

human spirit, by which every child in the place was more or less affected. They could not conceive why such a spirit should prevail so specially in *this* village; but they could find neither cause nor remedy; all exhortations, all punishments were in vain. The clergyman of the village was changed; and the new minister was a great friend to schools. His first walk was to the school house. The vice of the scholars had been made known to him and the failure of all preventive measures hitherto applied. But determining within himself to watch the whole course of proceeding in school, he soon perceived that the teacher had a habit, and had acquired a singular dexterity in it, of knocking down and killing flies with his cane, to the end of which he had fastened a piece of leather. The windows were all on one side, and being exposed to the morning sun of summer, they were continually full of flies. The teacher's path lay along them, in front of his scholars; and while talking to the latter, he struck down the flies as they showed themselves at the window. This manoeuvre amused the children infinitely more than his instruction did, and they followed his example. They were incessantly on the watch for flies that buzzed through the room, caught them in their hands, and showed as great dexterity in this kind of chase as their teacher did in his. But their amusement did not end here: they had learned to play with their captives, treat them with detestable cruelty, and seemed to find a wicked delight in observing the shivering of their victims.

On observing these curious and far from pleasing peculiarities of the school, the intelligent and humane clergyman easily accounted for the spirit of destructiveness among the children; and his first step was to induce the teacher to take his leather from the end of his cane; and next, to turn the desks so that the boys sat with their backs to the windows, and the teacher's path lay on the other side of the room. Then the minister went frequently into the school, and examined so severely, that both teacher and pupils had more to do than to give their attention to the flies. As this was not yet entirely satisfactory in its results, the minister took advantage of the hot summer weather, to have instruction given only in the afternoon, when the school-room was not so full of flies, and thus he gradually banished the insects from the thoughts of teacher and children. But he knew that it was of little avail solely to pull the weed out of the young mind. He obtained an unoccupied piece of land fit for planting, and, not far from the school, laid out a school-garden.

This pleased the teacher, and the children willingly took part in the task, for they had soon learned to like their new minister, who came and worked among them. The garden was surrounded by a hedge planted with trees and shrubs, and each child had a tree or shrub given him to take care of. A nursery was soon laid out, and provision made for plenty of larger gardens and orchards in the village. And behold! the spirit of destructiveness among the children soon passed away; and every man's fruit and garden became safe, the youths even begging their parents that trees might be planted in the fields for them to take care of. The new spirit was communicated from children to parents, till it spread throughout the entire village; every family had its pretty little garden; an emulation in cultivating flowers sprang into existence; idle and bad habits disappeared; and gradually the whole place was a scene of moral as well as of physical beauty.

This incident, the truth of which can be vouched for, has been communicated to us by a lady of rank who happens to have lately become acquainted with the circumstances, and has thought that their publicity may be advantageous. We have no doubt of the fact, that the practice of amateur gardening is never associated with evil, but is always a token of advanced tastes and correct habits. We would further say, let every school, so far as it can conveniently be done, have its garden, not only for purposes of amusement, but as an important engine of education.—*R. I. Schoolmaster.*

#### MORAL COURAGE.

Sidney Smith, in his work on Moral Philosophy, speaks in this wise, of what men lose for want of a little moral courage, or independence of mind:

"A great deal of talent is lost in the world for the want of a little courage. Every day sends to the grave a number of obscure men, who have only remained in obscurity because their timidity has prevented them from making the first effort; and who, if they could be induced to begin, would in all probability, have gone great lengths in the career of fame. The fact is, that to do anything in this world worth doing, we must not stand back shivering, and thinking of the cold and the danger, but jump in and scramble through as well as we can. It will not do to be perpetually calculating tasks, and adjusting nice chances; it did very well before the flood, where a man could consult his friends upon an intended publication for a hundred and fifty years, and then live to see its success afterwards; but at present, a man waits and doubts and hesitates and consults his brother, and his uncle, and particular friends, till one fine day he finds that he is sixty years of age; that he has lost so much time in consulting his first cousin and particular friends, that he has no more time to follow their advice."—*R. I. Schoolmaster.*

#### A NOBLE BOY.

The following touching episode in street life—life in Paris—is a beautiful gem, and should be in all memories surrounded with pearls of sweetest thought and gentlest sympathy.

About nine o'clock in the morning, a little boy of twelve, whose jacket of white cloth and apron ditto, distinctly indicated that he followed the profession of pastry-cook, was returning from market with an open basket on his head, containing butter and eggs. When he had reached the vicinity of the church of St. Eustache, the little fellow, who could only with difficulty make his way through the crowd, was violently jostled by a stranger who was passing, so that his basket tipped, and fell to the ground with its contents. The poor lad, when he saw his eggs all broken, and his butter tumbled in the gutter, began to cry bitterly, and wring his hands. A person who happened to be in the crowd that gathered around the little fellow, drew a ten sou piece from his pocket, and giving it to the boy, asked the rest who stood grouped around him to do the same, to make up the loss occasioned by this accident. Influenced by his example, every one present eagerly complied, and very speedily the boy's apron contained a respectable collection of coppers and silver. When all had contributed their quota, our young vatel, whose distress had vanished in a moment as though by enchantment, warmly thanked his new benefactors for their kindness, and forthwith proceeded to count the sum he had received, which amounted to no less than twenty-two francs and thirty-five centimes. But, instead of quietly putting this sum in his pocket, he produced the bill of the articles he had lost, and as its total amounted only to fourteen francs, he appropriated no more than that sum, and then observing in the group that surrounded him, a poor woman in rags, the gallant little fellow walked right to her, and placed the remainder in her hand. Certainly it would have been impossible to show himself more deserving of public generosity, or to acknowledge it in a handsomer manner. The boy's noble conduct was greeted with the applause of the crowd, who were delighted to find such delicacy and propriety in one so young.—*Burritt's Citizen.*

#### PERSEVERE.

It is a fine remark of Fenelon, "Bear with yourself in correcting faults, as you would with others." We cannot do all at once. But by constant pruning away of little faults, and cultivating humble virtues, we shall grow. This simple rule—not to be discouraged at slow progress, but to persevere, overcoming evil habits one by one, such as sloth, negligence, or bad temper; and adding one excellence after another—to faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity—will conduct the slowest Christian at last to high religious attainments.

#### WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY.

A glover's apprentice in Edinburgh resolved to qualify himself for a higher profession. The relation with whom he lived was very poor and could not afford a candle, and scarcely a fire at night, and as it was only after shop hours that this young man had leisure, he had no alternative but to go into the streets at night, and plant himself with his book near a shop-window, the lights of which enabled him to read it; and when they were put out, he used to climb a lamp-post and hold on with one hand while he read with the other. That person lived to be one of the greatest oriental scholars in the world, and the first book in Arabic printed in Scotland was his production.

#### A RESOLUTE WILL.

Henry Burgett was not quite twelve years of age when his father died; and fast as his tears fell, when he knew his papa would be with him no more, he wept, if possible, more violently, when his mother told him they must leave the pretty cottage, the only home they had ever known, and that hereafter he was to live with farmer Howard.

"We are poor, Henry," she said, "very poor, and as young as you are, my boy, you must now earn your own support. But keep up a stout heart; you can do it. Fie on those tears!" and she turned hastily that he might not perceive the grief that was piercing her own soul.

Farmer Howard was a hard master, and a sorry time had poor Henry during the long summer days that succeeded this interview with his mother. It was work, work, with no relaxation, from the earliest dawn until the twilight had quite faded. Often did his courage fail, and despondency and indolence urge him to stop, but a stern necessity was on him; he must do or starve; and hence he kept at it, wearily enough, to be sure, until the last apple was in the cellar, the last ear of corn in the crib, and all things secured against the winter, with the most pains-taking thoroughness.

The winter, tardy as its approach appeared to Henry, came at last, with its three months' privilege of school, and its glorious long evenings