

alphabet of sounds is supernatural, and that the Eternal Father, who gave to all men a language in which to convey their thoughts, condescended also to become the First Schoolmaster. If such be the case, and I can find no better solution of the problem, who amongst us shall from henceforth deem it beneath his dignity to teach the alphabet, or as janitor of the temple of science, disdain to open its golden portal to the infant mind? What agency the Almighty employed to convey to mankind this spark of heavenly flame, I know not. But if he sent the archangel Raphael, disguised as a youth, to accompany Tobias on his journey, and to instruct him by the way, may we not reasonably hazard the conjecture that He made use of the same medium to convey that "pearl of great price," the alphabet? When by an act of disobedience, our first parents had forfeited their happy estate, they did not altogether lose the love and compassion of their Heavenly Father.

Before casting them adrift on a cold and cheerless world, he stripped off the childish garments with which they had contrived to cover their nakedness, and with his own hands, clothed them comfortably in the skins of wild beasts. But was this all? I cannot think so. Thus equipped, were they in a fit condition to till the ground and earn their bread in the sweat of their brow? Truly not. Following, as I believe, close on their retiring footsteps, He sent forth the Angel of Pity, who taught them the use of fire and where to procure the wild roots and other vegetables necessary to sustain life. He taught them next, no doubt, to domesticate the cow and the sheep, that they might use the nutritious milk of the former for food and wear the wool of the latter into warm and comely raiment. When men began to multiply on the face of the earth, he showed Tubalcain how to extract the iron, the brass and other metals from their native mines, to smelt them in the furnace and fashion into the implements of husbandry and domestic economy. Having thus provided for their natural and most pressing wants, he instructed Tubal in the manufacture and use of musical instruments, teaching him to play on the timbrel, the harp and the organ. Finally, when about to take his departure from

amongst the children of men, he left them as a legacy, not his mantle, like Elias, to cover one Elijah, but most wonderful of all diminutive things, the alphabet, to overspread the whole earth; that shining as a bright star, it might serve the human race to photograph their inmost thoughts and render them visible and imperishable.

Men may yet strive to account for the human origin, and seek to discover the inventor of this mighty talisman, but they will assuredly seek in vain. It never owned an inventor; for the Almighty invents nothing: all things to him are intuitively manifest, and he requires not the labor of study, nor the faint glow of the midnight lamp to accomplish his designs. The works of man being imperfect are always susceptible of modification and improvement. Not so the works of God, not so the alphabet. For as it was in the beginning and is now, so it shall forever remain perfect and unchangeable as the divine source from which it sprang.

A. G. GRANT.

LECTURE POUR TOUS.

NI TROP NI TROP PEU.

N'avoir jamais les mains trop pleines ni trop
[vides,
Est un moyen de voir couler ses jours en paix:
Toujours pauvres sont les cupides,
Toujours riches les satisfaits.

E. CATALAN.

TABEAU DE LA VIE HUMAINE.

On passe par différents goûts
En passant par différents âges:
Plaisir est le bonheur des fous;
Bonheur est le plaisir des sages.

BOUFFIERS.

FUIR L'OISIVETÉ.

Comme un poison mortel fuyons l'oïveté:
Elle est l'arbre du mal, son fruit est infecté;
Elle devient pour nous pire que cette rouille
Qui s'attache aux métaux, qui les ronge et les
[souille.
DIDOT.