MY FIRST VISIT TO COURT. DESCRIBED IN A LETTER TO A FRIEND. (From the German of Starke.)

troubled conscience. Again we stand like a healthy tality had very soon evaporated.

and these I am about to describe to you.

moral tales and the work on education. "The prince clouded, and longed to be again at Kronow's cottage. knows you, and has more than once mentioned you in When we fail to make acquaintance with a man by terms of admiration," said he, in reply to my affirma- attempting to exchange thoughts and feelings, we may tive answer to his question; and then, after many often succeed by means of a pinch of snuff. So seemed friendly assurances, he departed.

man. That the prince would speak of my writings norance on the one side to give was met by equal "Such a young man is out of work can none be found was certain. I therefore thought over a number of ignorance on the other side to take. important subjects, from which I drilled a whole regi- In truth, I did not succeed in taking; for, during is one that I see at the idle corner as I go to ment of ideas, which I proposed to pass in review be- our attempts, the door suddenly opened, and a servant church;—there he stands instead going to church, fore the prince as an entertainment worthy of the kind entered to conduct me to the prince. I felt like a with all the loose fellows of the village—I won't have attention he had showed me. My toilet was finished young man who is just going to deliver his maiden him on my grounds: steady lads who keep out of idle scarcely keep up with my rapid strides.

from the sentinel as to who I was and what I wanted. bad it not been that, on entering his highness's apart-I requested to be conducted to the secretary. Unimment, the highly polished floor caused my foot to slip, "Well, but your son is twenty years old and has at as this interruption was, yet it made me painwhich, being known to every one, I could come and go resolution not to express what was uppermost in my as good a boy as ever was; after his poor father died without being questioned. On this account I felt less mind gave way. "Please your highness," said I, "it he was my comfort and friend, till he got to stand at at ease with the secretary, and more at a loss for words is indeed slippery at court." "That may be," rethan I was in the forenoon. The man sat buried in turned he, "but it is not my fault: I have not made spends his money at the beer-house, and won't listen than I was in the forenoon. The man sat buried in papers, and hastily told me to follow him into an adities a smooth." This answer made me feel how indetended to me: I never see him now till bed-time, and he papers, and hashly told the to follow him into an adjoining room, where I should find two distinguished corous my remark had been, threw me at once into the hardly gives me money enough to by food for him, let gentlemen, whom he named to me, and with whom I condition of a confused orator, and made me as dull alone any to help the rest of us. He never talks to should pass my time most agreeably until the prince and awkward in this room as I had been in the other. his lone mother now, and I fear he will be drawn in was ready to speak with me, which would be before the concert, in about an hour's time. With this he the prince anew. sprang hastily before me, opened the door of the apartment, and closed it with equal haste when I had entered. The magnificence of the walls and the ceiling, two fires of politeness, which I could return only by a mute and somewhat bashful succession of bows. To The regiment of ideas which I had so industriously,

kind not to despise at once those persons in the middle But it was too bad-he did not honour my education ranks of life who may chance to be torn from their book with one word, but merely asked whether I was station, and placed for a few hours in their company, not soon going to bring out something new. I now even though they do conduct themselves tediously and fell into the same error as I had committed with my awkwardly. At home, and among their own affairs, former companions. I was either too discoursive or they are probably active and intelligent, conversational, too abrupt. I gave a minute detail of my negociations and pleasing; while, in a new order of things, they with my publisher, as if the prince had been a bookwould know as little how to conduct themselves as seller. I then bethought myself that such details would the most accomplished courtier if he were sud- were not decorous, and began to talk about my undenly transported from a German eastle into the palace published work in as familiar a manner as if the prince of the Emperor of China. Some such thoughts as himself had fairly copied the manuscript from my hand. these passed confusedly through my head as I stood My unsuitable expressions, my familiar address, my before these two gentlemen; but my thoughts did not incoherent remarks, all that escaped from my lips only help to restore my composure, for I judged, perhaps served to constrain me more and more. I glowed as unjustly, that they were not likely to bear this in mind. if I stood before a furnace, and compressed my toes Their coolness and my warmth, their composure and until they ached. My increasing perplexity and the my agitation, formed so striking a contrast, that I be- distress of my situation were more and more apparent came more and more silent and disheartened. Twice to the good-natured prince-his questions therefore did I attempt to collect my scattered thoughts, but became more simple and considerate, while the throbfailed. All that I said, even that which I uttered bing of my heart and the earnest desire for deliverance with warmth, appeared to me constrained and empty, pointless and flat, because it was accompanied with the feeling of internal restraint; and so I lost all selfsatisfaction, without which a man can seldom contribute to the satisfaction of others.

"Probably you admire beautiful prospects," said one of the two gentlemen, opening a window for me, and then turning away with indifference. With such not know the Idle Corner ?- the place where the a prospect before me, if I had only been left to myself thoughtless or evil are fond of standing in the vacant for a single quarter of an hour, or, still better, and had hour, or the evenings, or on Sunday. I speak not of you, my dear friend, by my side, I should have reco- the place where neighbours, after the day's work is vered my senses, and have been myself again. The over, stay a little while together to chat before they prospect was too beautiful to leave me unmoved .- go home to their firesides: nor yet of the place where Within the graceful curve of the distant horizon were the youth gather for some hearty manly game in a included several towns, and many hamlets, with the leisure hour. But I mean what every body knows by territories peculiar to each. On one side were richly the name of "That idle corner," where young men wooded hills; on the other, wide-spread pasture-lands; stand laughing against a wall or a gate, encouraging and directly beneath me was the eastle garden, taste- each other in loose jests and foolish sinful talk; or, fully and scientifically adorned, near which the broad perhaps, rudely laughing or mocking at the quiet river peacefully glided along, creeping artistically round passer-by; till decent people hardly care to pass more a little wood, and finally, in one magnificent sweep, than they can help. How much mischief is planned encircling the town. Then the numerous houses there, how much wickedness first thought of! It is which so prettily dotted the landscape awakened a usually the first step to the beershop; a sort of reyet stronger sympathy within me, while the incessant cruiting place for drunkards, and thieves, and poachers. changes in the degree of light which illumined it ex- Many a man in his sorrowful old age, looks back with cited a slight degree of pensiveness. Whilst one side bitter remorse to that idle corner, as he says in the of the landscape was glowing in the bright sunshine, anguish of his heart, "I was almost in all evil in the the thick clouds of evening clothed the other side in midst of the congregation and assembly." (Prov. obscurity; so that between the two resulted a most v. 14.) beautiful play of light and shade.

the room. The two gentlemen were standing near the think that holy David was warning every one against

It did not occur to me that those who were in the is the man that standeth not in the way of sinners;"

of the house, well-fed cattle abound in the yard, and the man had been their cousin. I then remembered numerous signs of rural industry are scattered every that I was getting too discoursive, and directly after ner. (Prov. vii. 5—12.) My journey hither the day before yesterday was delightful, and still more so the conversation I had with was in; my mind led me from the company of stran-village as they are on the way to God's house, see my friends on my arrival, accompanied as it was with gers into that of old acquaintance—from the castle to them laughing there,—a disgrace to a Christian land, the prospect of a week's unrestrained enjoyment beneath their hospitable roof. But, as the farmer rightly fore imposible. "These gentlemen were not made for wearing in their looks the mark of Satan, who hates says, "thistles spring up among the finest wheat;" so me!" thought I; but now I see how unjust I was, for the Lord of the Sabbath. Perhaps they stand bold from the rosy week I must subtract five thorny hours it might have occurred to them, "The man was not or daring with a pipe in their mouth, scoffing, or pasmade for us!" and if they did think so, they thought ing a rude jest to annoy the quiet church-goer; or, if Yesterday morning the secretary of the prince called right. Our intercourse now became monosyllable, and not so lost to shame, at least shewing that they have upon my friend, to speak with him, in the name of his it was evidently kept up only to prevent yawning.— no care for the Sabbath, and for him who gave them PROFESSOR OF THE PIANO FORTE, naster, concerning the measurement of some land.— One of them stood before a picture, the other walked the Sabbath, and laid down his own life to safe them. When that business was concluded, the polite gentle- slowly up and down, with his hands folded behind him, man turned to me, addressed me by name, (for he had or pulled now and then at his neckcloth, or adjusted already heard of me and my village,) and inquired if his shirt-frill; while I, with inward misgiving, looked he had the honour of speaking to the author of the towards the sky, which was becoming more and more

to think the walking gentleman, for he suddenly stopped Directly after dinner I received a short note from and held out his snuff-box to me: I declined with a him, stating that he had told the prince of my being here, that his royal highness expressed a wish to make bow. "But it is very unseemly in me," thought I, mark, and take on them the awful goeth about to devour their souls! my acquaintance, and if I would be at the castle by a pinch. He had withdrawn the box, but polisely held three o'clock, the sentinel would conduct me to his it out again. My hand was already lowered, and I on. A master wants a servant; a stout lad is men-(the secretary's) room, and he would introduce me to gave a second declining bow, but, as before, extended tioned: the master answers, "Yes, that's a strong the prince. There was not much more than an hour my hand a second time to take a pinch at the very active lad; but then he is one of those that stand at left for me to dress, and to think over the part I had moment that he withdrew his. He tried it again, and the idle corner, and is sure to have bad companions to perform. I felt very anxious to support my literary so did I, but the attempt failed; and there arose becharacter with dignity, and at the same time to converse tween us a most extraordinary seesawing of hands— house." Many lose good situations because they are with the freedom and familiarity of a private gentle- a suitable image of our whole interview, in which ig- seen to stand at that corner. I say to a farmer,

before my ideas were satisfactorily arranged, and I speech. I followed the servant through several rooms company for me." set out more sleek, well brushed, and whitely powdered, and halls, my heart beating violently; but, at the same ings. And, perhaps, all might yet have gone well, him in among them, and he won't be ruled by me. When we arrived at the castle gate, the friendly boy for the noble yet kind expression of the prince's counand I nearly fell down.

"Yes!" said I.

The prince smiled. "I am stupid already at the beginning," thought I the multitude of ornaments, and the splendour of the -I felt that I only meant that I had written some furniture, bewildered me, so that I could observe no. books-not that they were excellent. Awkward, very thing quietly; while the torrent of words which the awkward is it, to hear a remark to which you must two gentlemen poured forth, one after the other, and give both yes and no in the same answer. All my sometimes both together, upon me, exposed me between | self-possession was gone—it was of no avail to attempt add to my perplexity, I had entirely forgotten their but so vainly drilled, was of no use to me. I had long, and, to my ears, most unfamiliar titles; and supposed that the prince would of course say somefearing to offend by addressing a cold Sin to each of thing about my book on education: I was therefore them, I became more and more embarrassed and prepared to add to his remarks a statement of my own experience as to the necessity of making better provi-Oh, that all those who move in high and splendid sion for the education of the poor, by the further disstations had enough of charity and knowledge of man- tribution and general improved management of schools.

from this scene increased every moment.

(To be concluded in our next.) THE IDLE CORNER (From the Churchman's Monthly Penny Magazine.)

Who that lives in a village or country town does

The idle corner seems to have been well known of Full of inexpressible emotion, I turned my gaze into old in the towns and villages of Israel. One would

door, conversing about the bas-reliefs which adorned it. that corner, when he said in the first Psalm, "Blessed daily habit of seeing this prospect were not likely to and I often wonder how that verse, when read in fall into raptures at its beauty; but the excitement I church now, does not strike such young men as are was in, and perhaps also a secret wish to show by my fond of standing there "in the way of sinners." Ballenstedt, is the author of five small volumes, entitled "Ge- conversation that I really was a man of some feeling, Another of God's servants seems warning young men mäbide aus dem Hänslichen Leben und Erzählungen" (Pictures drew from me a speech, which I felt almost before I against that corner when he says. "Go not in the lilustrative of Domestic Life, and Tales). The simple beauty, but the purity, fidelity, fidelity, fidelity, and quiet lummour of these sketches are very purity, fidelity, and quiet lummour of these sketches are very purity, fidelity, and quiet lummour of these sketches are very purity. purity, fidelity, and quiet humour of these sketches are very claimed I, "when such a glorious landscape does not it, and pass away." (Prov. iv. 14, 15.) I earnestly charming; and although these qualities cannot be entirely preserved in a translation, yet it is hoped that the specimens we seize the imagination and captivate the senses, man wish young men would do so: they would save them are about to submit to the reader will convey a favourable idea must be destitute of mind or of feeling, and as such selves a world of sorrow and guilt if they would. The of an author who is almost entirely unknown in this country.] worthy of pity!" One of the gentlemen looked up idle corner is the place where the Bible saith that Five wearisome hours have I to describe to you, my at me oddly, with eyes full of curiosity, waiting to Wisdom goes to look for the simple (or foolish) ones, dear friend—five hours full of that sort of anguish hear something more, equally extravagant; the other for there they are sure to be found: "She crieth at which we may suppose a fish out of water to endure. laughed; and I stood rebuffed and terrified, like a the gates, at the entrance of the city (or village) at I feel as much relieved as a man that has just paid off child who has just broken a glass. "That was stupid," the coming in of the doors: she standeth by the way, a heavy debt; for, since the occurrence of the vexa- thought I, and I felt as if I would say as much. I in the places of the paths; she crieth in the chief tious events of yesterday, I have enjoyed a night of un- stammered out something by way of limitation of my place of concourse, in the openings of the gates,"disturbed repose. O magic sleep, how beautifully sweeping condemnation, which, as far as I can remem- "saying, How long ye simple ones will ye love simdost thou render rough things smooth, dark things ber, did not much mend it; and I now felt so thoroughly plicity? and the scorners delight in their scorning, and bright! how sweetly dost thou restore troubled spirits abashed, that I did not even look again upon the rich fools hate knowledge?"—Prov. i. 20—22; iii. 2, 3.) to their accustomed rest, and obliterate the traces of landscape, whereby, as it afterwards occurred to me, There the bad, the self-willed, and the mischiefall past grievances, except those that arise from a the gentlemen must have thought that my sentimen- makers, used to get together of old, just as they do now :- "The ungodly is so proud that he careth not Nevertheless, they gave themselves some trouble to for God, neither is God in all his thoughts: he sitteth relate them, and laugh at them as at a dream of the make the conversation general; they asked me about lurking in the thievish corners of the streets." (Ps. this one and that one, and, what must have been quite x. 4, 8-Prayer-book.) At the idle corner, of old You have long been aware of my sincere regard for indifferent to them, about my station, my place of time as well as now, the foolish, the giddy, the light, worthy farmer Kronow, of Torneburg, and the delight abode, my acquaintance, &c. My replies were very and the lewd-whether men or women-well knew with which I participate in the simple pleasures of his unready, and but little to the purpose. At one time that they should find one another: the guilty still lie house. His little estate lies opposite to the town. I so far forgot myself as to speak of one of my neigh- in wait at that corner; and the "simple ones void of A smiling prospect is seen from the upper windows bour's affairs with as much zeal and particularity as if understanding," passing through the street, still meet

my talk was, on the other hand, too restrained. In There-at the idle corner-stand the Sabbath

You may always know the idle corner lads or young men: there is a stamp upon them which they carry about at work or anywhere, all day long: a stamp, a sign, a brand, which makes one think of Satan's mark. And yet they have been given to Christ in their baptism; and have been signed with the sign of the cross, in token that they were Christ's soldiers and servants unto their life's end, to fight against sin, the world, and the devil. Oh, why will they forget their Saviour's mark, and take on them the awful mark of him who

Let us look about a village and listen to what goes

Let us ask a parent why we seldom see is eldest than I had been for a long time, while the farmer's time, I was collecting all my resolution to be calm, in son at church? the answer is almost sure to beeldest son, who accompanied me to the castle, could order that my presence of mind might control my feel- "Ah, Sir, the boys at that there corner have drawn

I go to see a poor widow, and she pours out her left me, and I received a somewhat energetic challenge tenance filled me at once with confidence and esteem, sorrows to me: she has scarce bread to eat, or fire to Take care," caid he kindly, good work, surely he helps his mother now. "You have written some excellent books," began to join in some wickedness."

A boy grows up and leaves the Sunday-school steady and promising: for a few months perhaps he is always in his place at church along with his friends: I hope soon to prepare him for confirmation, and trust that there is something more than merely outward good conduct about him. At length he is no longer regular at church, and I enquire, and find that he has

taken to stand at the idle corner. A poor girl, steady and respectable, happens to miss a place, and is at home for a few months before her mother can find a proper situation for her. At first BRITISH AND AMERICAN HARDWARE, she is always at church: then I see her seat often empty: I learn that she has grown light: I hear that "Ah, Sir, she passed along the street, and at length she was enticed to stop a little, as she passed that corner, and thus she fell into wicked company; and Oh! what shall I do now for shame and sorrow of she is disgraced. "Ah," says her agonized mother,

Alas, that idle corner! Who can tell how much guilt, and shame, and bitter trouble, have their source from it! Is a young man taken before the magistrates for poaching-for rioting-for pilfering? It always happens that he is one of those who are to be und at that corner. O young men-why will you rush into Satan's net? Why not occupy yourselves in your gardens, or with the books which are always within your reach, or with harmless and manly games? I wish my voice could warn all of you against the FALL OILS, of all kinds; such as Sperm, Elephant, Whale, in your gardens, or with the books which are always idle corner. I have only spoken to you on common sense grounds, which you can all understand: I need not tell you how ruinous to your souls are the ways and habits which belong to that corner. Let me but remind you that at the day of judgment, you may find be had in this market. that you have lost, for ever lost, your souls; and you will then perhaps look back and remember how much the idle corner has had to do with your everlasting misery. It will be too late then; but it is not too late now: give up, at once give up, the ways, the habits, the company which belong to the idle corner; shake off from you the stamp of the idle corner.

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