

## THE DYING CHILD.

BY EBENEZER ELLIOTT.

We watch'd him while the moonlight,  
Beneath the shadow'd hill,  
Seem'd dreaming of good angels,  
And all the woods were still.

The brother of two sisters  
Drew painfully his breath :  
A strange fear had come o'er him,  
For love was strong in death.

The fire of fatal fever  
Burnt darkly on his cheek,  
And often to his mother  
He spoke, or tried to speak :

"I felt, as if from slumber  
I never could awake :  
O Mother! give me something  
To cherish for your sake.

A cold dead weight is on me,  
A heavy weight, like lead :  
My hands and feet seem sinking  
Quite through my little bed :

I am so tired, so weary—  
With weariness I ache :  
O Mother! give me something  
To cherish for your sake!

Some little token give me,  
Which I may kiss in sleep—  
To make me feel I'm near you,  
And bless you, though I weep.

My sisters say I'm better—  
But, then, their heads they shake :  
O Mother! give me something  
To cherish for your sake.

Why can't I see the poplar,  
The moonlit stream and hill,  
Where Fanny says good angels  
Dream, when the woods are still?

Why can't I see you, Mother?  
I surely am awake :  
Oh! haste and give me something  
To cherish for your sake!"

His little bosom heaves not ;  
The fire hath left his cheek :  
The fine chord—is it broken?  
The strong chord—could it break?

Ah! yes: the loving spirit  
Hath wing'd his flight away :  
A mother and two sisters  
Look down on lifeless clay.

**COMPRESSION IN ORATORY.**—Eloquence, we are persuaded, will never flourish in America or at home, so long as the public taste is infantile enough to measure the value of a speech by the hours it occupies, and to exalt copiousness and fertility, to the absolute disregard of conciseness. The efficacy and value of compression can scarcely be overrated. The common air we beat aside with our breath, compressed, has the force of gunpowder, and will rend the solid rock, and so it is with language. A gentle stream of persuasiveness may flow through the mind, and leave no sediment; let it come at a blow, as a cataract, and it sweeps all before it. It is by this, magnificent Cicero confounds Cataline, and Demosthenes overwhelms Æschines; by this that Marc Antony, as Shakspeare makes him speak, carries the heart away with a bad cause; by this that Lady Macbeth makes us for the moment sympathize with murder. The language of strong passion is always terse and compressed; genuine conviction uses few words; there is something of artifice and dishonesty in a long speech. No argument is worth using, because none can make a deep impression, that does not bear to be stated in a single sentence. Our marshalling of speeches, essays, and books, according to their length, deeming that a great work which covers a great space—this "inordinate appetite for printed paper," which devours so much and so indiscriminately that it has no leisure for fairly tasting anything—is pernicious to all kinds of literature, but fatal to oratory.

**STUDY OF LOGIC.**—The *Asiatic Journal*, 1827, records the following instance of acuteness in a young Brahmin. After the introduction of juries into Ceylon, a wealthy Brahmin, whose unpopular character had rendered him obnoxious to many, was accused of murdering his nephew, and put upon trial. He chose a jury of his own caste; but so strong was the evidence against him, that twelve out of thirteen of the jury were thoroughly convinced of his guilt. The dissentient juror, a young Brahmin of Camisseram, stood up, declared his conviction that the prisoner was the victim of a conspiracy, and desired that all the witnesses should be recalled. He examined them with astonishing dexterity and acuteness, and succeeded in extorting from them such proofs of their perjury that the jury, instead of consigning him to an ignominious death, pronounced him innocent. The affair made much noise in the island, and the Chief Justice, Sir Alexander Johnson, sent for the juror who had so distinguished himself, and complimented him on the talents he had displayed. The Brahmin attributed his skill to his study of a book, which he called "Strengtheners of the Mind." He had obtained it from Persia, and had translated it from the Sanscrit, into which it had been rendered from the Persian. Sir Alexander Johnson expressing a curiosity to see the book, the Brahmin brought a Tamul MS. on palm leaves, which Sir Alexander found, to his infinite surprise, to be the "Dialectics of Aristotle."

## POPULAR SCIENCE.

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## ON THE COMMUNICATION OF HEAT.

**12. CONDUCTION.**—If the ends of a common poker and a rod of glass, be placed in a fire, and allowed to remain in it for about half an hour, a very different temperature will be found to exist in the other extremity of the iron poker from that of the glass rod. Heat will be rapidly conducted along the iron, and slowly along the glass. Iron is said to be a good conductor of heat, glass on the contrary a bad one. Among the best conductors of heat are the metals, and dense compact bodies generally. Among the worst, the natural covering of animals, as feathers, hair, wool, down, and all very porous bodies.

**13.** A simple experiment can be made to exhibit, in a striking manner the difference between good and bad conductors of heat. Take a gun barrel or any cylinder of iron; and also a cylinder of wood of equal dimensions. Cover the cylinders neatly with a piece of writing paper—and hold them before a good fire, or, what is better, over a spirit lamp. The paper surrounding the iron, may remain for many minutes without being scorched, while that about the wooden cylinder will soon be burned. The heat passes through the paper in both instances, but it is rapidly diffused through the substance of the iron, and slowly through the bad conducting wood, so that it soon accumulates in one spot, in sufficient quantity to burn the paper.

**14.** The bad conducting power of feathers, hair, wool and down, is due to the air they contain among the parts of which they are composed. It is thus that snow, a very porous body, prevents the passage of the heat of the earth, and serves as a warm covering for vegetables in winter. Sand is a very bad conductor of heat, hence it is used to surround furnaces and boilers. A layer of perfectly dry sand, spread upon the palm of the hand, will effectually prevent, for some minutes, the heat of a red hot ball of iron laid upon it from penetrating to the skin. The boilers of locomotive engines are clothed with felt, a bad conductor, for the purpose of confining the heat of the steam, as much as possible. For the same reason we clothe ourselves in flannels or furs, which prevent the escape of the heat of the body. When iron and wood are exposed to a very low temperature during a winter's night, they produce very different effects upon the finger when applied to them. The iron feels much colder than the wood, although there may be no difference in the temperature. Iron being a good conductor, rapidly conveys the heat of the finger away, whereas the wood abstracts it slowly. For exactly the same reason, an iron roof in summer seems much hotter than one constructed of shingles, the former imparting its heat more rapidly than the latter.

**15.** Fluids are bad conductors of heat downwards; water, indeed, may be made to boil near the upper part of a glass vessel, without communicating much of its heat to the lower portions of the fluid. Into two small tubes, as represented in figures 3 and 4, introduce some water coloured with red cabbage, and carefully fill the tube with colourless water. Place a spirit lamp at the bottom of one tube, and near the surface of the water in the other. The arrows in Fig 3 indicate the direction of the current of heated and cold water, which will continue until the liquid boils and is uniformly coloured. The tube, as shown in Fig 4, may be held in the hand, without inconvenience, immediately underneath the boiling liquid; the coloured portions remaining at the bottom undisturbed.

