

MISCELLANEOUS.

RELIGIOUS AND SECULAR EDUCATION.

The following eloquent observations are selected from a speech of Mr. T. B. Horsfall, delivered at a great public meeting of the inhabitants of Liverpool, assembled at the Royal Amphitheatre, on the 27th ultimo, to adopt a petition to Parliament in favour of the bill brought forward by government for the extension of religious education in the manufacturing districts of England.

Give to your children secular education without religious instruction, and you give them power without the principle to guide it; give your children secular instruction without religious instruction, and you send them forth to combat with all the difficulties of this world, with the name of Christian warriors, it is true, but you rob them of the shield of faith, the helm of salvation, and the sword of the spirit. Give your children secular instruction without religion, and you send them forth to tread the dark and dreary way of this world, without that guide which is their own—which is given them to be a "lamp to their feet" and "a light to their path;" you send them to dig in the mines of lead and copper ore, while the rich vein of gold remains untouched: you profess to educate them for usefulness in this world, to stand behind the counters of your shops, or at the stalls in your markets, but you forget to teach them, to your own cost, and to their ruin, that "a false balance is an abomination to the Lord;" you educate your children in the wisdom of this world which must pass away, but you neglect to educate them in the wisdom of that world which must endure for ever. He who advocates secular instruction without religion, I contend, begins at the wrong end. They say, "Give secular instruction first;" but we have a higher authority, which says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom," the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. And I would only observe, in conclusion, that whilst we oppose any system such as secular instruction without religion, let us join most cordially, not only in supporting the bill now before Parliament, but in supporting every measure which is likely to inculcate this Christian principle on the rising generation, which shall enable them to stand forward, and to fight and contend against all the difficulties of this world, and clad in which, they will be clad in more than Spartan armour, to contend for the faith, and, if needful, to die in its defence.

BUIWER.—This celebrated romancer has intimated his intention of writing no more works of fiction, as his severer studies have gradually unfitted him for the task of the Romancer, and he bids adieu to his light labours and flowing dreams. He regrets the necessity, and styles his farewell a mournful one! To us the position of this man is unenviable in the extreme. The retrospection should have confounded and grieved him. His crimes as a novelist are great, and the poison which he has diffused by his writings, and which has been injected with fatal efficacy into many a young heart, should cause him to be distrusted and abhorred by others, and to distrust and abhor himself. Yet he looks upon the past only with regret that his failing powers should disqualify him to persist in his iniquitous course. How fearful will be the doom of such a man, who has perverted his fine talents to the cause only of sin.

VAIN PERSECUTION.—During the reign of Diocletian, in the third century, the Christians were persecuted by the Heathens for ten years, with scarcely mitigated horrors; and such multitudes were massacred in all parts of the empire; that at last the imperial murders ventured to erect a triumphant column, bearing the barboously boastful, yet false inscription, that they had extinguished the Christian name and superstition, and restored the worship of the gods to its former purity and splendor?

SIMPLE CURE FOR RHEUMATISM PAINS.—Take unmixt tar, and cover the parts of the body where the pains reside; roll flannel round upon the top of the tar; let it remain three days and three nights, then take off the flannel; anoint with salt butter, and wash it off with warm water and soap, and by this time the pains are removed, but care must be taken not to catch cold; to prevent this, therefore, get clean flannel, and roll round the parts where the tar was on for a few days and then all is right again.

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