

streams of men and women, of various grades, move in all directions at all hours of the day (unhappy is the wanderer in this flood of human life who has no object in view,) and this to our fancy is one of the most remarkable sights of London. What variety of condition—how strange the difference amongst so many countenances! Here the prosperous gentleman or gentlewoman elbows the struggling and needy passenger, doubtfully endeavoring to obtain the commonest necessaries of life. Isolated as each seems, many are more dependent on, and connected with the other than may be thought. Most have their cars, and there are few even amongst the most humble but have a circle of greater or less size and influence, to whom even in the bustle of business the thoughts revert, and to whom they look for sympathy and pleasure.

The great thoroughfares are crowded; statisticians would be puzzled to estimate the value of what is borne along the roadways. A single van may contain from £10,000 to £15,000 worth of silk, or other costly wares; and that meek-looking, ill-clad individual, whom you jostled just now on the pavement, may be revolving an idea which, when it becomes a fact, may give employment and bread to thousands, and advance the interests of the whole human family.

WHERE OUR FLOWERS COME FROM.—Our sweet peas we have received from Sicily and Ceylon; pinks, carnations and stocks are natives of Spain, Italy, and the Greek Islands; sweet Williams come from Germany; the pretty saxifrage, or London Pride, from the Alps; and heart's-ease from the wastes of Siberia. The amaranths are chiefly from the East Indies; the anemone grows wild in Germany and Switzerland; the hepatica comes from the mountains of Sweden; the fuchsia is a native of Chili, in South America, where it is a tree. Chrysanthemums and hydrangeas have been introduced from China; the gladiolus was brought from Turkey; the crown imperial comes from the woods of Persia; hyacinths belong to Syria; and dahlias grow wild in the sandy plains of Mexico. The scarlet lychnis is a native of Asia, Greece and Russia; the ranunculus was brought to Europe from the Holy Land by the crusaders.

BAD HABITS.

Bad habits are not easily relinquished; they are acquired without any difficulty; they steal insensibly upon individuals, and having effectually acquired possession they maintain their hold; and are not driven off without a firm resolution and great exertion. Bad habits are more general than are supposed. There are few places without them, and few altogether free from them, from the palace to the cottage, from the church to the school! Some, indeed, are much more injurious to their tenancy than others, which in comparison are harmless.

Bad habits are often seen in different families, such as behaving rudely at table; talking incessantly, to the great annoyance of parents and visitors; staying on an errand, so that it cannot be ascertained at what time the child or servant will return. The last produces great vexation, and often great inconvenience. Some children have the great fault of contradicting and even correcting their parents and elders in conversation.—Young persons should recollect that they know but little, and their observation and experience must of course be very limited. Speaking impertinently to servants is a disjuncting habit, and indicates a haughty and untoward temper.

My young friend, Rosa, is a lively, pleasant, industrious, good-tempered girl; but she has contracted the habit of rising late. Her excuse is, that she can make up the time lost in the morning, by sitting up late at night; not considering that late hours are very injurious to the health, and that the physical and mental powers must be, in some degree, relaxed by the labors and exercises of the day.—I have reasoned with her on the subject; and while she admits all the benefits to be derived from early rising, she has not yet corrected the habit.

A habit of irregularity is the fault of many; manifested in not keeping their engagements, and failing in their promises. An exact man observes minutes, and we need no greater examples of order and regularity than the course of the planets, the appearance of the planets, the appearance of the seasons, and the periodical return of the comets. Concerning the heavenly bodies, astronomers tell us, "there is so much exactness in their motions that they punctually come at the

same periods to the hundredth part of a minute."

"How most exact is nature's frame,
How wise the eternal mind;
His counsels never change the scheme,
That his first thoughts designed."

The want of punctuality is a serious defect in any character; it not only involves him in future difficulties, but proves a source of great inconvenience to others. A gentleman punctual in his word, when he had heard that two had agreed upon a meeting, and the one neglected his hour, would say of him, "he is a young man, then."

I must omit many other propensities, such as the habit of evil speaking, the habit of slovenliness, incivility, swearing, drunkenness, dissimulation, self-conceit, &c., hoping that my friends will profit by the preceding remarks, and inquire whether they are indulging in any unamiable, pernicious habits.

LAKES.

Lakes form elements of diversity in the landscape, and perform important functions in the economy of nature. Exposing considerable surfaces to evaporation, they serve to temper the aridity of their respective districts, at the same time that they act as so many reservoirs, in which the super-abundant supplies of winter are stored up for the increased requirements of summer. In many instances they act as checks to the too rapid discharge of rivers—retaining for perennial supply what would otherwise be run off in a few days, and restraining, moreover, the destructive flood which is brought to rest in their placid areas. Occurring so frequently in the course of rivers, they act as settling pools for the debris and sediment of their waters—the streams they discharge being pure and pellucid, whilst those they receive may be turbid and laden with impurities. In this way they get gradually silted up, and form rich alluvial tracts, the while that their outlet-currents are deepening their channels and forming the means of a more efficient drainage. In this way lakes become important agents in the surface-modification of the land; and one has only to cast his eye over the fertile dales and vales of long-established regions to perceive how much of these areas was at one time a mere succession of lakes and morasses. Biologically, too, these fresh-water sheets