

kitchen at the hot springs, namely, hot plates made of large slabs of stone, laid over boiling water to dry the Tawa berry upon, steam hughis, or native ovens, always in readiness, and holes of boiling water in which fish and potatoes can be speedily cooked. A native swing completes the equipment of this fashionable watering-place, which, together with the game of draughts, relieve the ennui of those who resort to their baths.—*Bishop Selwyn's Visitation Tour.*

SELECTIONS.

ORIGIN OF THE GIANT'S CAUSEWAY, &c.—Commander C. Morton, R. N., has propounded a new Geological theory respecting the basaltic columns of the Giant's Causeway and of Staffa; contending that they are not of volcanic but of *vegetable* origin, and the splendid relics of stupendous bamboos of a far distant age!! In support of this hypothesis he alludes to the fact of the separate joints, both in bamboos and basaltic columns, being articulated with semi-spherical tenons, and corresponding sockets or mortices; the tenon or mortice being, in both productions, sometimes in the upper and sometimes in the lower ends of the joint; as particularly remarkable in the columns of the Giant's Causeway. In reference to the established theory of basaltic columns being crystallized from torrents of molten lava he shows that it is opposed to the general laws of crystallization; and remarks upon the utter impossibility of the separate joints, blocks or crystals, of which the columns are composed, selecting (if thus formed) their fellow-joints of similar diameter, with corresponding sockets or mortices, and arranging themselves so closely and exactly one above another, till stupendous columns were raised many hundred feet in height: the length of the joints, the diameter of contiguous columns, exhibiting all the relative variety of dimensions which mark a field of sugar-canes or a forest of bamboos. He also shows that bamboos, even in the present day, secrete siliceous or flint, the chief component part of basaltic columns; and that the well-known material called 'vegetable ivory,' now substituted for animal ivory in many articles of ordinary use, is the production of an existing order of palm-trees. There is not, says Captain Morton, such disparity in size between the most colossal of the columns of the Giant's Causeway and the bamboos of the present day, as between the monstrous antediluvian lizard, the iguanodon, and our diminutive reptiles of similar tribes.

NATIONAL SUPERSTITION.—During a thunder storm, the Jews open their doors and windows; as it is in a storm they expect the coming of their Messiah. The Catholics of Suabia and other districts of Germany, toll the bells of their churches to deprecate the effects of lightning; and in Senegal, there is a tribe, who sit at the door of their huts, and take unwearied delight in seeing "the spirit of the world" dart along their plains and mountains of sand.

IGNORANCE OF GREAT PHYSICAL TRUTHS.—How few men really believe that they sojourn on a whirling globe, and that each day and year of life is measured by its revolutions, regulating the labour and repose of every race of being. How few believe that the great luminary of the firmament, whose restless activity they daily witness, is an immovable star, controlling, by its solid mass, the primary planets which compose our system, and forming the guonon of the great dial which measures the thread of life, the tenure of empires, and the great cycles of the world's change. How few believe that each of the millions of stars—those atoms of light which the telescope can scarcely descry—are the centres of planetary systems that may equal, if not surpass our own? And how very few believe that the solid pavement of the globe, upon which they nightly slumber, is an elastic crust, imprisoning fires and forces which have often burst forth in tremendous energy, and are at this very instant struggling to escape,—now finding their way in volcanic fires—now heaving and shaking the earth—now upraising islands and continents, and gathering strength for that final outburst which is to usher in the new heavens and the new earth, "wherein dwelleth righteousness." Were these great physical truths objects of faith as well as deductions of reason, we should lead a better life than we do, and make a quicker preparation for its close.—*North British Review.*

POINTED SERMONS.—More than one hundred years ago there graduated at Harvard University a man by the name of Rawson, who subsequently settled in the ministry at Yarmouth, on Cape Cod. He used to preach very pointed sermons. Having heard that some of his parishioners were in the habit of making him the subject of their mirth at a grog-shop, he one Sabbath preached a discourse from the text, "and I was the song of the drunkard." His remarks were of a very moving character, so much so that many of his hearers rose and left the house in the midst of the sermon. A short time afterwards, the preacher delivered a discourse still more pointed than the first, from the text, "And they being convicted out of their own consciences, went out one by one." On this occasion, no one ventured to retire from the assembly, but the guilty ones resigned themselves, with as good grace as possible, to the lash of their pastor.

SEEDING WITH CLOVER.—Clover straw, after threshing, contains enough seed to give a thick seeding to the land, if spread over the surface. Dr. Cook, of Sodus Point, N. Y., pursues the practice very successfully. He spreads a thin coat of straw over the ground, as soon as it is harrowed, which does not injure, but rather benefits the

grain, as it comes up through the straw, and afterwards decays. The seed vegetates well, and affords a very thick growth of clover.—*Cultivator.*

HOME.—O how sacred is that home where every word is kindness, and every look affection! Where the ills and sorrows of life are borne by mutual effort, and its pleasures are equally divided; and where each esteems the other the more worthy! Where a holy emulation abounds to excel in offices of kindness, and affectionate regard! Where the live-long day, the week, the month, the year, is a scene of cheerful and unwearied effort to swell the tide of domestic comfort, and overflow the heart with home-born enjoyments. That home may be the humblest hovel on earth; there heart meets heart, in all the fondness of a full affection. And wherever that spot is found, there is an exemplification of all that is lovely and of good report among men. It is heaven begun below.

SUICIDES.—It has been estimated that during the past year, two hundred and two persons in the United States have destroyed their own lives by a direct and deliberate act, without any reference to the thousands who have as certainly killed themselves by dissipation and intemperance. The causes enumerated are, insanity, drunkenness, and remorse. That is a fearful temptation which entices one to rush unbidden into the presence of his God and Judge. Unless the soul is fortified by piety, no one is secure in the time of trouble, varied and overwhelming as it may be, against the insidious suggestions of the devil. Let those who may be thus tempted, for a moment reflect, that no sorrow of life is to be compared, in point of intensity and continuance, to that infinite misery which they encounter by an act of self-murder.—*Presbyterian.*

CALAMITIES OF GENIUS.—Milton, proscribed and poor, descended in utter blindness to the tomb. Dryden, towards the close of his life, was compelled to sell his talents piece-meal to support existence. Little cause have I, said he, 'to bless my stars for being born an Englishman. It was quite enough for one century that it neglected a Cowley, and saw a Butler starved to death.' Otway, at a later period, choked himself with a piece of bread thrown at him to relieve his hunger. What were not the sufferings of Savage, composing at street corners, writing his verses on scraps of paper picked out of the kennel, expiring in a prison, and leaving his corpse to the gaoler, who defrayed the expense of his interment! Chatterton, after being many days without food, destroyed himself by poison.

DO NOT DESPISE SMALL THINGS.—The possibility of a great change being introduced by very slight beginnings, may be illustrated by a tale which Lockman tells of a vizier, who having offended his master, was compelled to perpetual imprisonment in a lofty tower. At night his wife came to weep below his window. "Cease your grief," said the sage, "go home for the present, and return hither when you have procured a live black beetle, together with a little ghee (or buffalo's butter), three clews, one of the finest silk, another of stout pack-thread, and another of whipcord; finally, a stout coil of rope." When she came again to the foot of the tower, provided according to her husband's commands, he directed her to touch the head of the insect with a little of the ghee, to tie one end of the silk thread around him, and to place the reptile on the wall of the tower. Seduced by the smell of the butter, which he conceived to be in store somewhere above him, the beetle continued to ascend till he reached the top, and thus put the vizier in possession of the end of the silk thread, and he drew up the pack-thread by means of the silk, the small cord by means of the pack-thread, and by means of the cord, a stout rope capable of sustaining his own weight—and so at last escaped from the place of his duress.—*Quarterly Review.*

PROVIDE FOR OLD AGE.—It is not well that a man should always labour. His temporal as well as spiritual interests demand a cessation in the decline of life. Some years of quiet and reflection are necessary after a life of industry and activity. There is more to concern him in life than incessant occupation, and its product—wealth. He who has been a slave all his days to one monotonous mechanical pursuit, can hardly be fit for another world. The release from toil in old age most men have the prospective pleasure of: and in the reality, it is as pleasing as it is useful and salutary to the mind. Such advantages, however, can only be gained by prudence and economy in youth; we must save, like the ant, before we can hope to have any rest in the winter of our days.—*Book of Symbols.*

SPORTS OF ANIMALS.—The sports of animals are peculiarly affecting. It is reported by all who have the charge of flocks, that the lambs resemble children very much in their sports. In the mellowed glory of a June evening, while the ewes are quietly resting in preparation for their night's sleep, the lambs get together at a little distance, perhaps in the neighbourhood of a broomy knoll, and there begin a set of pranksome frolics of their own, dancing fantastically about, or butting as in jest, against each other. The whole affair is a regular game at romps, such as a mere group of human youngsters will occasionally be allowed to enjoy just before going to bed. It is highly amusing to witness it, and to trace the resemblance it bears to human doings which is carried sometimes so far that a single mamma will be seen looking on close by, apparently rather happy at the idea of the young folks being so merry, but anxious also that they should not behave too roughly; otherwise she must certainly interfere.—*Chambers' Journal.*