

VARIETIES.

"If I were to pray for a taste, which should stand me in good stead under every variety of circumstances, and be a source of happiness and cheerfulness to me through life, and a shield against its ills, however things might go amiss and the world frown against me, it would be a taste for reading.—[Sir J. Herschell.]

GOETHE'S OPINION OF ENGLISH POETRY.—The experience produced by great events is sufficient to accustom men to serious reflections; and what is the tendency of these reflections, but to convince us of the instability and worthlessness of worldly things? The German being naturally serious, found English poetry perfectly adapted to his taste. It impressed him with a sort of awe, by seeming to address him from an elevated sphere. Sublimity, knowledge of the world, intensity and tenderness of feeling, pure morality, passionate expression,—all that can charm polished and cultivated minds, are the ever recurring beauties of English poetry. Yet all these qualities combined are not sufficient to complete the character of the poetic muse. That which characterizes genuine poetry, and renders it in some measure a gospel to the world, is the internal satisfaction with which it inspires us; a faculty which raises us above ourselves, and frees us from the heavy yoke of our earthly feelings. True poetry wafts us into the regions above, whence we look calmly down upon the confused scene of human errors. By this means according to the mode by which objects are contemplated, we may be inspired either with gaiety or melancholy; the latter is the feeling produced by English poetry, which is for the most part moral and didactic. A sombre expression of distaste of life generally pervades it.—*Memoirs of Goethe.*

THE INDOLENT MAN.—The idle man is the barrenest piece of earth on the orb. There is no creature that hath life but is busied in some action for the benefit of the restless world. Even the most venomous and most ravenous things that are, have their commodities as well as their annoyances; and they are ever engaged in some action, which both profiteth the world, and continues them in their nature's courses. Even the vegetables, wherein calm nature dwells, have their turns and times in fructifying; they leaf, they flower, they seed. The idle man is like the dumb jack in a virginal: while all the others dance out a dinnin' music, this, like a member out of joint, sullens the whole body with an ill disturbing laziness. Believe it, industry is never wholly unfruitful. If it bring not joy with the incoming profit, it will yet banish mischief from the busied gates. There is a kind of good angel waiting upon diligence, that ever carries a laurel in his hand to crown her. Fortune, they said of old, should not be prayed unto but with hand in motion. The bosomed fat beckons the approach of poverty, and leaves the noble head unguarded; but the lifted arm does frighten want, and is ever a shield to that noble director.

DIFFERENCE OF OPINION.—We are more inclined to hate one another for points on which we differ, than to love one another for points on which we agree. The reason, perhaps, is this: when we find others that agree with us, we seldom trouble ourselves to confirm that agreement; but when we chance on those that differ with us, we are zealous both to convince and to convert them. Our pride is hurt by the failure, and disappointed pride engenders hatred. This reflection is strengthened by two circumstances in man: first, that the most zealous converts are always the most rancorous, when they fail of producing conviction; but when they succeed, they love their new disciples far better than those whose establishment in the faith neither excited their zeal to the combat, nor rewarded their prowess with a victory. Priestly owed much of the virulence with which he was attacked, to the circumstance of his

agreeing partly with everybody but entirely with nobody. In politics, as in philosophy, in the lower sphere in religion; below the surface as in the lower sphere above it in pneumatics, his tract might still be torn by the host of assailants that pursued it; and, like the flying fish, he had no sooner escaped one enemy in the water than he had to encounter another in the air.—*Sunbeam.*

FLOWERS.—Said we not that flowers had a destiny of their own, an after existence even in this world? Do not think that we would seek to banish them from that upper sphere where all bright things have place, and where shall that earthly heaven be found, unless in the page of him whose verse alone is sufficient to confer immortality? Innocent and happy things they are, companions of our first parents in Paradise—they alone shared not the consequences of primeval guilt: the lion couched no longer with the kid, the tiger lay not longer with the lamb, and man looked with eyes of hatred on his brother, but the simple flower grew on unchanged in loveliness—it had shared not in the crimes of man, it haunted not the abodes of guilt so openly as it had adorned the bowers of innocence, but still, when thoughtful hearts and unsealed eyes yearned to hold converse with those frail children of God, there was always some quiet corner of the earth, some sequestered and untrodden glen, where they dwelt apart, and whither the poet's feet would oft times lead him beneath the balmy eventide, to drink a holy inspiration from the eyes which had caught deep meaning from the unveiled gaze of their common Creator. Alas! for those who love not flowers. Alas! for those who, busied with the struggles and turmoil of the world, can find no stray moment to devote to these soothers of our rugged nature. For them one page of life is blotted out, the brightest ever penned.—*Forth.*

BEST TIME FOR MENTAL EXERTION.—Nature has allotted the darkness of the night for the repose and the restoration, by sleep, of the exhausted energies of the body and mind. If study or composition be ardently engaged in toward that period of the day, the increased action of the brain which always accompanies activity of mind, requires a long time to subside, and if the individual be of an irritable habit, he will be sleepless for hours, or perhaps tormented by unpleasant dreams. If, nevertheless, the practice be continued, the want of refreshing repose will ultimately induce a state of irritability of the nervous system approaching to insanity. It is, therefore, of great advantage to engage in severe studies early in the day, and devote the two or three hours preceding bed-time to music or conversation.

TERMS, &c.

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