

WEEKLY MISCELLANY.

Devoted to the Intellectual and Moral Improvement of the Young.

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SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS.

As the holiday season approaches, increased diligence is requisite on the part of young students desirous of acquitting themselves satisfactorily at the examinations which precede the brief interval of respite from their daily exercises. Preparatory studies for school examinations are invariably engaged in with more than ordinary zeal and perseverance; and if young people could be induced to make similar exertions generally, in pursuing their studies, the exercises would not only facilitate their onward progress, but would render their efforts more habitual, and their instructions more interesting to themselves. Such efforts would have a tendency to develop their capabilities, and create and strengthen in them a warmer desire for the acquirement of useful information.

"It takes all kinds of people to make a world;" and viewing the occupants of a school-room as a world in miniature, it may be presumed that a similar diversity of dispositions is to be found in such a juvenile community. We may therefore infer that various feelings are occasioned by the contemplated ordeal, as the day of examination draws near. Some await its approach with anxiety—others with indifference, and others again with confident hope of distinguishing themselves in the presence of friends and spectators. But without thorough preparation the hopeful may be disappointed; with it the less confident may achieve success.

In preparing for such occasions—as well as for the acquirement of knowledge in any department of instruction—the young pupil should become accurately acquainted with the principles on which such department is founded, and the rules derived from these principles—for aid in which, we must refer him to his teacher;—then, by carefully comparing the results of his

efforts with these elements, he will be enabled more clearly to comprehend the sources from which his conclusions are deduced, and avoid the uncertainties that more or less accompany the exertions of those who endeavour to accomplish their objects by mere superficial study.

We offer these remarks in the hope that our young readers may be induced to apply themselves earnestly and industriously, in order that they may pass such tests of their mental acquirements, with honour to themselves, credit to their teachers, and gratification to their friends. Their aim should be, not merely to aspire to distinction in their several classes, but to ensure for their respective schools the reputation of claiming the greatest proportionate number of pupils who have made successful progress. This may be accomplished by rendering mutual aid to each other; by stimulating the indifference and arousing the apathy of the tardy,—and affording them such assistance as may be necessary to direct their minds in the attainment of a right comprehension of the branches of education they are required to study.

To excel where indifference and apathy prevails, is but a small triumph;—but where a liberal spirit predominates, and a generous assistance is afforded to those of more limited perception,—and where the progress of the advanced scholars is more equalized,—those who carry off the palm are more honoured by rewards of merit, and justly deserve the congratulations of their friends.

IDLE WORDS.—Be careful with regard to what you say, while in conversation with those you love. Idle words have done much mischief, and may still do more. Harmless as they seem, and innocently as they may be uttered, their effects are often baneful in the extreme. By the utterance of a single word, near and dear friends have been estranged for ever; nations that have always been at peace, and on terms of the most friendly intercourse, are thus set at open variance: and through their influence, the harmony before existing between families and neighbourhoods has been broken, and friendship with them exists no longer.

THE COMING WEATHER.

We copy the following from a London paper. Those who take an interest in noting the changes of the weather may be induced to test its correctness by occasional observations:—

SAXBY'S WEATHER SYSTEM, 1863-64.
—List of days on which the weather may reasonably be suspected as liable to change, most probably towards high winds and lower temperature, being especially periods of atmospheric disturbance.

July—5,—12 to 15,—20,—27.

August—2,—9,—14 to 17,—23,—29.

September—5,—13 to 15,—19,—25.

October—2,—10 to 12,—17,—23,—30.

November—6,—11 to 15,—19,—26.

December—4,—10 to 13,—17,—23,—31.

N. B.—From the 10th to the 13th will be a period of great danger, and there will be an exceedingly high tide on the 12th.

January—7 to 11,—13,—20,—27.

N. B.—From the 7th to the 11th will be a dangerous period, with a very high tide on the 11th.

February—2,—7 to 9,—16,—23 and 24.

N. B.—From the 7th to 9th will be a very dangerous period, with a very high tide on the 9th.

March—2,—7 to 10,—14,—22,—29.

N. B.—The 7th and 8th will be a very dangerous period, with probably a very full tide on the 10th.

The above apply to all parts of the earth's surface, even (in a diminished degree) to the trade belts.

N. B.—If the day marked prove calm and still, distrust the day after, and especially the second day after.

The changes vary in intensity, but even at quiet periods they may be plainly traced in the scud, flying with a velocity totally at variance with the state of the air at the earth's surface, and the clouds at such times generally have a liny or stratified appearance, which usually indicates approaching rain.

The worst cyclones (if they reach us at all) will be on or about 25th August, 22d September, 19th October, 22d November, 19th December, 16th January (1864), 18th February, and 17th March.

S. M. SAXBY, R. N.

H. M. S. Devonshire; }
8th June, 1863. }