

succeeding number seems more carefully got up than the one which preceded it. We rejoice in its progress, and hope that it may continue worthy of its name. Our young friends will find much that is pleasing and instructive in the pages of this ever-welcome monthly visitor.

ENGLISH SYNONYMS. London: John W. Parker & Son. Toronto: A. H. Armour & Co.

We know of no better work to put into the hands of young composers than this little work of Archbishop Whately. To young ladies, much in the habit of epistolary correspondence, it would be found an invaluable companion, one that by pleasing insinuations would superinduce a concise, correct and elegant style, as well as a more judicious appreciation of the beautiful in composition. Take as an example the words Graceful and Elegant.—

"Grace is in great measure a natural gift; elegant implies cultivation, or something of a more artificial character. A rustic, uneducated girl may be graceful; but an elegant woman must be accomplished and well-trained. It is the same with things as with persons; we talk of a graceful tree, but of an elegant house or building. Animals may be graceful but they cannot be elegant. The movements of a kitten or a young fawn are full of grace; but to call them elegant animals would be absurd. Lastly, elegant may be applied to mental qualifications, which graceful never can. Elegance must always imply something that is made or invented by man. An imitation of nature is not called so; therefore we do not speak of an 'elegant picture', though we do of an elegant pattern for a gown, an elegant piece of work, &c., &c.

This is the kind of work, and it is confined more especially to those words in frequent use, so that it is thus more serviceable to the general reader."

Natural History.

An incident came under my notice which I have no doubt will interest some of your readers. A friend of mine in Richmond St. has a goose hatching, and upon Sunday morning last a rat paid her an early visit. His ratship lay in ambush near to the nest apparently watching an opportunity to seize his prey; but was observed by the goose, who gave the alarm in that peculiar note common to all birds in such proximity to danger. The male bird ever on the alert at such a time, was speedily on the spot to ascertain the cause of the alarm, when the rat commenced a retreat. But this was vain, it was too late, the gander seized it by the back, and struck it violently with his wings, and belaboured it for about ten minutes, when it was left for dead. The rat measured fully fifteen inches from the tip of the nose to the extremity of the tail, so that you may be satisfied it was no tyro at such pranks. C.

Oriental Sayings.

THE PHILOSOPHER AND THE BUCKET.

In the midst of a spacious place, before the Palace of an eastern Monarch, there is a well, and close by it is erected a beautiful throne, at the foot of which stands a bucket made of some kind of rushes. It was customary in ancient times, for the Kings to sit in judgment in this open place, and also to consult with their Ministers

about the affairs of the Kingdom, though this custom, has for centuries past been no longer practised by the reigning Monarchs of that place, and who, according to the general report, fall far short in justice and virtue compared with their predecessors.

A famous Philosopher happened in the course of his journeying to pay a visit to this ancient royal seat, of whose kings, history told so many heroic exploits and spoke so commendatory of their actions. He was well received by the then reigning prince, and the king himself in company with some of his Ministers conducted the Philosopher all over the Palace, showing him all that was worthy to be seen. At last they also came into the open space, and the King pointed out the beauties of the ancient throne to his illustrious visitor. But what is the meaning of this bucket at the foot of the throne, enquired the Philosopher. The prince himself not knowing what it meant, but having heard it was the emblem of something, replied, this bucket represents pardon, for it is the first virtue of a king to pardon.

The Philosopher smiled at this explanation, took up the bucket, stepped up to the well, and let it softly down, but the bucket being very light, it only swam on the surface of the water. Empty the water now said the Sage to one of the bystanders! Empty it! cried they all with one voice, laughing at the same time heartily, why it is empty, there is not a drop of water in it. Well then, continued the Sage, then we must try some other way, if one wishes to draw water with this bucket. With this he took the bucket and threw it down the well with all his might, the bucket filled, but sank immediately. Where is it now asked the Philosopher, looking about at the same time in the well, as if he was looking for it. You look in vain they all said titling, it is gone down to the bottom, and the well is very deep.

Indeed I exclaimed the Philosopher drawing up the bucket, and emptying it, look then, and I will show you the right way to use it. He now let it slowly, yet with some force glide down by the rope on which it was suspended, the bucket now equally balanced, half beneath and half above the water, filled itself gradually. Behold! said the Philosopher now, to those standing by, behold, the emblem of a good government, and of success in all undertakings. A prince who goes to work in the affairs of the state too softly and timourously, will succeed in none. A ruler too, or the father of a house, who allows those who are under his jurisdiction to do as they please, they are the bucket, swimming on the surface of the water, in which there comes not a single drop. Again those who act hastily, or do every thing in bad humour or in anger, or overdo what they undertake, they are the bucket that sank, being cast down with all force, which although it filled itself, yet went down to the bottom, and was not to be seen. But a king, a ruler, a father of a house, and in short, every person, who deliberately performs what he undertakes, never too rashly, nor too indolently, with lenity, and yet with decision, demanding that which is due to him in the kindest manner, he is the equally balanced bucket, which does not swim upon the surface of the water uselessly, nor sink down to the bottom overfilled. This is the meaning of the bucket at the foot of the throne, and it was customary in ancient times, to do in the presence of a new king on ascending the throne, just what I have now done, to show him the only way to govern his kingdom happily and successfully. I have only explained an old custom added: the Philosopher, let every one make such use of it as he may think fit. The Prince was highly pleased with the explanation given of the bucket by the Philosopher, and on his departure made him many valuable presents. R.

Miscellaneous.

THE TWO BROTHERS.

In a recent number of the *Bulldoz*, a scientific London paper, we have a variety of specimens of the epitaphs which adorn or disfigure the tombstones in some of the English Church Yards. Perhaps a copy of the celebrated one from *Pere la Chaise* is also there, although I have not seen it. About one of these epitaphs,—copied as the *Bulldoz* says from a tombstone in *Ulverstone*, I wish to say a few words, as it seems to me a plagiarism, which ought not to pass unnoticed, although connected with so grave a memento. I hasten then to set the public right upon a matter of so much importance;—and to prove the whole case I must carry the reader back some twenty years, in the world's history, to a pleasant evening in the month of June, when two colliers called upon my friend Mr. Jeffrey, to consult him upon a small matter of business. Their countenances were rueful and care-worn, and he very shrewdly conjectured that their errand was connected with the finer branch of his handicraft. Mr. Jeffrey be it understood was a stonemason; but to this he had coupled by his industry a touch of sculpture in its incipient stage. While at school, he frequently indulged an innate fancy for ornamental writing; and many a time, as he would gaze with a wonderful complacency on some sketch he had made on his slate, would the tawse come rap across his knuckles ere he was aware, and leave a carminea tinge for hours afterwards. In spite however of this almost daily check, the artistical germ gradually developed itself, and he devoted all his rainy days, and other spare time to the prosecution of this high art. When some of his companions would be lounging about the smithy on a snowy day, or skulking about the adjoining woods trapping hares, he would be snugly seated at the fire side, poking away with his sharp pointed chisel, and his little mallet, at some piece of ornamental tracery. No wonder that his name soon became famous and that he had a wide circle of patrons.

Amongst the rest of his numerous friends were William and John Condie, the two individuals previously alluded to. They had walked about three miles and a half, and were fortunate to find him at home, and in the happiest possible vein. After the compliments of the season had been exchanged,—

"We wished," said William,—addressing the artisan,—"that you would put up a decent stone for our lawier, who has gone to his lang hame. We are no very nice about the size; but would like it very neat, and want a poem put on to it aneth the name."

"Well Sirs, I have no doubt I will be able to please you. I have a great many specimens of appropriate verses, from which you may make a selection."

"We want to put something new on it," said William, "and John and me was thinking that you would help us out with a bit poem as we are no very quick at the pen. Fawther was an elder in the Old Light Burgher's Kirk at Sellershaw, and was muckle thought o' in the meeting, and we were thinking o' taking that in among the verses."

Well then friend suppose we just begin with the name.—John I believe was the name of your departed parent.

"Yes, Sir, he bore that name, and he was sixty two years; come Hansel Monday."

"Indeed, 'tis a long age.—"

This will do then for a commencement.

John Condie of Sellershaw

Died 4th June 1821 at 61 years.