

"Duppies fly off wi dat head, him gone to de debil."

"Now John you must produce that head or I will have you whipped."

John saw a glare in massa's eye he didn't like, stepping up to the shelf which Mr. C— had just reconnoitered, he quietly handed down the white cast of himself.

"How John. How is this. How came the black bust white?"

"Lors, massa fust make white boy, den turn 'em black. By am by de moon get up, John get up too, and scrape all de black off and turn de nigger white."

Mr. C— turned laughingly to his companion. "I believe the boy has solved at last the difficult problem, not by applying the brush, but an oyster shell."

### JACK AND GILL.

"Jack and Gill went up the hill,

To fetch a pail of water ;—

Jack fell down and broke his crown,

And Gill came tumbling a'ter."

We believe this well-known and popular stanza was once made the subject of a learned and elaborate critique, demonstrating its artistic completeness as a literary production. This critique we have not seen,—but it occurs to us that we have never heard any one, either young or old, green or gray, who, in quoting the lines, seemed aware of the pith and marrow that are in them, or conscious of the sage lessons they contain. Of the literary merit of the production, we at present say nothing. Freely, according to the anonymous author all the credit it is fitted as a literary effort to yield him, we humbly submit that it is not in this that its greatest merit lies. To us, the "recondite sense" enshrined in it, leads to the conviction that it must have been the production of some sly sage, who meant a good deal more than he said. Let us consider ;—

1st. The object sought to be accomplished by the two heroes, of the piece ;—"to fetch a pail of water." Theirs is no chimerical undertaking. Their attempt is not characterized by any undue aspiration after an object in itself unattainable, the pursuing of which might have been

ridiculed as following "a wild goose chase." No large supply,—no unreasonable quantity of the fluid is sought. Theirs is a perfectly laudable endeavor,—even a necessary duty ;—and their unity of purpose, and ready co-operation in its performance, manifest a commendable spirit—a spirit essential to the harmony and happiness of our social existence. Had Jack's object been illegitimate, or the means employed for its attainment improper, he ought never to have set out on the expedition ; and Gill would have been justified, yea, honoured, in refusing his assistance. Or, had Gill been less willing and hearty in his co-operation, it might have argued a state of social connection not at all commendable. It might have argued a disposition on his part, to study his own ease, and to roll the burden of a necessary duty on the shoulders of his companion. But the reverse is the case and, our two heroes thus offered a worthy example of the voluntary combination of effort in the performance of a common duty. Their example strikingly reproves the too prevalent selfishness of human conduct, and puts to shame the meanness of the man, who would share without scruple the advantages of toil, but who refuses to share in the toil that procures them. We notice :—

2nd. The direction in which they went to fetch water ;—they "went up a hill." Springs, or reservoirs of water—though sometimes,—are not generally met with on the tops of hills. Their existence in such situations is the exception, not the rule. The short narrative does not inform us that they were in the habit of going up the hill for a supply of water, nor does it even hint that they were certain a supply was to be found there. We may be allowed then to suppose that this was their first exploratory tour in that direction ;—and here their lack of judgment manifests itself. Guided by the teachings of common observation and experience, they ought to have sought their object in a contrary direction,—not *up* the hill but *down*. In the latter direction, if no crystal spring should catch their eye, there was, at least, the prospect of striking in the course of some "babbling brook," and drawing thence enough for