

WISE AND OTHERWISE.

Bret Harte's first poetic "fragment" commenced in these words—"I sipped the nectar of her lips; I sipped and hovered o'er her." And the last two lines were as follows—"Her father's hoof flashed on the scene. I'm wiser now, and sorer."

A man passing a Jamaica graveyard, seeing the sexton digging a grave, inquired: "Who's dead?" Sexton—"Roscoe Conkling." Man—"What complaint?" Sexton (without looking up)—"No complaint; everybody satisfied."

A competing hotel "out West" says generously of another that "it stands without arrival."

CRICKET.

On Thursday afternoon the Riverton Cricket Club played a game with the Cheltenham Club at the grounds in Riverton. Some good stands were made, prominent among which of the visitors was Ziegler's 14 in the first inning, and of the home team, Rastall's 44, Dando's 30 and R. H. Wells' 24. The Riverton Club was victorious by one inning and 49 runs.

We subjoin the score:

CHELTENHAM.			
1st INNING.	2d INNING.		
Hallowell 9	b Rastall 8	c Roberts.	
Ziegler 14	b Williams 5	b D'Inville 7	
Madera 5	c Dando 0	c Robt. Wells 0	
White 1	c Rastall 0	c L. Flanagan 0	
Frie 0	b " 0	c Taylor 0	
Carman 0	b " 0	c Moore 0	
Langley 9	b D'Inville 7	c H. Wells 0	
McCannon 7	b " 1	c Dando 0	
Jones 5	c Dando 0	b D'Inville 0	
Moore 3	b Rastall 1	c Not out 0	
Fulton 0	c Not out 0	c Roberts 0	
Total 58			
Byes 4			
Wides 1			
No Balls 2			
Total 66			

RIVERTON.

1st INNING.	
Mott 0	c Langley 7
R. H. Wells 24	c Madera 1
Rastall 44	c stump White 0
D'Inville 8	b White 0
Moore 7	c Madera 1
Dando 30	c " 0
L. Flanagan 7	c Ziegler 14
Williams 0	c Run out 0
Robt. Wells 8	c Sub. 0
Roberts 3	c Not out 0
Martin 0	c Absent 0
Total 181	
Byes 5	
Wides 8	
Total 190	



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NOVEL READING.

"Delicia, Countess of Foulville
yawned." This is the opening sen-
tence of a novel, entitled "Strictly
Tied Up," first published in London,
last October. Though it has reached a
third edition in England, it has not,
so far as we are aware, been repub-
lished in this country. But as it
would be a waste of time to know
even the names of the piles of so
called novels and novelettes, which
burthen the news-stands, the Editors
of the Riverton Journal are too
"strictly tied up" to know whether
the book under that title has been
lost upon the patient American
public or not. Judging from reviews
and extracts in the English papers,
the book may be too intensely Eng-
lish, and the worst kind of English
too, for republication. No doubt
there are respectable people among
the English "upper ten thousand,"
titled and untitled, and decent
wives and husbands, daughters and
sons in fashionable life. But if we
are to accept certain novels as "mir-
rors of English society, the result is
disappointing to such of us as would
fain think well of our cousins over
the water; and this particular book
seems to be of that unpleasant class;
though, as the author is the Right
Hon. A. J. B. Beresford Hope, M.P.,
the reviewers deal more gently with
it than they would with the work of
a mere novelist by profession. Pos-
sibly the dissolute nobles of two
generations ago "who muddled
away their incomes," and danced
attendance on dancing girls, and in
whom, "excessive coelchicum" com-
pleted the work of reckless whisky
punch," may be recognized portraits.
Many an English book gets circula-
tion at home from its alleged person-
alities, like Lothair, for instance.
But why the American novel reading
public takes a fancy to scandal which
it cannot fix, is a mystery, or rather
it would be a mystery if there were
not a fondness for "gamy flavor"
among readers, as well as among
epicures.

The heroine's life was wasted
amidst the vulgarity and low grovel-
ling of a disreputable and disas-
tured family. Her father, before
the honey moon was over, with a
"sneer, a laugh and an oath, left his
bride in tears to take part in a
steep chase, when he was suddenly
thrown from his horse and killed.
The heroine does not appear upon the
scene soon enough to have enjoyed
the benefit of her father's compan-
ionship, though the "dissolute"
family connection made up to her
whatever she may have lost by never
having the paternal example to
follow.

But "Delicia, Countess of Foulville
yawned." That opening sen-
tence of the novel suggested these
remarks. It might be prefixed, as a
prophetic motto to many a book,
which by favor of low prices gets
buyers. Buyers would not neces-
sarily be readers, if they would heed
the monition, and drop the thing over
which they yawn. There is a sort of
novel-reading conscience which im-
pels the possessor to follow to the
sleepy end many a performance which
would be insufferably dull if it were
not spiced, like a ragout, with the

piquant flavor which gives unhealthi-
ness to meat, and debauches the
appetite.

Should one read no novels?
"Should one, it might as well be
asked, "eat no dessert?" Nobody
can live on syllabubs, and no mind
can be strengthened with silly books.
As constant and only reading, they
are pernicious, weakening, if not de-
moralizing; though as an occasional
relief, well written light literature is
beneficial. Many of the current
works of this kind are absolutely
wicked, and some are all the worse
for the ability with which they are
written. To "Strictly Tied Up," we
have here referred, because it is out
of the reach of the American reader.
We might point out worse books
which are republished here, and some
which are here first published. But
to give their names and characters
would be to help those to seek them,
who sent their books from afar, as
the jaded palate seeks for fragrant
cheese.

TOOLS GREAT MEN WORK

WITH.

It is not tools that make the work-
man; but the trained skill and perse-
verance of the man himself. Indeed,
it is proverbial that the bad workman
never yet had a good tool. Some
one asked Ope by what wonderful
process he mixed his colors. "I
mix them with my brain, sir," was
his reply. It is the same with every
workman who would excel. Fergu-
son made marvelous things—such as
his wooden clock that accurately
measured the hours—by means of a
common penknife, a tool in every-
body's hands; but, then, everybody
is not a Ferguson. A pan of water
and two thermometers were the tools
by which Dr. Black discovered latent
heat; and a prism, a lens, and a sheet
of pasteboard enabled Newton to
unfold the composition of light and
origin of color.

An eminent foreign savant once
called upon Dr. Woolaston and re-
quested to be shown over his labora-
tories in which science has been en-
riched by so many important dis-
coveries, when the doctor took him
into a study, and pointing to an old
tea-tray containing a few watch
glasses, test papers, a small balance
and a blow-pipe, said: "There is all
the laboratory I have."

Stothard learned the art of com-
bining colors by closely studying
butterflies wings; he would say no
one knew what he owed to these tiny
insects. A blunt stick and a barn
door served Wilkie in lieu of pencil
and canvas. Bewick first practiced
drawing on the cottage walls of his
native village, which he covered with
sketches in chalk, and Benjamin
West made his first brushes out of
the cat's tail.

Ferguson laid himself down in the
fields at night in a blanket and made
a map of the heavenly bodies, by
means of a thread with small beads
on it, stretched between his eyes and
the stars. Franklin first robbed the
thunder cloud of its lightning by
means of a kite made with two cross-
sticks and a silk handkerchief.

Watt made his first model of the
condensing steam engine out of an
old anatomist's syringe, used to inject

the arteries previous to dissection.
Guildford worked his first problem
in mathematics, when a cobbler's ap-
prentice, upon small scraps of leather
which he beat smooth for the pur-
pose, while Rittenhouse, the astron-
omer, first calculated eclipses on his
plow-handle.

DISCOVERY OF PORCELAIN IN EUROPE.

Porcelain, which has been known
to the Chinese and Japanese for
ages, was not made in Europe until
the beginning of the eighteenth cen-
tury, when John Bottger, a German
from Schlaiz, in Voightland, was the
first who invented the art. This man
was an apprentice to one Zorn, an
apothecary at Berlin, where he met
with an alchemist, who, in return for
some good offices done to him by
Bottger, promised to teach him the
art of making gold. To discover the
grand secret he labored incessantly;
and it so happened that, having once
mixed various earths together in
order to make strong crucibles, in
course of baking them he accidentally
discovered the art of making porce-
lain. Thus the intended transmuta-
tion took place, not in the metals,
indeed, but in his own person; and
as if he had been touched with a con-
jurer's wand, he was on a sudden
transformed from an alchemist into a
potter. The first porcelain thus
manufactured at Dresden, in 1708,
was of a brownish-red color, being
made of a brown clay.

CURIOSITY OF LITERATURE.

The special interest that Custell's
Polyglot Bible gives to book collec-
tors is the following curious incident
with respect to its dedication:

Oliver Cromwell was so much in-
terested in its publication, that he
ordered the paper to be imported free
of all duties, and the work was dedi-
cated to him. A large number of
copies, however, remained unsold on
the accession of Charles II., and the
thrifty and prudent publishers con-
tinued to make them available by
cancelling the last two pages of the
dedication, adding three new ones,
and inscribing the whole to Charles.

The ingenuity of the alterations to
suit the time has rendered the book
one of the curiosities of literature,
the Commonwealth copies being very
scarce, and the Restoration ones
numerous.

The old family Bible that belonged
to Mary, the mother of Washington,
is still in existence, and is kept in a
branch of the Washington family in
Virginia. It contains the family
register, recording the birth of George
Washington, February 22, 1732. The
binding has a cover of cloth, woven
by the hands of his mother. This
old Bible, as might be supposed, is
kept as an heirloom, to be parted
with only in the last extremity. But
the reverses which have overtaken so
many Southern families, "obliging
them to part with their household
treasures, compel the possessors to
give this up also. It is to be hoped
that the Library of Congress or some
other public institution will gain
possession of it.

