which a man on full time has given up his loom for a couple of days to a less fortunate friend, to enable him to earn a few shillings. Others have given nightly shelter to those who could no longer pay for lodgings. Such people deserve help, and it is pouring in abundantly. The only fear is people may get tired of helping when the novelty is over, before the distress is ended. But I must not sit gossiping with you over this comfortable fire any longer. How fast the days are drawing in !"

" Ah, don't put me in mind of it," said Miss Polehampton.

When Mr. Grantley had gone, she sat looking into the fire and musing on the Lancashire folk, unconscious how time passed, till suddenly she became aware that it was growing quite dark, and too late for the girls to be out. All at once there was a loud ring at the door bell, and in they came, glowing, and in high spirits.

" Why, where have you been all this time ?" said Miss Polehampton.

" Only at the vicarage, aunt," said Mary Anne.

" Oh, and they are all in such a state of bustle and confusion," said Felicia, laughing ; " the drawing-room looks like Rag Fair. Old boots and coats, new frocks and petticoats, heaps of pinafores and woollen stockings. They are making up a parcel for the Lancashire operatives——."

"And only think, aunt," interrupted Mary Anne in glee, " I have undertaken to make six pinafores, and Miss Harford has cut them out for me. Is it not almost time to have candles ? The gas is lighted in the street, and I long to begin."

" Tea must come first though," interposed Felicia ; "and, besides, we have not taken off our things. Let us run up at once, and by the time we come down, I daresay tea will be ready."

Off they went, laughing and talking, and when they returned, the shutters were shut, the red curtains drawn, and the bright candles were lighting up the cheerful tea-table with its hospitable display of bright muffins and crumpits.

The girls were quite hungry enough to do them justice ; and in general Mary Anne liked nothing better than her meals, but on the present occasion she really seemed to prefer talking to eating ; and all her talking was about the Harfords.

" Dr. Harford is such a nice man," said she. " He told us so many interesting things ; and he puts things in such a forcible light that you can't help seeing them as he does. I wonder whether I shall finish my pinafores, Felicia, before you have done your frocks."

" You ought," said Felicia, " because there is so much less work in them. I suppose you know the old rule, ' They that have done first must help the others.' "

" With all my heart," said Mary Anne, " I am so glad, Felicia, I did not buy that portemonnaie, my old one will do very well, and I can lay out the three-and-sixpence in coloured prints. How many yards will it buy ?"

" That will depend upon the quality."

Directly the table was cleared the cousins set to work, and Miss Polehampton, not to be behind-hand, produced a most charming collection of remnants. Cutting out, contriving, working, and chattering made the time fly so fast, that Mary Anne was quite surprised when the prayer-bell rang.

" What a pleasant evening this has been !" said she.

" I hope you will have many such pleasant evenings, my love." said her aunt. " You *may*, if you will observe this simple rule—to let the end of one good action always be the beginning of another."

A MOTHER'S GRAVE.

Earth has some sacred spots where we feel like loosening the shoes from our feet, and treading with holy reverence ; where common words of pleasure are unfitting ; places where friendship's hands have lingered in each other's, where vows have been plighted, prayers offered, and tears of parting shed. Oh, how the thoughts hover around such places, and travel back through immeasured space to visit them. But of all the spots on the green earth, none is so sacred as that where rests, waiting the resurrection, those we once cherished and loved. Hence, in all ages, the better portion of mankind have chosen the loved spots for the burial of their dead, and in those spots they have loved to wander at eventide to meditate and weep. But among all the charnel houses of the dead, if there is one spot more sacred than all the rest, it is a mother's grave. There sleeps the mother of our infancy—the guide of our youth—the counsellor of our

riper years—our friend when others deserted us ; she whose heart was a stranger to every other feeling but love, and who could always find excuses for us when we could find none for ourselves. There she sleeps, and we love the very earth for her sake.

NUMERICAL RELATIONS IN NATURE.

Every one has observed that the leaves of some plants stand in pairs opposite each other, on opposite sides of the stem. In other plants the leaves are scattered over the stem ; but in these cases, also, we find them arranged in the most regular manner. Commencing with any given leaf, for instance, we shall find the next leaf above this, one-third of the way round the stem : the next, another third ; and the next, another third,—so as to stand exactly over the first. The series is therefore arranged in a spiral, which may be designated by the fraction, 1-3. Taking another plant, we shall find the next leaf above any given one, two-fifths of the distance around the stem. The next will be four-fifths ; the next six-fifths ; and so on—each leaf moving two-fifths of the circumference further round the stem. Here is a spiral, therefore, which may be expressed by the fraction, 2-5. In precisely the same way we discover, in other plants, spirals, which may be expressed by the fraction, 3-8, 5-13, 8-21, &c. If, in the case of opposite leaves first mentioned, we consider each leaf as separated from the preceding by one-half the interval around the stem, we shall obtain the series of fractions, 1-2, 1-3, 2-5, 3-8, 5-14, 8-21, &c. It must be kept in mind that these fractions are ascertained by actual observations. But notice the relation which exists between them. Each numerator is equal to the sum of the two preceding numerators, and each denominator to the sum of the two preceding denominators. Knowing this law, we may continue the series to any extent ; and it has been so continued, and fractions obtained, to which plants have been found to correspond. Is all this the result of chance ? Is it not rather mathematics ?—law ?—intelligence ?

But the most wonderful coincidence is yet to be noticed. Neptune, the remotest planet, revolves round the sun in 60, 000 days ; Uranus, the next, in 30,000 days—