

that where it does not exist as a natural instinct, it is taught as the first principle of good manners, and considered as the universal passport to good society.

Nor can this, the greatest charm of female character, if totally neglected in youth, be ever acquired in after life. *When the mind has been accustomed to what is vulgar, or gross, the fine edge of feeling is gone, and nothing can restore it.*"

In another place the outward signs of ill temper are thus cleverly sketched :—

"It is easy to perceive when most young women are out of temper, even without the interchange of words. The pouting lip, the door shut with violence, the thread suddenly snapped, the work twitched aside or thrown down, are indications of the real state of the mind, at least as unwise, as they are unlovely. Others who are not guilty of these absurdities will render themselves still more annoying, by a captiousness of conduct most difficult to bear with any moderate degree of patience; by conversing only upon humiliating or unpleasant subjects, complaining incessantly about grievances which all have equally to bear, prolonging disputes about the merest trifles beyond all bounds of reason and propriety; and by finally concluding with a direct reproach for some offence which had far better been spoken of candidly at first."

With the following glance at the tenderest incident in the history of woman's existence, we must conclude :—

"In woman's love is mingled the trusting dependence of a child, for she looks up to man as her protector and her guide; the frankness, the social feeling, and the tenderness of a sister—the solicitude, the anxiety, the careful watching of the mother. Such is love in a noble mind, and especially in its first commencement, when it is almost invariably elevated, and pure, trusting, and disinterested. Indeed, the woman who could mingle low views and selfish calculations with her first attachment would scarcely be worthy of the name.

And is this a love to be lightly spoken of, or harshly dealt with? Oh no; but it has many a rough blast to encounter yet, and many an insidious enemy to cope with, before it can be stamped with the seal of faithfulness; and until then, who can distinguish the ideal from the true?"

This is beautiful and true. It is full of a graceful morality that ought to find its way to every homestead; and that cannot fail to do good wherever it obtains entrance.

#### FINE ARTS.

LONDON SPECTATOR.—The world of art is in a state of unwonted activity just now; not only are the artists busy in preparing for the several exhibitions that are about to open, but several great public works are in progress, and important questions are under consideration, the result of which

will materially influence the popular taste. Whichever way we turn, the arts of design, in some shape or other, challenge a share of public notice; whether it be a plan for teaching every body to draw, or a plan for the improvement of the Metropolis, the selection of a sculptor for a Wellington statue, or the selection of sculptors for decorating the New Houses of Parliament. Let us take a glance at the various points that are already or shortly will be engaging attention.

The first meeting of the Royal Commission for Promoting the Fine Arts of the Country in connexion with the Rebuilding of the Houses of Parliament took place on Tuesday, at Gwydir House, Prince Albert being present; when we have reason to believe that Mr. Barry submitted his ideas of the character and effect of the decorations of the interior. The artists are eagerly waiting for some intimation of the course to be adopted, in order to prepare for entering the field in this new and noble field for exertion; meanwhile the nature of the subjects to be chosen, the style of treatment, and the method of execution most suitable, have been discussed; and the claims of native artists strenuously advocated by Mr. David Scott, in an able pamphlet on "British, French, and German Painting;" by Mr. Haydon, in a lecture on Fresco, recently delivered at the Royal Institution; and by a writer in the last number of Blackwood's Magazine.

The Society now forming for the "Promotion of Metropolitan Improvements is receiving almost daily additions of influential names; and the preliminary meetings already held will shortly be followed by a general public meeting, at which the intended operations of the Society will be distinctly made known. Its immediate aim is to influence Government in the preference of a more enlarged plan than the intended roadways through Leicester Square and St. Giles's; and its ultimate object is the formation of a grand scheme for the gradual improvement of the Metropolis; ancillary to the accomplishment of which, a complete survey of the Metropolis and its suburbs is required. In relation to the expense of this laborious undertaking, Mr. Austin of Hatton Garden, who has lately completed an exact survey of a crowded neighbourhood, suggests that other accurate local plans also exist which might be made available, thus saving both time and cost.

Some portion of the three hundred works of art rejected for want of room at the British Institution, will probably find places in the Suffolk Street Gallery.

Mr. George Hayter's Court picture of the Queen's Marriage is completed, and shortly to be exhibited at Messrs. Graves's in Pall Mall; where a more interesting exhibition is now open, of fifty original sketches made by Mr. Joseph Nash for his "Old English Mansions."

The three equestrian statues of Wellington are now all in progress: Mr. Wyatt having got the start of his brother sculptors, the one intended for