

lation, lately retired from the examiner's department in the East India Company, with the admiration of his colleagues for the rare ability with which he had conducted the business of the department. Alexander Murray, the distinguished linguist, learned to write by scribbling his letters on an old wool-card with the end of a barut heather-stem. Professor Moor, when a young man, being too poor to purchase Newton's "Principia," borrowed the book and copied the whole of it with his own hand. William Cobbett made himself master of English grammar when he was a private soldier on the pay of sixpence a day. The edge of his berth, or that of his guard-bed, was his seat to study in; a bit of board lying on his lap was his writing table; and the evening light of the fire his substitute for candle or oil. Even advanced age, in many interesting cases, has not proved fatal to literary success. Sir Henry Spelman was between fifty and sixty when he began the study of science.—Franklin was fifty before he fully engaged in the researches in natural philosophy which have made his name immortal.—Boccaccio was thirty-five when he entered upon his literary career; and Alfieri was forty-six when he commenced the study of Greek. Dr. Arnold learned German at forty, for the sake of reading Niebuhr in the original. James Watt, at about the same age, while working at his trade of an instrument maker in Glasgow, made himself acquainted with French, German and Italian in order to peruse the valuable works in those languages on mechanical philosophy. Handel was forty-eight before he published any of his great works. Nor are the examples of rare occurrence in which apparently natural defects, in early life, have been overcome by a subsequent devotion to knowledge. Sir Isaac Newton, when at school, stood at the bottom of the lowermost form but one. Barrow, the great English divine and mathematician, when a boy at the Charter-house School, was notorious for his idleness and indifference to study. Adam Clarke, in his boyhood, was proclaimed by his father to be a grievous dunce. Even Dean Swift made a disastrous failure at the university. Sheridan was presented by his mother to a tutor as an incorrigible dunce. Walter Scott was a dull boy at his lessons, and while a student at the Edinburgh University received his sentence from Professor Dalzell, the celebrated Greek scholar, that "dunce he was, and dunce he would remain." Chatterton was returned on his mother's hands as "a fool, of whom nothing could be made." Wellington never gave any indications of talent until he was brought into the field of practical effort, and was described by his strong-minded mother, who thought him little better than an idiot, as fit only to be "food for powder."

VIRTUOUS EDUCATION AND FREEDOM.

An educated and virtuous people will be a free people. You may as well confine *Man* with bands of iron as subject them to a life of bondage, whether under one or many despots.

EUCLID'S GEOMETRY.

PROPOSITION 1st.—It is required to prove that beauty is disadvantageous.

Let beauty be the given subject, and the disadvantages thereof a given point therein; required from the subject, beauty, to draw inferences, to show the deleterious effects of it, sufficient to convince homely girls it is not worth sighing for.

Firstly, if beauty is a blessing, why are not the possessors of it happy, as the very idea of a blessing is enough to insure happiness? And if the possessors of it are not happy, but exactly the contrary, then it is not a blessing, but a curse. Vanity always attends beauty and makes itself visible in display of affectation; for affectation is the natural consequence of vanity. Now it has been shown by a preceding proposition that the advantages arising from the possession of beauty are not sufficient to counteract the disadvantages of affectation, for where we are attracted by beauty, we are disgusted by affectation. The resemblance is very much like that of the rose and the thorn. Affectation shows that the individual is conscious of her charms while the eyes of every discerning person divests her of them.

When we see a young and beautiful girl affecting melody of voice, harmony of speech, and assuming all the airs and importance of a person twice her age, we cannot (wise and experienced as we are) point out the angle where beauty assumes the place of deformity, though, by the way, we can solve several intricate and difficult matters as this.

Beauty, then, is not the cause of happiness to its possessors; but, on the contrary, it plants a thorn in their bosom which is doubtless oft-times the primitive cause of their destruction. Beauty by numerous means causes care, which corrodes the heart, steals the lustre from the eyes, the rose from the cheek, the ruby from the lips, the vivacity of the countenance, the mildness of the temper, and leaves naught but dullness and indifference, until the fair creature who smiled on every one, and on whom every one smiled, is laid in the cold and silent tomb, and soon forgotten by those who once thought it happiness to gaze on her lovely countenance and drink in her enrapturing smile. From this, then, it is evident that beauty is a curse, rather than a blessing.

Again, a lady possessed of beauty, is often too apt to rely upon it as a passport through the world, and thus neglect the improvement and education of her mind which is of far greater importance. A mind destitute of all original knowledge forms such disagreeable contrast with the beauty of the face, that disgust is formed in the minds of those who, otherwise, would admire. A wise man being asked "why the homely ladies were well-informed, learned and agreeable, while beautiful ones were exactly the reverse," answered that "the homely ones were conscious of their inability to please by their personal attractions, therefore, they endeavored to acquire those accomplishments of the mind which cannot fail to please let them be where they will;

while, on the contrary, the beauties thinking that their beauty is sufficient to carry them to the highest stations and bring crowds of the rich and honored at their feet, thus neglect the cultivation of their minds which would be of far more use to them than the beauty of the Hours themselves." Personal attractions will wear away, the teeth will decay, the eyes grow dim, and, oh, shocking to relate, she who was once so beautiful and admired, and to whom hundreds have stooped to do homage, is now an old, decrepid woman. And those curls, yes, those once glossy ringlets which shone with richest oils and perfumeries, have all disappeared and given place to grey hair. Again, love is never pure except when founded on esteem. Hence it is proved that beauty is disadvantageous, *Quod erat demonstratum.*

COROLLARY 1st.—Therefore, all homely damsels who have heretofore been sighing for beauty which you cannot obtain, now dry your eyes and store your minds with useful knowledge, an article you can possess.

COROLLARY 2d.—It is evident from the above proposition that all belles, and beauties, and rosy cheeks, ought to remember the day of wrinkles and grey hairs.

SCHOLIUM.—A handsome young lady is none the better for her beauty, if it be without mind, nor a homely one none the worse for a want of beauty if she possess a mind.

WALTER R. BISHOP.

FEMALE EDUCATION.

Let the education of the young woman be commensurate with her influence. Is it true that, in the completion of social life, she is the mistress of that which decides its hues? Then let her be trained to wield this fearful power with skill, with principle, and for the salvation of social man. Does she sometimes bear the sceptre of a nation's well-being in her hand? Cato said of his countrymen, "The Romans govern the world, but it is the women that govern the Romans."

The discovery of this very Continent testifies to the political influence of women. Who favored the bold genius of Columbus? Do you say Ferdinand of Spain? I answer Isabella prompting her partner to the patronage he so reluctantly bestowed. Her influence unexerted, the Genoese mariner had never worn the laurel that now graces his brow. Will you leave this all-potent being illiterate, to rear sons debased by ignorance, and become dupes of the demagogue?

Look at the domestic circle! Not more surely does the empress of night illuminate and beautify the whole canopy of heaven, than does woman, if educated aright, irradiate, and give her fairest tints to her own fireside. To leave her uncultivated, a victim to ignorance, prejudice, and the vices they entail, is to take home to our bosoms, a brand that will inflict pang sharper than death. For the love and honor of our homes, let us encourage the most liberal culture of the female mind.