

Section. I never after saw her alive.

"For several years, I was leader in all the dissipation of a licentious court. Endowed from my birth with a robust constitution, I withstood excesses which carried many of my wretched companions to an untimely and awful grave. Buoyed up by the flattering anticipations of youth and inexperience, 'I gave my heart to know madness and folly,' and said, 'Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth.' I visited distant countries. I frequented every resort where pleasure was sought or reported to have been found. In a word, I passed my days as if there was no God that judgeth in the earth. At length my mother who had not ceased to follow me with the most tender expostulations, while compelled to blend with them the language of warning, wrote to inform me that my abandoned conduct (which had reached her ears through a thousand channels), united with my unkindness, had broken her heart and that she expected soon to be removed from a world where she had experienced many afflictions: 'most of all,' she added, 'in the behaviour of my still dear son. Freely I forgive you, Claude; may a Heavenly Father forgive you freely too! O how many an unutterable pang have I endured on your account! How many a painful hour have I spent in supplication for you, my ill-fated, unfortunate child. But I will yet trust, that my prayers for you will be answered, when the hand that now traces these lines is lifeless and mouldering, and when the heart that dictates them has ceased to beat. Yea, I will hope even against hope, that the goodness and long-suffering of that Saviour who has supported me under all my trials, will yet lead you to repentance; and that I shall hereafter meet you in those abodes where you will no longer need reproof, and where your affectionate mother will for ever dry her tears.'

"Stung with remorse, I hurried home; and eagerly inquiring for my unhappy parent, was told that she had just expired, with her latest breath imploring the divine pardon on my head. I flew to 'the chamber of death'—I fell upon her face, and kissed her, and wept—till exhaustion gave way, and I was carried insensible to bed. Here I lay in the delirium of a fever, wavering on the borders of eternity for nearly three months. It pleased Him, however, who 'keepeth mercy for thousands,' to spare me a little. And, O how shall I sufficiently adore and magnify the gracious dispensation which still granted me leisure to 'call my sins to remembrance!' A pious aunt, the sister of my mother, who had come to attend her during illness, watched over me through the whole period of my sickness and convalescence, with most tender assiduity, and seized every favourable opportunity to impress my mind with value of the things invisible. And ever rified be His name whose 'eye saw and pitied' her labours were not in vain.

'By slow degrees my strength returned, and health was re-established. Often, now, would I go and sit beside my mother's grave, read her letters over and over, and weep and try to pray. My mind henceforward, through the efficacious influence of divine grace took a decidedly serious inclination which I fostered by the instruction of my aunt. On I now looked upon as my parent in the place of her I had brought with sorrow to the grave.

"But a few years had elapsed from this time, when I married a lady by birth a Swiss, a native of the canton of Basle. She was, indeed, of the Lord's providing; and a help meet for me she proved. We had an only daughter, who grew up the lovely image of her mother. Of this dear pledge of our affection, we were possibly too enamoured; and he who lent it to us for a short and sweet season, early withdrew it from our view. It was a 'gourd of his own preparing,' and we sat beneath its shadow with inexpressible delight. But there was a worm at its root, and soon, O how soon! it withered and died.

"As we were unwilling to part with her even for a moment, and found it difficult to procure such instructors for her as we desired, my beloved wife, who was every way qualified for the office, undertook to be her preceptress. Our first care, however, was to endeavour, trusting that our little labour would be countenanced from above, to instil into her mind a love for that God who made and redeemed her. We taught her, and exemplified the mournful truth from the indications of it in herself, that we were all 'born in sin,' and by nature the children of wrath.' From this we led her, as her childish years could receive it, to the sacrifice once offered on the cross. We had nothing in ourselves, we told her, wherewith to propitiate our offended Creator; and he himself had provided in the person of his Son, a mean of reconciliation. We then showed her how the benefit of this oblation was to be appropriated, by 'believing the record which God hath given;' and that, as in herself dwelt 'no good thing,' so she must pray that the Holy Spirit would regenerate and purify her infant heart. O how sweet it was to train up our beautiful babe! With her it was indeed an animating, a

Delightful task, to rear the tender thought,
To teach the young idea how to shoot,
And pour the fresh instruction o'er the mind."

And how her bright blue eyes would sparkle, though suffused at intervals with tears, when we spoke of that 'good Shepherd,' who 'gathers the lambs with his arms and carries them in his bosom,' and who tends with such affectionate anxiety even 'the least of the little ones of his fold, lest it should go astray and be lost.' Thus as 'a vine brought indeed out of Egypt,' but with a gentle hand watered with the softest dews of heaven, and protected by the assiduous watchfulness of parental fondness, lest 'the bear out of the wood should waste it, or the wild beast of the field devour it, she grew, and 'sent forth her branches,' and our 'trees were covered with the 'pleasant shade.'

To be continued.

DAWN OF GENIUS.

KING ALFRED.—Alfred, more justly surnamed the GREAT than any of his predecessors, was born in an age of the most profound ignorance, when learning was considered rather as a reproach than an honour to a prince. He was not taught to know one letter from another till he was about twelve years of age, when a book was put into his hands, more by accident than by previous design. The queen, his mother, one day being present with her four sons, of whom Alfred was the youngest, and having a book of Saxon poems in her hand, beautifully written

and illuminated, observed that the royal youths were charmed with its external appearance; upon this she said, "I will make a present of this book to him who shall first learn to read it." Alfred immediately took fire, and applied his mind with such ardour, that in a very little time he both read and repeated the poem to the queen and received it for his reward. From that moment he felt an insatiable thirst for knowledge; and reading and study became his chief delight. Such was his proficiency that he composed various poems, and apt stories; and translated from the Greek the fables of Æsop. He also gave Saxon translations of Gregory on the Pastoral Office, of the histories of Orosius and Bede, and of the Consolation of Philosophy by Boethius. The last literary work in which he engaged, was a translation of the Psalms of David into Anglo-Saxon, which however he did not live to finish.

Alfred came to the crown young, but found affairs in that state that he was obliged to seek refuge, in disguise, in the cottage of one of his herdsmen, whose wife ignorant of the quality of her guest, and observing him one day by the fireside, employed in trimming his bows and arrows, she desired him to take care of some cakes which were toasting, while she was employed in other domestic affairs. But Alfred, whose thoughts were otherwise engaged, neglected this injunction; and the good woman, on her return, finding her cakes burnt, rated the unknown king very severely; and upbraided him, that he was always ready enough to eat her warm cakes, though he was so negligent in toasting them.

AGESILAUS.—King of Sparta, while yet a boy, was present at some solemn spectacle; and being assigned a place not very honourable, he obeyed, though apparent successor to the kingdom; saying, 'It is well: I shall shew that the place does not honour the man, but the man the place.'

ALEXANDER THE GREAT.—Ambition discovers itself at a very early period of life: Alexander (afterwards called the Great) when a boy, being very swift of foot, was persuaded to run in the Olympian races: 'So I will,' said he, 'if kings will run with me.'

MISCELLANEOUS.

From the Cheap Magazine.
THE ROAD TO RICHES.

Preliminary Address to my Young Readers.

MY YOUNG READERS,

Knowing, as I do, from sad experience, the many flighty sallies, or notions, which sieze the juvenile mind, and the power that these fanciful ideas have over the actions of youth, by either actuating them to do that which is wrong, or prompting them to spend in idleness (the bane of happiness) that portion of life, when the foundation of the future man should be laid; for as PORE says:

"'Tis education forms the common mind:
Just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclined."

And again, as king SOLOMON observes: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it?" implying, that habits, though easily instilled when young, are hard to be erased when old.