

JUVENILE ENTERTAINER.

"Torquet ab obscuris jam nunc sermonibus aurem."

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JUVENILE ENTERTAINER

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BIOGRAPHY.

The Progress of Genius.

FROM OBSCURE AND LOW SITUATIONS, TO eminence and CELEBRITY.

Genius is that gift of God which learning cannot confer, which no disadvantages of birth or education can wholly obscure.*

PETER ANTHONY MICHELL.—An eminent Botanist, was born of mean parentage; and he became errand boy to a bookseller.

Being fond of fishing, and told of a plant which had the quality of stupifying fishes, he had the curiosity to examine it. Some monks of the abbey of Valombrosa, perceiving his genius, took him under their instruction.

In process of time MICHELL became associated with TILLY in the superintendance of the botanic garden at Pisa, director of that at Florence, and botanist to the grand-duke, and was the author of a number of works.

PHILIP MILLER.—The celebrated English Botanist, was near fifty years gardener to the apothecaries' Company, at their physic garden at Chelsea.

He was the author of the "Gardener's Dictionary," and other works, and allowed to be the best writer on gardening in the kingdom. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society and Botanical Academy at Florence. He corresponded with LINNÆUS, and before his death was honoured with the acquaintance and correspondence of the connoisseurs in his favourite science, all over Europe and America.

SKETCH OF THE CHARACTER OF THE LATE JUDGE, WASHINGTON, And relating to the interest he took in the American Sabbath-School Society.

A simple and eloquent tribute* has been paid to the memory of the late JUDGE WASHINGTON, by one who knew him long and well; but his high official relation to this Society, as one of its vice presidents, induces us to speak of him again.

Judge Washington lived more than seventy years; and few men have ever enjoyed, to a great

er extent, the confidence and respect of the community. His knowledge of the world, of human nature, of the principles of government, and of the complicated relations and duties of the social state, combined with his great learning, moral worth, and exemplary piety, entitle all his opinions to high consideration.

History will, at some future day, compare the characters and principles of distinguished men whom we have known, and will justly decide between them. It is enough for us, that we can select from them a character like JUDGE WASHINGTON'S: presenting the virtues that adorn and bless the domestic circle, the learning, judgment, and integrity, that secure and justify public confidence; the firmness, equanimity and benevolence, that exalt and dignify the man; and the faith, meekness, devotion, and consistency, that distinguished the Christian. And it is more than enough that such a man has left his deliberate, solemn, and repeated decision, upon the character and merits of the AMERICAN SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION. Judge Washington was not a man of forms and compliments. Exactness and simplicity distinguished his opinions. He surveyed at once the design, principles, and tendencies of a given measure; and his decision rested on the clear and full convictions of an enlightened mind.

In regard to his piety, one who personally knew him, and knew well his religious character and habits, informs us, that if ever humble trust in the Lord Jesus Christ or the only foundation of a sinner's hope, was exercised by any man, it was exercised by Judge Washington. His books of religious reading were of the highest evangelical character. His private duties were discharged with scrupulous regularity. All the hours of every Sabbath, were most devoutly consecrated to religious occupations and observances—family worship was attended with the utmost regularity, and with a delightful simplicity, and, indeed, every domestic arrangement had reference to the comfort, good order, and above all, the moral and religious improvement of his household.

* The same dispensation of Providence, which has deprived the judgment seat of one of its brightest ornaments, and the community of one of its most distinguished citizens, has taken from this Society one of its highest officers. No man was more beloved, no man more highly respected, than Judge Washington. He had a rare purity and simplicity of character, and a sincerity that always enabled us to say, that whatever he professed, he believed. This man, whom the whole community mourns, was as humble in his walk, and as devoted to all the duties of life, and as deeply interested in the prosperity of our enterprise, as he was distinguished and honoured in his exalted public station.

HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

CALCUTTA.

Melancholy account of the Immolation of a Widow on the Funerary Pile.

About five o'clock this afternoon I received intelligence, that a woman was about to burn with the corpse of her husband.

I went immediately to the ghaut, accompanied by our native brother. The distance was about a mile from our house. Many of the brahmins know us, and our arrival was the signal for shouting hurree bol—hurree bol. We went to the place where the dead body was lying upon the pile, which was about two or three feet from the ground. The pile was just wide enough for another body to lay abreast, and just the length of the corpse. The fat murderous brahman who seemed to be the chief director of the tragic business, held in his hand a leaf that he professed to be from the ved shaster, directing how the ceremony was to be performed. All was horrid noise and confusion. I was repeatedly forbid to touch the pile. I asked the brahmins how they could take part in so murderous an affair; but all was fury and vociferation. I might as well have had held my peace, yet who that has one spark of love to human nature could be silent; Two thin green bamboos, just about long enough to reach over the pile, were about being fastened by the lower end to the ground. We reminded them that government had forbidden force to be used, and they desisted. Now the woman came from bathing, and as she approached the pile a shout of hurree bol was repeated. Upon her coming up, the brahmins all surrounded her in a moment, and began to hurry her round the pile. The brahman who held the leaf above mentioned began to read, but the noise was too great for the woman or any one else to hear a single word. At this time, as six or eight of these monsters had got hold of her I protested they were using violence. To convince me, however, that she was doing it from choice, a brahman, who knew me very well, caused them to stand still, that I might put the question to her. I did so, and understood her to say, 'It was her desire to go with her husband.' Upon this, another shout was set up, and they hurried her round the pile the seventh time; she throwing to the bystanders parched rice, &c. which she held in a corner of the cloth she had round her. When she had gone round the seventh time she stood still for a short time to adjust her clothes, and began to mount the pile, the tender-hearted brahmins rendering her so much assistance that what little strength she had was quite unnecessary to be exerted on this part of the fatal process. When she had mounted, another yell was set up; she laid herself down, and put her husband's withered arm around her. All now was haste to despatch the business. I could bear no more, so went to a distance to the top of the bank. In turning round, I saw a cord fastened tightly round the two bodies, and thick pieces of wood heaping on by which they were pressed as closely together as possible. Together with the wood there was a great deal of straw, and long dry rushes. I was told the son set fire to the pile, but had not an opportunity of seeing for myself. At first the blaze was very great, but the materials being light it was obliged to be kept up by adding more, which the brahmins were officious in supplying both