

GREAT TRUTHS EARLY COMMUNICATED.

The mother of Dr. Samuel Johnson was a woman of great good sense and piety; and she was the means of early impressing religious principles on the mind of her son. He used to say, that he distinctly remembered having had the first notice of heaven, "a place to which good people go," and hell, "a place to which bad people go," communicated to him by her, when a little child in bed with her; and that it might be the better fixed in his memory, she sent him to repeat it to her man-servant. The servant being out of the way, this was not done; but there was no occasion for any artificial aid for its preservation. When the doctor related this circumstance, he added, "that children should be always encouraged to tell what they hear that is particularly striking to some brother, sister, or servant, immediately, before the impression is erased by the intervention of new occurrences."

BOYS NOW—MEN ANON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ENGLISH JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

SIR,—I lately met with the following passage in a newspaper; so important a moral may be drawn from it that I send it to you.

A Word to Boys.—Some one has said, "Boys, did you ever think that this great world, with all its wealth and woe, with all its mines and mountains, its oceans, seas, and rivers, with all its shipping steam-boats, railroads, and electric telegraphs, with all its millions of men, and all the science and progress of ages, will soon be given over to the boys of the present age—boys like you assembled in school-rooms, or playing without them? Believe it, and look abroad upon the riches which God has given your fathers, and which will fall to your inheritance, and get you ready to enter upon its possession. The kings, governors, presidents, statesmen, philosophers, ministers, teachers, all were boys, whose feet, like yours, could not reach the floor when seated, like you, on benches on which they learned the one-syllable words of their respective languages?"—*Pictorial Pages.*

As we look back, sir, on our own boyhood and our former playfellows who are now bustling members of society, and actively engaged either for the good or for evil of this our generation and of their own souls, surely we must at once see what powerful practical moral lessons to "the rising generation" may be drawn from these few lines?

I send you another extract which suggests a train of thought of a somewhat different kind.

Advice to Parents.—"Be ever gentle with the children God has given you; watch them constantly; reprove them earnestly, but not in anger. In the forcible language of Scripture, 'Be not bitter against them.' 'Yes, they are good boys,' I once heard a kind father say, 'I talk to them pretty much, but I do not like to beat my children—the world will beat them.' It was a beautiful thought, though not elegantly expressed. Yes, there is not one child in the circle round your table, healthy and happy as they look now, on whose head, if long spared, the storm will not beat. Adversity may wither them, sickness fade, a cold world frown on them; but amid all, let memory carry them back to a home where a law of kindness reigned, where the mother's re-proving eye was moistened with a tear, and the father frowned more in sorrow than in anger."—I am, sir, yours truly,

A COUNTRY CLERGYMAN.

MECHANICS.

ST. PAUL was a mechanic—a maker of tents from goats' hair; and in the lecturer's opinion he was a model mechanic. He was not only a thorough workman at his trade, but was a scholar, a perfect master, not only of his native Hebrew, but of three foreign tongues,—a knowledge of which he obtained by close application to study during his leisure hours, while serving his apprenticeship. It was a custom among the Jews to teach their sons some trade—a custom not confined to the poorer classes, but also practised by the wealthy; and it was a common proverb among them, that if a father did not teach his son a mechanical occupation, he taught him to steal. This custom was a wise one; and if the fathers of the present day would imitate their example, their wrinkled cheeks would not so often blush for the helplessness, and not unfrequently criminal conduct of their offspring. Even if a father intended his son for one of the professions, it would be an incalculable benefit to the son to instruct him in some branch of mechanism. His education would not only be more complete and healthy, but he might at some future time, in case of failure in his profession, find his trade very convenient as a means of earning his bread; and he must necessarily be more competent in mechanical from his professional education. An educated mechanic was a model machine, while an uneducated mechanic was merely a machine working under the superintendence of another man's brain. Let the rich and the proud no longer look upon mechanism as degrading to him who adopts a branch of it as his calling. It is a noble calling—as noble as the indolence and inactivity of wealth is ignoble.—*Rev. Dr. Adams.*

POPULAR SIMILES.—Some ingenious rhymers has placed the following sayings in poetic order, the opposites in juxtaposition:—

As wet as a fish—as dry as a bone;
As live as a bird—as dead as a stone;
As plump as a partridge—as poor as a rat;
As strong as a horse—as weak as a cat;
As hard as a flint—as soft as a mole;
As white as a lily—as black as a coal;
As plain as a pikestaff—as rough as a bear;
As tight as a drum—as free as the air;
As heavy as lead—as light as a feather;
As steady as time—as uncertain as weather;
As hot as an oven—as cold as a frog;
As gay as a lark—as sick as a dog;
As slow as a tortoise—as swift as the wind;
As true as the gospel—as false as mankind;
As thin as a herring—as fat as a pig;
As proud as a peacock—as blue as a grig;
As savage as tigers—as mild as a dove;
As stiff as a poker—as limp as a glove;
As blind as a bat—as dead as a post;
As cold as a cucumber—as warm as toast;
As red as a cherry—as pale as a ghost.

Educational Intelligence.

CANADA.

WESLEYAN CONFERENCE AND THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM OF UPPER CANADA.

Resolved. That this Conference desires to express its confidence in the existing Common School System of Upper Canada, and strongly deprecates the efforts of those who are endeavoring to disturb and destroy that system; and this Conference would further express its high admiration of the great ability and impartiality with which the present Chief Superintendent of Education continues to discharge the duties of his responsible office.

Carried unanimously and ordered to be published.

VICTORIA COLLEGE—DEGREES CONFERRED.

At the commencement of the University of Victoria College, on the 28th of May, Degrees were conferred on the following gentlemen:—

DEGREE of B. A.—Byron M. Britton Gananoque.

DEGREE of M. A.—John George Hodgins, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, Toronto; Rev. Wm. Ormiston, B. A. Mathematical Master in Normal School, Toronto; David Beach, Principal of Newburg Academy, Newburg; W. R. Macdonald, B. A. (*ad eundem*) Toronto.

DEGREE of M. D.—William A. Castleman, East Williamsburg; Clark Coughell, St. Thomas; Peter V. Dorland, Belleville; Henry Edwards, London; Byron Franklin, Port Bowen; Easton Hawkesworth, Vienna; Archibald Jameson, Phillipsville; Caleb E. Martin, Oshawa; Nelson M. Garvin, Acton; Charles T. Noble, Markham; Edwin Price, Walsingham; Solomon Secord, Hamilton; Jacob Walrath, Scotland; Thomas J. York, Freelon; Christopher W. Flock, Oakville; Joseph Carbert, Orangeville; Thomas Beatty, Lampton; John D. R. Williams, Perth; Thomas Wesley Poole, Norwood.

DEGREE of D. D.—Rev. Elijah Hoole and Rev. Joseph Stinson, Wesleyan Ministers, England.

JAIL LIBRARY, TORONTO.—Joseph Hartman, Esq., M.P.P., Warden of the Counties of York and Peel, in his address to the Council on the 10th inst., remarked as follows:—"With reference to the sum of £25, which had been appropriated by the Council for the formation of a Jail Library, it occurred to him that the City having as great, if not a greater, interest in the Jail, as the County, it would be but just that that body should bear a portion of the expense. He accordingly wrote a letter to the City Council; the communication had been referred to a Committee, who had reported in favor of it. In conjunction with one of the members of that body, after bestowing a great deal of care and attention in the work, they had selected a library which would, he hoped, meet the approbation of the Council. In making that selection, however, it had been found necessary to exceed the original appropriation of £25; £32 18s. 4d. being the total cost; the sum being contributed by both Councils in equal proportions."

LAVAL UNIVERSITY.—The *Quebec Gazette* gives some information regarding the progress of Laval University Building. The Building proper, is 300 feet long, 56 feet deep, and 5 stories of 80 feet high. The Architect is Mr. Charles Baillarge, and the building is conducted under the immediate superintendence of the Rev. Mr. Forgues. Already the building, which extends from the whole length of George's street, and about forty feet in rear of that street to the Battery has reached the fourth story, and proceeds very rapidly, by means of a steam elevator, the property of Mr. Whitty, which, in the course of a single day, on an average raises from the ground to different parts of the building about 180 tons of stones, bricks and mortar. The *Journal de Quebec* says:—"It is with the greatest pleasure that we announce the appointment of Mr. Hunt, *Chevalier* of the *Legion of Honor*, as Professor of Chemistry in the Laval University. The nomination to this post of this gentleman, whose capacity and requirements are recognized in Europe, as well as in America, cannot fail to give additional lustre to our University. Mr. Hunt's course of lectures commenced on the 2nd instant."