

# JUVENILE ENTERTAINER.

"Torquet ab obscuris jam nunc sermonibus aurem."

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## JUVENILE ENTERTAINER

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### CONDITIONS.

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## BIOGRAPHY.

### EURIPIDES.

Greek Tragic Poet. B. C. 407.

Euripides drew his first-breath at Salamis on the day when the Greeks defeated the army of the Persians. Prudens, (the Rhetorician), Socrates, and Anaxagoras, were his preceptors. So highly were his writings appreciated, that the Greeks who accompanied Nicias in his expedition against Syracuse, were freed from slavery by reciting some of the lines of Euripides. His great rival was Sophocles.

It is reported, that on one occasion, some of his verses having displeased the audience, and they desiring him to strike them out he advanced forward, and boldly observed, that he came more to instruct them, and not to receive instruction.

The ridicule and envy of his enemies obliged him eventually to leave Athens, and accept an asylum at the court of Archelaus, King of Macedonia, where he met with his death; for walking one day alone, he was fiercely attacked by the king's dogs, and torn to pieces, in his 73th year. His writings are tender, pathetic, and sublime.

It is related, that a malevolent poet having remarked that he had written 100 verses in three years, while Euripides had written but three, "True," said our poet, "but there is this difference between your poetry and mine; your's will expire in three days, but mine shall live for ages to come."

## MISCELLANEOUS.

A NOBLE SPIRIT.—Continued.

"Thus did my kind parents manifest the largeness of their love, and the littleness of their acquaintance with the human heart. The former admitted not of increase; but a few years made a wide difference in the latter. This must be considered necessary, lest you should deem me ensuring that care for which I ought ever to lose their memory: every remark this letter will contain, would, subsequently, have met their warm approbation. Often have they said to me, 'Alas! that parents should ever dis-

regard the blessed principles, the powerful motives, the pure precepts, of the divine word; and turning their back on the solar beam of revelation, present reason's dim lamp to their children as sufficient to guide them through this wide benighted world: that ever they should recommend the reed of human power for support, instead of that aid which Omnipotence alone can bestow!"

"But to return to my narrative. I received my parents' instructions with a full heart. Tenderness in some degree excited its emotions; but still more did it swell with conscious pride. What a noble inheritance thought I, do my friends conceive they have entrusted to me, while thus putting me in possession of my own soul: they shall not be disappointed.—And fancy pictured all my powers, my passions, my opinions, duly regulated and arranged, like soldiers in a regiment, beneath my undisputed sway. None were to rebel, none to murmur, much less to take their sovereign master captive: and internal self being thus governed, words and actions, I concluded, must of course follow correctly: while my inward decision would render me invulnerable to the seductions of others, and constitute me a master spirit, ready to lead its inferiors, or become the free companion of its valued equals. With what feelings of proud exultation, joined with contemptuous pity for the failings of mankind at large, did I contemplate this image of my future self; and how did I long for the time when I might display a character so exalting to human nature, and share with kindred minds the enjoyment of happiness and honor. Now was the season, my young friends, when I commenced my search for noble spirits."

"On arriving at my employer's, as far as attention to business would permit, I took notice of any little circumstance, which might tend to develop the characters of those around me. I perused their countenance, observed their manners, and formed my opinion of their disposition. And a week after my introduction, having prevailed on my friend to accompany me home, I made some further inquiries respecting them. Who is that pleasant-looking youth, I asked, whose desk is next to mine?"

"A frank good natured fellow," replied Sandford, "who will never injure any body but himself. He wants nothing but a good purse in safe keeping, to which he may apply frequently, and this I believe his father has for him; for he appears to receive a liberal allowance half-yearly and for a few weeks is as lavish as a prince. After that come some difficulties; but the old gentleman often comes forward, and clears off for him, and then he goes on with as light a heart as ever."

"But would it not yield him greater comfort and credit, if he went on in a more even course?"

"Yes, if he were formed upon your model; but Crawford says, he never had any thing fixed within him or about him: and arithmetical calculations are such fixed things, that the bare

thought of living and acting by the rule, destroys him with the vapours. But he is a fine fellow notwithstanding: all life and spirit; and these youthful indiscretions are the mere ebullitions of a generous nature."

"A generous nature had always been my idol: so I resolved to put Crawford on the list of my associates. 'And now,' said I, 'for his next neighbour. I have been struck with his mild, intelligent countenance, and the ease with which he transacts business. But his application to it seems so diligent, that I have scarcely heard him speak upon any thing else.'

"I dare say not," replied Sandford, laughing, 'and you may be with us for months perhaps, before you will; unless you shock him by some very outrageous expression. However, should you at any time be sadly in want of a companion, you may go with him as safely as you would with your grandmother. He is a charming quiet youth, who will never set the Thames on fire.'

"Now it never had struck me before, that the power to perform such an exploit, was a necessary passport to my friendship. The expression, however, and more especially the sneer by which it was accompanied, convinced me that Wilson was a tame, mean spirited young man, in whose society I could find no interest. Ah! little did I think how similar were the qualifications I admired, to that description of the un sanctified tongue given by St. James, 'It is a fire, a world of iniquity: it setteth on fire the course of nature, and is itself set on fire of hell.'

"Did you observe a young man at the top of the room," inquired Sandford, "of a commanding figure, and more character in his striking countenance than all the rest of us put together? That is Langley; and you may think yourself highly favored, should Langley admit you to his circle. He is a man of high intellectual power, and deep application: and they who are once stamped with the impression of his friendship, pass current, without further question, for coins of no small value."

"Are you among that happy number, Sandford?"

"I have the honor to possess his confidence and while many at his age are wasting their time and substance in the most frivolous pursuits, he calls me to partake 'the feast of reason and the flow of soul' with which he refreshes his selected guests. What delightful evenings have I passed at his rooms; engaged in the most interesting philosophical inquiries; investigating, especially, the nature and character of man in a manner calculated to render him happier and wiser. If you desire Langley's acquaintance, I have no doubt that I can introduce you to him."

"I accepted the offer with unbounded gratitude. And now, thought I my search is at an end. Happy youth! to be so soon admitted into a society of superior spirits, headed by genius, talent, and research. Nor was my introduction attended with disappointment. Lively wit, interesting speculations, animated discus-