

improving what they have, come to have 'more'—more light, more knowledge, more wisdom, love, zeal, courage and fidelity,—so that they may be said to have 'abundance,' they do not obtain such increase in the way of merit, but in virtue of His good will and pleasure, who was pleased to prescribe this method to Himself, for the filling of His people with His fulness. As when He justifies them that believe, He doth it freely for Himself, and from Himself, because He hath fixed this way of showing mercy to His creatures; and though the believing of the sinner comes in as the means of reception, that believing hath no more of merit than the stretching out of the 'authored hand' had in effecting its own cure. In like manner, though the Holy Spirit of God enlarges His work, and increaseth His gifts and graces in the hearts of men in exact proportion as His former and lower gifts and motions have been improved,—yet He does this not because by improving these they have deserved more; but because He respects His own plan and counsel. By establishing this rule, God has graciously put it in our power to increase in spiritual riches, in heavenly knowledge, in faith, in love, and in joy—with all the increase of God. Under such an arrangement we ought to be ever going on; having and having—receiving and receiving—till we are filled with all the fulness of God."

### Miscellaneous Table Talk Topics.

**It's AN ODD THING.**—"It's an odd thing," said a man, staggering along the street, in his shirt sleeves, with a blacksmith's apron round his loins; "it's an odd thing that I can't keep my legs."

"To me there seemed to be nothing odd in this matter, for I saw that he had taken strong drink enough to make any man stagger."

"It's an odd thing," said a woman, as I passed by her habitation, "but that lad of mine is always in mischief. This is the second pane of glass he has broken; and last week he was near blowing up the house with Gunpowder."

Odd as this appeared to the lad's mother, it seemed to me a very commonplace, every day affair. To my knowledge, she had let her son have his own way in everything; no wonder, then, that he should plague her heart. "The rod and reproof," says the wise man, "give wisdom; but a child left to himself brings his mother to shame."—*Sunday School Aids.*

**NAPOLEON BONAPARTE'S OPINION OF NOVEL READING.**—No works were read but those of real value. By common consent, all novels were banished from the circle, as Napoleon inveterately abominated every thing of that kind. If he happened to find a novel in the hands of any of the attendants of the palace, he unhesitatingly tossed it into the fire, and soundly lectured the reader upon her waste of time. If Josephine had been a novel reader, she never could have acquired that mental energy which enabled her to fill with dignity and with honor every position she was called to occupy.—*Abbot's History of Josephine.*

The expectation of future happiness is the best relief of anxious thoughts, the most perfect cure of melancholy, the guide of life, and the comfort of death.

A WESTERN editor, in answering to a complaint of a patron that he did not give news enough, advised him when news was scarce to read his Bible, which he had no doubt would be new to him!

**IMPROPRIETY OF DRESS.**—The eye affects the heart, and not infrequently inflames the passions.—The lusts of the eye are like the winds of heaven, giving intensity to the raging element, and spreading far and wide the triumphs of desolation. With what caution should every thing that his unbecoming he avoided! While taste and refinement are not forbidden, it should be the refinement of an elevated, purified mind. Any and every approach to those modes of dress which are contrary to the principles of modesty, purity, and holiness, should be met with prompt and unqualified condemnation.

**READING.**—A taste for reading should be cultivated in early life. It is one of the most important incitements to the acquisition of knowledge. But it is still more important to cultivate a taste for solid reading. Some young persons read for no other purpose than to amuse themselves; hence, the more light and frivolous anything is, the better it suits them. Such a taste for reading is most injurious. Better never read at all than to read trash. Such reading affects the mind very much as crude unripe fruits affect the stomach. It creates a feverish appetite for some-

thing that will excite the feelings, and produce a momentary pleasure; and wholly unfit the mind for patient thought. It is wrong to do anything merely for the sake of pleasing ourselves. We must live for a higher and nobler object. The reading of young persons should be not only interesting, but profitable—such as will improve their minds and hearts, and qualify them for usefulness.—*Youth's Cabinet.*

**STRIKE THE KNOT.**—When we were boys, little fellows, our father began to teach us to work, and we were anxious to perform the allotted tasks. We were splitting wood. A rough stick with a most obstinate knot, tried all the skill and strength of a weak arm, and we were about to relinquish the task, when father came along. He saw the piece of wood had been chipped down, and the wood hacked round, and took the axe, saying, "Always strike the knot." The words have always remained safe in my memory. They are precious words, brethren. Never try to slun a difficulty, but look it right in the face; catch its eye, and you can subdue it as a man can a lion. It will cower before you, and sneak away and hide itself. If you dread difficulties, difficulties will grow upon you till they bury you in obscurity.

**A LITTLE JRAVEN.**—The beginning of good or evil, is generally very small. A religious life begins with word or thought. A revival of religion, with a thought or prayer of some individual. An evil thought or feeling has been the commencement of a course that has ended in the penitentiary or on the gallows. How important a thought or a prayer! A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth! A grasshopper once caused a war between two Indian tribes, that resulted in the extinction of one of the tribes. And a hasty, unguarded word in a church, neighborhood or family, kindles a flame, which, like a prairie fire, threatens to burn up all before it.

To preserve the entire liberty of one's judgment, without being prepossessed with false reasons, or pretended authority, is a strength of mind whereof few are capable.

If you are disquieted at anything, you should consider with yourself, is the thing of that worth, that for it I should so disturb myself, and lose my peace and tranquility?

**WHY STAND YE ALL THE DAY IDLE?**—It seems never to strike the minds of vast numbers of professing Christians, that to spend three-score years and ten on a field of conflict, the listless spectators of a strife, in which heaven every moment importunes them to take part, is disobedience and guilt. But for this large sum of human ciphers, this aggregation of figures, whose total is nothing, the final sentence is already prepared. "Depart, ye cursed, into everlasting fire," etc. "Inasmuch as ye did it not," etc.—*Harris.*

**VERY LAKE!**—An advertisement of cheap shoes and fancy articles, in an Eastern paper, has the following:—"N. B. Ladies who wish cheap shoes, will do well to call soon, as they will not last long."

It is not the height to which men are advanced that makes them giddy; it is the looking down with contempt upon those below them.

### Obituary.

We deeply sympathize with our warm-hearted and zealous Temperance friend Mr. J. J. E. Linton, of Stratford, C. W., in the loss and bereavement he has experienced in the death of his eldest son. This intelligent and promising young man was on his way to Australia, per ship *Revenue*; but by a mysterious Providence sickened and died on board ship. This sad event occurred on the 30th of September last. Had young Linton lived till October, he would have been 22 years of age. He was well spoken of, and stood high in the estimation of all his acquaintances. The Upper Canada papers which have noticed his death lament the occurrence, and we can only trust that by God's grace he was prepared for his end, then the loss sustained by survivors is more than compensated by the exceeding great reward in heaven.

P. S.—In a note from Mr. Linton we learn that there was a good Temperance meeting at Stratford on the 23rd of May. Well attended, "liberal, reasonable, sensible" speaking. Go on and prosper.