

Written for the Miscellany.
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"The facility it affords to the acquisition of learning ought to render it an indispensable branch in the education of youth. To be enabled to treasure up for future study the substance of lectures, sermons, etc., is an accomplishment attended with so many evident advantages that it stands in no need of recommendation. Nor is it a matter of small importance that by this art the youthful student is furnished with an easy means of making a number of valuable extracts in the moments of leisure, and of thus laying up a stock of knowledge for his future occasions. The pursuit of this art materially contributes to improve the student in the principles of grammar and composition. While tracing the various forms of expression by which the same sentiment can be conveyed; and while endeavoring to represent by modes of contraction and the dependence of one word upon another, he is insensibly initiated in the science of universal language, and particularly in the knowledge of his native tongue. The rapidity with which it enables a person to commit his own thoughts to the safety of manuscript, also renders it an object peculiarly worthy of regard. By this means many ideas which daily strike us, and which are lost before we can record them in the usual way, may be snatched from destruction and preserved till mature deliberation can ripen and perfect them.

"In addition to these great advantages, science and religion are indebted to this inestimable art for the preservation of many valuable lectures and sermons, which would otherwise have been irrecoverably lost. Among the latter may be instanced those of Whitfield, whose astonishing powers could move even infidelity itself, and extort admiration from a Chesterfield and a Hume, but whose name would have floated down the stream of time had not shorthand rescued a portion of his labors from oblivion.

"With so many vouchers for the truth of the remark, we can have no hesitation in stating it as our opinion that, since the invention of printing, no cause has contributed more to the diffusion of knowledge and the progress of refinement, we might also add, to the triumphs of liberty and the interests of religion, than the

revival and improvement of this long neglected art.

"Such are the blessings which shorthand, like a generous benefactor, bestows indiscriminately on the world at large. But it has additional and peculiar favors in store for those who are so fortunate as to engage in its pursuit. The advantages resulting from the exercise of this art are not, as is the case with many others, confined to a particular class of society; for though it may seem more immediately calculated for those whose business it is to record the eloquence of public men and the proceedings of popular assemblies, yet it offers its assistance to persons of every rank and station in life—to the man of business as well as the man of science—the compositor as well as the reporter—for the purpose of private convenience as well as of general information."

W. H. F.

The Manufacture of Paper.

A lecture was delivered recently by Mr. William Arnot, F. C. S., of Edinburgh, on the manufacture of paper, at the rooms of the Society of Arts, London. It was generally admitted, he said, that the process of paper-making was introduced into England about the beginning of the fifteenth century, and into Scotland at the end of the seventeenth century. The process of converting rags into pulp was, until the last century, very laborious, but at that time the Hollander, or beating machine, was invented, which completely revolutionized the mode of making paper. The lecturer gave some interesting statistics relative to the trade. The number of mills in Britain was 385, of which 65 were in Scotland. There were in these mills 526 machines at work, producing annually 350,000 tons of paper, to which may be added 10,000 tons made by hand. The total production was thus 360,000 tons, valued at £20,000,000. The exports of England amounted to 16,000 tons, while she imported 24,000 tons. With respect to the consumption of paper in different countries, Mr. Arnot stated that in Russia the annual consumption was 1 pound per head of the population; in Spain $1\frac{1}{2}$; Mexico and Central America, 2; Italy and Austria, 5; France, 7; Germany, 8; United States, $10\frac{1}{4}$; and Britain $11\frac{1}{2}$.

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