

YOUTH'S CORNER.

TRYING THE ICE.

Described by a boy writing to a play-fellow; in "Rolla's Correspondence," by Jacob Abbott.

When we went down, on Saturday, to try the ice, we had a fine time. Jonas went with me. When we got pretty near the edge of the ice, Jonas stopped, and said, Now I must call for the ferry-man. Then he called out, in a loud voice,

Ferry, ahoi! ferry ahoi! Then he answered himself in another voice, as if it was somebody at a great distance calling out to him in reply. The ferry is shut up.

How, then, shall I get across the river? You must come across the bridge! Who is building this bridge? Captain Jack Frost.

And who is Captain Jack Frost? He is a great bridge builder. Then Jonas began to pretend to talk to Captain Jack Frost.

How do you do, Captain Jack Frost? said he; I am very glad to see you building a bridge here.

Yes, I have got one begun. It is not finished, then, yet? No, I have not finished it yet; I am at work upon it.

What are you doing to it now? O, I'm strengthening it underneath. Do you think it will bear this boy, here, and me, to go across on it? Why, yes, I rather think it will.

Then Jonas began to go cautiously upon the ice, and it began to crack; but Jonas did not seem to mind the cracking, but went on farther and farther, and presently it cracked a good deal. Then Jonas stopped, and said,

Captain Jack Frost, it seems to me your work isn't strong. Why, I told you it was not finished!

Suppose it breaks through, and I get in, will you pay all the damages? No, indeed; nothing like that. What shall you do, then?

I shall bite your toes in the water till they ache well.

Then I had better be pretty careful. However, Jonas told me to come on, and I did. It bore me rather better than it did Jonas. In fact, Jonas said that the cracking was not owing altogether to the weakness of the ice, but to its gradually settling, as the water subsided. He helped me to put on my skates, and then he went sliding about.

We followed the ice along on the interval, until we came to where it passed under a high bank overhanging with trees. I skated, and Jonas ran along by my side. He could run and slide as fast as I could skate.

We found some beautiful, round, white spots in the ice, perfectly round, and as white as silver. I asked Jonas what they were, and he said he supposed it must be Captain Jack Frost's money. But afterwards I found out what they really were; for, as I was looking down through some very clear ice, I saw a little stream of bubbles come up from under an old log at the bottom.

The bubbles rose until they reached the under side of the ice, and there they had to stop, for, of course, they could not rise any higher; but they began to run along under the ice towards Jonas. They made round, white spots, just like those we had seen before.

That's strange, said I; what is the reason they move off that way, Jonas? That must be up, said Jonas. Up? said I; I did not know what Jonas could mean.

Yes, he said, up. Bubbles always run up; and so, when I see them moving along the under side of the ice, I know the ice must lie sloping upwards a little in the direction that the bubbles go.

The bubbles did not go very far; they got caught against some blades of grass; but we looked along in the direction they were moving in, and we found quite a large bulge in the ice. It was where the ice rested on the end of a log; and so, when the water settled, it bulged it up in that place, and the bubbles ran up the slope upon the under side of the ice.

[Our young readers may learn some useful lessons from the above. First, it shows how a good long letter may be written in very plain, easy words, just the natural way that a boy, twelve years old, would do in talking. Many a boy, when he is far away from his parents, does not know how to set about writing a letter to them; but he need only write as he would wish to talk to them, if they were near at hand, and he will soon find that he completes a letter, sufficient to send away and to give them pleasure.]

Another thing: you perceive how careful Jonas was; he was the older and heavier boy of the two. There was no great risk of "damages;" but if, with all his care, he had broken through, at all events his little friend would not have suffered. He also contentedly goes on running and sliding; while the younger boy has the use of skates: there is no envy nor ill temper about him; he makes the most of the means he has for exercise; though he might have preferred to have the skates, or been sulky because he was not fitted out as well as his companion.

His talk with Captain Jack Frost is very funny; but it is to be supposed that both the boys recollect that Jack Frost is doing a great Master's bidding: and what the frost, and the heat, and the wind and the rain are bidden, that is for wise and benevolent purposes, promoting man's happiness and advancing God's glory. — Ed.]

SAMPLE OF A MOHAMMEDAN RULER, Ali Pasha of Albania.

Amongst other political manoeuvres which the caution of Ali Pasha led him to adopt,

there was one which consisted in keeping up a spirit of fear and subjection amongst his vassals, by now and then throwing down to the lowest depth of misery some person or other who had risen to the height of prosperity, especially if he had risen by the tyrant's own assistance. In pursuance of this policy he determined upon the ruin of Michael Michelachi, a young man descended from one of the best families in Albania. His father, who had been one of the vizir's most faithful friends, dying whilst his son was yet an infant, left him, with all his fortune, under the guardianship of his sovereign. Ali seemed affected by this appeal to his sensibility and good faith; he took great care of his young ward, procured him the best possible education, and when he arrived at maturity, restored his fortune with all its accumulation; nor did his generosity stop here: he betrothed him to a rich heiress, and made him prime of the city; in which post Michelachi, by his engaging manners and strict integrity, secured the respect both of Turks and Greeks. But it suited the policy of his faithless sovereign to make an example, and this excellent man was doomed to fall: for the semblance of justice a set of false witnesses were suborned, who swore that Michelachi was in possession of the treasures which the widow of Kaiou Pasha, Ali's immediate predecessor, had secreted at her husband's death, a pretext to which he often resorted for getting rid of a troublesome subject.

Michelachi was confronted with these wretches, their depositions were shown to him, and he was ordered to deliver up the treasure on pain of death. Conscious innocence, added to surprise and indignation at this base accusation, made him reply in terms probably too high for the haughty spirit of Ali to bear: with a countenance rendered horrible by rage, and in a tremendous tone of voice, he ordered the prisoner to be carried away to the baldrum, a dark and damp dungeon near the ditch of the castron, where he was secured to the ground by a heavy chain round his hands and feet and neck. In the mean time his house was rifled, and his fine furniture thrown into the public streets; whilst his afflicted family, bolted and barred in a small inner room, were screened from the insults of the Albanian guards only by the efforts of a venerable and benevolent priest. At this time terror took possession of the city of Jannina; persons of all ranks and religions came to console the wretched family and alleviate their sorrows; many went to the serai to intercede with the vizir; but like a hunted lion he was too indignant to be approached, and he saw no one during the day.

This occurrence happened while Mr. Foresti* was accompanying an officer of the Porte for a few hours on his road towards the Pindus; and when he returned to the city, late in the evening, he found a deputation of the chief Greeks at his house, sent to inform him of poor Michelachi's treatment. It was impossible to see the vizir that night, but next morning he rose with the sun, and made his appearance at the seraglio as soon as Ali had performed his morning ablutions; even at this hour he found the courtyard and ante-rooms of the palace crowded with persons, expecting the result and expressing all the marks of fear and anxiety on their countenances.

Mr. Foresti, being admitted to the presence of the pasha, entered upon a conversation in the ordinary routine of business, that he might not appear to come for the purpose of counteracting his designs. At last he casually observed, "I see a vast number of people about the serai this morning, and the city also is quite in an uproar: I inquired the cause, but no one would explain it to me till my cook† informed me that you have put to death my friend Michelachi. As I knew him to be an excellent and innocent man, I have to thank your Highness for not committing this act whilst the dragoman was here, who might have spread very disgraceful intelligence about us at Constantinople." (V.) In a quick tone, "Ah! but I have not killed him, he is alive at present." (F.) "Then God be praised, I am heartily glad of it." (V.) "But he treated me shamefully; he has cruelly deceived me; πωδὸν μού, my very heart burns within me at his conduct; if you could see it, it would appear at this moment in a flame! How could a man whom I have brought up from his infancy in my own bosom make me this return?" (F.) "Indeed if he has treated you so, I shall be the first to condemn him; but has any opportunity been given him to prove his innocence? and who are his accusers?" (V.) "Oh! a great many persons, both men and women, came here, and took solemn oaths before the archbishop, after kissing the Christian crucifixes, to the truth of their accusation." (F.) "That may be; but are these accusers people of credit? and can you even believe their oaths against the word of such a man as you know Michelachi to be? Consider what people will say at the Porte, and what my government will think, when they hear that you have put to death or ruined one of your best friends upon such kind of evidence!" (V.) But πωδὸν μού, what can I now do, implicated as I am in this affair?" (F.) "Why, order instantly an examination concerning it to be instituted." (V.) "Will you then take it into your hands and examine it?" (F.) "To be sure I will do so for your sake, even more than that of Michelachi; but you must release him on security, for he is at this time in chains, and may perish before his innocence can be proved." (V.) "Carry him then to the chamber over the treasury, station there a guard to prevent escape, and God prosper you in the business."

* Agent for the British Government in Albania.

† His cook was a Frank, and not a subject of the pasha.

πωδὸν μού, a familiar expression, which he used to an intimate acquaintance.

Mr. Foresti having gained this point, had little more to do. Taking with him the two primates and the archbishop they released the prisoner, and proceeded to his mansion, where they found his young and beautiful wife surrounded by her children and friends, in the greatest agony: they comforted her with the assurance that her husband was safe, and for form's sake searched every part of the house for a treasure which they knew had no existence. They then interrogated Michelachi and his accusers, which last were of course unable to substantiate any part of their charge: upon this they returned to the vizir, and reported the prisoner guiltless of the accusation. The tyrant then pretended to fall into a terrible rage against the abandoned wretches whom he had himself suborned, declaring they should suffer death by the most cruel tortures; and it was only at the joint entreaties of Mr. Foresti and of Michelachi, who threw himself at the vizir's feet, that this sentence was not executed immediately. By a compromise, made to save his credit, they were thrown into prison for a few months, and then released.

Rev. T. S. Hughes' Travels in Albania.

THE SAILOR ON SHORE.

A—B—and his companion have just returned to the shores of America, after a three years' cruise in the United States' sloop-of-war Bainbridge. He landed and was discharged at Norfolk only twelve days since, and went to board with one of the sailor boarding-house keepers in that city. Like all sailors just discharged from our public ships, (and many, it may be added, from merchantmen,) and from the stern discipline of a man-of-war, with their pockets full of money, they were just like boys let out from school, after a long day of confinement at their tasks, and with no more restraint over their elated feelings, the only difference between them being that, in the one case, they were reckless sailors, accustomed to drinking, and the indulgence, when opportunity occurred, of their burning lusts.

It was several days before their ship's crews were paid off. In the mean-time their landlord kept them, night and day, in a state of beastly intoxication, and would supply them with money to spend in houses of wickedness, in which, probably, he had a pecuniary interest, knowing these men had a large amount to be paid them in a few days by the purser of the ship. If any one should be at a loss to understand to what kind of places I refer, let him pass through Water-street in New York, at a late hour at night, when most of the places of business are closed, and the business men have returned up-town to their homes;—there they will see many cellars and rooms, which have been to appearance closed all day, lighted up, and enlivened with music and dancing, and the presence of abandoned, inebriated sailors and females. Such places are the dens into which many a poor sailor is enticed, and ruined, in body and soul, in a short time. These men had been encouraged to drink every day, at sea, at the national grog tub provided by act of Congress, on board their ships, and now, with all the chains of quarter-deck discipline and restraint shaken off, it can hardly be supposed they would abstain, when at this "rum hole" on shore, where every encouragement is given them every hour to "treat" a ship-mate, and indulge freely themselves while they "have liberty!" The landlord's bill for board and sundries to A. B. in less than one week indeed he said, on the fourth day—amounted to sixty-three dollars. When they were both paid off, (the other had less to receive, for he had taken up while absent most of his wages.) A. B. was paid FOUR HUNDRED AND TWELVE DOLLARS, the balance of the amount of his wages for a three years' cruise.—He took off (sailor-like) his black silk neck-cloth which he had on, and the purser filled it with pieces of silver and gold; and it was so large and heavy that it would hardly contain the sum, and bear the weight. He took it home to his boarding-house. He was here invited every half hour to drink or to treat, by his landlord and the other wretches whom he kept in pay around him, for the purpose of robbing men in just his circumstances, elated with their freedom from restraint, and with their pockets full of money in gold and silver. After he got his money, he could not give much account of himself for the next four or five days. All he now knows, is, that he awoke one morning, a short time since, in dreadful pains and sickness and found himself on board of a schooner bound from Norfolk to New York, coming out of Chesapeake Bay, shipped for the run. He was ordered about to do his duty, when he could hardly stand, and feeling more wretched than he could describe. The wages of the three years were all gone from him, though ten days ago he had in his pocket, of his own money, earned by the toils of thirty-six months at sea, in storms and hard duty and danger, day and night, on board a man-of-war, in the United States' service.—FOUR HUNDRED AND TWELVE DOLLARS.

Broken-hearted and desolate, without a friend in the city, he and his companion determined yesterday morning to come to the Floating Church, in New York, of which they had heard in a foreign country, and if they had a chance, to speak to the minister, and tell him their wretched, degraded and lost condition. After your sermon in the morning, sir, said A. B., I felt worse than I ever did before, and was determined to tell you how I felt, but there were others talking to you, so that I didn't get a chance, though I don't know if I should have had the courage to have done so. You began yourself to talk with me just now, and I was glad of it, and I determined then to tell you every thing. I have been, sir, a very bad man, and I wish, with my companion here—for him and me feel just alike—to reform, if I only knew how. I do not know if there is any chance for me or for him.

Poor fellows! I said all I had strength and opportunity to say to them at the time, for the bell was just beginning to toll for the commencement of the afternoon service. They both promised me that they would come to my house to-morrow evening—took my number on a slip of paper, and seemed deeply affected with what I had said. After the services, when the men came up to the chancel rail for books, I gave to them, among the rest, each the life of John Newton to read—again encouraged them to come to me, and promised I would be their friend, and try to help them with my advice, and show them what to do. I urged them, however, that night to seek mercy of God, and to go to the Saviour of sinners, who came to seek and save the lost, and assured them if they truly repented, God would forgive them, for Christ's sake, and that I had known many quite as abandoned in sin, and lost, as themselves, who were now rejoicing in a Christian hope, and walking in the way of salvation. They both live at Mr. N. R.'s, at No. — street. They will both be shipped by their landlord and sent to sea before the next Sunday, I fear, as it will be impossible to enable them to change their boarding-house before their next voyage. Their present landlord, who has possession of their chests, has an opportunity of getting their advance wages for the little time he may have them at his house. They will, in both cases, be shipped by the landlord, and sent to sea the first call he has for men, and he will receive, for they are able seamen, \$15 for each, for their month's advance, not one cent of which will probably go into their hands. All the benefit I think either will have of this money, will be, perhaps, half a dozen nights' lodging, and an invitation to drink and get drunk every day, as long as they are on shore. They have both promised me to sign the temperance pledge. At any rate, I think they will come to see me to-morrow. While they were waiting for books, after service in the afternoon, my dear wife, to whom I had pointed them out, sitting on the front seat, took the opportunity to talk to the poor fellows. I observed them when they were about to retire from the chapel, shaking hands with her, and thanking her for her kindness in taking notice of such miserable ragabonds (as they told her they were.) They were in tears.

From Journal of the Rev. B. C. C. Parker, Minister of the Floating Church of our Saviour, New York.

A REGIMENT OF INFANTRY IN A FIX. The Monitor Parisien contains the following letter, dated Mayence, 8th November:—On Sunday last, between eight and nine o'clock in the evening, M. M. Lorentz, a physician, Kautfner, an architect, and Uhlmg, a master builder, were returning from Weissenau to Darmstadt. In passing near the public gardens they were assaulted by some drunken soldiers wearing the Prussian uniform. M. Lorentz had a finger cut, M. Kautfner was wounded in the head, and M. Uhlmg in the hand. The following day they complained to the commander of the federal fortress of Mayence, who immediately caused a search to be made in the barracks of the Prussian regiments, but none of the men would betray their comrades. The commander of the fortress then imagined an expedient which completely succeeded.

He drew up the regiment in the grand square, commanded them to present arms, and when the command was obeyed, he declared to the troops that they should remain in the same position in which they then were until they declared who were the men who committed the attack on the three civilians. The soldiers held firm during two hours and twenty minutes, when six soldiers declared they were guilty. Their declaration having been confirmed by their comrades, they were handed over to a court-martial.

COMMUNICATION WITH GUARDS OF RAILWAY TRAINS.

A lady engineer has at length solved the problem of a convenient and practicable communication between the passengers and guards of railway trains, in a manner exempt from most of the evils that have hitherto deterred railway men from entertaining such projects. The evil of most methods hitherto suggested has been that they alarm only, instead of simply communicating, and that they are of a nature liable to frequent derangement or neglect, or disuse. This invention is neither more nor less than a common talking-tube, such as many business men have in their offices to talk with their clerks in another room. This her ladyship, the inventress, proposes to put in every carriage of a railway train. The apparatus generally will be as follows:—A common tin tube, say an inch in diameter, will pass along every carriage, say just under the roof; and at each end an India-rubber pipe will continue it into the next carriage, so as to be detached with each carriage (by a bayonet point) and attached when the train is formed. Any eye will detect the continuity or discontinuity of the communication from the outside of the train before starting, and the India-rubber will allow any flexure or extension without injury to the communication. There will thus be one continuous speaking-tube all along the train; an orifice, closed with a spring except when in use, will be in each carriage, and the number of each carriage will be legibly inscribed on it; a similar orifice will be placed at the seat of the guard of the train. Each passenger can thus address to the guard any communication that may be required, and the conversation may be conducted as follows:—Passenger speaks: "Guard!"—"Sir?"—"A gentleman in the carriage has been taken suddenly ill, apparently with an apoplectic fit."—"Which carriage?"—"No. 351."—"I will stop the train instead of passing the station, and inquire if there be a medical man at hand." Or thus:—"Guard."—"Sir?"—"We have a maniac in this carriage, No. 241, pray come to

our assistance."—"I will immediately." Or:—"Guard."—"Sir."—"No. 271 carriage has a hot axle and is setting fire to the carriage."—"I'll stop the train!"—and so on. There is this difference between this mode of communication and the alarmus proposed, that instead of a vague alarm being given, a specific message is communicated, and the guard is left the option of complying with the request or declining, so as to use his discretion coolly with full knowledge of the circumstances. There are sundry matters of convenience to be attended to in this before it is practically quite perfect; but we think our lady correspondent has hit the simplest method, and the least objectionable.—Railway Chronicle.

FAMILY RESIDENCE AND FARM.

To be Let or Sold, BEAUTIFULLY SITUATED ON THE RIVER ST. FRANCIS, Midway between Sherbrooke and Lennoxville, THE HOUSE comprises every convenience for a Genteel Family: 3 Sitting Rooms, Nursery, Pantries, 2 Kitchens, 8 Bed Rooms, Dressing Room; ample Cellarage, Bath and Store Room &c.; 2 large Barns, double Stables, Coach-House and very complete Outbuildings. The FARM consists of a good Frame Cottage and Dairy, and 196 acres of excellent Land—100 cleared; good Sugary; chief part well fenced, and in a high state of cultivation—1 1/2 miles from the terminus of the St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad, and 2 1/2 from Bishop's College. Terms easy—price moderate. The above offers many advantages to a purchaser, (as property must rapidly rise in value directly the Railroad is opened,) at a small present outlay. Address, post paid, G. F. BOWEN, Esquire, Sherbrooke.

Mutual Life Assurance.

SCOTTISH AMICABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, HEAD OFFICE, 141, BUCHANAN-STREET, GLASGOW. THE Constitution and Regulations of this Society insure to its Members the full benefits which can be derived from such sur as they are willing to devote to the important duty of LIFE INSURANCE. The whole profits are secured to the Policy holders by the Mutual System on which the Society is established, and their allocation to the Members is made on fair, simple, and popular principles. It is provided by the Rules, that the whole Directors, Ordinary and Extraordinary, shall be Members of the Society, by holding Policies of Insurance for Life with it, of more than three years' standing. This rule secures to the Public that those Noblemen and Gentlemen who appear as Directors of the Society, have practically approved of its principles. For further particulars, with tables of Premiums, apply to R. M. HARRISON, Agent for Canada. Quebec, August, 1845.

NOTICE. THE BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY having reduced their rate of Premiums, the subscriber is prepared to receive proposals according to the new scale. R. PENISTON, Agent. India Wharf, October, 1846.

FOR SALE. WELCH & DAVIES. Quebec, 24th June, 1847.

FOR SALE. THAT pleasantly situated House in St. Anne Street, at present occupied by Mr. BUNNET—with a spacious Yard, Stabling and Out-houses. Apply to ARCHD. CAMPBELL, N. P., St. Peter Street. Quebec, 27th January, 1847.

THE BEREAN, ENGLAND.

EDITED BY A CLERGYMAN OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND, Is published every THURSDAY Morning, BY G. S. T. AND S. L. B. W., Printer, Bookseller and Stationer, 4, ANN-STREET. Terms:—Fifteen Shillings a-Year, or Twelve Shillings and Six Pence if paid in advance. W. C. EVANS, Esq., Montreal, The Rev. W. THOMPSON, Christchurch, The Rev. CHARLES BANCROFT, St. John's, BENJ. BURLAND, Esq., Sherbrooke, G. F. BOWEN, Esq., Toronto, The Rev. R. V. ROBERTS, Kingston, SAMUEL MURCKINGTON, Esq., do, J. P. BATTERSBY, Esq., Ancaster, C. W., ALEX. DAVIDSON, Esq., P. M., Niagara, C. W., The Rev. HENRY STONEMAN, Dunville, C. W., THOMAS CRAIG, Esq., London, C. W., The Rev. S. B. ANSON, Barrie, C. W., H. INCY, Esq., Halifax, N. S., GEORGE BLISS, Esq., Fredericton, N. B., FREDERICK R. STARR, Esq., St. John, N. B., COMMANDER OULING, N. N., Charlotte-Town, Prince Edward Island, The Rev. C. H. WILLIAMSON, New York, are so kind as to act for the BEREAN. Terms in Great Britain:—Ten Shillings Sterling in advance. Subscriptions will be received by MR. JOHN HENRY JACKSON, Bookseller, Islington Green, Islington London. Terms in the United States, including postage, to the lines:—\$1 Dollars a-year, or \$4 Dollars if paid in advance; AGENTS AT New York at 75 Nassau-street, 1 Mr. F. G. FIELD, Brooklyn at 41 Front-street, 1 Advertisements, delivered in the evening before the day of publication, inserted according to order, at 25 Cts for six lines and under, first insertion, and 7 1/2 Cts each subsequent insertion; for ten lines and above six lines 3s. 4d first insertion, and 10d each subsequent insertion; above ten lines, 4d per line first insertion, and 1d per line each subsequent insertion. Advertising by the year or for a considerable time (as may be agreed upon).