

mitage, on the summit of Mount Etzel. There he spent seven years, but the good odor of his virtues reached the depths of the valleys. At first shepherds and woodcutters came to him, then lords, then noble ladies, then, at last, a multitude of people. This homage was a torment to the holy hermit, who loved only meditation, humility, and the solitude of the woods. Hence it was that he secretly left this hermitage, and took nothing with him but the statue of the Blessed Virgin, the only ornament of his little chapel. He took refuge in Switzerland, in a forest of the Canton of Schwitz, which bore the characteristic name of the Black or Dark Forest. He there spent peaceful and happy days, and would have reached a good old age, if he had not been murdered at the end of thirty two years, by robbers, with whom he had had the charity to share the limpid water of his spring, and the wild fruits of his forest. But God did not permit the atrocious crime to remain unknown and unpunished. The murderers had been seen by no one, but they were betrayed by two crows, who harassed them continually, even in Zurich. They followed the robbers everywhere with incredible fury; they penetrated even into the city, and made their way even through the windows of the inn where the murderers had taken refuge, and never left them until they were arrested. The ruffians then confessed their crime, and suffered the extreme penalty of the law. In memory of this singular event, which took place in the year 861, the Abbey of Reichenau, of whose community St. Meinrad had been a member, placed the figure of two crows on its arms and on its seal.—*Bollandist's Act Sane.*

RETALIATION.

A LADY once, when she was a little girl, learned a good lesson, which she tells for the benefit of whom it may concern :

One frosty morning I was looking out of the window into my father's farm-yard, where stood many cows, oxen and horses waiting to drink. It was a cold morning. The cattle all stood very still and meek, till one of the cows attempted to turn round. In making the attempt

she happened to hit her next neighbor, whereupon the neighbor kicked and hit another. In five minutes the whole herd were kicking each other with fury. My mother turned and said :

"See what comes of kicking when you are hit. Just so I have seen one cross word set a whole family by the ears some frosty morning."

Afterward, if my brothers or myself were a little irritable she would say, "Take care my children. Remember how the fight in the farm-yard began. Never give back a kick for a hit, and you will save yourself and others a great deal of trouble."—*Youth's Companion.*

READING.

WHEN the business of the day is over, how many men does the evening hour find comfortably seated in their easy chairs, reading to themselves, or to some fair friend, or happy group! In how many pleasant homes, while the ladies are seated at their morning employments, or amusements, or whatever they may please to call them, does some glad creature read aloud, in a voice full of music, and marked by the sweetest emotion of a young pure heart, a lay of our mighty bards, or a story of one of our most cunning interweavers of the truth of nature with the splendor of fiction, or follow the wonderful recitals of our travellers, naturalists, and philosophical spirits, into every region of earth or mind! Publishers may tell us, "poetry don't sell;" critics may cry "poetry is a drug," thereby making it so with the frivolous and unreflecting, who are the multitude,—but we will venture to say, that at no period were there ever more books read by that part of our population, most qualified to draw delight and good from reading, and when we enter mechanic's libraries, and see them filled with simple, quiet, earnest men, and find such men now sitting on stiles or fences in the country, deeply sunk into the very marrow and spirit of a well-handled volume, where we used to meet them in riotous and reckless mischief, we are proud and happy to look forward to that wide and formerly waste field, over which literature is extending its triumphs, and to see the beneficent consequences that will follow to the whole community.