

James Aram's Example.

From the Chicago Times-Herald.
For many years James Aram resided and prospered in the pretty village of Delavan, Wis. He was not what might be termed a rich man at his death, a few weeks ago. He had taken part in most of the enterprises calculated to advance the interests of his town. It is apparent that he wanted to live in the thought of the people after he had crossed the river. He generously remembered several of the churches and the cemetery association and then directed that \$20,000 be used in building a home for superannuated Methodist ministers and their families, to be located at Delavan. That was to be in memory of his father and mother. He did not stop there, but left another \$20,000 to be used in establishing a public library and reading room. These are none the less valuable, none the less prized, because the man whose memory will be preserved by them builded them himself. Fortunate, indeed, is the village or city that has a James Aram, living or dead.

QUESTIONS ASKED THE SMITHSONIAN.

One branch of work done by the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, is very little known, yet it is a very important one from the popular standpoint. This is the answering of questions from all over the United States on every subject.
Fifty thousand letters are received a year, and none of them are neglected. This is the only institution that can be answered.
Government which inaugurated the system in 1846.
Prof. Henry was of the opinion that it was his some forty years ago. He was a much better citizen than an ignorant one, and that it was his duty to impart information whenever requested. Whenever such information was of a wonderful variety, the questions are of a New York "Sun" reporter course, when a New York Museum recently he for instance, when the National Museum engaged in finding a called at the National Museum for a lady in found Prof. Otis T. Mason engaged in finding a suitable name for a country seat for a name taken example California. She wanted a name taken example some Indian language. This is only an example of the work done in this line, and sensible they of the work always answered, even though they are always answered.

The Smithsonian Institution is of great benefit to the world. The Smithsonian Institution of knowledge, its ramifications in the distributing to all corners of their recitations extending to the results of their book searches to the Smithsonian Institution in the book and they forward them to the persons who and they know to be especially interested in the book or pamphlet. This system of international exchange is, of course, extremely beneficial. Scientific American.

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One woman lived in a stately mansion beside the sea. Her lawns sloped down to the tide. A wide garden stretched behind. She had a carriage and a coachman to drive her wherever she chose to go. Her dearest friend lived in cramped quarters in the city. She was not rich, but she had a circle of charming friends and many opportunities for social and intellectual development.

"How I envy you your life!" wrote the city woman to her friend. "If I could only sit down after breakfast to an uninterrupted morning such as you describe! We have tw-

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MERE SPARKS.

The idea that entire seclusion from the world is essential to sanctity or to high attainment in the divine life is born of a low order of faith, and finds expression only among those who imperfectly understand the Christian's true relation to the world.

It is not true that a man may be so covered with the righteousness of Christ as to make that righteousness avail in his behalf while he himself remains in positive unrighteousness.

A man's character can be more accurately determined by what he does and by the company he keeps than by what he professes to believe and to be.

Only men of great courage have such mastery over themselves as to suffer and be silent under the attacks of a malicious and lying tongue.

The carefully conferred certificate of a first-class secondary school is more to be desired than the diploma of a counterfeit college.

It is easy to be a soldier on dress parade, but scars and medals of honor are won only on the field of battle.

However hard your lot may be, it is unmanly and unchristian to whine about it.

When the burden of your own woe grows heavy try to help somebody else.

He who injures another does an irreparable harm to himself.

To live in the surface of things is to miss their true meaning.

A high motive shoots clean over a low nature.

times against persons charged with the naval service of the Confederate States. Of three were successful. Five of the accused were convicted or pleaded guilty. No prosecution appears to have been instituted against Bullock himself." (Bernard's Neutrality, pages 361-2.) This is a terribly small record, considering the magnitude of the offenses committed, and considering the zeal shown in repressing en-

Rev. Dr. Watkins, British Wesleyan Conference
1897

SIDNEY LANIER—THE MAN, THE POET.

BY PROF. S. A. LINK, M.A.

1897.

159

Under Barrie's magic hand Rob Angus, "the sawmiller" of Thrums, leaves his mill and becomes a London editor in a few seasons. That is romance. Scarcely less wonderful is the reality when we find Sidney Lanier a clerk in an Alabama hotel in 1866, and the author of the Centennial cantata in 1876, the teacher of a country academy in 1867, and the author of "The Symphony" in 1875. So brief and pathetic was the career of Lanier, so different was his poetry from conventional models that the world has hardly known how to estimate his work. His personality took strong hold upon men; his life was itself his greatest poem. Edmund Gosse, one of the best known English critics, visited Baltimore shortly after Lanier's death. Gosse says: "The writer of 'The Marshes of Glynn' had passed away before I visited Baltimore, but I heard so much about him that I feel as though I had seen him. The delicately molded ivory features, the profuse and silken beard, the wonderful eyes waxing and waning during the feverish action of lecturing, surely I have witnessed the fascination which these exercised." "Beauty is holiness, and holiness is beauty," was the teaching of Sidney Lanier upon the subject of art. A few decades ago the prurient in poetry was too often the most marketable feature. Happily the poet does not now need to live outside the canons of good society to be admired. A good life does not make a great poet—far from it—but such lives as those of Tennyson, Bryant, Longfellow, Whittier, and Sidney Lanier give an additional halo to the gracious things which they have written. Too often while we admire the poetry we must defend, explain, or even forget, if possible, the life of the poet. As Lanier says in "The Crystal":

Full bright ye shine, insuperable stars;
Yet, if a man look hard upon you, none
With total luster blazeth, no, not one
But hath some heinous freckle of the flesh
Upon his shining cheek.

Of the masters in their work he said: "All must ask some sweet forgiveness." Not so with our poet so far as his life was concerned. We hardly know which to accord the highest meed of praise, the man or the poet. His life was itself as beautiful, as pure as his creed, "Beauty is holiness." Under the title, "The Victory of the Weak," Col. Higginson, of Boston, calls Sidney Lanier "the Sir Galahad of American Literature," and says: "The man who, while already stricken with pulmonary disease, could serve for many months in the peculiarly arduous life of a Confederate cavalryman had some right to an opinion as to what constitutes true manhood." The Colonel might have added that the same manly spirit kept Lanier a private in the ranks when offered a commission which would have separated him from a younger brother. Now that his name is a gracious one to many lovers of poetry, the South claims him; but if others had not discovered him, perhaps his name even now would be strange to Southern readers, yet all too few. His working years were few and full of heroic endurance of suffering. There is in all literature hardly a parallel to the care with which he hoards the minutes, that he may hang the largest number of trophies in the temple of song, singing amid pain-throbs and fever-fires far into the gathering shades of the twilight of death.

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A Solid View on the Subject of Collection in General.

A venerable man of color, who stood among the pillars of the church of which he was a member, rose to respond to a sentiment that had been for some time annoying him no little. An effort was being made to curb the spirit of collections and to hush the calls for so much money, some going far enough so say, "So many collections will kill the church."

The old man, unable longer to repress his indignation, arose and proceeded to take his stand on the other side of the question. Said he, "I hear much about de collecshuns killin of de church first and last, here and thar. Now, if I eber hear of de church what am bin killed by de collecshuns, I makes a pullgrimidge to dat church, and when I arrives thar, I climbs de ivy-kivered walls by de pale life of de moon tell I gits to de top, and rife thar, my brederen and sisters, I gits down on my knees 'pon de moss kivered ruff, an says to myself, 'blessed am de ded what die in de Lord.'"

ONE WHO OWES MUCH TO COLLECTIONS.

August 3rd, 1897.

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