

crimo, now gives utterance to all the odious tones of perverseness and ill-humor. Each domestic jar produces a volley of frolic and invective. The law of kindness is not upon his lips.

Now if any man should say we have thrown a weapon at Christianity, by the portrait we have drawn; that we have brought contempt upon religion, by such an exposure of unsound character, we say, nay, verily. Our rebukes have fallen upon none but those whose conduct is hostile to the honor of Zion, and a barrier to the progress of truth and holiness. It is no assault upon Christianity to show how its professed friends do it fatal injury. We stand rather for the defence of the gospel when we rebuke inconsistencies of Christians. We vindicate the religion of Christ when we say they violate its genius and its spirit, who refuse to carry into their daily avocations, into the privacies of life, yea the privacies of the heart, its holy and heavenly spirit. And we vindicate scriptural piety, when we say that that religion is superficial, is worthless, is a fatal delusion, which, while it shines as seen from "afar," is robbed of its loveliness upon near inspection; which glitters in the public eye, but loses all its lustre in private life.

Christianity, in its true spirit, is all-pervading. It would clothe one in the beauty of holiness, not before the world only, but in every scene of domestic life. It stretches its sceptre over the entire man. And let him therefore, who does not manifest its power to sanctify and adorn his character, as well away from us before the public eye, be alarmed, lest, as yet, he knows nothing of its redeeming power.

ABRIDGEMENT OF A LARGE LIBRARY.

Dabshelim, King of India, had so great a library, that a hundred Brahmins were scarcely sufficient to keep it in order; and it required a thousand dromedaries to transport it from one place to another. The King was not able to read all these books, and he proposed to his librarians to extract from them the best and most useful of the contents. These learned personages set themselves so heartily to work, that in less than twenty years they compiled of all these extracts, a little encyclopedia of 1200 volumes, which thirty camels could carry with ease. They had the honor to present it to the King; but their amazement was great, when he said it was impossible for him to read thirty camel loads of books. They therefore reduced their extracts to fifteen, afterwards to ten, then to four, then to two dromedaries, and at last there remained only so much as to load a mule of ordinary stature. Unhappily, Dabshelim, during this process of melting down his library, grew older, and saw no probability of living to exhaust its quintessence to the last volume.

"Illustrious Sultan," said his vizier, the sage Pilpay, "though I have only an imperfect knowledge of your royal library, yet I will undertake to deliver you a very brief and satisfactory abstract of it. You shall read it through in one minute, and yet you will find matter in it to reflect upon throughout the rest of your life." Having said this, Pilpay took a palm leaf, and wrote upon it with a golden style the four following sentences:—1. The greater part of the sciences comprise but one single word—Perhaps: and the whole history of mankind contains no more than three—they are, born, suffer, die. 2. Love nothing but what is good, and do all that thou lovest to do; think nothing but what is true, and speak not all that thou thinkest. 3. O Kings! tame your passions; govern yourselves; and it will be only child's play to you to govern the world. 4. O Kings! O people! it can never be often enough repeated to you, what the half-witted venture to doubt, that there is no happiness without virtue, and no virtue without the fear of God.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

An observing, thinking friend has sent us the following letter. We have taken the liberty to publish it, expecting the author's pardon from his desire to benefit the human race.

I am impressed with the opinion that a great moral revolution has commenced and is progressing in the mental world. It is certainly very evident that intelligent men in all sorts of governments (in the civilized world) have become convinced that the political power of a nation does not depend entirely upon numerical and physical force, but is more or less dependent on the aggregate of mental power. Men begin to reason in this way—mind, they say, is infinitely superior to matter. Mental power will therefore in one way or other beget and control physical or brute power. For instance, they perceive that by improving the mind of each individual, who is a component part of a nation, each individual thus enlightened will, generally speaking, acquire more individual wealth in consequence of the increase of his knowledge and power of mind. Increase the wealth of every individual in the nation and you increase the wealth of a nation, and it has been long an axiom in politics that "money is power." Hence it has been discovered that the political power (to say nothing of the happiness of a nation) depends much upon the quantum of mental power possessed by such nation. How is this aggregate or quantum of mental power to be preserved and increased? Most palpably by a well regulated system of popular or common school education—of the truth of this position Prussia and France have already become convinced.

You have only to show men what their true interest is and they will be governed by it.

A TOWN PAVED WITH SHELLS.

Formerly the town of Mobile, in Alabama, was very unhealthy. Of late it is more healthy. Some think the following curious method of paving the streets, may have made it so. But there are probably other and better reasons than this.

"The shells that are used are cockle, or sea muscle, as some call them. They are the size of half a dollar, of the form of a clam shell, and they are pretty thick and solid. They abound about the shores of the bay, and are brought in large lighters. When the streets are graduated after the manner of turnpiking, the shells are carted and spread over the street to the depth of 4 or 5 inches. As soon as they are spread, which is done by scattering them with a spade, carriages and horses pass over them, and they very soon form a crust so well cemented, as to be difficult to dig up with a pick-axe.—They wear out, by very constant use on the most frequented streets; but by little attention to breaks and thin places, when a street is once shelled, it is very easily kept in repair."

A CURIOSITY.—Mincheer Von Scholten, one of the most wealthy men in Amsterdam, wears a wig of the hair of a camel which he supposes to be descended from one of those for which Rebecca drew water; all his plate, he says, is made of the gold and silver brought to Solomon from Tarsish, and he has fans made of the feathers of the peacocks brought at the same time; the handles of his tooth brushes are made from the bones of an Egyptian Mummy, and his coat buttons are made of brass from the colossus of Rhodes.—Grand Gulf Advertiser.

EXAMINATION OF TEACHERS IN PARIS.—The school laws of France now require that every one who wishes to fill the office of a teacher, should submit to an examination previous to receiving a license. And should not this be required of those who take care of the minds of our children as well as of those who watch over their bodily health? Of 370 candidates who presented themselves for examination in Paris, only 116, or one third were found capable of giving elementary instruction, and of 62 who wished to teach other branches, only 15 were admitted. How many incompetent teachers does our negligence leave to waste the time and impair the very minds of our children! The Normal School of Paris, now produces twenty well qualified teachers annually.

Without intelligence wealth is often a curse instead of a blessing to the possessor. But the diffusion of knowledge, will ultimately save three or perhaps ten times as much as it costs, by its moral effect upon the habits and customs of society.