

discovered. Their expertness, and the rapidity of their motions, Agnes described as inconceivable by those who had never witnessed them. They showed every sort of kindness and tenderness by the way, proffering her plenty of fruit and water; but she gave herself totally up to despair, till behold! she was introduced to her own little William, plump, thriving, and as merry as a cricket, gambolling away among his brutal compeers, for many of whom he had conceived a great affection,—but then they far outgrew him, while others as fast overtook him in size.

Agnes immediately took her boy under her tuition, and was soon given to understand that her will was to be the sole law of the community: and all the while that they detoured her, they never refused her in aught save to take her home again. Our little daughter she had named Beatrice, after her maternal grandmother. She was born six months and six days after Agnes's abstraction. She spoke highly of the poegos, of their docility, generosity, warmth of affection to their mates and young ones, and of their irresistible strength. She conceived that, however, to have been a tribe greatly superior to all others of the race, for she never could regard them in any other light than as dumb human creatures. I confess that I had the same sort of feeling while in their settlement, for many of the young females in particular were much comelier than negro savages which I have seen, and they laughed, smiled, and cried very much like human creatures. At my wife's injunctions, or from her example, they all wore aprons: and the females had let the hair of their heads grow long. It was glossy black, and neither curled or woolly, and on the whole, I cannot help having a lingering affection for the creatures. They would make the most docile, powerful, and affectionate of all slaves; but they come very soon to their growth, and are but short-lived, in that approximating to the rest of the brute creation. They lived entirely on fruits, roots, and vegetables, and taste no animal food whatever.

I asked Agnes much of the civility of their manner to her, and she always describes it as respectful and uniform. For a while she never thought herself quite safe when near the Queen, but the dislike of the latter to her arose entirely out of her boundless affection for the boy. No mother could possibly be fonder of her own offspring than this affectionate creature was of William, and she was jealous of his mother for taking him from her, and causing him instantly to be weaned. But then the chief never once left the two Queens by themselves; they had always a guard day and night.

I have no objection to the publication of these adventures in Britain, though I know they will not obtain credit; but I should not like that the incidents meet in the Sydney Gazette, as I intend emigrating to that country as soon as I receive value for the stock I left at the settlement, for I have a feeling that my family is scarcely safe as long as I am on any part of the coast of Africa. And for the sake of my rising family, I have an aversion of its being known that they were bred among creatures that must still be conceived to be of the brute creation. Do not write till you hear from me again; and believe me ever, your old affectionate friend.

WM. MITCHELL.

Vander Creek, near Cape Town, Oct. 1, 1826.

EFFECTS OF TICKLING.

From the "Petit Courier des Dames" of 15th Nov. 1829.

Mrs. de L* mixed much with the fashionable world last winter, accompanied by her daughter Emily. Young and handsome, the latter was the object of general attention.—Although without fortune, she received many advantageous proposals for her hand—but as her heart remained unaffected, she selected from the crowd of her admirers Mr. de V** as the one best suited to gratify her *amour propre*; he was about forty, rich and respected—he adored her and would thus make her happy. Emily made a *confidante* of her mother, who could not avoid expressing her surprise at the selection. M. de V** had already lost two wives—there was a disparity in their ages, and she felt an invincible repugnance, for which she could not account, to the union. Emily thought so good an opportunity of securing a rich establishment, might not again present—her mother yielded, and she was married to Mr. de V**. Some time after, Emily's brother urged her to frankly

confess to him, whether she had realised the happiness which she had anticipated from the union. "I have indeed said she; my husband anticipates my every wish, and would render me fully happy, but for a single request which he has made, and which as I cannot understand the object, troubles me and I have to refuse it. It must be very serious and Edward. Oh no, it is very silly, replied his sister—you would never imagine what. Only think of a request to bind myself with such bandages—in a word to be a living copy of an Egyptian mummy.

So extraordinary a caprice, surprised Edward full as much as it had his sister.

His curiosity was too strongly excited to be spent in inquiries, and he urged his sister to yield, but with the condition that he should, unknown to the husband, be stationed during the operation in an adjoining room.

Thus placed, his sister informed her husband that she determined to yield to his request. With joy at this information, the husband found not words to express his gratitude, yet promptly commenced his operations. Edward listened attentively. Profound silence reigned for some minutes in the room, his sister broke it by saying in a trembling tone, "and the arms too?" He involuntarily trembled as if they were to be the last words of his sister. Yes my dear replied the husband gaily, I beg you—head and feet only free; just like a Mummy you know. All was again quiet—the silence lasted so long as again to frighten Edward, and he was upon the point of entering the room, when his sister commenced laughing most immoderately—he felt assured and listened. Emily stopped, and all was again silent. Again she laughed, and more immoderately than before, and again all was silent. This tomb-like repose, broken by loud and immoderate laughter and succeeding the laughter, was alarming—he knew not what to think of it, and burst into the room. At this appearance Mr. de V. fled, and Edward found his unfortunate sister stretched on the floor, cold and inanimate. Her husband had bound her that he might freely tickle her feet. Another fit of laughing, and Emily would have followed the two other wives of Mr. de V. The best attendance has but recalled her to existence, a *perfect Idiot*. The nervous system being entirely destroyed.

This adventure known to all Paris for some days, is too well proved to be doubted. We suppress the names, solely out of regard to a highly respected family.

IMPROVED SHIP'S RUDDER.—We understand that Captain Hendry R. N. has invented an ingenious piece of iron-work, which he terms a heel-brace, and which is applicable to the lower part of ships' rudders, in case the lower pintles are broken by the ship's grounding, or from any other casualty. This instrument is previously fitted to the lower part of the ship, that, when required, it may be better suspended by two guys from the after-part, and kept in its place by two guys leading forward. It has a hinge in it, in line of the pintles, and is secured to the rudder by two or three bolts, with fore-locks. To provide for the whole of the pintles going, he proposes that ships should be furnished with a hoop or cap, to embrace the head of the rudder, into which the tiller is to be shipped, which will render the rudder affectually serviceable as ever. Captain Hendry also suggests a new mode of making a temporary rudder, to which the above heel-brace and clasp-hoop are to be attached, the whole of which can be put together in a short time, and without the use of a forge.—*London Reg.—Arts for Dec.*

Divinity Hall, Glasgow.—We are informed that the Faculty of Glasgow College, on the 16th inst., unanimously resolved that the Professor of Divinity should be authorised to take a fee of two guineas every session from each of his students.—*Glasgow Herald.*

There is a project on foot at Paris of forming a cemetery after the manner of the ancient pyramids, capable of containing five million bodies.

YOUTH'S DEPARTMENT.

PLEASURE OF KNOWLEDGE.

The study of moral philosophy, how exceedingly beneficial may it be to us, suggesting to us the dictates of reason, concerning the nature and faculties

of our soul, the chief good and end of our life, the way and means of attaining happiness; the best rules and methods of practice; the distinctions between good and evil, the nature of each virtue, and the motives to embrace it; the rank wherein we stand in the world, and the duties proper to our relations; by rightly understanding and estimating which things, we may know how to behave ourselves decently and soberly towards ourselves, justly and prudently toward our neighbours; we may learn to correct our inclinations, to regulate our appetites, to moderate our passions, to govern our actions, to conduct and wield all our practice well in proportion to our end, so as to enjoy our being and conveniences of life in constant quiet and peace, with tranquillity and satisfaction of mind!

But especially the study of theology, how numberless, inexpressible advantages doth it yield! For it enlighteneth our minds with the best knowledge concerning the most high and worthy objects, in order to the most happy end, with the firmest assurance. It certainly and perfectly informs us concerning the nature and attributes, the will and intentions, the work and providence of God. It fully declareth to us our own nature, our origin, our designed end, our whole duty, our certain way of attaining eternal life and felicity. It exactly teacheth us how we should demean ourselves in all respects piously toward God, justly and charitably toward our neighbour, soberly toward ourselves, without blame in this world, with satisfaction of our conscience, with assured hope of blessed rewards. It propoeth those encouragements, and exhibiteth assurances of those helps which serve powerfully to engage us in all good practices. It setteth before us a most complete and lively pattern of all goodness; apt most clearly to direct, most strongly to excite, most obligingly to engage us thereto; especially instructing and inclining to the practice of the most high and hard duties, meekness, humility, patience, self-denial, contempt of all worldly vanities. It discovereth those sublime mysteries and stupendous wonders of grace, whereby God hath demonstrated an incomprehensible kindness to mankind, and our obligation to correspondent gratitude. It representeth manifold arguments and incentives to love God with the most intense affection, to commend him with most firm assurance, to delight in him continually with joy unspeakable; which are the noblest, the sweetest, the happiest operations of our soul. It reareth our hearts from vain thoughts and mean desires concerning these poor transitory, earthly things, to contemplations, affections, and hopes, towards objects most excellent, eternal, celestial. It engageth us to study the book of God, the book of books, the richest mine, of most excellent knowledge, containing infallible oracles of truth and heavenly rules of life; which are able to make us wise to salvation and perfect to every good work.

And how can we be so well employed as in meditation about such things? What occupation doth neerer approach to that of the blessed angels? What heaven is there upon earth like to that of constantly feasting our minds and hearts in the contemplation of such objects? Especially considering that this study doth not only yield private benefit to ourselves in forwarding our own salvation, but enableth us by our guidance and encouragement to promote the eternal welfare of others, and by our endeavours to people heaven, according to the exhortation of St. Paul pressing on Timothy this study with diligence; "Meditate upon these things, give thyself wholly to them, that thy profiting may appear to all: Take heed unto thyself and to the doctrine; continue in them; for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee."

So considerable is each part of learning, so extremely profitable are some parts of it. Indeed, the skill of any liberal art is valuable as a handsome ornament, as a harmless divertisement, as a useful instrument upon occasions, as preferable to all other accomplishments and advantages of person or fortune; for who would not purchase any kind of such knowledge at any rate; who would sell it for any price who would not choose rather to be deformed or impotent in his body than to have a mis-shapen and weak mind; rather a lank purse than an empty brain; to have no title at all, than no worth to bear it out? If any would, he is not of Solomon's mind; for of wisdom, he saith, "The merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold; she is more precious than rubies, and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her."—*Dr. Barrow.*