

time, rapidly approaching him, and had reached the fatal point just as the powerful Highlander had applied his lever to the fragment, and concentrated all his strength for one desperate effort. The brave soldier felt a momentary pang of regret at the stern necessity that impelled him to such an act, even towards those who would have shown him no mercy.

It was but for a moment—in the next instant the rock fell with a tremendous crash, scattering the boat and its devoted crew into a thousand pieces. Turning with pain from this scene of destruction, he ascended the cliff by the rope, which had not been removed since the previous night, and, hastening to join his friend, proposed, as the only course left open, that they should all leave the island immediately. This was readily agreed to by Rory, who had every reason to fear the vengeance of the enemy for the part he had taken in the affair.

They reached the mainland in safety; and Captain McDonald soon afterwards escaped to France, and Rory continued to evade the vigilance of his pursuers among the wilds of his native mountains, till his offences had been forgotten; while his wife, and the child that had been saved from the wreck, found shelter and protection with the Lady of Moidart.

This child, whose parentage could never be traced, afterwards became the grand-daughter of the Lady of Moidart; and, on the restoration of the family estates, was the honoured mistress of those halls which she had entered a friendless orphan, and where she had been long known by the title of the beautiful "Maid of Rona."

ANECDOTES OF THE INSANE.

No 2.

In insanity, *all* the faculties are not deranged. There may be merely an absurd belief upon some one point;—the patient being in his senses with respect to other subjects. Many who are deranged will read, and understand what they read. They will paint, exhibit skill in mechanical contrivances, work, and talk rationally on many subjects; and some will even shew extreme sagacity in accomplishing their mad purposes, in concealing their mad impressions, and convincing others of the truth of their mad notions. In a case of insanity tried at Chester, before Lord Mansfield, the patient was so clever, that he evaded questions in court the whole of the day; and seemed to every body perfectly sane. Dr. Butty, however, came into court; and, knowing the point of the man's derangement, asked what had become of the princess, with whom he had been in the habit of corresponding in cherry-juice. The man instantly forgot himself; and said it was true he had been confined in a castle; where, for want of pen and ink, he had written his letters in cherry-juice, and thrown them into the stream below; where the princess received them in a boat.

This, however, is not all; for patients often have some of their mental faculties *increased* by insanity. Dr. Rush says he had a deranged female patient, who composed and sang hymns and songs delightfully; although she had previously shewn no talent for music or poetry. There was here an excitement of one part of the brain; while another part was going wrong. Dr. Rush also knew two cases of insanity, in which great talent was shewn for drawing. Dr. Willis had a patient, who, in the paroxysms of insanity, remembered long passages of Latin authors, and took extreme delight in repeating them; but not at other times. Dr. Cox mentions a musician, who talked madly on all subjects but music; for which his talent appeared increased. His performances on the violin were strikingly singular and original. Dr. Rush mentions the case of a gentleman who was deranged; but who often delighted and astonished the rest of the patients, and the officers of the Institution, by his displays of oratory when preaching. Pinel, a celebrated French physician, mentions the case of a man who was very vulgar at other times; but who, in his paroxysms of insanity, while standing upon a table in the Hospital, discoursed every eloquently upon the French Revolution; and with the dignity and propriety of language of the best educated man. Circumstances similar to these have been seen in fever. When the brain is labouring under the excitement of fever, a person who has previously shewn but little talent for singing, may sing very correctly; and sometimes, although an individual may be delirious, he will speak very eloquently on certain subjects: This is a state which does not last long.

So much with respect to the *intellectual* faculties: But the *propensities* and *sentiments* are frequently disturbed in insanity. Some are so far disturbed as to be very superstitious; some are very respectful; while some again, are very impious. Some are thievish; some are modest; some are quite the opposite; some are very silly; some are very cheerful; some are melancholy; some are fearful. Some have felt an impulse to kill themselves; and some to kill others. When I was at the University (Cambridge), there was a person who was said to have attempted, three times, to set the College on fire. It was ascertained that, when he was young, he attempted to drown a child; yet nobody ever suspected him of being mad. You may recollect the instance of a man, who murdered a very excellent gentleman and his lady (Mr. and Mrs. Bonar) at Chiselmurst, in Kent. The murderer was a footman in the family; and, one night, he left his room, went up stairs to the apartment of his master and

mistress, and beat their brains out with a poker. He was asked his reason; but could give none. He said he had always been treated by them with the greatest kindness; but he felt suddenly in the night a desire to kill them; and he supposed the devil had prompted him to the act. No other symptom of insanity was detected in him; and he was hanged. Dr. Gall mentions the case of a person at Vienna, who went to witness an execution; and was seized with a propensity to kill. At the same time, he had a clear consciousness of his situation. He expressed the greatest aversion to such a crime. He wept bitterly; struck his head; wrung his hands; and cried to his friends to take care, and get out of the way. He felt the inclination; regretted it; and entreated every one to prevent his doing mischief, by putting him into prison. Pinel mentions the case of a man, who exhibited no unsoundness of intellect; but who confessed he had a propensity, in spite of himself, to commit murder; and his wife, notwithstanding the tenderness he really felt for her, was near being murdered by him;—for he had only time to warn her to fly. In the interval he expressed the same remorse; felt disgusted with life; and attempted, several times, to put an end to his existence. In a work by Mr. Hill, you will read of a man who was tried at Norwich, in 1805, for wounding his wife, and cutting his child's throat. He had been known to tie himself with ropes for a week, to prevent his doing mischief to others. One of the members of a family in London is said to have used these words:—"Do, for God's sake, get me confined; for if I am at liberty, I shall destroy myself and wife! I shall do it unless all means of destruction are removed; and therefore do have me put under restraint! Something from above tells me I must do it; and I shall!" Arsenic was put into a pudding; and the maid-servant was executed for it; but many persons were perfectly convinced of her innocence.

Dr. Gall mentions having seen a person in prison at Friburg, who had set fire to his house four times in succession; and who, after he had set fire to it, tried to put it out. Some have an irresistible desire to steal, without any other mark of insanity. Gall says, that the first king of Sweden was always stealing trifles. Instances are mentioned of a German, who was constantly pilfering; and of another who, having the desire to steal, entered the army;—hoping that the severe discipline there would restrain him. But he gave way to the propensity even there; and was very near being hanged. He then became a friar, with the same hope; but he still felt the same desire, and carried all the things he could to his cell; but as he could get only trifles, he was not noticed. Gall also mentions that a person at Vienna, in the habit of stealing, hired a lodging in which to deposit his thefts; and when he got a stock, he sold them. He stole only household matters. The wife of a celebrated physician at Leyden, never went into a shop to buy anything without stealing; and a countess at Frankfort had the same propensity. Another lady, notwithstanding all the care with which she had been brought up, had the same desire to pilfer. You will find it related of a physician, that his wife was always obliged to examine his pockets in the evening, and restore to his patients the things she found there. He always took something, as well as his fee. Meritz speaks of a criminal who, at the moment he was about to be executed, stole the confessor's snuff-box. Dr. Burner, who was one of the physicians to the king of Bavaria, speaks of a person who enjoyed abundance, and had been well educated; but who, notwithstanding, was always stealing; and was made a soldier by his father, and at last got hanged. The son of a celebrated and learned man,—himself very clever, and respectably connected in every respect,—could not resist this propensity; and I could go on to furnish you with instances without end, of individuals who acted thus (as it would appear) from insanity;—not from any criminal motives; but from a blind desire too strong for them to resist.—*Dr. Elliotson's Lectures on Medicine.*

THE ADVANTAGES OF GEOMETRY.—A Geometer is a man who labours according to rule. He is always with a plummet and rule in his hands; he measures, he calculates, he draws lines, he acquires the habit of doing all things by rule; he looks upon nothing as clear that he has not calculated; and in as far as possible, proceeds with the same exactness in all other sciences. Geometry accustoms the mind to a regular process, to an exact calculation; and geometrical truths are always evident, as there is no rule without a clear proof. It is, therefore, highly proper for all young persons to endeavour to acquire a geometrical understanding, to make the best use of the natural geometry which God has implanted in the minds of all men, even to act upon certain and undoubted principles.

HAPPINESS.—Our life, it is true, has it bright and its dark hours, yet none are wholly obscured, for when the sun of happiness is set, the reflected moonlight of hope and memory is still around us.

ILLUSIONS.—People talk of the fallacy of illusions, yet are led astray by them. They are like insects, which avoid the broad clear light of day; but if they see a candle at night, fly right into it.

LIFE.—This life is a cradle in which we are rocked and hushed to sleep, but do not move a step forward.

PROVERBS.

Proverbs are said to be the condensed wisdom of ages; the wise sayings of our own country are probably more in number and at least equal in terseness and point to those of any other nation. Ray's collection is the largest, but he has left several unexplained, and given in many instances wrong elucidations. The lapse of time has undoubtedly rendered some of them totally unexplicable, particularly the local ones alluding to customs long obsolete, or persons now forgotten; but those of a more general application from the use of words which have long ceased to form part of our English vocabulary, require now the aid of a glossary. The following have been wholly unexplained both by Ray and the Gnomologia of Fuller.

"Two slips for a tester."

A slip was formerly a cant word for a counterfeit piece of the current coin, it was commonly made of brass, and silvered over; *tester* is not yet obsolete for *sixpence*. Shakspeare alludes to the *slip* in *Romeo and Juliet*.

"Rom. What counterfeit did I give you?"

"Mer. The slip, sir, the slip!"

The obvious meaning of this adage is, that quantity should not be preferred to quality.

"What is gotten over the devil's back is spent under his belly."

This proverb is derived from the Welsh. "A gasgler ar farch Malen dan ei dor ydd a." Malen, according to the legendary tales of the ancient Britons, signified an evil spirit, or devil, who was supposed to be in possession of a magic horse, on which witches were carried to any place for evil purposes; hence the origin of the proverb, indicating that what is got dishonestly is generally spent in riot and extravagance.

"Essex stiles, Kentish miles, Norfolk wiles, many men beguiles."

What reason our ancestors had for complaining of the Essex stiles, or the extraordinary length of Kentish miles, is now a vain conjecture, but the Norfolk wiles can be better understood. The Norfolk men were said to be notoriously given to legal litigation; this is manifested by the statute, 33 Henry VI., which limits the number of attorneys allowed to exercise their profession in that county.

"A man's a man, though he hath but a hose on his head."

Caps made of woollen were anciently worn in England by the lower classes, long after the introduction of hats, which were chiefly worn by the nobility, and other men of rank. Breeches were formerly called *hose*, from the Saxon *hosa*, and were generally made of woollen. I consider the term was applied to the cap, or covering for the head, because made of that material, the covering for the leg is now called *hose*, and that article in the great manufacturing counties of Leicester and Nottingham, is still distinguished by that name, viz., *Jersey hose*, which are made of wool, but those made of cotton are usually called stockings.

"He is in his better blue clothes."

Blue was of old the prevailing colour of the clothes of servants in livery—and the retainers of great men; the city of Coventry was at one time famous for its blue dye, and hence, perhaps, the universality of the colour; the custom of wearing blue is retained to this day in the almost general costume of charity children, and the jackets of watermen. Pliny states that blue was the colour in which the Gauls clothed their slaves, and the bedesman, a privileged beggar, wore a blue gown; but probably the custom in England derived its origin from the facility of getting the article of home manufacture, and as far as regarded the colour, not to be obtained elsewhere. Coventry blue was for centuries distinguished for its beauty and durability. The proverb alludes to a person dressed extraordinary fine, and beyond his grade in society.

"The black ox never trod on his foot."

This proverb is said to be founded on an historical fact; it is applied to a person to whom misfortune has never happened; the ancient Britons had a custom of ploughing their land in partnership, each person finding one draught ox; if either of the oxen died, or became disabled during the process of ploughing, the owner of the land (if not his own beast) was compelled to find another animal of equal value, or at his option to give an acre of land to the owner of the dead or disabled animal; this acre was called "*erw yr uch ddu*," i. e. "the acre of the black ox," and many acres in Wales are at this day known by that title; without this explanation the words convey no conceivable meaning.

PERSIAN APOPTHEGMS.—A sage, whose eyes and hands were lifted up towards heaven, offered up this prayer to the throne of mercy;—"Great God, have pity on the wicked; for thou hast done all for the good, when thou hast made them good."

A man is born, he begins to build, and dies; another is born, who also begins to build, and dies likewise. Thus generations succeed each other; everything is begun: nothing is finished. Happy the man who has gained on earth the prize of goodness; his reward awaits him in the other life.