

South's Corner.

JUVENILE MECHANICS.

An active, clever lad in the country need never feel dull—never experience that miserable sensation of wanting something to do. The objects of attraction, of employment and amusement that I have already mentioned would be enough to prevent that; but, if a lad has a turn for mechanical inventions and labours, there is another vast and inexhaustible pleasure opened to him. I remember, though I never was a very mechanical fellow, the pleasure I used to enjoy building my saw-mills, in making shoe-hel bricks, in watching the operations of the different village tradesmen, and in erecting our rabbit-cots and dove-cots. I remember, too, the delight with which I used to erect water-mills: wherever I found a sudden descent, a good spot of water in the brook or the ditches, there I set down two forked sticks, got an old tin-bottom, and, cutting niches all round the circumference, turned one piece one way and the next another, thus alternating them all round, so as to form a broad surface for the water to play upon. In the centre of this mill-wheel, I then punched a hole, and, putting another stick through for an axle, laid it across the two forked sticks; and the stream spouting upon it kept it spinning and fizzing and spurning the water round gloriously. These mills I used to visit occasionally, to see that all was right; and there they were, spinning away for weeks and months together.

But a really clever lad, with a mechanical turn, not only gathers pleasure, but lays up a deal of really valuable knowledge. The simple and patriarchal state of society in old-fashioned villages and small towns allows him to go and see all that is going on. He watches the different artisans at their labours, and makes friends among them; so that he can go and hammer and saw and file to his heart's content. It is true that more and higher kinds of mechanical operations may be seen in large towns and cities; but then a boy has rarely the same easy access to them; nor can he be suffered to go amongst workmen with the same confidence that he will be welcome, and that he will not be in the way of evil communication. —Novitt's "Boy's Country Book."

[The boy that acquires a habit of having always something to do—taking pleasure when he can oblige any one—putting to rights what is out of order—observing where any thing is to be learnt—is more likely to take a just view of the matters of which the Scriptures treat, than one differently habituated. This is the BEREAN use to which we design that the above extract, like the one from the same book in our last number, should be turned.—Ed.]

THE EXCEEDINGLY AFFECTING NOVEL.

"Dear Catharine," said Alice Wirt, as she entered her sister's chamber, you said, the other day, you should not wear your calf-skin shoes again. Will you let me give them to a poor little girl at the door?"

"Do not speak to me now, Alice; I am reading the new novel—it is so exceedingly affecting."

"The girl looks so thin and pale, and it is cold and wet, and there is the poor thing without shoes and stockings."

"Alice, how can you be so unfeeling!" replied Catharine, with a stamp on the floor, and a look of anger, putting the book close to her eyes; "I am in such an agony of distress at this scene, and just now you come to worry me!"

Her sister said that it was in vain to say more to her. She put on her bonnet, took her little purse, and went with the girl to the nearest shoemaker's, where she was likely to find some serviceable old patched-up shoes for sale. The man, understanding immediately the nature of her errand, took off nearly one half of the price he would otherwise have asked for the shoes; his wife bid her own little boy bring some warm water and a towel for the poor girl to wash and dry her feet; and before she was ready to try on the shoes, there was the old woman with a well darned pair of worsted socks which the girl had to put on, and so she was completely fitted. The worthy couple and Alice looked at her with unmingled pleasure; the girl rose to thank them all—but her eyes filled with tears, and she could scarcely utter her prayer, "May God bless you!"

The sisters met at the tea-table; and Catharine had the new novel in her hand. "Here, Alice," she said in a glow of delight; "I have finished the book, and you shall read it."

"Indeed, Catharine that I will not."

"Oh, Alice, you do not know how exceedingly affecting the story is."

"I am quite sure, it is the very reverse."

"How can you say that?"

"Because it had a most hardening effect upon you to-day, Catharine."

Her sister was surprised for one moment; but at the very next she remembered the poor girl, and her conscience smote her. "I hope you gave my old shoes to the girl you wanted them for?" she said.

"No, indeed, Catharine, I should have been afraid the girl would have refused, if she had known how you were worried to give them."

Catharine felt that the rebuke was just. She was still for some time; then she asked her sister, could she tell where the girl was to be found; that the might go and carry the shoes to her. Alice was not able to tell her; "but," said she, "she has a pair of shoes for the present, and her health may improve, now she is protected from the damp and cold; and perhaps by looking tidy, she will get employment; and will not require assistance again."

There was another pause. Catharine then begged of her sister to say how the girl was supplied. She heard the story with many tears, for she felt that the novel had in very truth had a hardening effect upon her. The agony of distress, occasioned in her by the imaginary scene in the

book, had rendered her grossly unconcerned about the cause of real suffering at her door: she had been petulant and ill-tempered towards Alice, and the solicitude about the poor girl which she felt at this moment, was only extorted by the obvious condemnation forced upon her by the benevolent and self-denying course pursued by her sister.

To be continued

by every novel-reader for herself or himself in the secret meditations of the heart.

WICKLIFFE. (Concluded.)

Wickliffe commenced the translation of the Bible while he yet resided at Oxford, where he had many friends who were quite unwilling that he should remove from that University; but opposition to him grew so violent in one respect, and so cunning in another, that about the year 1384 Wickliffe was obliged to retire to his parish of Lutterworth, where he spent the remainder of his days in quietness, and completed his translation, which was a very great work for one man to accomplish, at a time when there was so little sound learning, and when books were so expensive that no one could get many of them to help him in acquiring knowledge for himself by the use of books. In the year 1384, Wickliffe died at Lutterworth, and was buried in his own church, much honoured and lamented by those who knew him well; they bore testimony to the purity of his life, and to his diligence in propagating sound scriptural truth.

The priests and friars took great pains to hinder the circulation of the Bible in English. A law to that effect was proposed in the House of Lords in the year 1390, but the Duke of Lancaster succeeded in getting that proposal rejected and in maintaining that the people of England had a right to have the law of God in their own language. When the translation was complete, it could be obtained only by copying, because the art of printing had not at that time been invented; yet this great work, and Wickliffe's other writings, had an astonishing effect in England; and what he wrote in Latin became known also in other countries, and caused much inquiry and spread of knowledge. In 1408 a law was really passed in England, which declared that no one should translate any text of the Holy Scripture into English; and that no translation of the kind, such as was made by Wickliffe, or since, should be read. Some people would not be forbidden, but read as much of the English Bible as they could get, secretly or openly; those who were found out, suffered cruel punishment, and some were even put to death, just for doing that which we are now trying to get every person to do, because by searching the Scriptures he may find eternal life.

Among those who had profited by Wickliffe's writings, was John Huss, of Prague in Bohemia, who was called before the Council of Constance, and condemned as a heretic in the year 1415, and cruelly burned on the 6th of July. The same Council condemned Wickliffe's works as heretical; it declared that "John Wickliffe was a notorious, obstinate heretic, and that he died in his heresy; cursing and condemning both him and his memory." And lastly, it commanded that if his body and bones could be distinguished from other people's bodies and bones, they should "be taken out of the ground, and thrown away far from the burial of any church." This Council was composed of bishops and priests who professed to be the followers of Christ, and who acted by the authority of the Pope of Rome. The commandment respecting Wickliffe's bones was executed in the year 1425; his bones were taken up and burned, and the ashes thrown into the water. Over the reformer's soul, the Pope and Council had no power; and their impotent rage against his bones and his memory will not prevent his rising again at the great day, to appear among those who shall shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.—Hsl.

THE REFUGE-SCHOOL AT BEUGGEN, GRAND DUCHY OF BADEN. (Concluded.)

The close of last year and commencement of the present were a time of gloom and difficulty with us. The sacred season of Christmas passed without refreshing from on high. On that very day, some of the children committed theft upon the little presents equally distributed among the whole.—A dangerous disease seized the youngest child in our family in the first hour of the year. Various other cases of sickness occurred soon after, both among children and adults. But we had no case of death; all recovered, and we did not learn wisdom. There was an absence of peace among us, of union in our work, of spiritual fellowship. Not a few among the children showed a refractory spirit. Some even of our young men began to waver; their faith grew faint, their devotion to the Lord's services among the neglected children of poverty cold and constrained; they missed the sense of voluntarily surrender. We had to part with one of them. The enemy had found "empty" places among us (12 ch. Matt. 4.) and took care to fill them up. We all suffered under it. It was a time to enter into the meaning of the Psalmist's words; "None can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him," (49, 7) and to cease from all dependence upon the creature and our own skill and understanding and strength. From on high cometh our help, refreshing from the presence of the Lord, thence the Spirit which helpeth our infirmities. None but lively faith apprehends these gifts—and that faith is the gift of God. We have obtained much relief; but not all that we need.

Past experience leads us to offer a few remarks on the increasing want of devoted labourers in the work of stopping the flood of degeneracy among our indignant and neglected population, by educating their children. They

should be men of gospel-vigour and love, not seeking their own, but ready to venture upon a service which the world counts mean, but God counts great and honourable. This we would press upon young men disposed to devote themselves to this calling.

They must not be of a wavering undecided character, apt to flinch in the day of battle; they must consider well, whether with ten thousand they will be able to encounter the twenty thousand who come against them. When redeeming and pardoning grace has made a strong impression upon a youthful heart, it is apt, in its first feeling of joy, love, and gratitude, to choose the Lord's immediate service. Who would not gladly serve a Master so gracious and full of compassion? But let it be born in mind, that this work calls for gifts and abilities peculiarly its own. Young converts so disposed will do well to consult with experienced teachers, before they decide upon applying for admission to a Seminary like this.

There is, in some, a dislike of mechanical employment, a shrinking from the bodily exertion connected with it, which leads to a preference for the teacher's office. These are motives which would render the individual utterly unfit for the work to which we invite labourers.

We have had great trouble with those who have brought with them spiritual pride, however deeply concealed. It happens to some, whose well meaning associates in the church of Christ have fixed on them an affection of partiality as peculiarly promising in the earlier stages of their religious course, that they think themselves teachers and preachers, before they have fairly become disciples and hearers. To them it seems very hard to be kept in the position of learners here for several years, when they judge themselves to be masters already. Such students in our Seminary are a burden to themselves and others, and are utterly unfit for our purposes, until the Spirit of God has taught them to be meek and lowly in heart.

May the great Deliverer and Educator, Jesus Christ, give right views of the extensive, the glorious work He is doing for man's rescue, to those who would be instruments in his hand towards the accomplishment of it; and may they themselves be partakers in its happiness and glory. Who can tell how short the time before the tables shall be filled, and the King shall come in. Yea, come soon, great King and Deliverer of men, and make sin and misery cease from the earth!

[This article is taken from two papers which were furnished for the Gambier Observer, by a contributor who signed himself Hsl., in the year 1838. The last number of the Continental Echo makes an incidental reference to the continued existence and value of the excellent institution at Beuggen, which has thus to adapt Zeller's similitude of "a child seven years old" in 1827, so as to suit the vigorous size of a young man of twenty six in the year 1846.]

THE WEAK THINGS CONFUNDING THE THINGS THAT ARE MIGHTY.—In 1558 occurred in Chester an event trifling in itself, but of the greatest importance to the Protestants of those days. Dr. Henry Cole, Dean of St. Paul's, is said to have been entrusted with the commission issued by Mary to empower the Lord Deputy of Ireland to persecute those who refused to observe the ceremonies of the Roman Catholic religion. The doctor, on his way to Ireland, stopped at Chester, and having put up at the Blue Posts' Inn, in Bridge-street, was visited by the mayor, to whom he communicated the business in which he was engaged; opening his cloak bag, he took out a leather box, observing, with exultation, "he had that within which would lash the heretics of Ireland." The hostess, Mrs. Elizabeth Mottershead, overheard this by accident, and having a brother in Ireland, who was a Protestant, she became alarmed for his safety, and took the opportunity, while the doctor was attending the mayor down stairs, to open the box, take out the commission, and leave in its place a pack of cards with the knave of clubs uppermost. The dean arrived in Ireland on the 17th of December 1558. Being introduced to the Deputy Lord Fitzwalter and the Privy Council, he explained the nature of his embassy at more length, and then presented the box, containing, as he thought, the commission; his lordship took it and having opened it, beheld, with considerable surprise, the pack of cards with the knave on the top. The doctor was thunderstruck; and in much confusion affirmed that he certainly had a commission, and that some artful person must have made the exchange. "Then," said his lordship, "you have nothing to do but to return to London, and get it renewed; meanwhile we'll shuffle the cards." The doctor was obliged to follow this unwelcome advice, although in such a disagreeable season of the year; but before he could reach Ireland a second time, the queen died, and her sanguinary commission became useless. The woman, whose presence of mind and dexterity had thus providentially interposed, was rewarded by Elizabeth with a pension of forty pounds a-year.—During the civil war in the reign of Charles I., Chester stood several sieges, which lasted about three years. The inhabitants who had sided with the king endured great privations; but at last, when the siege was converted into a blockade, they surrendered on honourable terms to the parliamentary army, on the 3rd February, 1645-6. A century afterwards, (1745), Chester was fortified against the Pretender. In the reign of William III., Chester was one of the six cities permitted to issue a coinage of silver.—Sharpe's London Magazine.

ESTIMATE OF MORAL CORRUPTION AT ROME.—It is not one of the most agreeable features of these rides and walks about the region of the Pincian Hill (at Rome), that coming or going we are almost sure to meet a gang

of forcats (convicts), chained two and two together, in their way to or from some spot where, if I mistake not, the Government is making a new scavo (excavation or drain). These unfortunate wretches, whenever I have chanced to meet any of them, have always appeared more sick than sorrowful, being, for the most part, pale, hollow-eyed and often exceedingly emaciated, but having an easy, lounging air of indifference, that contrasts strongly with the expression of almost every face that is turned towards them. I enquired of an Italian acquaintance the other day, for what species of crime this enforced labour in chains was inflicted. "Of what gang are you speaking?" he demanded; "of that employed on the buildings at St. Paul's?" "No," I replied, "those I have the most frequently seen, are on the Pincian." "That gang, without any exception," he returned, "have all been guilty of murder." I shuddered. "Does it frighten you?" said he, smiling; "they are, as you may perceive, exceedingly well secured." "No," said I, "it was not any fear for my own safety that made me shudder, but it is very horrible to know that this fearful crime has been committed so frequently, and it must have been recently too, for I have remarked that almost all these chained labourers are quite young men." "O yes, it would not answer to employ old men in work that requires activity; they would only impede the others. But these young men that inspire you with so much horror,—I do assure you that many of them are far from being so depraved as you seem to imagine. It is very possible that not one amongst them is morally corrupt." "That is a very un-English doctrine," I replied. "In our country we consider murder as the greatest proof of depravity that any human being can show, and so great is the odium attached to it, that I doubt, if men convicted, as I presume these have been, of so hateful a crime, could be thus daily exposed to the gaze of their fellow-citizens, without incurring considerable personal danger from their hatred and indignation." "No shadow of any such feeling," he replied, "exists among us. And yet I should be sorry," he continued, seeing, I suppose, that I looked rather horrified, "I should be very sorry to leave an impression upon your mind unfavourable to Roman virtue."

So much for Roman virtue and Roman ideas of virtue.—Quotation found in the columns of the London Churchman's Monthly Penny Magazine.

GREAT RESULTS FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS.—The possibility of a great change being introduced by very slight beginnings, may be illustrated by the tale which Lockman tells of a vizier, who, having offended his master, was condemned to perpetual captivity in a lofty tower. At night his wife came to weep below his window. "Cease your grief," said the sage; "go home for the present, and return hither when you have procured a live black beetle, together with a little ghee (or buffalo's butter), three clews, one of the finest silk, another of stout pack-thread, and another of whip-cord; finally a stout coil of rope." When she again came to the foot of the tower, provided according to her husband's commands, he directed her to touch the head of the insect with a little of the ghee, to tie one end of the silk thread around him, and to place the reptile on the wall of the tower. Seduced by the smell of the butter, which he conceived to be in store somewhere above him, the beetle continued to ascend till he reached the top, and thus put the vizier in possession of the end of the silk thread, who drew up the pack-thread by means of the silk, the small cord by means of the pack-thread, and by means of the cord, a stout rope capable of sustaining his own weight,—and so at last escaped from the place of duress.—Quarterly Review.

DIAMOND DUST.—The demand for diamond dust within a few years has increased very materially, on account of the increased demand for all articles that are wrought by it, such as cameos, intaglios, &c. Recently there has been a discovery made of the peculiar power of diamond dust upon steel: it gives the finest edge to all kinds of cutlery, and threatens to displace the hone of Hungary. It is well known that in cutting a diamond, (the hardest substance in nature,) the dust is placed on the teeth of the saw—to which it adheres, and thus permits the instrument to make its way through the gem. To this dust, too, is to be attributed solely the power of man to make brilliants from rough diamonds; from the dust is obtained the perfection of the geometrical symmetry which is one of the chief beauties of the mineral, and also that adamantine polish which nothing can injure or affect, save a substance of its own nature. The power of the diamond upon steel is remarkable: it is known to paralyse the magnet in some instances—and may there not be some peculiar operation upon steel with which philosophers have not yet taught us to be familiar? How is it that a diamond cast into a crucible of melted iron converts the latter into steel? Whatever may be said, it is evident that the diamond dust for sharpening razors, knives, and cutlery, is a novelty which is likely to command the attention of the public, whether or not it is agreed that there is anything beyond the superior hardness of the dust over the steel to give that keenness of the edge that has surprised all who have used it.

DESTRUCTIVE THUNDER-STORM.

A thunder-storm, more violent than any that has been known for many years, was experienced in the metropolis and the neighbourhood on Saturday afternoon 1st August; and, so far as we have been able to learn, its ravages extended over a large portion of the kingdom. For three or four days previously the heat had

been most intense, accompanied by a wind from the east, and a cloudless sky. On Friday afternoon, however, some clouds began to gather from the S.S.E., and as the evening advanced, repeated flashes of vivid lightning were visible in the distance, which continued throughout the night. Saturday morning broke very lazily, but as the forenoon advanced, the fog cleared away, and between nine and ten o'clock the sun came forth with intense power, and from that period the heat continued to increase. After the haze had cleared away, the clouds still appeared in the S.S.E., and although the wind remained in the N.E., they gradually extended themselves over the heavens, their increasing density indicating a heavy thunder storm. From two o'clock distant peals of thunder were distinctly heard, but the storm did not begin with any violence until about twenty minutes after three o'clock, when it burst over the metropolis and the western suburbs with exceeding violence. The lightning was remarkably vivid, and the flashes following each other rapidly. The peals of thunder were also heard with great frequency; many of them resembled the sudden discharge of a large piece of ordnance, the reverberation of which was heard for several minutes. The rain was particularly heavy, and was accompanied at intervals by hailstones of a very large size, and by sudden gusts of wind, that proved very destructive. The storm was at its greatest fury between four and five o'clock, and lasted from twenty minutes past three o'clock until half-past six o'clock in the evening, three hours and ten minutes.

The damage done by the storm has no doubt been most extensive, but the exact extent will not be ascertained for some days.

Amongst the public buildings in the metropolis which have suffered most severely by the fracture of skylights and domes, from the hailstones, are Buckingham Palace, Somerset House, Burlington Arcade, the Bazaar (Baker-street), and the Paddington terminus of the Great Western Railway. The Horticultural Gardens, Chiswick, the Botanic Gardens, Kew, and those in the Regent's Park have also suffered severely.—Record.

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THE FORCEPS, 14th Dec., 1841.

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Independently of its usefulness in removing pains in the head and inflammations of the eye, it is a pleasant stimulus to the nose, so that those who use it combine pleasure with profit, and we can scarcely understand how snuff-takers can forego its advantages for compounds that in many cases possess only the recommendation of being foreign. We would recommend every one requiring its aid to try Mr. Grimstone's Snuff, and we feel convinced that they will be grateful to Mr. Grimstone for the talent he has displayed in forming his excellent compound, and to ourselves for calling their attention to it.

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