

HOPE FOR THE DUNCES.

There are many dull boys who are like clouded mornings before bright days. It is the safer plan for an educator to assume that dullness is but a husk more or less difficult to peel off, and almost always concealing a sweet kernel. It may be long before he discovers it, and when discovered it may not lie in the usual forms of school life. A man and his wife bought a music stool. After a time they brought it back to the upholsterer, declaring with great vexation that they "could make nothing out of the dratted old thing; they had twisted it to right and left, and set it on its head, and rolled it on its side, and never a note of music could they get out of it." And yet the music-stool was a good stool. For the comfort of the mothers of dull boys, let me record a few instances of such lads who turned out bright men when the key to their brightness was found.

Isaac Newton, being then a boy at the bottom of the class, was kicked by the boy above him. He fought the bully and beat him, out of which victory arose the thought that as he had beaten him with his fists he might also do it with his brains. And he did.

Isaac Barrow, the divine, was a quarrelsome, idle boy. His father said of him that "If it please God to take away any of his children, he hoped it might be Isaac."

Adam Clarke was pronounced by his father to be "a grievous dunce;" but it is recorded of him that he "could roll large stones about." Take note of boys who can and do roll large stones about. They may take to roll great ideas about.

Dr. Chalmers was expelled from the parish school of St. Andrews as "an incorrigible dunce."

Walter Scott, at Edinburgh University, was labelled by Professor Dalzell, "Dunce he is, and dunce he will remain."

John Howard, was an illustrious dunce, "learning nothing in seven years."

And when I record that both Napoleon and Wellington were dull boys at school. I am conscious of closing with *clat* brief *recursus* on dull boys.—*Edward Butler.*

HOW TO MAKE A HAPPY HOME.

Learn to govern yourselves, and be gentle and patient. Guard your tongues, especially in seasons of ill-health, irritation and trouble, and soften them by prayer

and a sense of your own shortcomings and errors. Remember that, valuable as is the gift of speech, silence is often more valuable. Never retort a sharp or angry word. It is the second word makes the quarrel. Learn to speak in a gentle tone of voice. Learn to say kind pleasant things whenever opportunity offers. Study the character of each, and sympathize with all in their troubles, however small. Do not neglect little things if they can affect the comfort of others in the smallest degree. Avoid moods and fits and fits of sulkiness. Learn to deny yourselves and perfect others. Beware of meddlers and tale-bearers. Never charge a bad motive if a good one is conceivable.

MISUNDERSTOOD.

It takes a strong assurance that one is right to enable him to submit quietly to being misunderstood, but this form of trial is very common. An explanation of circumstances seems necessary to clear one's self of suspicion, but to make it is impossible, because, in the nature of the case, it cannot help rendering "confusion worse confounded." Exasperating though it is to be misunderstood, and especially to be regarded as blameworthy when conscious of innocence, it is an experience which God occasionally ordains for each of us. Is there not in it, after all, a reward in the acquisition of that calmness of spirit which enables us to be at peace as long as God and conscience approve? No character has attained great strength until it has learned how to stand alone with God, if necessary, enduring unjust suspicions. In the end, moreover, it usually is vindicated triumphantly, even here.

BE PATIENT WITH MEN.

"Be patient with men. Often a man speaks hurriedly. When he has come to himself he feels he has made a mistake. He is not quite man enough to acknowledge his fault. If you hold him mercilessly to the record he has made, you will make an enemy. Be large enough to overlook his fault and take him for what on the whole he intends to be. Many misunderstandings and serious differences would be avoided by obeying this rule."