

You may, in after life, shake them off, but the probabilities are that the idle habits thus formed in early life will remain with you till your dying day. Be warned then in time, and resolve that as the hour spent in idleness is gone forever, you will improve each passing one, and thereby fit yourselves for usefulness and happiness.

— *London School Board.* — A memorandum issued by the School Board for London states that in the middle of July an inspection was made of the numbers and occupations of children under thirteen years old observed in the streets from the Royal Exchange, by Temple-Bar and Regent St., to Oxford-Circus, also from Farringdon-Circus, along Holborn, to the Marble Arch. The following is a summary of the result: — Board-sweepers, 14 boys; Crossing-sweepers, 0; licensed shoeblacks, 27 boys; other shoeblacks, 6 boys; sellers of matches, 45 boys and 11 girls; sellers of newspapers, 42 boys and 5 girls; sellers of other articles, 3 boys and 4 girls; number of boys, 137; number of girls 20; total, 157. Besides these children there were of persons in the same street, over thirteen years old, at the same employments, 180 men and 64 women—total 250; of whom 8 were crossing-sweepers, and in addition there were 77 persons with advertising boards between Temple-Bar and Oxford-Circus. Thus in about five miles of the most frequented thoroughfares there were 157 children street-workers.

Literature and Science.

— *Origin of Financial Abbreviations.* — The New York *Journal of Commerce* thus answers a query as to the origin of the dollar mark:

"The dollar sign (\$) was in use long before there was any Federal coinage to be represented. All these old characters grew into use so gradually that their exact origin is often disputed, and frequently lost even beyond the reach of long-armed tradition. The origin of the dollar-mark is disputed. Most old writers say the \$ came from the old Spanish pillar dollar, which bore on its reverse the two "Pillars of Hercules," the ancient name of the opposite promontories at the Straits of Gibraltar. The parallel lines in it, thus ||, stand, according to this explanation, for the two pillars, and they are bound together, thus \$, with a scroll. More modern writers claim that as the Spanish dollar was a piece of 8 reals, "8 R" being once stamped on it, and it was then called "a piece of eight," that the figure 8 with a line drawn through it, as characters were generally formed, produced the sign of the dollar. It was not called a dollar, but "a piece of eight." The name itself was borne in Germany, and from the fact that the first piece of this character was coined in the valley of St. Joachim, in Bohemia, in the year 1518, it was called Joachim's Thaler, the last half of the word being pronounced (and often written) *daller*. The character £ is the first letter of the Latin word *Libræ*, with a line across for the pound sterling; and the letters lb, with a line across it represents the same word as applied to a pound weight.

— *The Birth-Place of Pickwick.* — This little monastic enclosure is Furnival's Inn, once the mansion of the Furnival family, "A valiant family," says Mr. Jesse, "from Girard de Furnival, who fought by the side of Richard Cœur de Lion, on the plains of Palestine, to Thomas de Furnival, the companion of the Black Prince, on the field of Cressy." Alas!

"The knights are dust,
Their good swords are rust,
And their souls are with the saints, we trust."

No more helm and sabre, lance and trumpets, round the house of Furnival; but lawyers' deeds, blue bags and red tape. In 1383 the gallant, hard-fighting Furnivals became extinct, and the Inn fell by marriage to the Earls of Shrewsbury. In the reign of Edward VI., however, an Earl of Shrewsbury sold it to Lincoln's Inn. The Inn was rebuilt in the reign of James I.; but a part of it having been destroyed by fire and the rest growing ruinous, it was pulled down in 1817, and rebuilt by Mr. Peto, whose complacent statue now figures in the centre.

In the old building there was a chapel, near which stood a mulberry tree, a relic, perhaps, of James I., when loyal persons planted mulberry trees by the king's wish, to furnish food for the silk-worms, which were then being bred by the English silk manufacturers. But the chief memory that consecrates the inn is neither of the mulberry tree, nor of the knights of Cressy, it is a later and more immortal memory. At No. 15, high up at the top on the right hand

side as you face the door-way, are the humble chambers where Mr. Dickens was living when he wrote "Pickwick." He was newly married then, and writing zealously for the newspapers. Here his quick fancy devised that most delightful crowd of oddities, genial old "Pickwick," romantic "Snodgrass," daring "Winkle, and gallant "Tupman," the swift but vivacious "Jingle," "Sam Weller," the incomparable; here, with those vagrant pigeons from Guildhall, strutting and fluttering at the window, Dickens must have sat roaring at his own fun, and the creations of a humor only transcended by him who created "Falstaff." Yes, there has been laughing in the Inn before now; for here at No. 3, down to the left as you enter the archway, that gay, light-hearted "Mercutio," Mr. Charles Mathews, set up as an architect, and many a bright castle he built. "I went out one day, says Mr. Mathews, "left a card pinned up, 'back in an hour,' and did not come back in five years."

— *Bonds of Nations.* — The operation of dangerous and delusive first principles obliges us to have recourse to the true ones. In the intercourse between nations, we are apt to rely too much on the instrumental part. We lay too much weight upon the formality of treaties and compacts. We do not act much more wisely when we trust to the interests of men as guarantees of their engagements. The interests frequently tear to pieces the engagements; and the passions trample upon both. Entirely to trust to either, is to disregard our own safety, or not to know mankind. Men are not tied to one another by papers and seals. They are led to associate by resemblances, by conformities, by sympathies. It is with nations as with individuals. Nothing is so strong a tie of amity between nation and nation as correspondence in laws, customs, manners, and habits of life. They have more than the force of treaties in themselves. They are obligations written in the heart. They approximate men to men without their knowledge, and sometimes against their intentions. The secret, unseen, but irrefragable bond of habitual intercourse holds them together, even when their perverse and litigious nature sets them to equivocate, scuffle, and fight about the terms of their written obligations.

— *Books.* — Nothing ought to be more weighed than the nature of books recommended by public authority. So recommended, they soon form the character of the age. Uncertain indeed is the efficacy, limited indeed is the extent, of a virtuous institution. But if education takes in *vice* as any part of its system, there is no doubt but that it will operate with abundant energy, and to an extent indefinite. The magistrate, who, in favour of freedom, thinks himself obliged to suffer all sorts of publications, is under a stricter duty than any other, well to consider what sort of writers he shall authorize, and shall recommend, by the strongest of all sanctions, that is, by public honours and rewards. He ought to be cautious how he recommends authors of mixed or ambiguous morality. He ought to be fearful of putting into the hands of youth writers indulgent to the peculiarities of their own complexion, lest they should teach the humours of the professor, rather than the principles of the science. He ought, above all, to be cautious in recommending any writer, who has carried marks of a deranged understanding; for where there is no sound reason, there can be no real virtue; and madness is ever vicious and malignant.

— *Characters of Men.* — It is in the relaxation of security, it is in the expansion of prosperity, it is in the hour of dilatation of the heart, and of its softening into festivity and pleasure, that the real character of men is discerned. If there is any good in them, it appears then or never. Even wolves and tigers, when gorged with their prey, are safe and gentle. It is at such times that noble minds give all the reins to their good nature. They indulge their genius even to intemperance, in kindness to the afflicted, in generosity to the conquered; forbearing insults, forgiving injuries, overpaying benefits. Full of dignity themselves, they respect dignity in all, but they feel it sacred in the unhappy. But it is then, and basking in the sunshine of unmerited fortune, that low, sordid, ungenerous, and reptile souls swell with their hoarded poisons; it is then that they display their odious splendour, and shine out in the full lustre of their native villany and baseness. It is in that season that no man of sense or honour can be mistaken for one of them.

BURKE.

— *Mexico in 1569.* — The especial attributes of the most beautiful cities in the world were here conjoined; and that which was the sole boast of many a world-renowned name, formed but one of the charms of this enchantress among cities. Well might the rude Spanish soldier find no parallel but in the imaginations of his favourite