

be able to see whether the bud has taken, by its plumpness and freshness. If it has failed, you may, if the bark still parts readily, make another trial; a clever budder will not lose more than 6 or 8 per cent. If it has succeeded after a fortnight more has elapsed, the bandage must be loosened, or if the stock has swelled much, it should be removed altogether. When budding has been performed very late, we have occasionally found it an advantage to leave the bandage on during the winter.

As soon as the buds commence swelling in the ensuing spring, head down the stock, with a sloping back cut, within two or three inches of the bud. The bud will then start vigorously, and all "robbers," as the shoots of the stock near to and below the bud are termed, must be taken off from time to time. To secure the upright growth of the bud, and to prevent its being broken by the winds, it is tied when a few inches long to that portion of the stock left for the purpose, Fig. 5, a. About mid-summer, if the shoot is strong, this support may be removed, and the superfluous portion of the stock smoothly cut away in the dotted line, b, when it will be rapidly covered with young bark.

We have found a great advantage, when budding trees which do not take readily, in adopting Mr. Knight's excellent mode of tying with two distinct bandages; one covering that part below the bud, and the other the portion above it. In this case the lower bandage is removed as soon as the bud has taken, and the upper left for two or three weeks longer. This, by arresting the upward sap, completes the union of the upper portion of bud, (which in plums frequently dies, while the lower part is united,) and secures success.—*Downing's Fruits and Fruit Trees of America.*



Fig. 5.

INSIGNIFICANCE OF THIS EARTH.

Though the earth were to be burned up, though the trumpet of its dissolution were sounded, though yon sky was to pass away as a scroll, and every visible glory which the finger of Divinity has inscribed on it were extinguished forever—an event so awful to us, and to every world in our vicinity, by which so many suns would be extinguished, and so many scenes of life and population would rush into forgetfulness—what is it in the high scale of the Almighty's workmanship? a mere shred, which, though scattered into nothing, would leave the universe of God one entire scene of greatness and of majesty. Though the earth and the heavens were to disappear, there are other worlds which roll afar; the light of other suns shines upon them, and the sky which mantles them is garnished with other stars. Is it presumption to say that the moral world extends to these distant and unknown regions? that they are occupied with people? that the charities of home and of neighborhood flourish there? that the praises of God are there lifted up, and his goodness rejoiced in? that there piety has its temples and its offerings? and the richness of the divine attributes is there felt and admired by intelligent worshippers?

And what is this world in the immensity which teems with them, and what are they who occupy it? The universe at large would suffer as little in its splendour and variety by the destruction of our planet, as the verdure and sublime magnitude of a forest would suffer by the fall of a single leaf. The leaf quivers on the branch which supports it. It lies at the mercy of the slightest accident. A breath of wind tears it from its stem, and it lights on the stream of water which passes underneath. In a moment of time, the life, which we know by the microscope it teems with, is extinguished; and an occurrence so insignificant to the eye of man, and on the scale of his observation, carries in it to the myriads which people this little leaf, an event as terrible and as decisive as the destruction of a world. Now on the grand scale of the universe, we, the occupiers of this ball, which performs its little round among the suns and the systems that astronomy has unfolded, we may feel the same littleness and the same insecurity. We differ from the leaf only in this circumstance, that it would require the operation of greater elements to destroy us. But these elements exist. The fire which rages within may lift its devouring energy to the surface of our planet; and transform it into one wide and wasting volcano. The sudden formation of elastic matter in the bowels of the earth—and it lies within the

agency of known substances to accomplish this—may explode it into fragments. The exhalation of noxious air from below may impart a virulence to the air that is around us; it may affect the delicate proportion of its ingredients and the whole of animated nature may wither and die under the malignity of a tainted atmosphere. A blazing comet may cross this fated planet in its orbit, and realize all the terrors which superstition has conceived of it.

We cannot anticipate with precision the consequences of an event which every astronomer must know to lie within the limits of chance and probability. It may hurry our globe towards the sun, or drag it to the outer regions of the planetary system, or give it a new axis of revolution, and the effect, which I shall simply announce without explaining it, would be to change the place of the ocean, and bring another mighty flood upon our islands and continents.

These are changes which may happen in a single instant of time, and against which nothing known in the present system of things provides us with any security. They might not annihilate the earth, but they would unpeopled it, and we who tread its surface with such firm and assured footsteps, are at the mercy of devouring elements, which, if let loose upon us by the hand of the Almighty, would spread solitude, and silence, and death over the dominions of the world.

Now, it is this littleness and this insecurity which make the protection of the Almighty so dear to us, and bring with such emphasis to every pious bosom the holy lessons of humility and gratitude. The God who sitteth above, and presides in high authority over all worlds, is mindful of man; and though at this moment his energy is felt in the remotest provinces of creation, we may feel the same security in his providence as if we were the objects of his undivided care.

It is not for us to bring our minds up to this mysterious agency. But such is the incomprehensible fact, that the same Being whose eye is abroad over the whole universe, gives vegetation to every blade of grass, and motion to every particle of blood which circulates through the veins of the minutest animal; that though his mind takes into his comprehensive grasp immensity and all its wonders, I am as much known to him as if I were the single object of his attention; that he marks all my thoughts; that he gives birth to every feeling and to every movement within me; and that, with an exercise of power which I can neither describe nor comprehend, the same God who sits in the highest heaven, and reigns over the glories of the firmament, is at my right hand to give me every breath which I draw, and every comfort which I enjoy.—*Chalmers.*

GROWTH OF LONDON.

We are apt to imagine here in the United States, that our towns and cities greatly surpass in rapidity and extent of growth those of any part of the old world. Some facts about London would seem to contradict this notion.

It is stated, for instance, in a recent report to the Government, that in little more than twelve years, twelve hundred new streets have been added to London, which is at the rate of one hundred streets a year.

These twelve hundred new streets contain forty-eight thousand houses, most of them built on a large and commodious scale, and in a style of superior comfort. With all this wonderful increase, it is said, "that the demand for houses instead of diminishing, continues to increase," and that while in many towns of the interior, the number of unoccupied houses is augmenting, "scarcely is a new street in London finished, before almost every house in it is fully occupied."

One great reason assigned for the rapid growth of London, is the extraordinary facility, economy, and despatch with which people are now transported over railroads terminating there. Owing to this cause, "it is estimated that the daily influx of individuals is five times greater than it was fifteen years ago."

London is now about forty miles in circumference, and numbers more than two millions of inhabitants.—*Emancipator.*

THE BOOK OF BOOKS.—"Bring me the Book," said Walter Scott, on his dying bed; "Bring me the Book!" "What book?" replied Lockhart. "Can you ask?" said the expiring genius, whose fascinating novels have charmed the world, but have no balm for death—"Can you ask what book?—there is but one." "The Bible contains the literature of heaven."