

STIMULUS TO EDUCATION IN CHINA.

It is a remarkable fact, that there exists in China probably greater inducements, and higher prizes, for the successful exertions of her people in their native literature, than in any other part of the world; and the result is, that education is eagerly embraced by all who are not too poor to be enabled to afford the necessary time and expense. The theory of the Chinese Government professes to promote to the offices of state only such natives as shall have obtained a literary degree; and Government Commissioners are periodically sent round the country, to conduct the literary examinations in the several provinces, and to award the degrees. And though China is still groaning under the yoke of a foreign dynasty—the Manchow Tartars—even the most disappointed of the native scholars allow, that, under this foreign government, literature is the usual road to rewards and honours; for though many high offices in China are given to the Manchow Tartars, by far the greater part of the offices of the state are filled by Chinese scholars.—*Rev. G. Smith.*

DEVELOPMENT OF A BAD EDUCATION.

Better hang a blazing torch into your neighbour's house, than mutter invectives against his credit. If it concerns you, inquire into it; and when you have discovered a fact, whether it be for or against him, out with it, for the truth can do no harm. If it does not concern you, leave it to those it does. To repeat a mere rumour, is, in most cases, to take part in the manufacture of a lie, for the gossiping weakness that prompts the repetition, craves, and can seldom deny itself, the gratification of adding some little to its strength; and though the first inkling may have been born of a fact, the chances are a thousand to one against the final assertion, rumour-built and folly-fastened as it is, bearing any decent resemblance to the truth.—*Chambers' Journal.*

CICERO ON BOOKS.

"Their study is the nourishment of the mind of youth, and the delight of that of old age. It is the ornament of prosperity, the solace and the refuge of adversity. Book studies are delightful at home, and not burthensome abroad; they gladden us at night, and on our journeys, and in the country." And *D. Israeli* says, "Amidst all his public occupations and private studies, either of them sufficient to have immortalized one man, we read with astonishment in the Familiar Epistles, of the minute attention he paid to the formation of his library and cabinet." And when sending his small collection (small, relatively, we mean) to any one of his several villas, he calls it "infusing a soul into the body of his house."

There is nothing like a fixed and steady aim with an honorable purpose. It disciplines your nature and insures your success.

REMEMBRANCE.

In some instances, to recollect the instructions of a former period will be to recollect too the excellence, the affection, and the death of the person who gave them. Amidst the sadness of such a remembrance, it will be a consolation that they are not entirely lost to us. Wise admonitions, when they return on us with this melancholy charm, have more pathetic cogency than when they were first uttered by the voice of a living friend, who is now silent. It will be an interesting occupation of the pensive hour, to recount the advantages which we have received from beings who have left the world, and to reinforce our virtues from the dust of those who first taught them.—*Foster's Essays.*

FREE SCHOOLS.

"It is, on all hands, acknowledged that the best hope of genuine patriotism is the complete instruction of the whole population; and that the best securities of wise, virtuous, and paternal governments, are the cultivated faculties of the people, enabling them to discriminate between law and oppression, liberty and anarchy, protection and despotism; and, from the condition of mankind in other times and countries, to draw comparisons favorable to the happy condition of their own, while it should never be forgotten that a cultivated mind finds that resource in intellectual pursuits, which constitutes the best security of public and private morals."—*Blair's Universal Preceptor.*

AN INGENUOUS WAY OF DESTROYING A CROCODILE—The river Indus in the East Indies, was infested by a large old crocodile, who carried off two or three natives, one of them being a woman. His skin was so thick that no ball penetrated it, so some young artillery officers formed the following plan for destroying it: They killed a sheep, and in its body placed a bag filled with gunpowder and some other combustible matter, to which a long wire was attached, with a detonating powder at the end. Presently the crocodile saw the prey and seized it, and carried it to a hole which he was known to frequent. Time was allowed him to swallow the sheep, the wire was pulled, the water then became violently agitated, a loud report was heard, and up came the crocodile, dead, and his stomach blown open.

PROFANE SWEARING.

The detestable practice of profane swearing is motiveless and gratuitous wickedness. It is a vice which neither gives any property to the poor man, nor any luxury to the vile one. It degrades even the clown to lower state of vulgarity; and it would render the presence of even the most polished gentleman offensive and disgusting, if it were ever possible for a gentleman to be guilty of it.—*Hon. Horace Mann.*

It is better to keep children to their duty by a sense of honor and by kindness than by the fear of punishment.

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