

which recalls the memory of the dead at every moment. At a period when family affections were stronger than at present, or, it may be, when the wish to make a pompous display of them was greater, the laws were constrained to mark the limits of mourning, so that the public sensibility might not be continually wounded by lugubrious ideas.

The degrees of rudeness correspond to the degrees of grief attached to the recollections excited by the rude speech or action. Thus, when a prince received the ambassadors of a friendly nation in an apartment decorated with pictures of the battles in which they had been defeated, he certainly committed a most unpolite act. But when Albonius, King of Lombardy, after having drunk from the skull of Cumbund (whom he had beheaded), the father of Rosamond, who had since become his wife—when he, having thus drunk, passed the skull full of wine to his wife, saying, "Drink with your father, Rosamond," he showed himself not only rude but barbarously cruel.

Two guns, however different in size, do not require, in order to be fired, different quantities of heat—a single spark suffices for both. For the same reason, the smallest act may arouse the most mournful feelings. When Dionysius, fallen from the throne of Syracuse, was living as a schoolmaster at Corinth, one of the inhabitants of that city went to him, and stopping in the threshold of the door affected to shake his robe, so as to show that he carried no poignard concealed about his garments. Now, as this was the action with which they always approached the tyrant, it therefore reminded Dionysius of his tyranny, the hatred of the people, his lost throne, and his present abasement.

As the same act or the same saying may awake in one person pleasant memories, and in another painful ones, so it is necessary to know the sentiments of the person with whom you are conversing, in order that you may not be exposed to the danger of offending or embittering him without knowing it. Whoever looked Caligula full in the face mortally offended him, because such an act reminded him of the baldness which he was anxious to conceal from all. Whoever looked Scipio Africanus full in the face gave him the greatest pleasure, because his baldness revealed a warlike scar—a monument of his glory and his valour.

Finally, politeness forbids us to revive, or to reproach others with those faults which a long penitence has cancelled. The civil laws themselves, in order to preserve peace between citizens, condemn these reproofs, even when founded on truth, and establish, although too absolutely, the principle that "the truth of a libel does not excuse it."—*Melechoise Gioio—Il nuova Galateo.*

6. ESTIMATE OF PUBLIC LIFE BY PUBLIC MEN.

Many have left the calm and dignified pursuits of the scholar for the din of public life; and teachers are not wanting who sigh for the distinctions conferred by civil and military office. It would be well for worthy teachers, afflicted with such human weakness, to cultivate a higher esteem for their own sublime duties. Some one remarks of our great Arnold, "It is a pity that Arnold, who is fit for a statesman, should spend his days in teaching boys." His noble reply was, "It is greater to be a maker of statesmen than to be a statesman!" For one, we are not willing to admit that there can be a higher office in any State than that of a teacher who devotes himself wholly to his work.

Says Dr. South, one of England's greatest divines, "I look upon an able, well-principled school-master as one of the most meritorious subjects in any prince's dominions." And our own Channing writes that, "To teach, whether by word or action, is the greatest function on earth." Such thoughts should keep down any unholly ambition—that sin by which angels fell—when it comes to the teacher in his weaker hours, and makes him think of leaving his charge for the thorny path of political life.

We may further be instructed by the learned Guizot, the great French statesman, the ablest of Louis Philippe's ministers, whose morals were as pure as his views were broad and comprehensive. In the third volume of his Memoirs, just published, he gives the following estimate of the insufficiency and hollowness of public life. Is is a modern commentary on the "Vanity of Vanities" of the wisest of ancient monarchs:—

"I have been strongly attached to political life, and have applied myself to it with ardor. I have devoted to public duties, without hesitation, the sacrifices and efforts they demanded from me; but these pursuits have ever been far indeed from satisfying my desires. It is not that I complain of the incidental trials. Many public servants have spoken with bitterness of the disappointments they have experienced, the reverse; they have undergone, the severities of fortune and the ingratitude of men. I have nothing of the kind to say, for I have never acknowledged such sentiments. However violently I may have been stricken, I have never found men more blind or ungrateful, or my political destiny more harsh than I ex-

pected. Alternately, and in great abundance have been its joys and sorrows; such is the law of humanity. But it has been in the happiest days, and in the most brilliant success of my career that I have found the insufficiency of public life. The political world is cold and calculating; the affairs of government are lofty, and powerfully impress the thought; but they cannot fill the soul, which has often more varied and more pressing aspirations than those of the most ambitious politician. It longs for a happiness more intimate, more complete, and more tender than that which all the labors and triumphs of active exertion and public importance can bestow. What I know to-day, at the end of my race, I felt when it began and during its continuance—even in the midst of great undertakings, domestic affections form the basis of life; and the most brilliant career has only superficial and incomplete enjoyments, if a stranger to the happy ties of family and friendship."

7. DAVID AND HOMER—CONTEMPORARIES.

David and Homer were cotemporaries. Both were poets of surpassing genius; the one the sweetest singer of Israel, the other the epic bard of Greece. Both flourished in the same rude era; the former dwelling on the hills of Judea, the latter wandering over the mountains of Thessaly. Both breathed soul-stirring strains. The one in Hebrew psalmody, the other in Heroic verse. Both sang in devotion to the Deity; the one in out-gushing praises of Jehovah, the other in lofty eulogiums of demi-gods.

Both alike wrote in elegant diction,—displayed unparalleled versatility of thought, searched out the fountains of nature for striking metaphors, exhibited the depth of eloquence, exhaled the soul of poetry.

Both were religious; but the one revered the thunders of Sinai, and the other adored the thunderer of Olympus. David sang of that God who had led the hosts of Israel; Homer praised the gods who fought with men around the walls of Troy. David applauded the deeds of virtuous men; Homer praised the acts of demons. David's God was the source of purity; Homer's gods were slaves of infamy. David's heroes were the good and benevolent; Homer's heroes were the vicious and despotic. David was a disciple of the pure religion; Homer was the slave of superstitious idolatry.

Such being the case, let the christian teacher in christian schools, tell his pupil so. Where Homer is read, there, also, should David be.

8. RECENT GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

(Condensed from the Independent).

Dr. Mouat, of the Bengal army, communicates to the Royal Geographical Society information respecting the natives of the Andaman Islands, a mountainous and volcanic group in the Bay of Bengal. The natives have been deemed ferocious cannibals; but, though warlike, they are not cannibals, nor utterly savage. Their average is 4 ft. 9 inches. They do not appear to be allied to the Papuans, or to the Negroes, or to any known race. Prof. Owen says that they show peculiarly excellent physical development, except in size.

It appears that Messrs. Burke and Mills, who perished recently in an exploration of Australia, died through the neglect of officials who broke up a frontier depôt of provision arranged for them, because they did not believe that the explorers could get through the wilderness. They did, however, struggle through, and then died of want.

Capt. R. F. Burton has been appointed British consul at Fernando Po, and has explored the Abbeokuta river, which he found navigable to a place called Aso, where a ridge of rocks crosses it.

When the missionaries Krapf and Rebman, in 1847, reported the existence of Mts. Kenia and Kilmandjaro, in the south-east part of Central Africa, their report was doubted by some whose theory that there is no central range of mountains there was damaged by the statement. A recent survey of Kilmandjaro by triangulation from Mombas and partial ascent of the mountain gives better knowledge of it. Baron Von der Decken and Mr. R. Thornton, the latter formerly with Livingstone, spent nineteen days in survey of the mountain, ascending it 8000 ft., and ascertaining its height to be 21,000 ft., the upper 3000 ft. being covered with snow. The probability seems to increase that this range is the source of the Nile.

A French traveler, Tremaux, has returned from an exploration of Asia Minor, in which he determined the sites of forty Greek cities, examined their remains, and obtained many valuable antiquarian relics, inscriptions, coins, etc. He reports the city of Perga, in Pamphylia, in a wonderful state of preservation, with its original walls and towers standing, and rich porticoes and public buildings so far preserved as to afford unusual opportunity for the antiquarians.