Family Reading.

THE BOY AT THE DYKE.

It is said that a little boy in Holland was returning one night from a village to which he had been sent by his father on an errand when he noticed the water trickling through a narrow opening in the dyke. He stopped and thought what the consequences would be if the hole was not closed. He knew, for he had often heard his father tell, the sad disasters which happened from such small beginnings, how in a few hours the opening would become bigger and bigger and let in the mighty mass of waters pressing on the dyke, until the whole defence being washed away, the rolling, dashing, angry waters would sweep on to the next village, destroying life and property and everything in its way. Should he run home and alarm the villagers it would be dark before they could arrive and the hole might even then be so large as to defy all attempts to close it.

Prompted by these thoughts he seated himself on the bank of the canal, stopped the opening with his hand, and patiently waited the approach of some villagers. But no one came. Hour after hour rolled slowly by yet there sat the heroic boy, in cold and darkness, shivering, wet and tired, but stoutly pressing his hand against the dangerous breach. All night he stayed at his post. At last the morning broke. A clergyman walking up the canal heard a groan, and looked around to see where it came from. "Why are you there, my child?" he asked, seeing the boy and surprised at his strange position. "I am keeping back the water, sir, and saving the village from being drowned," answered the child with lips so benumbed with cold that he could scarcely speak. The astonished minister relieved the boy. The dyke was closed, and the danger which threatened hundreds of lives was prevented.

"Heroic boy! What a noble spirit of self-devotedness he showed!" every one will exclaim. A heroic boy he indeed was; and what was it that sustained him through that lonesome night! Why, when his teeth chattered, his limbs trembled, and his heart was wrung with anxiety, did he not fly to his safe and warm home? What thought bound him to his seat? was it not the responsibility of his position? Did he not determine to brave all the fatigue, the darkness, and the cold, in thinking what the consequences would be if he should forsake it? His mind pictured the quiet homes and beautiful farms of the people inundated by the flood of waters and he determined to stay at his post or to die.

Now, there is a sense in which every person, every boy and girl occupies a position of far weightier responsibility than that of the little Hollander on that dark and lonesome night; for by the good or bad influence which you do and shall exert, you may be the means of turning a tide of wretchedness and eternal ruin or a pure stream of gladness and goodness on the world. God has given you *somewhere* a post of duty to occupy, and you cannot get above or below your obligations to be faithful to it. You are responsible for leaving your work undone as well as having it badly done. You cannot excuse yourself saying "I am nobody—I don't exert any influence;" for there is nobody so mean or obscure that he has not some influence; and you have it whether you will or no, and you are responsible for the consequences of that influence whatever it is. Take your stand before the world then with a determination to devote your influence to virtue, to humanity, to God. Let the children begin life and grow up with these solid principles of action, to fear and to honour God, to be true to your conscience, and to do all the good you can. Then will your path indeed be like that of the just which "shineth more and more unto the perfect day."

CHILDREN.—I remember, observes Bishop Hall, a great man coming into my house at Waltham, and seeing all my children standing in the order of the image and stature said, "These are they that make rich men poor." But he straight received this answer, "Nay, my lord, these are they that make a poor man rich; for there is not one of these whom we would part with for all your wealth." It is easy to observe that none are so griping and hard fisted as the childless; whereas those who, for the maintenance of large families, are inured to frequent disbursements, find such experience of Divine Providence in the faithful management of their affairs, as that they lay out with more cheerfulness those they receive. Wherein their care must be abated when God takes it off from them to Himself; and if they be not wanting to themselves their faith gives them ease in casting their burden upon Him, who hath more power and more right to it, since our children are more His than our own. He that feedeth the young ravens, (Psalms cxlvii, 9,) can He fail the best of His creatures? Worthy Master Greenham tells us of a gentlewoman who coming into the cottage of a poor neighbour, and seeing it furnished with a store of children, could say, "Here are the mouths, but where is the meat?" But not long after she was paid in her own coin; for the poor woman coming to her after the burial of her last and now only child, inverted the question upon her: "Here is the meat, but where are the mouths?"

IRRELIGION OF THE GREAT MEN OF FRANCE.—I know not when, but certain it is that the nation has an immense progress to make in serious thought, if she wishes to remain free. If we look at the characters compared as regards religious sentiment of the great nations of Europe and America, and even Asia, the advantage is not for us. The great men of other countries live and die looking up to heaven; our great men appear to live and die, forgetting completely the only idea for which it is worth living and dying—they live and die looking at the spectator, or at most, at posterity. Open the history of America, the history of England, and the history of France, read the great lives, the great deaths, the great martyrdoms, the great words at the hour when the ruling thought of life reveals itself in the last words of the dying. But cross the Atlantic, traverse the Channel, come to our times, open our annals, and listen to the last words of the great political actors of the drama of our liberty. One would think that God was eclipsed from the south, that his name was unknown in the language. History will have the air of an atheist when it recounts to posterity these annihilations, rather than deaths, of celebrated men in the greatest year of France. Look at Mirabeau on the bed of death. "Crown me with flowers," said he, "intoxicate me with perfumes. Let me die to the sound of delicious music." Not a word of God or of his soul. Sensual philosopher, he desired only supreme sensualism, a last voluptuousness in his agony. Contemplate Madame Roland the strong-hearted woman of the Revolution, on the cart that conveyed her to death. She looked contemptuously on the brutified people who killed their prophets and sibyls. Not a glance towards heaven. Only one word for the earth she was quitting,—"O! Liberty!" Approach the dungeon door of the Girondins. Their last night is a banquet; their only hymn the Marseillaise! Follow Camille Desmoulins to his execution. A cool and indecent pleasantry at the trial, and a long imprecation on the road to the guillotine, were the two last dying thoughts of this dying man on his way to his last tribunal. Hear Danton on the platform of the scaffold, at the distance of a line from God and eternity. "I have had a good time of it; let me go to sleep." Then to the executioner, "You will show my head to the people; it is worthy the trouble!" His faith, annihilation; his last sign, vanity. Behold the Frenchmen of this latter age! What must one think of the religious sentiment of a free people whose great figures seem thus to march in procession to annihilation, and to whom that terrible minister, death itself, reveals neither the threatenings nor promises of God! The Republic of these men without a God has quickly been stranded. The liberty won by so much heroism, and by so much genius, has not found in France a conscience to shelter it, a God to avenge it, a people to defend it against that atheism which has been called glory. All ended in a soldier; and some apostate republicans cannot be heroic. When you terrify it, it bends; when you buy it, it sells itself. It would be very foolish to immolate itself. Who would take any heed? the people ungrateful, and God non-existent! So finished atheist revolutions. —LAMARTINE.

FOR THE AFFLICTED.—Luther used to say, "If it were not for tribulation I should not understand Scripture;" and every sorrowing saint responds to this, as having felt its truth.—*Bonar.* Psalm cxiv. 12.

Believer! desire to find thy will in the Divine will alone. Be silent when He strikes, contented when He denies, thankful when He gives, and resigned when He takes away.—*Serle.* Matt. xxvi. 39.

Faith, hope, patience, humility, are only wrought in us by means of those trials which call forth the several graces of the Spirit into exercise.—*C Simeon.* James i. 3

However matters go here, the worst shall be a tired traveller, and a joyful welcome *home.—Rutherford.* Rev. xiv. 12.

Affliction is God's winnowing frame that blows alway the chaff from the corn. We ought ourselves to have laid aside our vanities, but God doeth it for us.—*Salter.* Lam. iii. 33.

When we can bear all trouble as a part of the burden of Christ, and obtain His assistance to bear it with us, we shall find it daily grow lighter and lighter, and at length press upon us only like the burden of wings on a bird, enabling us to fly the swifter and the higher toward Heaven.—*Serle.* Isiah xi. 31.

What God will, how God will, and when God will, defines the rule which should govern all the desires of the child of God.—*O. Winslow.* Matt. xxvi. 39.

When Christ darkens our sky, and brings a cloud over it, it is a ground on which He designs to paint His covenant rainbow. The rainbow is very beautiful, but never seen in fair weather.—*John Newton.* 2 Cor. iv. 17.

Happiness is reserved for Heaven; and hope, with a few earnests, must suffice for earth. We are as patients in an hospital; regimen, medicine and cure are at present chiefly to be attended to. We shall soon be discharged cured, and that will make up for all.—*J. Scott.* Rev. xxi. 4.

THE VALUE OF DECISION OF CHARACTER.—The fact is, that in order to do anything in the world worth doing we must not stand shivering on the bank, 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 risks, and adjusting nice chances; it did all very well before the flood, when a man could consult his friends upon an intended publication for a hundred and fifty years, and then live to see its success for six or seven centuries afterwards; but at present a man waits and doubts, and hesitates, and consults his brother, and his uncle, and his first cousins, and his particular friends, till one fine day he finds that he is sixty-five years of age—that he has lost so much time in consulting first cousins and particular friends, that he has no more time left to follow their advice. There is such little time for over squeamishness at present, the opportunity so easily slips away, the very period of life at which a man chooses to venture, if ever, is so confined that it is no bad rule to preach up the necessity, in such instances, of a little violence done to the feelings, and of efforts made in defiance of strict and sober calculation.—*Selections from Spalding Smith.*

WHO IS THE GOOD CHILD?—It is a great mistake for children to think that they cannot be religious. In a book called 'The Beatitudes,' which every one ought to read, it says: "A little girl who is affectionate and obedient to her parents, kind and gentle to her brothers and sisters, and amiable and benevolent towards everybody, is doing the will of her Father in Heaven. It, in the exercise of these virtues, she is ready, for Christ's sake, to sacrifice a favorite inclination, to subdue a bad passion, to repress an unkind emotion for conscience sake, she is certainly fitting herself to be numbered among the blessed.

"A little boy who gets up early in the morning, says his prayers, is always at his meals as soon as they are on the table, tries to be affable and obliging towards every body, never says a bad word, loves his mother so dearly that he never offends her in word or deed, and does all things for conscience and his Saviour's sake, is not far from the kingdom of God."

Such children are religious, and experience joy and peace that no one can conceive of, until he becomes like them. Have you, my dear reader, no interest in the matter? Will you not try to be good and holy, like Jesus Christ?

GROWTH IN GRACE.—The growth of a believer is not like a mushroom, but like an oak, which increases slowly indeed but surely. Many suns, showers and frosts pass upon it before it comes to perfection; and though in winter it seems dead it is gathering strength at the root.—*Cowper.*

THE GREAT SUBTERRANEAN RAILWAY

The preamble of the North Metropolitan Railway bill has been declared approved by a committee of the House of Commons. The promoters had a hard battle to fight, which lasted 11 days, but they triumphed in the end. This interesting and novel undertaking will commence at the General Post Office, in St. Martins le Grand, and proceed beneath the streets and roads of the metropolis all the way to the terminus of the Great Western Railway, at Paddington. The entire distance will be 4½ miles. It will cross Smithfield, and proceed along Farrer Valley to the Newgate-road, taking Coldbath fields prison in its way. For the removal of this building the promoters have made an arrangement with the Middlesex magistrates. The terms are that the promoters of the railway, in return for the ground in Coldbath-fields, are to build a prison for the county of Middlesex not less than six, and not more than nine miles from London; the building to contain accommodation for 1500 prisoners, with 50 acres of ground attached, so that those of the prisoners who have not learned in-door trades may be enabled to perform rural labour, in accordance with the industrial principle on which the prison is conducted. Three miles of the North Metropolitan Railway will run underneath roads, or unoccupied property, which will considerably lessen the expenses incident to the construction of the line. The entire estimated cost is £1,000,000. The Subterranean Railway will join the Great Northern, the London and North Western, and Great Western lines. The stations are to be at Victoria Street, Clerkenwell, King's Cross, Euston Square, Hampstead Road, Oxenburg Street, Baker Street, Edgeware Road, and opposite the Great Western Hotel, with a branch to the Great Western station. Trains will start every five minutes. The time required to perform the journey will be a quarter of an hour, and the fares for the whole distance will be 2d for the third class, 4d for the second class and 1 6d for the first class carriages. The North Metropolitan Railway will therefore be a great accommodation to the people of London, and will doubtless have an immense traffic. At a special meeting of proprietors, on Monday, the solicitor read the heads of a bill for extending the authorized line to the Great Western Railway and to the General Post Office, when a resolution, approving the bill, was carried unanimously.

Advertisements.

FINISHING SCHOOL

For Young Ladies.

MRS. FORSTER, having hitherto received a limited number of Pupils for tuition in special subjects, has been requested to extend the advantages of her system of instruction by enlarging her classes.

Mrs. Forster having determined to accede to this request, has secured the assistance of the best Masters, and will be prepared, on the 1st of September next, to give instruction in the following branches of Education.

English, French, Italian, German, Music, Piano and Harp, Drawing, Singing, &c.

In the Senior or Finishing Class, to which pupils are admitted by examination, the course of instruction is specially adapted for completing the education of Young Ladies; including a thorough review of the subjects ordinarily taught, Critical Readings of the French and English Poets, Ancient and Modern Historians, and the Study of Philosophy and Astronomy.

References are kindly permitted to Judge Draper, Dr. Bovell, Mr. Growski, and Dr. Ryerson, all of whom have daughters under Mrs. Forster's instruction.

For particulars apply to the Rev. T. S. Kennedy, Church Society's Office, King Street; or to Mrs. Forster, Pinchurst.

Toronto, July 19, 1854. 51

MRS. CROMBIE'S

YOUNG LADIES' SEMINARY,

GEORGE STREET, TORONTO.

THIS ESTABLISHMENT will be re-opened after the Midsummer recess, on Monday, the 21st of August, 1854

References kindly permitted to the Hon. and Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Toronto, the Rev. John M'Caul, LL.D. President of the University of Toronto, the Rev. H. J. Grasett, B.D. Rector of Toronto, Rev. Edmund Baldwin, M.A., Assistant Minister of St. James's, Rev. J. G. D. M'Kenzie, M.A., Incumbent of St. Paul's, Toronto, Rev. R. J. McGeorge, of Streetsville, and the Rev. T. S. Kennedy, Secretary of the Church Society.

Toronto, 17th August, 1853. 5-tf

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August 30 1854. 5

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FOR YOUNG LADIES.

MRS. LETT, having completed her arrangements for carrying out efficiently, and under the best system, the moral training and education of young ladies, announces that her Establishment will re-open after the Midsummer Vacation on Monday the 4th of September.

St George's Square, Aug. 1.

SITUATION WANTED.

A GENTLEMAN who can give the highest testimonials is desirous of obtaining a situation in a HARDWARE STORE, either in town or country. Apply, if by letter post paid, to the Secretary of the Church Society, Toronto. 7 tf

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Toronto, March 28th, 1854 6-tf

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THE RENOWNED REMEDY.

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A MOST ASTONISHING CURE OF SCROFULOUS ULCERS —A CASE CERTIFIED BY THE MAYOR OF BOSTON.

Copy of a Letter from J. Noble, Esq., Mayor of Boston, Lincolnshire.

To PROFESSOR HOLLOWAY.—Dear Sir,—Mrs. Sarah Dixon of Liquorpond-street, Boston, has this day deposed before me, that for a considerable period she was severely afflicted with scrofulous Sores and Ulcers in her arms, feet, legs and other parts of her body; and although the first of medical advice was obtained at the cost of a large sum of money, she obtained no alleviation of suffering but gradually grew worse. Being recommended by a friend to try your Ointment she procured a small pot, and a box of the Pills, and before that was all used, symptoms of amendment appeared. By perseverting with the medicines for a short time longer, according to the directions, and strictly adhering to your rules as to diet, &c., she was perfectly cured, and was enabled to go to her work in health.

I remain, dear Sir, yours truly,

(Signed) J. NOBLE.

Dated August 19th, 1852.

AN EXTRAORDINARY AND RAPID CURE OF ERYSIPELAS IN THE LEG AFTER MEDICAL AID HAD FAILED.

Copy of a Letter from Mrs Elizabeth Vesper, of the Post Office, Alnwick Road, near Bognor, Sussex dated Jan. 12th, 1853.

To PROFESSOR HOLLOWAY.—Sir,—I suffered for a considerable period from a severe attack of Erysipelas, which at length settled in my leg and resisted all medical treatment. My sufferings were very great, and I quite despaired of any permanent amendment, when I was advised to have recourse to your Ointment and Pills. I entered into your advice, and am happy to say the result was quite successful, for they effected a radical cure of my leg and restored me to the enjoyment of health. I shall ever speak with the utmost confidence of your medicines, and have recommended them to others in this neighbourhood similarly afflicted, who derived equal benefit.

I am, Sir, your obliged and faithful servant,

(Signed) ELIZABETH VESPER.

SURPRISING CURE OF A BAD BREAST, NERVOUS DEBILITY, AND GENERAL ILL HEALTH.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. T. F. Ker, Chemist &c. Lower Mosley lane, Manchester, dated Feb. 12th, 1851.

To PROFESSOR HOLLOWAY.—Sir,—I have great pleasure in forwarding to you the particulars of a very extraordinary cure of a bad breast effected solely by the use of your celebrated Ointment and Pills. Mrs. Martha Bell of Pitt-street in this town, has been for a considerable time labouring under a severe debility loss of appetite, and general ill health, occasioned by ulcerated wounds in the breast. She had had much experience in the use of all the known remedies for the cure of ulcers, but with not any beneficial result—in fact, she had nearly lost all taste and hope of a cure being effected. In this distressing and painful condition of body and mind, she was persuaded to have recourse to your invaluable Ointment and Pills, which she immediately did, and in the course of a very short time the effect produced was most astonishing: her appetite was speedily improved, the sores and ulcers in the breast gradually healed, and the nervous excitement of her system was wholly removed.

I remain, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

(Signed) T. FORSTER KER.

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I remain, dear Sir, yours very truly

(Signed) JOHN SMITH.

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March 15th, 1854. 33

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Toronto, April 5, 1854. 37-tf

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March 1, 1854. 31

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Michaelmas Term commenced 6th Oct., 1853, and will close Dec 17.

Lent Term will commence 19th Jan., 1854, and close 6th April.

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The College will be closed on the Prince of Wales' birthday, Ash-Wednesday, Ascension-day, the Queen's birthday, and Whit-Monday.

The Fees are—a composition of £26 5s. for the year, or £9 9s. for one term; or £1 11s. 6d. per term, for those Classes which meet twice in the week, and £1 1s. for those which meet once. All payments to be made at entrance.

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Particulars may be ascertained at the College daily, from ten till four; and from the Deputy-Ch