

## MISCELLANEOUS.

## GEORGE IV. AND BISHOP PORTEOUS.

"People in his rank, my dear," said one of her friends, "are very rarely strict in observing this day." "But they regret it ultimately," replied Sybil. "I will give you a proof of it within my own knowledge. My proof shall lie in the person of the late King George IV. The anecdote is authentic. I have heard my father repeat it more than once. He had it from an eye-witness. Bishop Porteous was sinking under the weight of years and infirmities, and fully aware of his impending dissolution. His mind was calm and clear; and it seemed that, with an increasing nearness to the tomb, there was granted an increasing anxiety for the interests of religion. The advancement of piety within his own diocese was an all-absorbing object to the very last. In a circumstance, a lady communicated to him a report which she had heard of the institution of a club under the patronage of the Prince of Wales, which was to meet on a Sunday. The bishop was exceedingly feeble and languid on the morning this reached him; but it instantly roused him. He ascertained its correctness; and then, to the infinite surprise of his medical attendants, who had pronounced him sinking, called for writing materials, and requested an audience of the Prince. It was granted. A more striking interview, a more affecting spectacle—one more worthy of the painter's art or poet's pen—can scarcely be imagined. Feeble, and almost voiceless, supported by two of his attendants, and hardly able to move even with their assistance, he reached, with infinite difficulty, the royal apartment. There nature appeared to rally. His clear, soft, persuasive voice seemed for the exigency to return to him. He paused for a few moments, when he stood in the presence of the heir-apparent, and then, with agitated earnestness, but in admirably chosen terms, conjured him to fix some other day for this meeting. The prince received him very graciously, and even kindly; listened, and while he listened seemed much affected; explained at some length; and that it was not a new institution, and that it was founded on charity; but that if the day could be changed to Saturday it should. The bishop withdrew, and within a very brief interval rested for ever from care and sorrow. But the effect of his counsels survived. George the Fourth, in his last illness, declared that the impression which the language and earnestness of the dying bishop left upon his memory he could never shake off; that it was the first admonition from such a quarter which had ever moved him. Two days before he died he alluded to that touching interview, and said "that nothing connected with the past had given him more uneasiness than the recollection of his secular Sabbaths."—*The Bishop's Daughter.*

## PORTRAIT OF A NEGLECTED APPRENTICE.

Is it possible, then, that a mother thus circumstanced, can look with indifference to the future, when the happy boy who plays beside her, the joy of her own heart, and the pride of his father's—the spirited, handsome fellow who carries away the prizes at school, and lords it over his playmates, and only softens into tenderness when he sees his mother's tears.—is it possible that she can think with indifference of the time when he shall be old enough to go out into a stranger's family—nay, actually, be bound there for a term of years, and thus invrought, as it were, with the entire fabric of a new order of domestic arrangements; yet, notwithstanding all this, made to sit apart, as if to feel that he is not only an alien, but an absolute intruder, as regards the mistress of that family and her friends? Could the fond mother follow her boy, when thus circumstanced, up to his own bed-room in the attic, and see how often, for want of a welcome at the household hearth, he sits upon his box, and reads the books he brought from home, at the risk of being chidden for the light he has kept burning;—could she see the far-off way in which he sits at the family board, satisfying his hunger according to necessity, not choice;—could she see the manner in which, from the very overflow of the life of his young spirit, he is driven down, and compelled to make merry with associates unfitted to himself, at least to that self with which he was identified in his father's home, but which he has almost ceased to remember now,—could she hear, when he speaks, how his voice is becoming gradually habituated to the utterance

of low thoughts and words which never formed a part of the language of his home; but, beyond all this, could she see his Sabbaths—his days of rest—those happy days, when the members of his father's family used all to be united in equality of feeling, and solicited only to give precedence to each other;—could she behold him walking the streets of some great town, and for want of home attractions, for want of cordiality and welcome at his master's fireside, familiarizing himself with the sinful practices of others similarly circumstanced;—could the mother, beholding all this, trace out its fearful and degrading consequences upon the future destinies of her boy, she would be ready to exclaim to the mistress of that household—"Save my child!"—*Mrs. Ellis.*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**—How many millions and millions of times has that prayer been offered by Christians of all denominations! So wide, indeed, is the sound thereof gone forth, that daily, and almost without intermission, from the ends of the earth, and afar off upon the sea, it is ascending to heaven like incense, and a pure offering. Nor needs it the gift of prophecy to foretell, that though "heaven and earth shall pass away," these words of our blessed Lord "shall not pass away" till every petition has been answered, till the kingdom of God shall come, and his will be done as it is in heaven.—*Montgomery.*

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