bee line for the hot place.—Those who heard this were very indignant, and that evening a party of men went to the minister's house, dragged him out of bed, put a rope around his neck, declaring they would hang him. He begged hard for life, and finally retracted the aspersion he had cast upon the deceased, and promised to leave the place at once. He was then released, and next day he packed up his effects and left.—*Alta Californian.*

A Curious Theory.

A pamphlet written by Dr. Samuel W. Francis, a "Fellow of the New York Academy of medicine,' contains a large number of "curious facts.' The intention of the author appears to be to prove "the great oneness of the earthly system' by means of the resemblance in form between the parts of the human body and many vegetable productions. Thus, the cocoanut is, in many respects, like the human skull, although it more closely resembles the skull of the monkey, and may perhaps serve Darwin's purpose as a link between the two. A sponge may be so held as to remind one of the unfleshed face of a skeleton, and the meat of an English walnut is almost an exact representation of the brain. Plums and black cherries resemble the human eye; almonds and some other nuts resemble the different varieties of the human nose, and an open oyster and its shell are a perfect image of the human ear. "The shape of almost any man's body,' we are told, "may be found in the various kinds of mammoth pumpkins. The open hand may be discerned in the form assumed by scrub willows and growing celery. The German turnip and the egg plant resemble the human heart. The author finds other striking resemblances between human organs and certain vegetable forms. In the course of his investigations, he traces the forms of many mechanical contrivances in common use back to the patterns furnished by nature. Thus he tells the hog suggested the plow, the butterfly the ordinary hinge, the toadstool the umbrella, the duck the ship, the fungus growth on trees the bracket. Even in the region of art he finds these resemblances. The sky presents forms and colors such as we see on no painter's canvas, while "the rooster crows in three-fourths time, and 'Bob White whistles a short gallop in two-fourths time."

Leatherette—A New Material.

The British *Trade Journal* describes the above article—a new patent imitation of leather—as follows: It is so good an imitation that a superficial observer would, in nine cases out of ten, take it for the real article. The grains of the different kinds of leather, such as basil, seal, morocco, etc., are reproduced with a fidelity quite remarkable. In the process of "graining," a real skin of leather of any given description, which it may be desired to imitate, is taken as a mold, and from this an impression is obtained on sheets of fibrous pulp by the exercises of enormous pressure. Thus the grain of the imitation article is an actual facsimile of that of the real.—Leatherette is obtainable in any color, and while it is only about one-eight the cost of leather, possesses some manifest advantages over the latter, which will scarcely fail to make it a commercial success. For instance, it is stronger then leather of the same thickness, and is of uniform quality, so that forty or fifty forms may be cut at a time, while the blemishes that occur in the leather necessitate each form being cut singly, and that by experienced and therefore expensive hands. It is not so prone to soil, and is waterproof. The scope afford in different trades for the utilization of such an article is obviously great. Upholsters, hat liners, box makers, purse makers, book binders, etc., may, among others, turn it to useful account. For book binding it is admirably adapted, and probably in this branch of trade will work no small revolution, seeing that it affords to hand realistic bindings at such a reduced cost. There can be no doubt that leatherette is an important invention.

Curiosities of Welding.

There has lately been shown in this country a very interesting specimen of blacksmith work. By means of Schierloh's welding compound, it is alleged that, in one example of a bar of Bessemer steel, five different kinds of iron and steel have been perfectly welded, without changing its shape in the least. The bar was rolled into form at Thompson's steel works, in Jersey City, and is ½ by 2½ inches in the cross section.

First, a piece of Bessemer steel, cut from the end of the bar, was welded fast to it again, the heating and welding occupying eight minutes. On the reverse side of the bar a piece of fine cast steel was welded in six minutes. Further along on the bar a piece of blister steel was welded in eight minutes. This same steel cannot be welded with borax, as the high temperature needed with the flux makes it as brittle as cast iron under the hammer. Opposite this a piece of wrought iron was welded in six minutes, and further along on the bar a piece of cast iron was welded in three minutes. This was a piece of the mold board of a plow. The bar, with its additions, was then ground and polished on the edge, so as to show the points at which the welded metals came into contact. No weld was visible on any one of them, and the difference in the metal could only be told by the color after polishing. This solves a great many important problems in iron manufacture, among others the welding of Bessemer scrap.

WHO IS MARRIAGEABLE.—Marriageable ages have been the subject of an inquiry by British representatives on the continent of Europe in response to an address made by the House of Commons last year.—There is little agreement between nations on this subject. The lowest ages for valid marriages are for Greece, Spain and Portugal 14 years for males and 12 for females—although the consent of parents is required in Portugal. In Austria the legal age for marriage is 14 years; in Prussia, 18 for males and 14 for females, although an amended bill, not yet passed, fixes the ages at 20 for males and 16 for females; in Italy, France, Belgium and Roumania the ages are 18 for males and 15 for females; in Russia and Saxony, 18 for males and 16 for females. In Hungary the marriage laws are entirely ecclesiastical, fixing 14 for males and 12 for females in the Catholic and Greek Churches, and 18 for males and 15 for females in the Protestant.

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of real excellence, differing from one another more or less in principle, construction and adaptation; one being suitable for tailoring, another for bootwork, another for family use, &c., &c., the rest are inferior, and by far the greater number

ARE WORTHLESS.

It is note worthy that the sewing machine for which the highest premium was awarded at the World's Fair in New York in 1853, long since sunk into merited oblivion. The past fifteen years has seen numerous machines with high sounding pretensions, rise with a flourish, confound the simple and vanish.—So will it be while credulity lasts.

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Use only furnishes the final test. As the purchase of a Sewing Machine is, or may be, the act of a life-time, care should be taken to get what time and use have approved.

During the past six years the Howe Machine Co. have made and sold over

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and to-day, though manufacturing at the rate of one per minute can hardly supply the demand. What better evidence is needed to prove that the public have decided that they are

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