

their rise from climates more southern than ours. In such it really unites all the soft beauties of spring with the radiance of summer; and has warmth enough to cheer and invigorate, without overpowering. With us, a great part of the month is yet too chill for much enjoyment of the charms of nature, and frequent injury is done to young plants, &c. by frosts and nipping winds.

It is scarcely possible to conceive a more beautiful picture than is now presented to the traveller through some of the counties of England. The fields and meadows are clothed in the freshest green of the young grass and corn, the edges are rich in fragrance from the beautiful bloom of the hawthorn or *may*, the barberry, too, mingling its delicate branches of bright yellow blossom, and the horse-chestnut its elegant clusters of white, with here and there a bright crimson streak. The hedge banks are still gay with blue bells, cowslips, &c. and the gardens and orchards now display their highest beauty in the delicate blush of the apple blossom.

POPULAR SUPERSTITIONS.

(Concluded.)

Many persons have from a dream, or from the prediction of a fortune-teller, imbibed the belief that they must die at a certain time. The impression has been so powerful, as to be itself the cause of sickness and death.—The experiment tried by three London physicians, has been often mentioned. They agreed to find some rugged and healthy man, and see what effect their reiterated assurance that he was dangerously sick would produce. In the following manner they carried their concerted plan into execution. They went to a road passing over an extensive plain, and a road which was thronged with countrymen crowding into the metropolis. Proceeding along at considerable distances from each other, the first looked earnestly for some suitable subject for their experiment. He had not proceeded far before he met a stout man driving a team, who appeared the very picture of health and strength. 'Good morning, my friend,' said the physician, 'you look too sick to be so hard at work, sir.' 'Sick,' answered the countryman, 'I never had a sick day in my life.' 'Indeed,' said the physician in reply, shaking his head with a look of solicitude, 'that's bad, such persons seldom survive the first illness. I advise you, my friend, to take care of yourself. I am afraid you are not long for this world.' The physician then rode on. The countryman began to feel alarmed. He felt of his forehead to ascertain if he were feverish—thought he felt some peculiar sensation of the brain,—and felt a little nausea at the stomach. He had not advanced far on the road, before the second physician met him. 'Friend,' said the gentleman, 'I hope you have not

far to travel to-day; you look as though you ought to be in bed, rather than at work.' 'I do feel rather strangely,' said the man, 'I am afraid I am going to be sick.' 'Going to be sick,' said the gentleman, 'if you were one of my patients, I should fear you were never going to be well. If you value your life at all, I advise you to go home as quick as possible, and send for a physician.' The countryman now began to feel that he was a sick man; faint and trembling he proceeded a little farther, when the third physician met him. He eyed the countryman for a moment with an earnest gaze, and then remarked, 'you must hold your life pretty cheap, my friend, to be out, sick as you are; you look as though you had just escaped from the coffin.' The poor countryman could stand it no longer. His knees trembled, his head grew dizzy, and he was carried into a house, and placed in a bed, a sick man. And it was the unanimous opinion of the physicians, that if the deception had not been explained, he would have died.

Now is there any difficulty in accounting for the fact, that at now and then instances have occurred, in which persons have received an impression, from a dream, or from the prediction of a fortune-teller, that they must die at a particular time, and at that time have died. The firm belief that their destiny was fixed, has produced the sickness and the death. Such is the well known effects of imagination.

We will make a few remarks in conclusion, upon the efforts which should be used to arrest the progression of those foolish fears. The influence of these feelings is in a greater or less degree, almost universal.

The sailor will climb to the topmast's dizzy height, and there in darkness, when the tempest has broken loose, and wild confusion is warring around him, be fearless and unagitated; and yet will he tremble in his hammock, as he hears the little insect called the death-watch, ticking in the timber by his side.

The soldier will go undaunted to the bloody conflict and grapple with his foe, and not a nerve will tremble, as the instruments of death are showered around him, and yet he will be afraid to enter the battle field in the night after the conflict, when the ground is strewn with the bodies of the powerless dead.

The stories of childhood awaken a class of feelings, which it is almost impossible by future efforts to eradicate. Even the most cautious parents, are hardly aware of the greediness, with which children catch these tales. And the parent who appeals to supernatural fears to govern his child, is doing the child an injury which is irreparable.—There are many persons who are afraid even to go about their own houses in the dark. How careful then ought they to be who are

placing ideas in the infant mind, to exclude these false ideas. If a child be properly taught to trust in God as its father and its friend, it will feel that that protection is as sure in the darkness as in the light. Some children are afraid to go to sleep at night, without a candle burning in the room. What a censure is this upon a mother's instruction. Other children who have been properly taught, are willing to go alone to their chambers, and in the dark find the way to their place of rest. What a testimony does this present, of the faithfulness of parental instruction. This is the advantage which we hope may be derived from the discussion of this subject;—that greater efforts may be made, to keep from the minds of the rising generation, the knowledge of these superstitious notions. We should make the love and the fear of God the basis of education, and upon this, endeavour to rear a superstructure of high, and honourable, and elevated character; lead a man in humility to the footstool of his God, and under the protection of that almighty arm to fear nothing.

VISIT TO A STEREOTYPE FOUNDRY.

On entering, we were politely received by Mr. B. who conducted us first into a room appropriated to the setting of types and the correction of proof-sheets. The first thing which arrested our attention was two females—one of whom was reading the perfect copy of a work then in press to the other, who held a proof-sheet of the same work in her hand, and corrected all imperfections. The manner in which she read, appeared very amusing to us—for instance, when she came to a comma, she abbreviated it by saying com.; for semicolon, sem.; for a period, point, &c. At the farther end of the room, other females were setting types, and in the centre of the same apartment were young men locking them up.—We then descended into a small dark room, where every thing was covered with a white dust, which we found, on examination, to be plaster of Paris. This was called the *moulding room*. Here the pages of types were brought and enclosed in a frame, and then covered with this plaster, mixed with water to the consistence of cream. This was suffered to remain till the paste became hardened, when the page of types was taken from the under side, and we found it had left a perfect impression on the mould.

Mr. B. then conducted us to a small and very dirty room, where he said the moulds were brought from the moulding-room. We saw very large pieces of type mould lying about the room on the floor. In one corner there was a large kettle, which was half-filled with type metal, melted by a fire underneath. Over the kettle there was a crane, to which was attached by a chain a basin a foot and a half in length and six inches in depth. This basin descended into the