

impressed, or they will pursue the ways of vice in maturer years; and what is better calculated to produce the right impression than Sabbath schools? Let a constant and general attendance of our youth upon S. S. instruction be secured, and ere long error and delusion will be dispelled like mountain vapors before the morning sun; our country will be saved from threatening dangers, and its inhabitants become that happy people whose God is the Lord.

#### THE DIFFERENCE, OR OSCAR AND WILLIAM.

Oscar and William were brothers. Whether at school or at home, their early years passed pleasantly away. Their parents industrious, it was a peaceful and happy family. All things around them looked encouraging. A few years and a cloud gathered over their brightest prospects, the man sought to add to his enjoyments by participating in the dread pleasures of the cup. His dreams at first were unfrequent and light; but occasionally drinking a little did not satisfy the growing appetite. He began to tarry long at the wine, and the little cloud which when first seen cast but a partial shadow upon their landscape of prosperity, had now grown thick and dark, and seemed threatening to inundate every earthly thing that promised them bliss. Himself both drank and mingled the cup to his family; the children in their innocence drank.——Years elapsed; the father still indulged; the boys were almost men, and it was feared would tread their father's steps. The farm was gone, and they compelled to inhabit a humble place. The family was increased, the means of its support were diminished—they were poor.

Oscar saw the unfortunate steps of his father and followed in them; for although he could but know the end they led to, he had imbibed a love for spirits which was not easily to be restrained. William saw and considered; he too had been taught to drink, but disdained to succumb to a habit that entailed such ruin. He saw and felt the wretchedness into which the family was brought, and resolved never again to taste the accursed thing. He has kept his resolution.——The father went to the grave with a lingering sickness; and though he seemed for the last two months to regret his intemperance, it doubtless had shortened his days, and he had the remorse natural to the reflection, that he had misapplied the talents given by his Creator, was about to leave his family in poverty, and a son ruined by his example.

Oscar's history, as far as filled out, can be told in a few words: He is now twenty-five years of age; what of his earnings could be spared after poorly clothing himself, has been expended in rum; he is now a laborer by the day or the month, and all that can be got and spared, paves his way to ruin. His character is poor, his friends few, and there is little hope but he will soon lie down in sorrow.——William is a youth of much

promise, the chief earthly hope of a widowed mother and helpless orphans, who are now blessed by his industry. Reader, behold the difference between these youths under the same circumstances, and remember that William's course and William's happiness may be yours.—*Morning Star*.

#### MANUAL LABOR AND MENTAL CULTIVATION.

My conviction—not lightly taken up, but the result of long and earnest thought—is, that daily occupation with manual labor is in no way incompatible with the highest mental cultivation and refinement; that so far from the exercise of mechanical employment daily, for a moderate time, being detrimental to the mental powers, it has on the contrary, a decided tendency to strengthen them; and that if those who are at the present serving the public in the capacity of writers, were to employ several hours a day in mechanical labor, their bodily health would be improved, and their writings would take a character of vigor, startling even to themselves. They would find the workshop a more healthy atmosphere than the drawing room. There is no reason, save ignorance, why anything like degradation should attach to the character of the working mechanics. There is no reason, save ignorance, why they should not have dwellings as good as their employers, as to all the purposes of comfort. There is no reason, save ignorance why they should not have good and well prepared food for the body, and access to books of all kinds, for the proper culture of the mind. There is no reason, save ignorance, why they should not have access to lectures of all kinds, and picture and sculpture galleries, and museums, far more imposing than anything the world has yet beheld. There is no reason, save ignorance, why the great body of the working people should not possess, in addition to all that is necessary for the comfortable maintenance of the body, all the pleasures of mental refinement, which are now only within the grasp of the very rich.—There is no reason, save ignorance, why the ruling powers of state should not be in their own hands, and all else, save only the excitements of ostentation and expensive sensibility.—*Tait's Mag.*

**ERRORS OF MANKIND.**—It is singular to look back upon the errors of the human race, and to observe with what zeal even the strongest minds have followed error, than which, to the most uninformed of the present day, nothing could be more absurd. Among the questions to which the old metaphysical writers devoted their talents, were the following:—Can angels pass from one point of space to another, without passing through the intermediate points? Can more than one angel exist at the same moment in the same physical point? Is virtue good because it has intrinsic goodness, or has it intrinsic goodness because it is good? Is the mind's freedom of choice an entity or a quid-

dity? Can angels visually discern objects in the dark? Can they exist in a perfect vacuum? and if they can, is that vacuum perfect? Can a mode exist without a substance?—Although we can scarcely peruse these profound queries without a smile, is it not possible that future ages will find among our philosophers themes of discussion equally useless and absurd?

#### FOR THE MIRROR.

LUKE xxiii. 34.

“Father forgive them,” Jesus cried,  
When to the cross his limbs were nail'd;  
And thus he prayed before he died,  
For those, who at him mock'd and rail'd.

Forgive them, for they do not know,  
How vile the crime they perpetrate,  
And may these crimson streams that flow,  
Thine anger quell, thy wrath abate.

What boundless love to guilty men!  
'Twas for our sins, he thus did bleed,  
And suffer'd agonizing pain,  
That we might from the curse be freed.

And shall our hearts deny him room,  
When He has thus such pity shown?  
No! let us cry, “sweet Saviour come,  
And in our hearts set up thy throne.”

B. B.

#### MECHANICS INSTITUTE.

The following list of lectures has been arranged for the remaining evenings of the present course:

April 6—J. W. Nutting, Esq.—On the influence of Literature and the Fine Arts on national character.

13th—Mr. Gossip—On the Pendulum, illustrated by models prepared for the purpose.

20th—Dr. Stirling—On Science and Human Knowledge.

27th—Mr. A. McKenzie—On the evil effects of Ignorance, as it affects individuals and nations.

May 4—Mr. Joseph Howe.—On the moral influence of Women.

11th Geo. R. Young, Esq.—On Novel reading, its uses and abuses.

Mr. A. M'Kinlay, V.P. has now in preparation a course of Lectures on Chemical Attraction and Affinities, which will be delivered in the early part of the next course.

By the Committee,  
John S. Thompson, Sec'y.

#### DIED.

On Saturday Morning, of Whooping Cough, Agnes, daughter of Mr. David Allison, aged two years and ten months.

Monday Morning, Josephine, daughter of Capt. Evening, in the 3rd year of her age.

Monday Morning, Elizabeth Bland, aged 20 months, third child of Mr. Michael Tobin, Jun.

At Boston, on the 18th inst, M. Wm. Ackland, aged 33 years, a native of Quebec, and for several years a resident of this town.

On the 31st ult. Sydney Breton, youngest Son of Lt. Colonel Loring, L.F.O. aged two years and eight months.