



SCURLOGSTOWN CASTLE.

The Castle of Scurllogstown, here figured, stands by the roadside, and commands a most extensive prospect around; and though but possessing little architectural adornment, its outline is particularly pleasing. It was one of the strongest built watch-towers of the Pale, and its having so few external apertures, its massive and gloomy walls, its tall towers, and unbroken battlements, give it such a stern appearance that on passing it one still expects to hear the warder's challenge from its gate. It was built in 1180 by William de Scurllog, one of the Anglo-Norman fief-holders of Meath. Its outward wall is still quite perfect, as are also some of its stone floors; it may be considered the type of several other English castles in this part of the country, as, for instance, at Asigh and Trubly, &c.; consisting of a square keep or donjon, with round towers at the diagonal corners. These turrets, having circular stairs in them, were entered by small doors from each of the floors, and they rise somewhat above the square portion of the castle. A perpendicular crack traverses the entire extent of the eastern wall of this building, said to have been caused by the balls of Cromwell, whose progress up the Boyne from Trubly, where he slept the night after the siege of Drogheda, the constable of Castle Scurllog was hardy enough to challenge; but, like many similar recitals of Cromwell's "crowning mercies" in Ireland, this rests for its authority more upon tradition than written history.

Duty is the grandest of ideas, because it implies the idea of God, of the soul, of liberty, of responsibility, of immortality. It is also the most generous, because independently of it there is neither pleasure nor interest.

## GIRLS IN THE SCHOOL-ROOM.

One of the most melancholy features of this question of middle-class girls' education is that the very children who are now growing up under inefficient governesses and without even that useful household training which was given to their grandmothers, are to be our governesses of the future. A professional man dies; his daughters are left unprovided for. Friends interest themselves in getting them situations, and have no compunction in seeing them undertake work which requires years of special training. These helpless young women mourn their sad fate, but are obliged to accept a small salary, or even none, for the sake of a roof to shelter them. This does not, however, prove that they are fit to be governesses. Many a clergyman sees the children in his parish school getting a really better education than he can procure for his own. He tries to persuade himself that a smattering of European languages, and the power of playing Mendelssohn's "Songs Without Words" wrong on the piano, will make up for the want of the solid foundation which the certificated master, who has learnt to teach, is able to give to the laborer's child. At any rate, he thinks he has no choice, for he cannot afford to spend more money than he already does. It perhaps cannot be expected that he should dispense with a governess, teach his little girls Latin *à la croquet*, imbue them with a love for the best literature in their own language, encourage them to spout Shakespeare and make their own clothes. After all, it is not so much matter what children learn so that they acquire the power of concentrated attention. When they strike out a line for themselves, as they are almost sure to do, if they have the gift of application, they will get on. Lady Duff Gordon was not the less well educated because she was not taught what are called accomplishments. She learned to use her eyes, and her memory, and her reason, and truly valuable she found her desultory but excellent training. The great aim of education ought to be to teach children how to make use of their own minds. The mental activity which is at first an effort will gradually become a habit, and a good and enduring foundation will be laid. The mental indolence which girls now acquire in the school-room is fatal to intellectual development. They learn it partly from being helped over difficulties instead of being made to master them, and partly from the dawdling and waiting to say their lessons which it is almost impossible to help when each child of a number is in a different stage of proficiency.

Gaming finds a man a cully and leaves him a knave.