Pouth's Corner.

HE THAT RULETH HIS SPIRIT IS BETTER THAN HE THAT TAKETH A CITY.

I have a quantity of sewing that must be done this spring. I wish you were well and could assist me, my daughter, said Mrs. Weld to a pale, delicate little girl who was reading at her side. Any sighed mournfully, "I sincerely wish I could, mother,-how useless I am!' She sat gazing at her mother who was examining a pile of unfinished work, the neglected book she had been reading fell to the floor, her mother looked up and saw tears falling quick and fast from Amy's eyes.

"O, mother," she said amid her sobs, "I am of no use to any one in the world-I have no strength—I have no talents Dr. tells me I must not sit and sew what can I do to benefit one single being? She did not hear the merry shout of little George, who entered the room from school, his satchel slung over his shoulder, the happiest of the happy. He stopped and gazed a moment most sadly at Amy, then crept to her side and threw his arms around her neck. "Sister, I'm up to the head, and all because you heard my lesson this morning." The little fellow tried every endearment to show his interest and love.

"My dear daughter," said Mrs. Weld "here is an instance of the good you are the means of doing to those around you: you call forth and promote good and kind affections. Our Father in heaven looks into the heart. He knows that though 'the flesh is weak,' yet 'the heart is willing,' and he gives you many opportunities of calling out the highest feelings of your brothers and sisters. Do you think the children and the schoolmates would love you so tenderly, it they did not see you always patient, forbearing, and seeking constantly to have a good influence over them? Ah! my daughter, the self denying temper with which God has blessed you, does more to benefit us all than the strength of Samson without it!"

George's eyes glistened as the tears of Amy ceased to fall. "Mother," he exclaimed, "God puts love into sister's heart, and so she loves every body, and every body loves her." His sister pressed him to her lips, saying, "Yes, George, God is cery good, I am ungrateful."

Evening came; the younger children thought no one, not even "dear mother, placed them in bed so kindly and patiently little joys and sorrows, and when she had heard the voice of her brother Albert calling, "Come Amy, and give us some music." Her head throbbed with pain, and most little girls would immediately have refused, but she did not; seating herself at the piano, kind desire of her heart gave sweetness to her voice.

"I believe, mother," said Albert, "it is a fact that music makes one grow better, I the power of making every one amiable refreshes the mind as sleep does the body; it elevates and purifies our feelings."

When Mrs. Weld bade Amy good night, she whispered, "this is the first time I have ever heard my daughter murmur against the ways of an All-wise Providence. O, let it be the last time; if you continue earnestly endeavouring to conquer every wrong feeling, or selfish wish, be sure your heavenly Father will show you how you can be useful. Remember, His word says, - 'He that ruleth his spirit is better than he that taketh a city.'- Youth's Companion.

HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

SIR MATTHEW HALE.—This distinguished lawyer and eminent man was the son o Robert Hale, Esq., a barrister of Lincoln' Inn. He was born in 1609, was educated at the University of Oxford, and afterwards entered Lincoln's Inn for the study of the law. He applied himself with much zeal and attention to the duties of his profession, but did not neglect other pursuits, and soon attracted notice from his character and acquirements. During the civil wars which then unhappily raged, he behaved so well as to be esteemed by both parties. In 1653 he was appointed one of the Justices of the Common Pleas, and soon after Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, with the honour of Knighthood, although his modesty for a time prevented his acceptance of it. The great fire of London occurred about this time, when 13,000 houses were destroyed Sir Matthew Hale was one of the principal judges that were appointed to decide the differences which arose, in consequence of this calamity, between landlord and tenant, and behaved to the satisfaction of all. As a Judge, he maintained the strictest integrity. Many anecdotes are related to show his extreme attention to these particulars, of which the following is one. While going round his of Chatham.

circuit from county to county, to try the different causes which were to be heard, at one place where he was to hold his court, a gentleman who had a trial which was to come on at the assizes, sent him some vension for dinner. When the case was called, Sir Matthew Hale, hearing his name, asked, "if it were not the same person who had sent the venison"? and finding it was so, he would not suffer the trial to proceed until he had paid for the buck which had been presented to him. The gentleman said, he never sold his venison, and had done nothing more to him than he had done to every judge who had gone that circuit, which was proved to be the ease; but the judge was inflexible. In 1671 he was promoted to be Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, but his health did not permit him to keep this post more than four years, when he resigned it, and died in December 1675. He was an excellent subject, an upright judge, and a highly distinguished man, truly an ornament to his country. His writings were numerous, and principally on literary and scientific subjects.

In addition to his other excellencies, Bereans will be glad to know that he was a devout Christian, a sincere Protestant, and a true son of the Church of England. The following declaration was made by him with reference to the observance of the fourth commandment: "Though my hands and my mind have been as full of secular business both before and after I was made judge, as, it may be, any man's in England, yet I never wanted time in six days to ripen and fit myself for the business and employments I had to do, though I borrowed not one minute from the Lord's day, to prepare for it, by study or otherwise. But, on the other hand, if I had, at any time, borrowed from this day any time for my secular employment, I found it did further me less than if I had let it alone; and therefore, when some years' experience, upon a most attentive and vigilant observation, had given me this instruction, I grew peremptorily resolved never in this kind to make a breach upon the Lord's day, which I have now strictly observed for more than thirty years.' His charity, both in public and private, was unbounded, without any display: a tenth of his income being set aside for this object. He used constantly to worship God in his family, always himself presiding, unless a clergyman were present.

Mansfield .- William Murray, afterwards created Earl of Mansfield, was born at Penh in the year 1705. He was the as sister Amy; and they loved to say their fourth son of the Earl of Stormont, and comevening prayers with her, and tell all their menced his education at Westminster. Afterwards he became a student of given and received the good-night kiss, she Christ's College, Oxford, and, having finished his course there and obtained his degrees, he spent some time in travelling. On his return he, also, entered Lincoln's Inn to pursue his studies for the legal profession and, having passed his examination she sang her brother's favourite airs. The and been admitted to the bar, he soon distinguished himself by his abilities. In the year 1738 he was married to Lady Elizabeth Finch, daughter of the Earl of Win-Four years afterwards he mean such natural music as Amy's! I ente ed Parliament as member for Boroughknow that often when I have left the rough bridge and, the same year, he was boys at school, I feel that I should be appointed Solicitor General. In 1754 he almost savage if it were not for our happy was advanced to be Attorney-General, and evenings at home." "Amy seems to have two years later attained the very honouriole and responsible that approaches her," interrupted the father. Justice of the court of King's Beach, and "I can truly say, my daughter, that when I was created Baron Mansfield. In 1776 he return from the toils of business, at night, if was created the Earl of Mansfield. While I did not enjoy your attentions, I should presiding over the Court of King's Bench, retire wearied in every limb; music he introduced many improvements into its are on the islands at present; the remainpractice, and conducted himself with so der being employed in a timber factory on much ability and impartiality as to secure the respect and esteem of all parties; and, when in 1788 the infirmities of age obliged him to resign his office, a most respectful address was presented to him upon the occasion by the gentlemen of the bar, through the honourable Thomas Erskine.

Although he received so many striking tokens of the favour of his sovereign and country, he was destined, in the year 1780, to suffer from the violence of the mob. Great excesses were committed in London during this year by persons who were led on by Lord George Gordon, under the pretence of resisting Popish aggression. Petitions having been presented to the House of Commons from R. Catholic noblemen and gentlemen for a repeal of the laws which deprived them of what they considered their rights, and having been favourably received, large meetings were held at which Lord George Gordon presided, and inflammatory speeches were made, and counter petitions drawn up, which he presented to Parliament in person, accompanied by about 50,000 of his followers. For several days large bodies of riotous persons went about the town. plundering and setting fire, not only to R. C. Churches and to the dwellings of R. Catholics, but to those of persons supposed to be friendly to them. Lord Mansfield's house was burnt among others, and his valuable library and manuscripts destroyed. The House of Commons passed a resolution to make him a compensation for his loss, but he refused to receive it. It was he that pronounced the memorable judgment in the case of the slave Somerset, by which the law became settled that a slave was free the moment he set foot on English ground. He died on the 20th of March 1793, at the advanced age of 89, and was interred in Westminster Abbey, alongside of the Earl GS.

The place for public business in African † The native chiefs on that part of the coast

awyers whose memory the Committee on stick upon the sand. Mr. Newton mentions Fine Arts recommend to be honoured by the erection of statues in the new He was the Houses of Parliament. youngest son of the Earl of Buchan, and received his education first at the Edinburgh High School, and then at St. Andrew's University in Aberdeen. He spent four years as a midshipman in the navy, then entered the army and served four years in the Royals; but the persuasions of his family, especially his mother who seems to have understood his talent, induced him to exchange the profession of arms for that of the law. The very first case in which he acted as Counsellor, raised him to high credit, and he maintained an eminent standing among lawyers by his ability and success. His religious principles are made very doubtby the fact that he conducted the defence of Thomas Payne when this noted infidel was prosecuted for the publication of his book called "The Rights of Man." No enlightened friend of the Christian religion could have undertaken such a duty; and indeed Mr. Erskine gave great offence to many of his former friends by

his conduct on this occasion. In the year 1806, however, when Lord Grenville and Mr. Fox became the leading ministers of the crown, Erskine was invited to join them, and he was appointed to the high office of Lord Chancellor, receiving at the same time the title of Lord Erskine. To his honour it must be recorded that he was one of the persevering opponents of the Slave-Trade and in his capacity of Chancellor he had the happiness of opening the communication by which the consent of the Prince Regent was given, in the year 1807, to the Act for the Abolition of that inhuman traffic. It was the last act he had to perform in his official capacity. Mr. Fox was dead, and the Grenville ministry were obliged to retire from office; they held their situations only just to complete certain measures of which they were the authors. The Slave-Trade-Abolition is the one which does them most credit.

Lord Erskine's retirement was embittered by unsuccessful speculations in land which embarrassed his fortune, and by domestic discomfort. After the death of his first wife, in 1805, he made a very unsuitable match; and when he sought to get rid of his wife by divorce, he did not succeed. He died in the year 1823.

PLAINTAIN ISLANDS.

On the West Coast of Africa, about fifty miles south of Freetown , Sierra-Leone. REMINISCENCES OF THE REV. JOHN NEWTON

Every one conversant with the writings and history of the Rev. John Newton, remembers that it was on the Plaintain Islands that he was fifteen months in captivity, the object of pity and commisseration by the meanest slave. Referring to Mr. Newton's narrative we find the Islands described as being, in his time, the centre of the white men's residence, who were then eagerly pursuing their traffic in slaves along the coast. From this place it was that he hired himself to a slave dealer; by whom, no doubt, he was subsequently removed to the Plaintains-the scene of those grievous mortifications and sufferings which he was called to pass through, and which are so feelingly referred

to in his narrative. The Plaintains contain about 200 inhabitants. Not more than fifty persons the opposite coast. We took our dinner in the Palaver house, Among other inquiries which I made of the Messrs. Caulkers. † I did not forget John Newton; and was pleased to find, that although so many years have passed since he was a wan derer on the Island, his name and history have not been forgotten. It appears that at the Kittam River, which is about 150 miles from the Plaintains, and which is particularly referred to in Mr. Newton's narrative as being the place at which he was finally liberated from his captivity, the old people well remembered the circumstance of the ship's calling in, and carrying Mr. Newton away.

From Mr. Newton, we were naturally led to inquire about the lime trees planted by him, and to which no small degree of interest had been attached. We were pleased to find that they were still in existence. Our friends seemed proud in telling us that in 1831, a gentleman from Sierra Leone had visited the island and had carried away a cutting from one of them. After dinner Mr. Caulker took a ramble with us over the islands; when we made our way first to the lime trees. These trees, although possessing the appearance of extreme age, are yet green and flourish-

These islands are very small; the largest which alone is inhabited, is not more than two miles in circumference. On this solitary spot it was that Mr. Newton passed many a sorrowful day, beguiling his hours with Barrow's Euclid, the only book in his possession. While walking along the shore, it afforded me peculiar pleasure to imagine that I had trodden the spot where Newton, in his captivity, lightened

> Military Asylum. JEFFERY HALE. Quebec, 2nd Oct. 1845.

LORD ERSKING closes the series of his sorrows by drawing diagrams with a his going in the night to wash his only shirt upon the rocks, and putting it on his back to dry: in so small a place, there can be Patronized by little difficulty in fancying the spot he visited for the purpose; which, no doubt, was ROYAL FAMILY upon the rocks near the house. - Every thing and every circumstance, connected Great Bris with John Newton, while a wanderer upon the island, is interesting; and particularly so upon a review of his subsequent history. Who but must admire the grace and mercy of God, in raising one sunk so low in the depths of wretchedness and guilt, dead in trespasses and sins, to a life of righteousness; in bringing one so fast bound in the bondage of Satan to the glorious liberty of the sons of God; in making one, so lost in the estimation of his fellow creatures, a very outcast from society, despised by the meanest slave, hereafter to become an eminent preacher of the Gospel of His Son; and through his writings, to have millions through many generations !- Journul of Mr. Collins.

The following is the passage from New ton's Memoirs which gives special interest to the lime-trees referred to in the above:

words of Jacob might well affect Mr. Newton when remembering the days in which he was busied in planting some lime or lemon trees. The plants he put into the ground were no higher than a young goose berry bush. 'My master and his mistress (says Mr. Newton) in passing the place, stopped a while to look at me; at length, Who knows,' says he, but, by the time these trees grow up and bear, you may go home to England, obtain the command of a ship, and return to reap the fruit of your labours? We see strange things sometimes happen.'-This, as he intended it, was a cutting sareasm. I believe he thought it full as probable that I should live to be king of Poland; vet it proved a prediction, and hey (one of them at least) lived to see me return from England, in the capacity he had mentioned, and pluck some of the first limes from those very trees.'

Newton's master, mentioned above, was a Slave-trader, and his mistress a native woman who treated Newton in the most cruel and insulting manner. The epitaph which he wrote for himself, opens thus:

John Newton, Clerk, Once an infidel and libertine, A servant of Slaves in Africa Was by the rich mercy of our Lord and Savious Jesus Christ, Preserved, restored, pardoned, And appointed to preach the faith he Had long laboured to destroy, Near 16 years at Olney in Bucks

The church was St. Mary's, Woolnoth the parish in which, the Mansion House of the city of London is situated : so that the "servant of slaves" became the pastor of the chief magistrate of the first commercial city in Europe. He held that charge 28 years, to his death in 1807.

- years in this Church."

THE CHINESE BAC-PIPE. Among the Chinese instruments we

must not forget to mention one which sound that is produced by what is called the the beauty and quality of the Type cast in the Chinese and Caledonian pipes is so the Proprietor will do himself the Proprietor will do himse exactly similar, that it has never failed to visited China; and indeed the recognition has been mutual, for when a Highland piper (who had been taken out in an Indiaman) was sent up to Canton to attend a meeting of the sons of St. Andrew on the national anniversary, the Chinese were no less struck with the picturesque costume of the plaided Gael than ravished by the strains which proceeded from his instrument. It may be hoped that, in this respect, they evinced a more correct taste than was displayed by one of the sailors on board the same ship with the Highlander. It was on some occasion when the latter, with a pistol and dirk at his side, was parading the deck with his pipes, that the unlucky Jack, tempted by the mere spirit of mischief, or willing to lower the inflation of his Scottish shipmate, snatched up a young pig, and, placing it between his right arm and his side, squeezed the poor animal until it emitted sounds as loud at least, if not so musical, as those of the instrument which it thus unconsciously burlesqued. The action was so irresistibly comic, that shouts of laughter echoed through the ship; and the piper would have been provoked to take summary vengeance on the author of the jest, had he not been prevented by the interference of the by-standers.—The Chinese, by Governor Davis.

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