

POETRY.

SELECTED.

THE SICK CHILD.

"O! Mother, when will morning come!"
A weeping creature said;
As on a wo-worn, wither'd breast
It laid its little head.
"And when it does, I hope 'twill be—
All pleasant, warm and bright,
And pay me for the many pangs
I've felt this weary night."

"O! mother, would you not, if rich,
Like the rector, or the squire,
Burn a bright candle all the night,
And make a nice warm fire?
O! I should be so glad to see
Their kind and cheerful glow!
O! then I should not feel the night
So very long, I know."

"Tis true you told me to your heart,
And kiss me when I cry—
And lift the cup unto my lip
When I complain I'm dry.
Across my shoulders, your dear arm,
All tenderly is press'd,
And often I am lull'd to sleep
By the throbbing of your breast."

"But 'twould be comfort, would it not,
For you as well as me,
To have a light—to have a fire—
Perhaps—a cup of tea?
I often think I should be well
If these things were but so—
For, mother, I remember, once
We had them—long ago."

"But you were not a widow then,
I not an orphan boy;
When father (long ago) came home—
I used to jump with joy.
I us'd to climb about his knee,
And cling about his neck,
And listen while he told us tales
Of battle and of wreck."

"O! had we not a bright fire then?
And such a many friends!
Where are they all gone mother dear,
For no one to us sends?
I think if some of them would come
We might know comfort now,
Though of them all, not one could be—
Like him I will allow."

"But he was sick, and then his wounds
Would often give him pain,
So that I cannot bear to wish
Him with us once again.
You say that we shall go to him
In such a happy place—
I wish it was this very night
That I might see his face!"

The little murmurer's wish was heard,
Before the morning broke,
He slept the long and silent sleep,
From which he never woke;
Above the little pain-worn thing
The sailor's widow wept,
And wonder'd how her lonely heart
Its vital pulses kept!

But she lived on, though all bereft,
A toil-worn, heart-rung slave;
And oft she came to weep upon
Her young boy's little grave.
A corner of the poor-house ground
Contained his mould'ring clay,
And there the mourning mother wept
A sabbath hour away.

And as she felt the dull decay
Through all her pulses creep,
She cried—"By his unconscious dust
I'll soon be laid asleep:
Then valor, patience, innocence,
Like visions will have past;
And th' sailor, and his wife and child,
Will find relief at last."

FAITH makes us draw all our comforts from a fountain
that will never fail.

Infant-School Instruction in Philadelphia.

THE AMOUNT OF KNOWLEDGE IMPARTED.

We take the following statement from an eye witness, who was present at an examination of one of the schools, about two years ago.

"The children for the most part, were under six years of age. They could sing pretty well. They spelled; went through the multiplication table; added up sums; enumerated as high as a million. Told what is a continent; what an island; a mountain; a promontory; a cape; an ocean; a sea; a bay; a strait; an isthmus. Told the different oceans; seas. Distance to Europe; all the countries of Europe; capital towns of several countries. Enumerated the States of our Union, &c. Gave an account of the Bible; how divided into Old and New Testaments, into books, chapters and verses. The meaning of the words Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy. The occasion of the Jews going into Egypt; their number at the time; the length of their continuance; their number on coming away. They gave an account of the Gospels. An account of the earth, its shape, its size, how it is proved to be round; its zones; climates; an account of the equator, of the meridian lines, of its diurnal and annual revolutions. An account of the human system; the number of bones in the body; character of its joints, explained the use of muscles. An account of some fish. Of the cow, of milk, &c. Of bread, beginning with the farmer preparing the earth, sowing seed; of the importance of rain in making it grow; of reaping, threshing; grinding; making bread. An account of language: how the alphabet is divided. Of mechanical powers. In astronomy, they gave an account of eclipses."

In fine, this spectator observes, that they told a great deal more than he was able to recollect, though he made notes soon after; and he adds, that on the teacher, a young lady, being asked to give a detail of their knowledge, she said, 'she could give an account of a great deal, but that she could not tell all, for she had only recently taken charge of the school.' The individual who witnessed the foregoing, adds, 'one might suppose that there would be fatigue and distraction in listening to so much; but it was not so, for singing, clapping of hands, gestures were intermingled.'

Here let us pause. Why should it be thought incredible? Children have all the senses, and all the external inlets of knowledge that adults have, with perhaps more susceptibility; memories, fresh, unburthened, keen, retentive. Pictures, maps, globes, models, representations of islands, of eclipses, of the planetary system, may all be presented to their sight. Their attention may be undivided, and over the instruction, with endless variety, may be diffused, the charms of eloquence and vocal music. — *Epis. Rec.*

Piety of Linnaeus.—This great botanist was born in Sweden, in 1707, and died in 1778. One of the most distinguished attributes of his mind, was the warmth of his religious sentiments and profound adoration of the Deity. He resembled, in this respect, Newton, Haller, Locke, and others, whose respect for religion rendered their knowledge still more estimable. The deeper he penetrated into the secrets of nature, the more he admired the wisdom of her Creator. He praised this wisdom in his works, recommended it by his speeches, and honored it by his actions. Through all his writings there breathes forth a lively admiration of the greatness and wisdom of God, and a tender gratitude for his benefits. Whenever he found an opportunity of expatiating on the greatness, the providence and omnipotence of God, which frequently happened in his lectures and botanical excursions, his heart glowed with a celestial fire, and his mouth poured forth torrents of admirable eloquence. This made him one of the best inculcators of morality; he instilled by so doing a similar spirit of religion into the breasts of his pupils. Over the door of the hall in which he gave his lectures, was this inscription, "Live virtuous; God observes you." He could never think on the wonderful paths by which the Almighty had guided him, without being much affected, and thanking Providence for all the instance of his grace and mercy. [Standard.]

The Sick.—What holy resolutions have you formed in the strength of the LORD to be more watchful against sin, and more diligent in duty, if God shall be pleased to restore you to health?

Dr. Payley and the Farmer.—The late Dr. Payley, having naturally a weak voice, submitted to the church wardens of Dalston, near Carlisle (of which parish he was vicar,) the propriety of having a sounding box put over his pulpit. While the matter was discussing in the vestry, 'Oh!' said a thrifty farmer, 'if the doctor would but speak as loud in the pulpit as he does at christenings and tithe-days, faith, I think there would be no occasion to put the parish to the expense of a sounding box.' The doctor, with his characteristic mildness, retorted, 'Friend, you are mistaken; you hear much better out of the church than in it. When a man's worldly interest is concerned, he is so sharp-eared that he can hear even a whisper, but the preacher needs the voice of John the Baptist to rouse the sleepers.' This silenced the satirical farmer, who felt conscious of having frequently indulged in a nap during the doctor's sermon.

Arrival of Bishop Ives.—The Raleigh Register states that Bishop Ives has arrived in New York—that his health is entirely restored, and that he expects to reach North Carolina about the middle of February.

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