

V. Miscellaneous.

1. MONOSYLLABIC POEM ON WORDS.

The following curious illustration of the power of short words in the English language was written by Dr. Addison Alexander :—

Think not that strength lies in the big round word,
Or that the brief and plain must needs be weak ;
To whom can this be true who once has heard
The cry for help, the tongue that all men speak,
When want, or woe, or fear is in the throat,
So that each word gasped out is like a shriek
Pressed from the sore heart, or a strange wild note
Sung by some fay or fiend ! There is a strength
Which dies if stretched too far or spun too fine,
Which has more height than breadth, more depth than length.
Let but this force of thought and speech be mine ;
And he that will may take the sleek, fat phrase,
Which glows and burns not, though it gleam and shine ;
Light, but not heat—a flash without a blaze.

Nor is it mere strength that the short word boasts,
It serves of more than fight or storm to tell—
The roar of waves that clash on rock-bound coasts,
The crash of tall trees when the wild winds swell ;
The roar of guns, the groans of men that die
On blood-stained fields. It has a voice as well
For them that far-off on their sick-beds lie,
For them that laugh, and dance, and clap the hand
To joy's quick step, as well as grief's low tread,
The sweet, plain words we learn at first keep time
And though the theme be sad, or gay, or grand,
With each, with all these may be made to chime,
In thought, or speech, or song, or prose, or rhyme.

New Dominion Monthly.

2. WORDS AND SENSE.

Words are like leaves ; and where they most abound,
Much fruit of sense beneath, is rarely found.
False eloquence—like the prismatic glass,
Its gaudy colours spreads on every place :
The face of Nature—we no more survey,
All glares alike, without distinction gay ;
But true expression, whate'er it shines upon,
It gilds all objects, but it alters—none.
Expression is the dress of thought, and still
Appears more decent—as more suitable.

3. CURIOUS FACTS ABOUT WORDS.

Marsh tells us that the number of English words not yet obsolete, but found in good authors, or in approved usage by correct speakers including the nomenclature of science and the arts, does not probably fall short of one hundred thousand. A large portion of these words, however, do not enter into the living speech, the common language of daily and hourly thought. Some celebrated English and American orators have been able, upon occasion, to summon at their command one-half of this vast array of words, although they habitually content themselves with a much less imposing display of verbal force. Few writers or speakers use as many as ten thousand words ; ordinary persons of fair intelligence not above three or four thousand. If a scholar were to be required to name, without examination, the authors whose English vocabulary was the largest, he would probably specify the all-embracing Shakespeare, and the all-knowing Milton ; and yet, in all the works of the great dramatist there occur not more than fifteen thousand words, in the poems of Milton not above eight thousand. The Old Testament uses but 5,642 words. The whole number of Egyptian hieroglyphic symbols does not exceed eight hundred, and the entire Italian operatic vocabulary is said to be scarcely more extensive. *Illinois Teacher.*

4. WORDS OF WISE MEN.

- A fault concealed is a fault doubled.
- Each one is the son of his own words.
- Song charms the sense ; eloquence the soul.
- Prosperous friendship has more bran than wheat.
- The childhood shows the man, as morning shows the day.
- It is easy to undertake, but more difficult to finish a thing.
- Temptations are enemies outside the castle, seeking entrance.
- You may find your best friend or your worst enemy in yourself.
- A knowledge of our weakness creates in us a charity for others.
- A slowness to applaud betrays a cold temper and an envious spirit.

—The greatest ornaments of an illustrious life are modesty and humility.

—He who buys too many superfluities may be obliged to sell his necessities.

—Above all other features which adorn the female character, delicacy stands foremost.

—Sentiments of friendship which flow from the heart, cannot be frozen in adversity.

—Real happiness is cheap enough ; yet how dearly do we pay for the counterfeit.

—The light of friendship is like the light of phosphorus, seen best when all around is dark.

—A wise man will desire no more than what he can get justly, use soberly, and distribute cheerfully.

—A cheerful temper, joined with innocence, will make beauty attractive, knowledge delightful, and wit good natured.

—Suffering, rightly borne, weakens the part of us which should be weak, and strengthens that part which should be strong.

—Such is the force of imagination, that we continue to fear long after the cause which produced the fear has ceased to exist.

—As pride is a vice that seldom escapes without punishment, so humility is a virtue that scarcely ever goes without a blessing.

—There is a kind of magic in truth which forcibly carries the mind along with it. Men readily embrace the dictate of sincere reason.

—We should be careful to deserve a good reputation, by doing well ; and when that care is once taken, not to be over anxious about the success.

—False happiness renders men stern and proud, and that happiness is never communicated. True happiness renders them kind and sensible, and that happiness is always shared.—*Virginia Monthly Visitor.*

5. LITERARY MEN HOLD OUT WELL.

Mr. Carlyle, Sir Charles Lyell, and Mr. Darwin are all over three score and ten. Sir Roderic Murchison recently died in full harness at a very advanced age. Of French authors, Michelot, who has just published his thirtieth historical work, "History of the nineteenth century," is seventy-four ; Guizot, at the age of eighty-five, is publishing a history of France in monthly parts ; another busy historian, Mignet, is seventy-six ; Victor Hugo is in his seventy-first year ; and Littré of the same age still contributes an occasional book, and edits a review. America's older literary gentlemen are all well advanced.—Alcott, Emerson, Longfellow, Bancroft, Holmes, and numerous others. Socrates, in an extreme old age, learned to play on musical instruments ; Cato, at eighty years of age commenced to study the Greek language ; Plutarch, when between seventy and eighty commenced the study of Latin ; Boccaccio was thirty-five years of age when he commenced his studies in polite literature. Yet he became one of the greatest masters of the Tuscan dialects ; Dante and Petrarch being the other two. Sir Henry Spelman neglected the sciences in his youth, but commenced the study of them when he was between fifty and sixty years of age ; after this time he became a most learned antiquarian and lawyer. Dr. Johnson applied himself to the Dutch language but a few years before his death. Ludovico Monaldesco, at the great age of one hundred and fifteen, wrote memoirs of his own times. Ogilby, the translator of Homer and Virgil, was unacquainted with Latin and Greek till he was past fifty. Franklin did not fully commence his philosophical pursuits till he had reached his fiftieth year. Dryden, in his sixty-eighth year, commenced the translation of the Iliad, his most pleasing production.

6. TRUE AND FALSE MANNERS.

The difference between the true manners and the false is just that between the real features and flesh of the face and a mask. So all effective cultivation of manners must begin with man. Make him generous, intelligent, refined, affable, sympathetic, and his actions will naturally tend to politeness as the smoke curls upward. True, this is not all : but this is the alphabet of which all else is application. Having these, it needs but a constant effort to express them in the simplest, noblest, most natural manner, to acquire the best manners.

7. READ THIS, BOYS.

A gentleman advertised for a boy to assist him in his office, and nearly fifty applicants presented themselves to him. Out of the whole number, he in a short time selected one and dismissed the rest. "I should like to know," said a friend, "on what ground you selected that boy, who had not a single recommendation." "You are mistaken," said the gentleman. "He had a great many. He wiped his feet when he came in, and closed the door after him,