DENTON JOURNAL.

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MELVIN BROS.

Saturday Morning, September 20, 1884.

The Youth of Shakespeare.

The circumstances of the Shakespeare family, if carefully examined, show a state of affairs that would naturally awaken and stimulate his ambition. For the first twelve years of William's life his father, John Shakespeare, was continually rising in the social and political scale in the little world of Stratford. Probably William was no idler, truant or vagabond, but a most industrious student. Certainly he somehow acquired such a mastery of of the English lauguage as few, if any, ever had before or since; and this could not be without careful study and extensive readings. Then there is evident a considerable knowledge of Latin, and some knowledge of Greek. With the latter language he could not have obtained in those days any acquaintance at all, unless he were quite familiarly versed in Latin. He shows, also, some facility in French composition and a smattering of Italian. His general knowledge, too, was enormons. He must have been a most industrious student. But at the age of fourteen or fifteen the outlook of the family was quite changed. The father sinks into poverty. What effect would this misfortune have upon a buoyant, ambitious spirit, conscious of his powers? Evidently it would be the most powerful stimulus to heroic effort. At eighteen he marries. He is probably the sought and not the seeker. Highly literary geniuses ought to guardians appointed over them, or conservators, before going into female society, if we may judge from Sir Thoms More, Richard Hooker, John Milton, John-Dryden, Joseph Addison, and a host of others, who seem momentarily to have lost their brains with their hearts. What must have been the effect of this marriage and the birth of three children? Evidently an increasing stimulus to heroic effort. Very likely the tradition is true that he became for a time a schoolmaster; also that he somehow mastered the law; most likely is it that he become a soldier serving in the Low Countries under Sir Philip Sidney and the Earl of Lecester. The remarkaple letter of Sidney to his father-in-law, Walsingham, in which he speaks of "My Lord of Leicester's jesting player, Will," very likely is a contenporary notice of this brilliant young actor. Let us indulge the belief that he was indeed a brave soldier, loving old England, keenly alive to the sentiment of military honor and the passion for military glory, an ardent patriot as well as the prince of dramatists.

An Old Type of a Precions Truth.

A great deat is said in the old Jewish books about the roads to the cities of refuge. They were to be broad and good, and were always to be kept in the best of order. Then they were to be plainly marked with guide boards, showing at every turning and wherever there was any possibility of the fugitive making a mistake, which was the right way. All this most happily illustrates the great pains at which the Bible is to show the way to Christ, so that no one, not even the smallest child or the simplest and most ignorant person can possibly err in seeking the right path. The way itself has been prepared at great cost and so easy and so perfect that the feeblest foot need not stumble in it. Every obstacle has been taken out of it, every rough place has been made smooth, every hillock has been levelled down and every valley has been bridgee over. The stones have been gathered out of the path, so that no one can stumble who walks in it. Then at every turn there is a gospel sign-board telling which way to take refuge. No one can ever say that he could not find the road. Again, the avenger could not pass beyond the limits of the refuge to touch a hair of the head of him who had fled to the city. No more can the law lay a hand upon him who has fled to Christ for refuge. "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runneth into it and are safe." No power can ever drag the believer out of his refuge. Jesus said of his own: "I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand."—J. R. Miller, D. D.

CLIMBING THE SPIRAL STAIRS.

Invisible Architecture in a New England Parsonage.

"Yes," she said, "our children are all married and gone, and my husband and I sit by our winter fire much as we did before the little ones came to widen the circle. Life is something like a spiral staircase: we are all the time coming around over the spot we started from, only one degree further up the stairs."

"That is a pretty illustration," remarked her friend, musingly, gazing into the glowing coals which radiated a pleasant heat from the many-windowed stove. "You know we cannot stop toiling up the hill, however."

"Surely we cannot, and for myself I don't find fault with that necessity provided the advance in life is not attended with calamity or suffering, for I have had my share of that. Not long since my health utterly broke down. My system was full of malaria. My digestion became thoroughly disordered and my nerves were in a wretched state. I was languid, ate little and that without enjoying it, and had no strength or ambition to perform even my light household duties. Medical treatment failed to reach the seat of the tronble. The disease—which seemed to be weakness of all the vital organs—progrssed until I had several attacks which my physicians pronounced to be acute congestion of the stomach. The last of these was a desperate struggle and I was given up to die. As the crisis had partially passed, my husband heard oi the merits of Parkers Tonic as an invigorant in just such cases as mine. I took it anp felt its good effects at once. It appeared to pervade my body, as though the blessing of life had come to me. Taking no other medicine, I continned to improve, and am now in better health than I have been for a long time."

[Extract from interview with the wife of Rev. P. Perry, Pastor of Baptist Church, Coldbrook, Mass.

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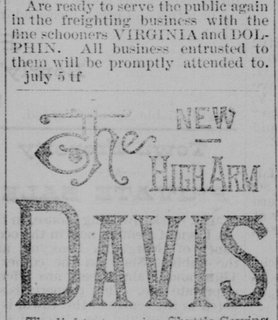

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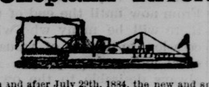

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