

"THE JOYS OF MARRIAGE ARE THE HEAVEN ON EARTH."

sent an order to the Governor of Riga to seek out Scroowski, to seize him without violence, and to send him to the Chamber of Peers. The order was obeyed, and Scroowski was proceeded against with all the forms of law as a quarreller and promoter of strife. He was then passed on to the capital, where he was surrounded with spies to ascertain from chance words his origin. The Czar was convinced of the relationship to the Empress, and privately suggested an appeal to himself against the rigours of the decisions of the judges. An audience was granted, the house of Chapelow, the household steward, when the Czar asked a number of questions, the answers to which confirmed his impression. Scroowski was then dismissed with an order to present himself at the same hour the next day. The Czar giving an intimation that the decision would probably be a favourable one. The Empress was invited to accompany the Czar to dine with him on the morrow, at Chapelow's, on the understanding that all formalities and even attendants were to be dispensed with. When Peter, Catharine, and Chapelow were at dinner, Scroowski was introduced. He approached more timidly than before; but the Czar pretended to have forgotten the subject of the petition. He repeated all the questions of the previous day, and received the same answers, Catharine listening with the greatest attention. Do you not understand, the Czar asked her. She changed colour, trembled, and could scarcely reply. "If you do not understand, I do," Peter continued. "This man is your brother?" He then made Scroowski kiss her robe and her hand as Empress, and afterwards to embrace her as his sister. The Empress turned pale, and was unable to speak; but Peter rallied her by declaring that a great mystery had been solved, and that if his brother-in-law had merit and abilities he would gladly embrace him. Catharine embraced her brother, and begged the Czar to continue his kindness both to him and to herself. A house and pension were assigned Scroowski, but he was enjoined to enjoy his good fortune in secret.

On the death of Peter, he left Catharine the throne, and in 1794 she was proclaimed Empress, and crowned with great pomp and state at Moscow. The first thing she did on her accession was to cause every gallows to be taken down, and all instruments of torture, which had previously been greatly in use, to be destroyed. And in many other respects she showed herself worthy of the high station which she had been called to fill, and completed many grand designs which the Czar had begun. But her reign was short, as she died on the 17th of May, 1797, and in melancholy truth it must be said that it was her indulgence in intoxicating liquors that produced the disease which hastened her end; but it must be remembered, in judging her for this vice, that drunkenness was then the common habit of the nobles of Russia.

To the honour of Catharine, it must be mentioned that she was never forgetful of her former condition. When Wurm, who had been tutor to the children of Oluk, the Lutheran minister of Marienburg, at the time Catharine was a domestic in the family, presented himself before her—after her marriage with Peter had been publicly solemnized—she recollected him, and said with great complaisance, "What thou good old man, art thou still alive? I will provide for thee," and she accordingly settled a pension upon him. She was not less attentive to the family of her benefactor, Oluk; she pensioned his widow, made his son her page, portioned the two eldest daughters, and advanced the youngest to be one of her maids of honour.

"PRACTICAL EDUCATION" APPLIED.

(27.)—RICHARD LOVELL EDGORTH, of Edgeworthstown, in the county of Longford, Ireland, the father of the well-known novelist, Maria Edgeworth, (by his first wife), was born at Bath, in the year 1744. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and was afterwards sent to Oxford. The following brief sketch of his life, and his experiences in domestic education, are extremely interesting:—

Whilst at Oxford receiving his education, and before he was twenty years of age, he ran off with Miss Elers, to whom he was married at Gretina Green. He then embarked on a life of fashionable "pleasure" and dissipation; but in the year 1770 he succeeded, by the death of his father, to his Irish property. During a visit to Lichfield, he fell in love with Miss Honora Sneyd, and married her shortly after the death of his first wife. Six years after their union this lady died of consumption, and Mr. Edgeworth then married her sister. After a matrimonial union of seventeen years, his third wife also died of consumption; and Mr. Edgeworth, although past fifty, in little more than a year again married. Being possessed of a good fortune, he now devoted much of his time to agricultural improvements, as well as to the amelioration of the existing modes of education, by writing, in conjunction with his highly-gifted daughter, many useful works. Mr. Edgeworth had issue by all his four wives, and the number of his children, and their unusual difference in age—a difference amounting, between the eldest and youngest, to more than forty years—gave him singular opportunities of making experiments in education, and watching their results. His family were brought up almost entirely at home, with the greatest parental care; and he educated his eldest son on the plan laid down by Rousseau, which was then in vogue, and which has been described as "a mixture of the Red Indian and the Spartan." He dressed him in jacket and trousers, with arms and legs bare, and allowed him to run about wherever he pleased, and to do nothing but what was

agreeable to himself. In a few years he found that the scheme had succeeded completely, so far as related to the body. The boy had all the virtues that are found in the bust of the statue; he was quick, fearless, and generous; but he knew not what it was to obey. It was impossible to induce him to do anything that he did not please, or prevent him from doing anything that he did please. Under the former head, learning, even of the lowest description, was never included. In fine, the boy grew up ungovernable, and there remained no alternative but to allow him to follow his own inclination of going to sea!

Mr. Edgeworth's zeal in the training of his children, and his constant desire for improving the current methods of education, made the father and daughter joint authors in works intended for the use of youth. The most ambitious of these joint productions is a series of essays entitled *Practical Education*, first published in 1796, and afterwards reprinted and altered more than once. It is a valuable and instructive work for those engaged in domestic teaching. The history both of Miss Edgeworth's authorship, and of her life, was closely dependant on her affectionate and respectful association with her father. Mr. Edgeworth's experience, as a landlord and magistrate, placed at the disposal of his daughter that large stock of incidents and characters which she used in her novels with so much shrewdness, humour, and kindly feeling; and though these works were written exclusively by herself, they were always submitted to his revision.

Mr. Edgeworth was fond of mechanical pursuits and new projects of all kinds, and among his inventions was a telegraph. In a memoir which he presented to the Royal Society of Ireland, he adduced proof that in 1767 he tried an experiment of the practicability of communicating intelligence by a swift and unexpected mode; and for this purpose he employed a common windmill, and arranged a system of signals which could be made by the different positions of the arms of its sails, the canvas being removed from one or more arms as was required. His latter years were spent in active exertions to benefit Ireland, by reclaiming bogland and introducing agricultural and mechanical improvements.

Mr. Edgeworth and his family were involved in the troubles of the Irish Rebellion, and were obliged to make a precipitate retreat from their home, and leave it in the hands of the rebels; but it was spared from being pillaged, through the intercession of one of the invaders, to whom Mr. Edgeworth had previously done some service. The return of the family home, when the troubles were over, is thus described by Miss Edgeworth:—

"When we came near Edgeworthstown, we saw many well-known faces at the cabin doors looking out to welcome us. One man, who was digging in his field by the roadside, when he looked up as our horses passed, and saw my father, let fall his spade, and clasped his hands; his face, as the morning sun shone upon it, was the strongest picture of joy I ever saw."



EDGEWORTH-TOWN.

The village was a melancholy spectacle; windows shattered and doors broken; the mischief done was great, there had been little pillage. Within our gates, we found all property safe; literally, 'not a twig touched, nor a leaf harmed.' Within the house, everything was as we had left it. A map that we had been consulting was still open on the library-table, with pencils and slips of paper, containing the first lessons in arithmetic in which some of the young people of Edgeworth's children by his second and third wives had been engaged the morning we had been driven from home; a panny, in a glass of water, which one of the children had been copying, was still on the chimney-piece. These trivial circumstances, marking repose and tranquillity, struck us at this moment with an unreasonable sort of surprise, and all that had passed seemed like an incoherent dream."

Mr. Edgeworth died in 1817.—Miss Edgeworth died in 1840, in her 83rd year, ripe in good works and the "charity which never faileth."