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ELKTON, MARYLAND, SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1872. VOL. XXXI--NO. 31. WHOLE NO. 1598.

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### CRUISING.

What are the days but islands,  
So many little islands,  
And deep seas of silence  
That flows about them all?  
There, when the moon is risen,  
The peaceful waters glisten;  
But yonder plashing—listen!  
It is the souls that fall.

The little boats are skimming,  
The wind-blown sails are skimming,  
Each in its silver ruffling,  
Apart from fleet and shore.  
There not an ear is listening,  
With just a cable's slipping  
Glides out the phantom shipping  
That wanders over more.

Every day's an island,  
A green or barren island,  
A lowland or a highland,  
That looks upon the sea.  
There barren cliffs are crowning,  
There fruitful groves are frowning,  
And rocky channels drowning  
The little boats that lie.

How many are the islands,  
The teeming, tiny islands,  
That in the sea of silence  
The roving vessels find?  
Their number no man knoweth;  
Their way the current showeth;  
The tide returns floweth  
As each is left behind.

The sailors long to tarry—  
For rest they long to tarry—  
When at some isle of fairy  
They touch and go ashore.  
With songs of wondrous pleading  
They follow fate unfolding,  
And with the tide's receding  
Are drifting as before.

But sometime, in the sailing,  
The blind and endless sailing,  
They pass beyond the sailing  
Of light upon the sea.  
The lowlands and the highlands,  
And all beyond the islands,  
Behold the great white sea,  
Behold the great white sea.

CARL STRECKER, in *Harper's Magazine*.

### POST OFFICES ON WHEELS.

How OUR LETTERS ARE CARRIED AND DISTRIBUTED ON THE CARS—THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE—ITS ORIGIN, IMPORTANCE AND MANAGEMENT.

Probably a very small portion of the people of this country are aware that the Post-office Department at Washington has under its care large numbers of "Postoffices on Wheels," in which the railway trains are passing along from point to point, mails are received and given out, and letters and papers are assorted or classified for their various places of destination, with as much regularity as in our cities. Such managed postoffices in our cities. Such, however, is the case. Under what is known as the Railway Mail Service, the postal system of the United States within the past ten years has been improved so as to pass through the mails beyond the expectations of the most sanguine of the few who interest themselves in the improvement of the mail service. In these improvements every man, woman and child is directly interested, and in one way or another receives the benefit of them.

WHAT THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE IS.

The Railway Post-office Service of the United States may be described as the endeavor to give a letter the same rate of speed and continuous progress as a traveler can attain. Under what was known as the old Route Agent system, although large post-offices and cities had the advantage of through mail bags by fast trains, small ones were restricted to way-service on slow trains; and a letter going any considerable distance from one small post-office to another, was subject to a delay of from twelve to twenty-four hours at one or more points on its journey. In some of the large offices, as we shall presently show, these delays are now almost wholly obviated by the Railway Post-office system.

A POST-OFFICE ON WHEELS.

Before we consider the origin of this system, a brief sketch of what it is, as seen in practical workings, will not be inappropriate. Probably, the New York Central and Hudson River route, is as good an example of the system as can be found through a thickly populated section of country, and performing what no other eastern route does, viz: the entire "way" service as well as the express service, over the whole line, from New York to Buffalo, excepting, of course, mail sent by special trains in "through" mail-bags, or packages as they are termed. The best way to understand the Railway Post-office service is to see it in operation; but as it is difficult for the public to gain access to a postal car, owing to properly stringent regulations, we will take our readers into an imaginary one which is the counterpart of two which were permitted to visit, through official kindness and the courtesy of Head Clerks A. D. Sanford and E. M. Gregory, who are employed on the New York Central and Hudson River route. The exterior of a postal car does not differ materially from that of an ordinary baggage car. The interior is fitted up for business more than for comfort and pleasure. On entering the car, the first objects which the spectator notices are a large number of pigeon-holes on one side and at the forward end of the car. These are for the distribution of the mail-matter which has not yet made its appearance. We will suppose that we are in Buffalo. Just previous to the train's starting, a wagon load of mail-bags, or packages is drawn up to the side of the car, and the contents are thrown unceremoniously through the side-door, upon the floor. The Head Clerk, the Clerk and the Assistant Clerk are on hand to take charge of the car and the mail-bags. The bell rings, the train starts, and the work in the car begins. The contents of the pouches of letters are emptied on the table of the Clerk, who sorts the letters from the mass of other mail matter, and passes them to the Head Clerk, whose duty it is to distribute them and take charge of all the registered packages. These letters are then examined by him with a view to ascertaining their destination, and putting them on the right route to secure a speedy arrival. The pigeon-holes in front of him duly label the names of the post-offices to be reached by the letters, as they are classified. This classification, by the way, is one of the most difficult tasks which the postal clerk encounters. There are in this State more than twenty-eight hundred post offices, with the location of which, and in every way the most feasible postal routes thereto, he must be familiar, to say nothing of the other postoffices in the United States.

While the Head Clerk is distributing and classifying the letters that were emptied from the mail-bags, and the Clerk is distributing the printed matter, such as magazines and newspapers, etc., we notice that the Assistant Clerk is "making up" a pouch which he locks, and places near the side door. We notice also a singular contrivance attached to the side of the door, which we are told is for the purpose of exchanging mail-bags while the cars are in motion.

### THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

of the Railway Mail Service, at Washington, is Mr. George S. Bangs, of Illinois, a gentleman of large experience and of great vigor in conception and execution, in short just the man for the position. His predecessor was Colonel George B. Armstrong, lately deceased, who was the life and soul of the Railway Post-office system in the West, and to whom its great success there is very largely due. Under the General Superintendent, are five Assistant Superintendents, each one of whom has charge of a "Division" comprising several States. For instance, the Second Division comprises the States of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and the eastern shore of Virginia. It is under the supervision of Hon. Rowell Hart, of Lochester, long and well known, especially by the name of this State; for the efficient discharge of the duties of his official position, the public are greatly indebted. Superintendent Hart is assisted by Mr. R. C. Jackson, a gentleman of thoroughly practical experience in the system, who is Chief Clerk in the Railway Post-office at New York.

The Superintendent at Washington has full charge of the Railway Mail Service. This includes the making of arrangements for postal-cars and route agencies on different lines of railroads, so as to secure the greatest postal conveniences for the public and a general supervision of the postal clerks and route agents employed thereon. As a matter of course, he has to perform the duties of a Superintendent, who are favorably situated to observe properly of the necessities of cases arising within their jurisdiction. The Division under the care of Assistant Superintendent Hart, is one of the most important, and perhaps the most difficult to manage, of any in the United States. This is owing to the fact that this State of New York is within his Division, is the great focal centre into which the great mails from every quarter of the Union, are constantly pouring, and from which the most important postal routes diverge.

We are conscious that our sketch of this important branch of the postal service, is incomplete; but possibly it may awaken a desire in the public mind to become more familiar with the system, and we have endeavored to do so in a plain and simple manner. The Department has done the work of perfecting it, with so little ostentation that the people have not realized the great benefits resulting therefrom, which have so quietly been conferred upon them. But in these days when there is a demand for reform in the Civil Service, it is right that the public should know there is one branch of it which needs no reform.

### ORIGIN OF THE SYSTEM.

We now notice the origin of the Railway Post-office system. In 1860, the Postmaster-General, Joseph Holt, effected an arrangement with railway companies to run a mail train from New York to Boston, via Hartford and Springfield, by which the Western Mail, arriving in New York, which were of great magnitude, should be immediately forwarded east instead of remaining in that city until the following day, as the practice had been. This was the germ of the Railway Post-office system. The next year New York and Washington were secured between the United States. By referring to the Railway Post-office system, we find that Hon. Schuyler Colfax, in 1862, introduced a bill into the House of Representatives, to secure the speedy transportation of mails. The principal provisions of Mr. Colfax's bill were "That all companies, corporations or persons having or employing locomotives or cars for the transportation of merchandise or passengers for hire, \* \* \* are required, upon demand by the Post-office Department, to receive and transport the mails of the United States and postal agents in charge thereof \* \* \* and to deliver such mails according to their destination along the line of such road or route."

The first practical operation of postal cars in the United States was on the route from New York to Washington, D. C., in the summer or early fall of 1864, under the supervision of Mr. A. N. Zevely, then Third Assistant Postmaster-General. The cars were fitted up under his direction from hints obtained in Canada and elsewhere, but the internal arrangements, although elaborate, and in some respects almost elegant, were not such as would admit of the ideas of clerks now. At the outset the Department selected clerks for duty on the cars mainly from among the more expert clerks in the New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore and Washington Post-offices, and it was generally announced, or rather understood, that the service was to be operated on the basis of qualification and merit, because it seemed to be generally acknowledged, even then that a high standard was necessary to success. Almost simultaneously postal cars were placed on several routes out of Chicago, where they spread and prospered with a vigor characteristic of the locality.

In the past, however, the route between New York and Washington continued for

### THE MARVELS OF THE SPECTROSCOPE.

BY DR. EDWARD T. NELSON.

He who would keep pace with the progress of science must, indeed, be an apt scholar. The discoveries crowd upon us so rapidly that we hardly have time to examine one before it is pressed from under by another. Here and there a subject, like "Darwinism," from its supposed materialistic tendency, receives undue attention; while other and fully as well-authenticated discoveries are wholly passed by.

It is thus with spectrum analysis, the latest-born of our sciences—a science whose discoveries are already so great and so wonderful that we are almost ready to say there can be no limit to its field of research. It investigates the earth, and explores the heavens and seems to unite the two with new bonds. For as an exact parallel of matter is too great for it to fathom, it has already placed the stellar and planetary universe at our feet, and we study those distant orbs with the same ease and exactness as if they were molecules of matter in the laboratory of the chemist.

Each new discovery, when properly understood, must give us more exalted ideas of nature and the author of nature. The farther we pass into space, the nearer we approach unto God, and only when we examine the minute things of creation can we appreciate the boundlessness of the universe.

It is not my design, at this time, to enter into any description of the science or of its discoveries, but to dwell on a few things which may well be called the marvels of the science. It has been proven that a grain of sodium can be detected by means of a spectroscopic even when dissolved in water. This statement, which we find recorded in scientific papers, conveys very little meaning to us, from our inability to grasp so small a quantity as the one-two-hundred-millionth of a grain. Mathematicians tell us that we can form no correct idea of numbers beyond the few hundreds or thousands used in regard to the matters of everyday life.

In order that we may have some little conception of the power of the spectroscopic, and form an idea of this small fraction, we reduce the statement to another form. Construct a tank eight feet square on the base, and nine feet high. Such a vessel would contain 576 cubic feet, and if filled with water would hold about 135 barrels. A piece of common salt, the size of a pea, would contain about one grain of the metal sodium. If this "pea" were dropped into the vessel of water, and allowed to dissolve, each drop of water would contain about the one-two-hundred-millionth of a grain of sodium, and would be sufficient to prove the presence of that element in the whole body of water. For this calculation, we have the following data. A drop of pure water weighs one grain. In a gallon of water there would be 40,800 drops. Two hundred million drops would therefore fill nearly 138 barrels. How wonderfully exact, and how powerful! Though we give all praise to the microscope, yet it cannot compare in power with the spectroscopic.

To illustrate this still further, we will mention the recent discoveries in regard to the lithium rare element. Until within the few past years, this element had been one of the great rarities of the chemist. It was found in small quantities in only two or three places in this country, and minerals as to such a way with other elements as to be rather difficult of extraction. The spectroscopic has shown that its distribution is well-nigh universal. Analyses of soils show its presence in small quantities. It is present in very many springs and streams, and is largely present in the waters of the ocean. Plants growing on soils containing this element, absorb it in large quantities. In this way it enters largely into the system of man. In fact, it is almost as universal as common salt, which is found everywhere. Why this abundance unless it has some beneficial effect on the human body? It is a settled fact of God's providence that these elements which are essential to man are of world-wide distribution, like air and water, while those not so essential are more limited in extent and local in distribution.

We do not wonder that some of our best physicians are investigating the subject with great care. Our subject has much of interest for the medical fraternity, and the science of spectrum analysis is destined to play a very important part in medical examinations and in medico-legal trials.—The spectrum of blood differs very notably from that of any other known substance. Increased observations, it is hoped, will give us a means of separating the spectrum of human blood from that of the lower animals. Already we can detect the lower animals, and thus separate it in solution, and thus find it in the blood of a human being. The dried stain from a known quantity of blood is all that is necessary for the examination. Arterial blood can be taken from venous, from the proportion of carbonic acid in the latter easily detected by the means, even when the quantity is so small as to escape the chemist.—Not long since a man died in Europe under very peculiar circumstances. The jury could find no marks of violence on his person, no evidence of disease or traces of poison in his system. A spectroscopic was called into requisition, and a drop of blood taken from the severely cold heart, one of the most deadly of poisons. This, day by day, science is increasing our store of knowledge—not only of ourselves but also of the boundless universe of God.

The Methodist.

I Cannot, Sir.

A young man—well we will call him Frank—who loves truth, was a clerk in a letter case recalling an order for goods, which had been received the day before, and which he had just delivered to Frank.

"Frank, reply to this note. Say that the goods were shipped before the receipt of the letter containing the order." Frank looked into his employer's face with a sad but firm glance, and replied: "I cannot, sir."

"Why not, sir?" answered the merchant, angrily.

"Because the goods are now in the yard, and I would be a liar, sir."

"I hope you will always be as particular and as honest as the merchant, turning upon his heel and going away."

Honest Frank did a bold, as well as a quiet thing. What do you suppose happened to the note? Did he lose his place? No; quite different. The merchant was too quick to turn away when he would not have done so. He knew the untold value of such a truth, and at once made him his confidential clerk.

### THE WOMAN PREACHER.

VIEWS OF REV. HENRY WARD BEECHER.

There was a stir in Plymouth Church, on Sabbath evening, as the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher read for the first the 34th and 35th verses of the 14th chapter of First Corinthians:

"Let your women keep silence in the churches; for it is not permitted them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also the law."

And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church."

Recent events, said Mr. Beecher, in a church in this city, have interested the whole community. A woman—a regularly ordained preacher—was asked to preach in a Presbyterian church, and she was in every way qualified to do so. For permitting this woman to preach, an esteemed and honored pastor was brought before a special meeting of the presbytery, and his conduct passed upon. He was directed not to do so any more. The simple question before us is whether in the New Testament

WOMEN ARE FORBIDDEN TO PREACH and teach. He said he proposed to speak of the particular command laid down by the Word of God, on woman preaching and teaching publicly. There are those who regard this utterance as final and conclusive, and there are those who admit the binding obligation of the scripture, but regard this command as local, national, and transient. It was in force only in a particular time and place. The modern is totally different from that of the first ages. The family does not stand as it did two thousand years ago. Women were far more equal to men among the Hebrews than any other ancient nation. They were not excluded from public function. It spoke of the patriotic glory of women who had stood up in those times to hold the scepter, and eulogized their wise administrations.

Women are forbidden to teach in the synagogue. Technical education women were not admitted to, and consequently they could not know the work imposed by the Church. It was eminently proper that they should speak out (after a pause), and in the meeting too. [Applause.] There is nothing in the Gospel that limits

### THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF WOMEN

in this regard, excepting in Corinthians—Paul's letter to Corinth, and when he wrote to Timothy. In both instances they were not directed to Jews, but to the Greeks.—He commented upon the characteristics of the two nations—the slavery and ignorance of the Greek women, and the freedom and cultivation of the Hebrews. A virtuous woman in Greece was, he said, a domestic slave, while a woman of education was placed in the category of courtesans. The Greeks would have derided the spectacle of a woman with uncovered face speaking in public. Therefore it was that Paul forbade them to teach in the church—in Greece. (Mr. Beecher smiled as he added, "Would that he had put that in.") If he had only known how stupid people are in our day, he would have done so. [Laughter.] Mr. Beecher spoke of the noble parables and the women of the present time, and asked if they

### SHOULD BE DEGRADED

and placed in the same catalogue with the women of ancient Greece. "I do not say that I scorn or condemn those who look at the subject differently from my view, but I marvel at the circumstances which could make a wise man so foolish. [Laughter.] I honor Brother Cuyler because he had the courage to invite Miss Smiley to his church."

Speaking of the same commands laid down in the New Testament, he said: You are commanded to honor the King. Do you honor him? No; you have thrown him overboard. Paul says, "I will therefore; that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath, and doubting. In like manner also, let women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety [continued with shamefacedness and sobriety joined with laughter]; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array." [Another burst of laughter, the pastor ejaculating "Oh! oh! oh!"] Why are not the women who break these commands arraigned? O, Brother Cuyler!

### LET THESE WOMEN BE THIRDS

Do you suppose it was wrong for women to braid their hair and wear jewelry? I inveigh against extravagance, but all creation could not keep an ordinary woman from following the fashion. Ordinary women are not barbarians now. The moderns, who were once called the heathens, are now a civilized and a noble work to perform. Are you going to put back the dial—to turn the tide of civilization? If women are called from the pulpit, and show themselves fitted for the work, they have a right to speak: Where can we find more noble examples of woman's cultivation and goodness than among the Society of Friends? Mrs. Smiley has extraordinary ability.

He anathematized the rituals or doctrines that forbade women to speak in the church. In Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither bond nor free; there is neither male nor female, for ye are all one.—"When you ask me," Mr. Beecher said, "if a woman shall speak in meeting, I answer, no—unless she has something to say. We have trumpeted enough now, let us have the flute. Women, God bless you, and the angels love you, if you properly bring up the boys and girls God has given you."

### PAINLESS EXTRACTING OF TEETH.

Dr. A. C. Castle (*Dental Cosmos*) observes that he has for thirty years adopted the plan of obtunding or benumbing the extractions of the temporal nerves, for painless extraction of teeth from their sockets, done by an assistant, with each of his little fingers pressing with persistent firmness on the *foras* or hollow behind the ridge or temporal bone, which forms the external base of the orbit of the eye. Pressure for one minute is all that is necessary.—The practice is as simple as it is harmless, and leaves no after unpleasant sensation to annoy the patient. It is an instrument which has been often adopted by people themselves, who press their temples with their fingers to relieve themselves temporarily of acute paroxysms of nervous headache. This temporary pressure, with sufficient force, is all that is required to remove teeth painlessly.

### THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM.

Titus with a great force once more approached the gates of Jerusalem. Hardly had he pitched his camp, before the besieged made a furious rally, and the commander was nearly taken by surprise. The faction now perceived the necessity of making common cause against the enemy, and of burying their animosity for the present. By agreement they made a simultaneous attack on the tenth legion, which was stationed at the foot of the Mount of Olives. By the fierceness and suddenness of their onslaught, it was, at first, entirely routed, and Titus himself exposed to the greatest danger; at length, rallying, after a contest of an entire day, the Romans repulsed their enemies.

The city was, at that time, fortified by three walls, one within the other, strengthened by one hundred and sixty-four towers. Moreover, there was a fortress of unusual strength, called the Antonia, and three towers built of such immense stones as to defy the engineering of that day. High over all rose the temple, an impregnable citadel in itself, covering a space of a five-hundred and twenty-five feet in height. This splendid structure, with its marble pillars and golden roof, "a mount of snow, girted with golden pinnacles," excited the admiration of Titus, and a regret at the necessity of destroying so much magnificence.

The approaches to the city were at last perfected, and the huge engines, called *litolopes* (city takers), began to shake the outer walls in three different places. The most furious resistance was made by the besieged, now united in a common defence. They made desperate sallies, and often nearly succeeded in destroying the machines. On one occasion these were fired by the insurgents and would have been destroyed, but for the bravery of Titus, who killed twelve of the assailants with his own hand. At last the great engine, called *Nico* (the conqueror), threw down a portion of the outer wall. The garrison retreated to the next, and still fought with desperate valor. In five days more, suburbs, sparring the lives and property of the peaceable citizens. By a fierce sortie, the Romans were again driven from their position, when they could not regain for four days, when they threw down a large portion of the wall. The temple, the hill of Zion, and the impregnable forts, still defied the invader, and the Jews now plied with tremendous effect the ballista and other engines taken from the *bellas* in his flight.—They scoffed at the idea of surrender, and offered violence to all who came to parley. Famine had now commenced, and many of the vast multitude perished in the city were dying with hunger. Many others, and with all the wealth they could accumulate, Titus allowed them to be deported, although John and Simon put to death without mercy, and the people were made to compel all who had a little cruel tortures to yield up; and all natural affection seemed lost and absorbed in this dreadful calamity. Titus was now crucifying all his prisoners, sometimes to the number of five hundred in a day, and this added to the rage and desperation of the besieged. After seventeen days of great labor, the embankments had been made, and the engines mounted for an attack, when the whole were seen to sink into a fiery abyss, and be consumed. John had undermined the whole, filled his cavern with combustibles, and set fire to the wooden supports. Two days after, Simon with a crowd of his partisans, made an attack on the remaining engines, and after a furious conflict, burnt nearly all of them.

It was then decided to blockade the city, and starve the garrison into a surrender. In three days, working with incredible diligence, the besiegers, had, in the meanwhile, and the compassed their round, and kept them in on every side." Well might they now recall, the terrible denunciations of Moses in his dying prophecy:—"The Lord shall bring a nation against thee from a far," "a nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor show favor to the young."—"And he shall beset thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down."—"The tender and delicate women among you, which would not adventure set the sole of her foot upon the ground for delicateness and the husband of her bosom, and toward her son, and toward her daughter, and toward her children for want of all things, secretly in the siege and straitness wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee in thy gates"—"A prophesy which was now fearfully realized—Half of the city were dying of starvation, or resorting to the hideous resource of cannibalism. Many died with their eyes fixed on the temple to the last, and others crept to the cemeteries and laid their corpses. Without, the ravines were filled with dead bodies thrown from the walls; within, the city, strewn with unburied corpses, reeked like a vast sepulchre.

At length, after stripping the whole country of its woods, the approaches were renewed, and the tall engines were set on fire, and their destruction enabled the Romans to penetrate to the outer court, where their engines soon began to batter the stronghold. Repulsed by the fury of its defenders, Titus set fire to the gates, and endeavored to destroy to allow the Romans to enter. A most terrible encounter ensued in the temple itself, and despite the desire of Titus to retreat, the magnificent building was fired by his enraged soldiery. Multitudes perished in the flames and by the sword, and the plunder was so great that gold fell in Syria to half its former value.

"Now, then, children," said a parish school mistress, showing her pupils off on an examination day, "who loves all men?"—"You, missus" was the unexpected answer.

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BY DR. EDWARD T. NELSON.

He who would keep pace with the progress of science must, indeed, be an apt scholar. The discoveries crowd upon us so rapidly that we hardly have time to examine one before it is pressed from under by another. Here and there a subject, like "Darwinism," from its supposed materialistic tendency, receives undue attention; while other and fully as well-authenticated discoveries are wholly passed by.

It is thus with spectrum analysis, the latest-born of our sciences—a science whose discoveries are already so great and so wonderful that we are almost ready to say there can be no limit to its field of research. It investigates the earth, and explores the heavens and seems to unite the two with new bonds. For as an exact parallel of matter is too great for it to fathom, it has already placed the stellar and planetary universe at our feet, and we study those distant orbs with the same ease and exactness as if they were molecules of matter in the laboratory of the chemist.

Each new discovery, when properly understood, must give us more exalted ideas of nature and the author of nature. The farther we pass into space, the nearer we approach unto God, and only when we examine the minute things of creation can we appreciate the boundlessness of the universe.

It is not my design, at this time, to enter into any description of the science or of its discoveries, but to dwell on a few things which may well be called the marvels of the science. It has been proven that a grain of sodium can be detected by means of a spectroscopic even when dissolved in water. This statement, which we find recorded in scientific papers, conveys very little meaning to us, from our inability to grasp so small a quantity as the one-two-hundred-millionth of a grain. Mathematicians tell us that we can form no correct idea of numbers beyond the few hundreds or thousands used in regard to the matters of everyday life.

In order that we may have some little conception of the power of the spectroscopic, and form an idea of this small fraction, we reduce the statement to another form. Construct a tank eight feet square on the base, and nine feet high. Such a vessel would contain 576 cubic feet, and if filled with water would hold about 135 barrels. A piece of common salt, the size of a pea, would contain about one grain of the metal sodium. If this "pea" were dropped into the vessel of water, and allowed to dissolve, each drop of water would contain about the one-two-hundred-millionth of a grain of sodium, and would be sufficient to prove the presence of that element in the whole body of water. For this calculation, we have the following data. A drop of pure water weighs one grain. In a gallon of water there would be 40,800 drops. Two hundred million drops would therefore fill nearly 138 barrels. How wonderfully exact, and how powerful! Though we give all praise to the microscope, yet it cannot compare in power with the spectroscopic.

To illustrate this still further, we will mention the recent discoveries in regard to the lithium rare element. Until within the few past years, this element had been one of the great rarities of the chemist. It was found in small quantities in only two or three places in this country, and minerals as to such a way with other elements as to be rather difficult of extraction. The spectroscopic has shown that its distribution is well-nigh universal. Analyses of soils show its presence in small quantities. It is present in very many springs and streams, and is largely present in the waters of the ocean. Plants growing on soils containing this element, absorb it in large quantities. In this way it enters largely into the system of man. In fact, it is almost as universal as common salt, which is found everywhere. Why this abundance unless it has some beneficial effect on the human body? It is a settled fact of God's providence that these elements which are essential to man are of world-wide distribution, like air and water, while those not so essential are more limited in extent and local in distribution.

We do not wonder that some of our best physicians are investigating the subject with great care. Our subject has much of interest for the medical fraternity, and the science of spectrum analysis is destined to play a very important part in medical examinations and in medico-legal trials.—The spectrum of blood differs very notably from that of any other known substance. Increased observations, it is hoped, will give us a means of separating the spectrum of human blood from that of the lower animals. Already we can detect the lower animals, and thus separate it in solution, and thus find it in the blood of a human being. The dried stain from a known quantity of blood is all that is necessary for the examination. Arterial blood can be taken from venous, from the proportion of carbonic acid in the latter easily detected by the means, even when the quantity is so small as to escape the chemist.—Not long since a man died in Europe under very peculiar circumstances. The jury could find no marks of violence on his person, no evidence of disease or traces of poison in his system. A spectroscopic was called into requisition, and a drop of blood taken from the severely cold heart, one of the most deadly of poisons. This, day by day, science is increasing our store of knowledge—not only of ourselves but also of the boundless universe of God.

The Methodist.

I Cannot, Sir.

A young man—well we will call him Frank—who loves truth, was a clerk in a letter case recalling an order for goods, which had been received the day before, and which he had just delivered to Frank.

"Frank, reply to this note. Say that the goods were shipped before the receipt of the letter containing the order." Frank looked into his employer's face with a sad but firm glance, and replied: "I cannot, sir."

"Why not, sir?" answered the merchant, angrily.

"Because the goods are now in the yard, and I would be a liar, sir."

"I hope you will always be as particular and as honest as the merchant, turning upon his heel and going away."

Honest Frank did a bold, as well as a quiet thing. What do you suppose happened to the note? Did he lose his place? No; quite different. The merchant was too quick to turn away when he would not have done so. He knew the untold value of such a truth, and at once made him his confidential clerk.

### THE WOMAN PREACHER.

VIEWS OF REV. HENRY WARD BEECHER.

There was a stir in Plymouth Church, on Sabbath evening, as the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher read for the first the 34th and 35th verses of the 14th chapter of First Corinthians:

"Let your women keep silence in the churches; for it is not permitted them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also the law."

And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church."

Recent events, said Mr. Beecher, in a church in this city, have interested the whole community. A woman—a regularly ordained preacher—was asked to preach in a Presbyterian church, and she was in every way qualified to do so. For permitting this woman to preach, an esteemed and honored pastor was brought before a special meeting of the presbytery, and his conduct passed upon. He was directed not to do so any more. The simple question before us is whether in the New Testament

WOMEN ARE FORBIDDEN TO PREACH and teach. He said he proposed to speak of the particular command laid down by the Word of God, on woman preaching and teaching publicly. There are those who regard this utterance as final and conclusive, and there are those who admit the binding obligation of the scripture, but regard this command as local, national, and transient. It was in force only in a particular time and place. The modern is totally different from that of the first ages. The family does not stand as it did two thousand years ago. Women were far more equal to men among the Hebrews than any other ancient nation. They were not excluded from public function. It spoke of the patriotic glory of women who had stood up in those times to hold the scepter, and eulogized their wise administrations.

Women are forbidden to teach in the synagogue. Technical education women were not admitted to, and consequently they could not know the work imposed by the Church. It was eminently proper that they should speak out (after a pause), and in the meeting too. [Applause.] There is nothing in the Gospel that limits

### THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF WOMEN

in this regard, excepting in Corinthians—Paul's letter to Corinth, and when he wrote to Timothy. In both instances they were not directed to Jews, but to the Greeks.—He commented upon the characteristics of the two nations—the slavery and ignorance of the Greek women, and the freedom and cultivation of the Hebrews. A virtuous woman in Greece was, he said, a domestic slave, while a woman of education was placed in the category of courtesans. The Greeks would have derided the spectacle of a woman with uncovered face speaking in public. Therefore it was that Paul forbade them to teach in the church—in Greece. (Mr. Beecher smiled as he added, "Would that he had put that in.") If he had only known how stupid people are in our day, he would have done so. [Laughter.] Mr. Beecher spoke of the noble parables and the women of the present time, and asked if they

### SHOULD BE DEGRADED

and placed in the same catalogue with the women of ancient Greece. "I do not say that I scorn or condemn those who look at the subject differently from my view, but I marvel at the circumstances which could make a wise man so foolish. [Laughter.] I honor Brother Cuyler because he had the courage to invite Miss Smiley to his church."

Speaking of the same commands laid down in the New Testament, he said: You are commanded to honor the King. Do you honor him? No; you have thrown him overboard. Paul says, "I will therefore; that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath, and doubting. In like manner also, let women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety [continued with shamefacedness and sobriety joined with laughter]; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array." [Another burst of laughter, the pastor ejaculating "Oh! oh! oh!"] Why are not the women who break these commands arraigned? O, Brother Cuyler!

### LET THESE WOMEN BE THIRDS

Do you suppose it was wrong for women to braid their hair and wear jewelry? I inveigh against extravagance, but all creation could not keep an ordinary woman from following the fashion. Ordinary women are not barbarians now. The moderns, who were once called the heathens, are now a civilized and a noble work to perform. Are you going to put back the dial—to turn the tide of civilization? If women are called from the pulpit, and show themselves fitted for the work, they have a right to speak: Where can we find more noble examples of woman's cultivation and goodness than among the Society of Friends? Mrs. Smiley has extraordinary ability.

He anathematized the rituals or doctrines that forbade women to speak in the church. In Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither bond nor free; there is neither male nor female, for ye are all one.—"When you ask me," Mr. Beecher said, "if a woman shall speak in meeting, I answer, no—unless she has something to say. We have trumpeted enough now, let us have the flute. Women, God bless you, and the angels love you, if you properly bring up the boys and girls God has given you."

### PAINLESS EXTRACTING OF TEETH.

Dr. A. C. Castle (*Dental Cosmos*) observes that he has for thirty years adopted the plan of obtunding or benumbing the extractions of the temporal nerves, for painless extraction of teeth from their sockets, done by an assistant, with each of his little fingers pressing with persistent firmness on the *foras* or hollow behind the ridge or temporal bone, which forms the external base of the orbit of the eye. Pressure for one minute is all that is necessary.—The practice is as simple as it is harmless, and leaves no after unpleasant sensation to annoy the patient. It is an instrument which has been often adopted by people themselves, who press their temples with their fingers to relieve themselves temporarily of acute paroxysms of nervous headache. This temporary pressure, with sufficient force, is all that is required to remove teeth painlessly.