

affectionate inquiries respecting each other's health and welfare; and while the young men gravely discussed the merits of their respective masters' farms, and learnedly descanted on the most proper rotation of crops, the breeding of cattle, and the latest improvements in husbandry, the maidens would as earnestly enlarge on the best modes of dairy management, their several achievements in spinning linen yarn (an accomplishment in which all young females, whether mistress or servant, were generally proficient at that period), the most approved method of steeping and drying lint (flax), and who was the best carder of wool; with many equally interesting and harmless topics, which frequently lasted till far in the afternoon, when, after partaking of a social cup of tea, which at that period was an article used by the lower classes on special occasions only, this virtuous family would take an affectionate leave of their mother, and then the three brothers would each escort his sister to their respective homes.

By a few years' saving and industry, the two eldest sons, James and Alexander, had educated themselves as far as to be able, by the assistance of some kind friends, to begin business as grocers in a handsome shop in the most central part of the village. Here their industry and attention to business, no less than the uniform probity of their dealings, soon acquired them trade; and in a few months the shop of the M'Callums was frequently crowded with customers, while those of their neighbours were quite empty. By and bye, their business, which hitherto had been confined to the village, gradually extended to the surrounding neighbourhood; and finally they attained the honour and profit of supplying the small dealers in the country round about with teas and groceries. When I last heard of them," continued my mother, "Lizzy was living in a nice little cottage in the outskirts of the village, built by her sons expressly for her accommodation. James and Alexander were both happily married; and Andrew, the youngest son, who had become a mason, was now a builder of great respectability in E—, with his youngest sister Jessy acting as his housekeeper. The two sisters, Elizabeth and Mary, had been married some years before, one to a farmer in an adjacent parish, and the other to a dissenting minister belonging to the village. Both marriages proved fortunate in the extreme, and my informant mentioned, that when he last visited Lizzy M'Callum, two of her grandchildren—fine chubby, rosy-cheeked, flax-haired, little rogues—were receiving each a piece and jelly on't from granny, because they had been *quid bairns*, and had said their questions without missing a single word."

I cannot conclude this simple narrative without remarking the vital importance

which parental instruction and parental example have in forming the character and tempers of children, and how much the very humblest class of society can achieve in instilling into the minds of their infant offspring principles of piety, rectitude of conduct, and benevolence of heart. None can be so poor, or so engrossed, as to have no spare moment for the performance of this delightful and momentous duty: none so ignorant as to be incapable of communicating to their children something respecting the supreme ruler of the universe, and the duties of his creatures—something illustrative of the beauty of truth, gentleness, and integrity, and the utter shame and unworthiness of falsehood, deceit, and all angry passions. Were subjects of this nature habitually impressed upon the ductile minds of children. It would materially assist in subduing those evil and unruly propensities to which poor humanity is so prone; and if to such precepts were added the *good example* of parents, the result would in all probability be the same as is exhibited in the simple story above related.

DECISION OF CHARACTER.

"I hardly know what to do." "I have a great mind to go." "I have a great mind not to go." "I should never have done it, if I had not been over-persuaded." "All these and many such like sayings, are the expressions of weak minds: people who, without intending ill, are almost sure to act ill, for want of decision of character. To avoid such folly and weakness, make up your mind as to what is right, and let no persuasion induce you to swerve from it, against your better judgment.

"To be infirm of purpose, is to be at the mercy of the artful, or at the disposal of accident. Look around, and count the numbers who have, within your own knowledge, failed from want of firmness. An excellent and wise mother gave the following excellent advice to her son, with her dying breath, 'My son, early learn how to say, No.'

A failure in this particular is one of the most common faults of mankind, from the highest to the lowest classes of society, and is alike productive of mischief and misery in all. The following sketch is from humble life; recorded by a worthy clergyman.

"How many of our misfortunes might be prevented if we could each of us learn to say the little word, No! I remember when I was a boy, an incident took place, which serves to show the importance of the above little word. In our village there lived a very fine young fellow, named Jones; he was one of those who never could say, No. It happened that a recruiting serjeant came there to enlist soldiers, and being pleased with the appearance of Jones, he invited him into the public house where he was drinking. Jones did not like to say No,

but went in. Though a sober lad, not being able to say No. He soon got tipsy.—He then enlisted and went abroad. Not being able to say No, he fell into bad company, and got connected with them in their crimes. The last I heard of him was, that he was in jail, under sentence of death, for sheep-stealing, but through the influence of his friends, his sentence was mitigated to transportation for life. Before his reprieve arrived, he spoke to some friends who visited him, to the following effect:—'My ruin has been that I never had resolution enough to say No. All my crimes might have been avoided could I have answered, No, to the first invitation to do wrong; but, not being able to say No to a merry companion, even when he invited me to commit a crime, I thus became his accomplice.'

Reader, doubt not the truth of this story, but learn from it to take courage to say No.

WEEKLY MIRROR.

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1835.

Since our last, London dates to the 15th April have been received.

Addresses in favor of Sir Robert Peel's Administration continue to be voted in all parts of the Kingdom, some of them addressed to his Majesty, some to Sir Robert Peel. They all breathe a spirit of the most devoted attachment to the Constitution, consisting of King, Lords, and Commons, and they pray for the continuance and lament the resignation of Sir Robert Peel and his Colleagues, as the persons most capable of carrying on Reform with safety to the institutions of the country.—*N. F. paper.*

A London paper states that there had been a severe engagement between H. M. Ship Canopus, commanded by the Hon. Capt. Percy, and three Russian Men of War, who attempted to pass the Dardanelles, and were most gallantly opposed by the Canopus. It is stated that she was nearly cut to pieces, had 3 men killed and a great many wounded.

FOREIGN.—The indemnity question was taken up in the French Chambers on the 9th ult. and underwent a long discussion, but no decision had been come to.

The Constitutor frigate had arrived at Havre. Mr. Livingston's correspondence with his government, published in the American papers, had reached Paris and such was the excitement created by it that he had considered it prudent to retire to Holland and wait the course of events.

NEW PAPER.—A prospectus has just been issued of a Religious Paper to be published at Lunenburg, N. S. once a fortnight, to be called the *Colonial Churchman*. To be conducted by a Society of Gentlemen.—Terms 10s. per annum.