

the monument which respect and affection have erected to his memory. Ask the villagers if the sketch I have given you is true, and they will enlarge upon it. They will tell you that little Angel's presence seemed to be always about her father—how he came to be widely loved and honored—how he went down to the grave amid the tears of many who had been blessed by his influence. They will tell you this, and more. Shall we doubt that sometimes we entertain angels unawares.

#### THE SUN DIAL.

*"I mark only the hours that shine."*

The above, if we rightly remember, is the inscription upon a sun-dial in Italy. It inculcates a beautiful lesson, which we may be prone to disregard. It would teach us to remember the bright days of life, and not forget the blessings God has given us. Life, it is true, is not all bright and beautiful. But still, it has its lights as well as its shades, and it is neither wise nor grateful to dwell too much upon the darker portion of the picture. He who looks upon the bright side of life, and makes the best of everything, will, we think, other things being equal, be a better and happier man than he who finds occasion for complaint in everything.

#### NARROW ESCAPE FROM A CROCODILE.

John Petherick, Esq., an English traveller who has been traversing the wild districts of Egypt, gives the following description of the narrow escape of a native from the ravenous jaws of a crocodile: "He was an adventurous fellow, and while working at his 'shadoof,' (a lever for raising water) he had been watched by a crocodile, which suddenly darted at him from out the river, allowing him barely time to jump into the excavation in the embankment formed for the working of his lever. Singing out lustily for help, he was followed by the open-jawed reptile, the onslaught of which was so furious that it jammed its shoulders so effectually between the side of the pit—partially open toward the river—that, notwithstanding all its efforts, it could neither advance to seize its prey nor retire. The position of the man, as he forced himself to the utmost limits of his small prison, roaring for assistance, and invoking the Prophet and saints, may be

imagined; while the fearfully-armed mouth of his enemy, threatening instant death, was extended within a span of his chest. His cries were unheard; but his companions, attracted at length by the interruption of the water, came to his assistance, and, spearing with a lance the helpless reptile, the fellah was released.

#### THE THISTLE OF SCOTLAND.



The following is supposed to be the origin of the use of the Thistle as the National Emblem of Scotland:—

When the Danes of England invaded Scotland, they availed themselves of the pitch darkness of night to attack the Scottish forces unawares. In approaching the Scottish camp unobserved, and marching barefooted to prevent their tramp being heard, one of the Danes trod upon a large prickly thistle, and the sharp cry of pain which he instinctively uttered, suddenly apprised the Scots of their danger, who immediately run to their arms and defeated the foe with great slaughter. The Thistle was thenceforth adopted as the national insignia of Scotland.

#### OIL UPON THE WAVES.

The effect attributed to "a soft answer"—the moderation of wrath—has frequently been illustrated by a reference to the action of oil upon waves. From the time of Plutarch and Pliny, who relate that the mariners of their day were accustomed to still waves by pouring oil into the sea, it has passed current in popular speech that this effect, by such means, may be produced; and though treated with discredit in modern times, experiment proves that there is some truth in the statement. Among the facts reported in favor of it, the following occurs in a letter to Count Bentinck from M. Tengragel, dated Batavia, January 5, 1770: "Near the islands Paul and Amsterdam we met with a storm, which had nothing particular in it worthy of being communi-

cated to you, except that the captain found himself obliged, for greater safety in wearing the ship, to pour oil into the sea, to prevent the waves breaking over her, which had an excellent effect, and succeeded in preserving us. As he poured out but a little at a time, the East India Company owes perhaps its ship to only six demi-aumes of olive oil. I was present upon deck when this was done, and I should not have mentioned this circumstance to you, but that we have found people here so prejudiced against the experiment as to make it necessary for the officers on board, and myself, to give a certificate of the truth on this head, of which we made no difficulty." It was the practice of the fishermen of Lisbon, when about to return into the river, if they saw before them too great a surf upon the bar, which they apprehended might fill their boats in passing, to empty a bottle of oil into the sea, to suppress the breakers.

Previous to the time of Franklin, no man of science made experiments upon the subject; but his attention was called to it by a circumstance which he thus narrates: "In 1757, being at sea in a fleet of ninety-six sail bound for Louisbourg, I observed the wakes of two of the ships to be remarkably smooth, while all the others were ruffled by the wind, which blew fresh. Being puzzled with the differing appearance, I at last pointed it out to our captain, and asked him the meaning of it. 'The cooks,' said he, 'have, I suppose, been just emptying their greasy water through the scuppers, which has greased the sides of those ships a little;' and this answer he gave me with an air of some little contempt, as to a person ignorant of what every body else knew. In my own mind I at first slighted his solution, though I was not able to think of another." The issue of one of Franklin's experiments upon a pond on Clapham Common is detailed in a volume of the Philosophical Transactions. After dropping a little oil into the water, he states, "I saw it spread itself with surprising swiftness upon the surface, but the effect of smoothing the waves was not produced; for I had applied it first upon the leeward side of the pond, where the waves were largest, and the wind drove my oil back upon the shore. I then went to the windward side, where they began to form; and there the oil, though not