

## MISCELLANEOUS.

**SELF-MADE MEN.**—Columbus was a weaver. Franklin was a journeyman printer. Massillon, as well as Flechier, arose amidst the humblest vocations. Niebühr was a peasant. Sextus V. was employed in keeping swine. Rollin was the son of a cutler. Ferguson, the great astronomer, and Hogg, the celebrated poet, well known as the Ettrick Shepherd, were both shepherds. Burns, the unsurpassed poetic genius of Scotland, was a ploughman. Ferguson, whose namesake is mentioned above, and who holds no mean place as one of the poets of Scotland, was an attorney's copying clerk; while Tannahill, also of the same country, a poet, surpassing perhaps Ferguson, was a weaver. Aesop was a slave. Homer was a beggar. Daniel Defoe was apprenticed to a hosier. Demosthenes was the son of a cutler. Hogarth an engraver of power pots. Virgil was the son of a baker. Gay was an apprentice to a silk mercer. Ben Jonson was a bricklayer. Porson was son of a parish clerk. Prideaux, was employed to sweep Exeter College. Akenside was the son of a butcher. Pope was the son of a merchant. Cervantes was a common soldier. Gifford and Bloomfield were shoemakers. Howard was apprenticed to a grocer. Halley was the son of a soap-boiler. Richard Arkwright was a barber for a number of years.

**THE IMPORTANCE OF RESOLUTION.**—“Resolution,” says a writer, “is omnipotent.” And if we will solemnly determine to make the most and best of all our powers and capacities; and if to this end, with Wilberforce, we will but ‘seize and improve even the shortest intervals of possible action and effort,’ we shall find that there is no limit to our advancement. Without this resolute and earnest purpose, the best aids and means are of little worth; but with it even the weakest are mighty. Without it we shall accomplish nothing—with it, every thing. A man who is deeply in earnest acts upon the motto of the pickaxe on the old seal: ‘Either I will find a way, or I will make one.’ He has somewhat the spirit of Bonaparte, who, when told on the eve of a battle circumstances were against him,

replied, ‘Circumstances! I make or control circumstances, not bow to them.’ In self-cultivation, as in every thing else, to think we are able is almost to be so; to resolve to attain, is often attainment. Every where are the means of progress, if we have but the spirit, the fixed purpose, to use them. And if, like the old philosopher, we will but take as our motto, ‘Higher—for ever higher!’ we may rise by them all. He that resolves upon any great end, by that very resolution has scaled the chief barrier to it; and he who seizes the grand idea of self-cultivation, and solemnly resolves upon it, he will find that idea, that resolution, burning like living fire within him, and ever putting him upon his own improvement. He will find it removing difficulties, searching out or making means, giving courage for despondency, and strength for weakness; and like the star in the east to the wise men of old, guiding him nearer and still nearer to the sun of all perfection. If we have but a fixed and resolute bend on self-improvement, we shall find means enough to it on every side, and at every moment; and even obstacles and opposition will make us like the fabled ‘spectreships which sail the fastest in the very teeth of the wind.’—*Self-Culture by Rev. Tyron Edwards.*

**THE CHEAP-DEAR SCHOOL.**—“Why, neighbour Simple,” said Mr. Farsight, one bright July morning, when Mr. Simple was mowing in a lot, where the grass stood so thinly, that the spires looked lonesome;—“why, you had a fine lot here, with a strong soil, but your blades of grass are so far apart that they might grow into hoop-holes and not crowd each other.” “Yes,” said Mr. Simple, “I’ve been thinking I was almost a fool, for I ought to have sowed a bushel of good hay-seed upon this piece, but the truth is, I bought only a peck, and so I scattered it about so much the thinner, and now I see I’ve lost a ton or two of hay by it.” “Well, don’t you think you was about as near being a fool when you voted against granting more money for sowing the seeds of knowledge in the minds of the children? Next year, where there is not grass here there will be weeds.”—*Com. Sch. Jour.*