

ployed in fishing. With such a scene before them, who would not stop, look, and admire its beauty? I will not pretend to say that, at that early age, I did so, but this I know, that I paused occasionally to look across the waters; and I can recollect wishing myself on board of some tiny bark afar off on their heaving surface. While thus engaged, I had made but slow progress towards the bathing ground, and was, consequently, behind the hour I had appointed to meet my young friend. Before I reached the spot, and while yet a good way off, I thought I could discern an unusual crowding towards one point; for this reason I quickened my pace, till I got near enough to ascertain that some one or other was on the point of being drowned. The crowd consisted of boys; and there was no grown up person near them. I came amongst them, and as soon as two or three of them, whom I had before seen, were aware of my presence, they cried out, "See, see, it's John, it's John, he's drowning!" In an instant, my bonnet, jacket, and the other parts of my clothes, were thrown on the shore, and in I dashed, determined, if possible, to save my unfortunate friend. I could still see him struggling, but his strength was fast going. I called to him to lie still; he was deaf to words. I felt a little timorous, lest he might get hold of me when I approached him; and all the knowledge I possessed respecting securing persons in that situation, was summed up in "get behind them." This I endeavoured to do, and at last succeeded. Poor John! He seemed unconscious of all around him. Having laid hold of his arms from behind, I then struck out with my feet, and in this way pushed him before me towards the shore. Two men now appeared on the beach, and by the time I reached near enough the bank to gain a footing, one of them took my burden from me. Well it was that he did so, as I had exerted myself beyond my strength in accomplishing what I had done. I was scarcely able to drag myself to the spot where I had left my clothes. John was carried without loss of time to the nearest house, but great doubts were entertained whether he would ever recover. Every exertion was used to restore him, and at last success crowned their efforts; but he was unable to be removed till the following day. The parties who were present had all followed my poor friend, and I was left in an exhausted state, to shift for myself the best way I could. I made several attempts to dress, but all in vain; I felt myself so giddy, that, half dressed, I was forced to lay myself down on a little grassy plot, where I was found some time afterwards by one of the gentlemen who were present when I came out of the water. This gentleman very kindly assisted me to dress, and also accompanied me home. When the good woman saw the gentleman enter with me, she was afraid some accident had befallen me; but when he told her what had happened, she seemed as if she could have cried for joy, and became more fond of me than ever. I was put to bed, and not allowed to stir out for the remainder of that day.

In the afternoon I was rather surprised at the visit

of another gentleman, who called to see me. He made strict enquiry as to my name, the situation of my parents, and my own prospects. At last he said that my friend John was his son, and that for having saved him from drowning, he was anxious to make me some recompense. In order to carry his purpose out, he thought it would be advisable to see my parents. On his mentioning this I could not help shedding tears. He enquired why I did so, when I confessed to him what I had done. He bade me keep my mind easy, and that, as he intended to return to Glasgow on the following day, he would take me under his charge, and act the part of a mediator between me and my parents. He then left me, with the understanding that I should be in readiness by eight o'clock the following morning, to accompany him back to Glasgow.

My kind friend, with whom I lived, was angry with me for not making her aware of my having ran away; as, although she was glad to see me, she did not wish it to be thought that she had given me any encouragement in staying away so long from home. Under these circumstances, I promised her that I would tell the truth, and let my father know that I had not acquainted her with my having left home without his sanction. This gave her complete satisfaction, and I left her the next morning on the best of terms, after having received from her some good advice as to my future conduct. I then took my passage for Glasgow, along with John's father, and, like the Prodigal Son, returned home a sincere penitent.

(To be Continued.)

CHARACTER IN A LAUGH.

How much of character is there in a laugh! You know no man till you have heard him laugh—till you know when and how he will laugh. There are occasions—there are humours when a man with whom we have been long familiar, shall quite startle and repel us by breaking out into a laugh which comes manifestly right from his heart, and which yet we had never heard before. Even in fair ladies with whom I have been much pleased, I have remarked the same thing. As in many a heart a sweet angel slumbers unseen till some happy moment awakens it, so there sleeps often in gracious and smiling characters, deep in the background, a quite vulgar spirit which starts into life, when something rudely comical penetrates into the less frequented chambers of the mind.—*Blackwood's Magazine.*

ENTHUSIASM.

Nothing ever so inspires human daring, as the fond belief that it is the agent of a diviner wisdom. Revenge and patriotism united in one man of genius and ambition—such are the Archimedean levers, that find in fanaticism the spot out of the world by which to move the world. The prudent man may direct a state; but it is the enthusiast who regenerates or ruins it.

PHILANTHROPY.

The benevolent John Howard, having settled his accounts at the close of a particular year, and found a balance in his favour, proposed to his wife to make use of it in a journey to London, or any other amusement she chose. "What a pretty cottage for a poor family it would build!" was her answer. This charitable hint met with his cordial approbation, and the money was laid out accordingly.