

THE CHILDREN'S PORTION.

PRACTICAL THOUGHTS FOR THE CHILDREN.

BY ALPHEUS.

WONDERFUL BUILDINGS.

What a delight it is to look at one of those grand old castles where turrets and domes are yet standing as ornaments to the old ruin! And we think the man must have had a great mind who planned the whole.

Come with me and look at this stately new building just completed. See those massive pillars, polished and cut. Notice how each exactly fits the other. If that little stone were left out what an ugly scar would have appeared! What cutting and hewing must have been necessary to bring all these stones into shape! Yet we are told all was prepared in the quarry one hundred miles away.

Surely it would be a pity if such a noble edifice were devoted to any thing but a noble purpose.

Did you ever think that our bodies are far more wonderfully made than that building? Some one in the August number of the *Advocate* tells the children how many bones are in the body. Look at the joints in your fingers and see how neatly every bone is fitted into its neighbour. Study how all the bones are held together by thousands of small cords called muscles, which, by an exercise of our will, move the bones hither and thither. Just think of that wonderful object by which you see the page on which this is printed, its delicacy, and the care by which it is protected, and that no less wonderful organ by which we hear. Then, again, ask why we feel any thing with the points of our fingers, why the nerves like electric wires run all over the body, and bring the whole into sympathy. And then, again, how the veins and arteries carry the blood to and from the heart. No building ever made by man can match this building of God's making.

The Bible tells us that this body is the temple of the Holy Ghost; that it is the temple of the living God. Yet, in how many ways do we deform this wonderful dwelling place of the soul.

Sometimes we do it by carelessly risking ourselves in dangerous places, without a due regard to the consequences. Sometimes accidents overtake us, over which we have no control, and the consequence is a deformity which we carry to the grave. But bad habits do more to mar this goodly structure than all other things combined. Often the health is injured by intemperance in eating and drinking. And strange, is it not, that some men and boys will saturate this temple with tobacco juice and expect God to forgive them. I think, too, how the tongue will some times speak unguarded words, and the eye lust after things forbidden; and also how the hands will do things that dishonour this temple, and how the whole body can be made the slave of vices that leave their mark