

Miscellaneous.

HOLLOW BRICKS.

During Saturday, and again on Monday afternoon, the beam of hollow bricks and Portland cement, constructed by Messrs. White, and Sons, at the western extremity of the building, has been undergoing a trial of strength, which attracted a good deal of attention. This brick beam was identical in size with that of common bricks and Roman cement constructed at Nine Elms in 1836, and which, after standing 18 months, was broken down with a weight of 50,652 lbs. Its dimensions were 2 ft. 4 in. bearing between the piers, 2 ft. 3 in. thickness at the bottom of the beam, and 1 ft. 6 in. at the top, the height being 4 ft. 2 in. The layers of hollow bricks, besides being joined with Portland cement, were held together by thin bands of iron passing through them, and the whole has remained standing since the opening of the Exhibition, with an announcement attached that it would be weighted and broken before the close. On Saturday the supply of big-iron provided for this purpose failed, and the experiment was renewed on Monday in the presence of Dr. Ansted, Mr. Godwin, General Pasley, and others interested. When the load placed on the beam had been increased to 62,800 lbs. a crack was observed running right up the centre, and two others at equal distances on either side converging towards the centre as they extended upwards. Then the abutments were thrown out of the perpendicular, one to the extent of a foot, the other an inch and a half. Finally the beam broke right in half, the experiment terminating in the most satisfactory manner for the reputation of hollow brick constructions and Portland cement. It may be stated as a curious fact in connection with this supposed new species of building material, that the use of hollow bricks was well known to the Romans, and that in Tunis, at the present time, they are in constant requisition. It was originally intended by the Bey to send over specimens, but the interest of such a contribution was at the last moment accidentally overlooked.—*Notes*

THE BRAVE MAN.

There is nothing which a truly brave and persevering man may not accomplish. Heat and cold, mountains and seas, and sunshine, are alike to him, when he is bent upon his object. He pushes ahead, never tiring or fainting; until his proud design is achieved. Whether it be riches or honors, he permits no obstacles to impede his progress. The histories of all distinguished men from Alexander to Napoleon, show that it was perseverance that made them distinguished above their fellow men. And you, young man, if determined in your course, whatever end you have in view, shall be respected and honored. Never permit your energies to slumber, but be ever active in whatever field you choose to labor. To lag—to sleep—to doubt—to hang your head in fear, will prove disastrous to your best interests.

"To more in doubt and fear
And tremble at the shades of even—
What is it but a tomb to rear,
And wealing to it, turn from Heaven?"

The reason why so many turn out miserable tools—without ambition, lie, or even wealth,—is, their lack of courage and their fear of the world. What has an honest man or a man of virtue and integrity, to fear? All are but shadows that look dark and forbidding before you—and these vanish before the light of truth and generous ambition. Let nothing stay your progress when you are in the path—nothing but the strong arm of death—then you will accomplish your bright expectations, while,

"Shadows fly,
And hope gleams beautiful from afar—
A sea of glory fills the sky,
And wisdom beams in every star.

LADIES' SHOES.

If shoes were constructed of the shape of the human foot, neither too large nor too small, and making an equal pressure everywhere, corns and bunions of the feet would never exist. But unfortunately, shoes are seldom made after this fashion, and in ladies' shoes especially there are two signal defects.—first, the extremity of the shoe is much too narrow for the part of the foot (namely, the toes), which it is to contain; and secondly, for the purpose of displaying as much of the foot as possible, the whole of the tarsus and metatarsus are left uncovered, and the pressure of the shoe in front is thrown entirely upon the toes. The toes are thus squeezed against each other, and then pushed out of their natural position; and all the projecting points, chiefly where the joints are situated, are pinched and tormented either by the neighbouring toes or by the leather of the shoe; and thus it is that corns of the feet are generated.

LIVE FOR SOMETHING.

Thousands of men breathe, move, and live—pass off the stage of life, and are heard of no more. Why? They did not partake of good in the world, and none were blessed by them; none could point to them as the means of their redemption; not a line they wrote, not a word they spoke, could be recalled, and so they perished: their light went out in darkness, and they were not remembered more than the insects of yesterday. Will you thus live and die, O man immortal! Live for something! Do good, and leave behind you a monument of virtue, that the storms of time can never destroy. Write your name by kindness, love, and mercy on the hearts of thousands you come in contact with year by year, and you will never be forgotten. No, your name, your deeds, will be as legible on the hearts you leave behind, as the stars on the brow of the evening. Good deeds will shine as brightly on the earth, as the stars of heaven.—*Dr. Chalmers.*

Varities.

SORROW shows us truths as the night brings out stars.

THERE is in every human countenance either a history or a prophecy.

HOW MANY an enamoured pair have courted in poetry and lived in prose!

THE WORLD is all up-hill when we do, all down-hill when we suffer.

THE BASE METAL of Falshood is so current because we find it much easier to alloy the Truth than to refine ourselves.

HURRY AND CUNNING are always running after Despatch and Wisdom, but have never yet been able to overtake them.

WE RARELY wish for what we are convinced is quite unattainable; it is just when there is a possibility of success that wishes are really excited.

HE WHO GAINS the victory over great insults is often overpowered by the smallest.

A MAN IN earnest finds means; or, if he cannot find, creates them.

IT IS ONE of the singular facts of the present state of society, that the qualities which in theory we hold to be most lovely and desirable, are precisely those which in practice we treat with the greatest contumely and disdain.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS and our productions are our intellectual progeny, and he who is engaged in providing that those immortal children of his mind shall inherit fame, is far more nobly occupied than he who is industrious in order that the perishable children of his body should inherit wealth.

LADIES, FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE.—The young ladies of Dramericotte, in the state of Maine, have recently formed themselves into a society for mutual improvement and protection. Among the resolutions adopted at a regular meeting, we find the following.—"That we will receive the attentions of no 'stuffed' young gentleman who has not learned some business, or engaged in some steady employment for a livelihood; for it is apprehended that after the bird is caught, it may starve in the cage. That we will promise marriage to no young man who is in the habit of tipping, for we are assured his wife will come to want, and his children to be barefoot."

Biographical Calendar.

	A. D.	
June 27	1777	Dr. Dodd, executed.
	1818	Zachokke, died.
" 24	1491	Henry VIII., born.
	1712	Jean Jacques Rousseau, born.
	1776	Charles Matthews, born.
	1835	Do. Do., died.
" 29	1577	Peter Paul Rubens, born.
	1810	Lucien Bonaparte, died.
" 30	1797	Richard Parker, hung.
	1831	William Roscoe, died.
July 1	1614	Isaac Casaubon, died.
	1771	Henry, Lord Holland, died.
	1851	Dyce Sombre, died.
" 2	1750	Francis Huber, born.
	1850	Sir Robert Peel, died.
" 3	1646	G. W. Leibnitz, born.
	1778	Jean J. Rousseau, died.
	1816	Mrs. Jordan, died.

William Roscoe was born of parents in an humble sphere, who gave him the mere rudiments of a common education, and even of this he neglected to avail himself. But he early began to think for himself, and being placed in a lawyer's office, he found leisure without neglecting his duty, to make himself master of Latin, so as to translate the classics, and also to study other ancient languages; and he went through the same course with modern languages, reading the best authors in each. At the age of 16, he published "Mount Pleasant," a poem that was well received. On the expiration of his clerkship, he entered into partnership with Mr. Aspinall, an attorney of considerable practice. But while he was attending to his professional duties, he did not lose sight of literature and the arts. Painting and statuary were objects of his regard; and he occasionally lectured in Liverpool on these and kindred subjects. In 1789, when the abolition of the slave trade was much discussed, he published two pamphlets against that traffic. His ardent love of liberty induced him to compose two songs in favour of the French Revolution; this was before it had led to great excesses. In 1795 he brought out that great work on which his fame chiefly rests—"The Life of Lorenzo de' Medici," 2 vols., 4to, soon after which he retired from practice as an attorney, and entered himself as a student at Gray's Inn, with a view to the bar. In 1798 he published "The Muse," a poem from the Italian; and in 1805 appeared his other great work "The Life and Pontificate of Leo X.," 4 vols., 4to. He subsequently wrote several political pamphlets, and scientific treatises. In 1806 he was returned to parliament in the Whig interest, but parliament being dissolved next year he retired from the representation. He had, before this, become a banker in Liverpool; but the firm failing, all his property was sold off; his library, &c. producing £8000. He continued to reside there, however, till his death, which took place June 30, 1831, with the character of Liverpool's greatest benefactor.—*Atkins.*