

his chamber, and soon he was asleep, dreaming perhaps of angels and heaven. A few months afterwards sickness was on him, and the light of that cottage, the joy of that mother's heart, went out. He breathed his last in her arms, and as he took her parting kiss, he whispered in her ear, 'I am going to be an angel.'

A DULL BOY.

Adam Clarke learned but little before he was eight or ten years old, "and was seldom praised by his father but for his ability to roll large stones." Adam's trials in life began when it was thought necessary that he should learn the alphabet. In vain the names of the letters were repeated, in vain were they frequently moistened with the tears of the little learner, he seemed to know no more to-day than he knew yesterday.

Sometimes he was scolded for his stupidity, sometimes punished for his apparent inattention or obstinacy; till at length the poor child began to despair of ever learning to read. His mind was so much depressed by the fancied difficulty, and the reproofs which were sure to accompany the daily lesson, that, had not a circumstance occurred to give him some encouragement, his case might have soon been considered as hopeless.

"A gentleman from a neighbouring school having called on Mr. Clarke, he was requested by him to hear some of the boys repeat their lessons. Adam was then about eight years old, and was just learning to spell words of two or three letters; slowly and reluctantly he took up his book to the stranger, and with much fear and embarrassment went through his task as well as he could; his father felt quite ashamed of his ignorance, and remarked, 'That boy is a grievous dunce.' The stranger, patting the trembling child kindly upon the head, said, 'Never fear, sir; this lad will make a good scholar.' And 'this gentle word of encouragement' appears to have exercised almost a magical influence over the mind of the child; thenceforward his intellect developed with an astonishing rapidity."

THE LITTLE SHOES.

One winter evening, a shoemaker's boy was sent with an assortment of children's shoes to the "Fox and Geese." The landlady began calling to a little nurse girl to bring Adelaide to have her new shoes tried on. I could see the little creature, who was sitting under the gaslight in the bar, and kicking and screeching as the shoes were placed on her feet. At last a pair fitted, and the spoiled pet was lifted up triumphantly in her mother's arms. "Here, do look at her: the darling has let me get a pair of the very best ones on; look, father, do," said the mother calling to her husband. Just then a tall man, very thinly clad, came out of the tap-room passed the bar, and saw the child stretching out her feet for her father to see. Now, a poor woman had been hovering about in the corner, peeping now, and then creeping to the door: she had a child in her arms, and looked ready to drop with cold and weariness. I had seen that woman on many a Saturday night, waiting and watching thus for her husband to come out. Ah, there he is! rivetted for a moment, looking at the child showing her new shoes; with a start he roused himself, and rushed out.

"What, Bill, going so soon?" said the landlady.

Bill pulled his hat down over his eyes with one hand, clutched his old jacket tight over his chest, and answered the words with a sort of a grunt. He went outside; there was his wife and little one. For a moment the woman looked at him timorously, and half swerved aside, as if she was afraid. Something in Bill's look reassured her, and she went up close to him, feebly, but yet coaxingly; he took the child from her tired arms—the little creature gave a short quick cry of fright—and as he lifted it I saw that its little feet were bare; it drew them swiftly up under its poor frock, but not before the father saw them. I wished his hat had been off that I might have seen his face as those two little blue chilled feet met his eyes. I noticed that he put them in his bosom, and buttoned his jacket over them, and held the child close, and went on his way with a heavy stamp, as if he beat his feet down on the ground; his wife, slip-