

millions of the ants. Besides these proofs of the destructive power of these insects, the forests along the Estrada exhibit evidence of their skill in the pyramidical ant-hills similar to those he had seen on the coast of the province of Rio de Janeiro. He also observed large trunks of trees pierced with deep holes, having the appearance of filigree on a grand scale. This, too, was probably the work of these destructive insects.

ONE GOOD TURN DESERVES ANOTHER.

THE following story gives a striking example of the truth that a kind action is never thrown away. The date was that of the civil war between the parliament and King Charles I. The two parties had taken up arms and were vigorously carrying on the conflict. The King's army had been defeated several times, and those of his adherents taken with arms in their hands were led before the judges appointed by Cromwell in every town, to be condemned as rebels.

Sir Nicholas Newcastle was one of those judges. He was a man of austere manner, but without fanaticism; his devotion to the new government was well known, and Cromwell had a special esteem for him. His weakly constitution did not allow him to serve in arms for the cause, which he thought the just one, but he was looked upon as the most active and able, as well as the most rigorously just magistrate in his county.

One evening Sir Nicholas was at supper with his family and a few of his friends, when a band of soldiers arrived with a royalist prisoner, whom they had just succeeded in capturing. It was an officer who, after the rout of Charles's army, had been vainly trying to reach the coast, and there find means of escaping to France. Sir Nicholas ordered his hands to be unbound, and another table to be placed near the fireplace.

"It is my birthday," said he, "and I wish to finish