

SCRAPS FROM THE GERMAN OF JEAN PAUL.

PATRICIANS AND PEASANTS.—I compare the mass of the people to the walls of a building, the shape and polish of which is of little consequence, so long as they are solid and substantial; while the upper classes are the columns that adorn the edifice, which, as they support nothing, and are only for ornament, must be highly finished and elegant.

GOVERNMENT.—How little has all the outward display of a government to do with its secret movements? These are like the two chains of a watch—in open view hangs one of gold, rich and massive and loaded with ornaments, but within the machine, unseen and seldom spoken of, is the steel chain which gives it its motion and its value.

SILENT NATIONS.—Those nations which are more remarkable for silence and slowness of speech, as the Arabs, English, and Germans, possess fiery, eloquent poetry, while that of more loquacious people, as of the French and Italians, is tamer and colder.

OSCUITY.—The greatest men sometimes flourish at a distance from colleges and cities, as, in astronomy, the largest planets are those which are farthest from the sun.

THOUGHT AND ACTION.—Many flowers open to the sun, but only one follows him constantly. Heart, be thou the sunflower, not only open to receive God's blessing, but constant in looking to him.

CHILDHOOD.—It is an error to suppose that childhood is the happiest part of life. A child's pleasures are like early spring flowers, pretty but pale, scentless and fleeting. The rich and fragrant treasures of the heart are not developed so early.

PROVIDENCE.—We can only judge of the design of Providence in the mass, and not apply them to every narrow individual instance. The sky, we see, is blue; but when it is confined in a room, we cannot see its colour.

SORROW.—A time will come when we shall see everything with clear eyes; but, at present, we think a few clouds are greater than the sun, only because that they are nearer to us.

UNIVERSE.—When we consider the universe, it gives us pleasure to think that we belong, even though but as a little spark, to such a blaze of light.

PROVIDENCE.—To judge of the designs of Providence, is like pronouncing the sun variable, when we see its reflection trembling in the water.

In the anatomy of the hand, we find that the muscle by which we shut it, is much stronger than the one by which we open it, and this holds true as to giving and receiving.

NATURE'S TEACHINGS.

The Swan teaches that every thing is beautiful in its proper element. On land the swan is the most awkward, in water the most graceful of all birds.

Illustration.—A ploughman would not be more awkward at court, than a peer at the plough or in the smithy. What would a countess do in the kitchen or the mill?

The Stork teaches that many virtuous people are taciturn. The stork neither sings, talks, nor hoots; but it carries its worn-out parents on its wings!

Illus.—Persons who say the least are often both wise and devout. Two of our most popular authors, one male and the other female, who recently died, were taciturn.

The Swallow teaches there is a very great art in knowing one's time, and a great virtue in being punctual to it. The swallow never omits to come at the approaching summer.

Illus.—

"There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune."

We may be very diligent and clever, but if at the wrong time, it will be of little use.

The Linnet teaches that we are not to judge of abilities from mere external appearance. Who would think that such a plain bird as the linnet could sing so well?

Illus.—If judgment had gone by appearance, nearly the whole race of genius would have been proscribed.

The Goose teaches that there is a great difference between our real and our imaginary height. The goose stoops in a passage under an archway six feet high, lest its head should strike against the top.

Illus.—Our imaginary height is fixed by ourselves. Our real state is the average between the opinions of our friends and enemies.

The Lark teaches the nearer we rise to heaven, the more sweetly we would sing; as the lark sings the best when it ascends towards the skies.

Illus.—An advance in religious character should be marked by an increased sweetness and harmony of disposition, which are the music of the mind.

The Redbreast teaches that we should be cheerful in the worst times; as there is no winter, however severe, in which the Redbreast does not sing.

Illus.—Cheerfulness in adversity 'breaks the fall of sorrow's wave.' Monsieur Ducrow escaped unhurt from the Bastille, after a confinement of fourteen years, because he endured it cheerfully.

HOME PLEASURES.

I crown thee king of intimate delights,
Fire-side enjoyments, home-born happiness,
And all the comforts that the lowly roof
Of undisturbed retirement, and the hours
Of long uninterrupted evening know.

There is more value than all believe in the simple maxim, Let family enjoyments be common to all. If there are few who deny this, there are still fewer who act upon it in its fullest extent. Something of it there must be to make a family at all. We occupy the same house, sit around the same fire, and eat at the same table. It would seem churling and almost inhuman to do otherwise. But I am for carrying the matter much further, and for knitting more closely together those who cluster around the same hearth; believing that every influence is evil which severs father from child, and brother from brother. The morsel that is eaten alone, becomes sooner or later a bitter morsel.

Members of the same household should feel that they are dependent on one another, and should be as free to ask, as ready to give assistance. Each should rise in the morning with the impression that no duty of the day is more urgent than to make every individual happy, with whom he is brought into contact. And this contact should be sought, not shunned. It is a bad sign when members of the same household are shy of one another. I do not, of course, allude here to those horrid instances of unnatural, brutal temper, where persons of the same blood, daily gathered around the same board, refuse to speak to one another; malice and envy must rankle deeply where this can be the case. I refer to a more common fault, which sometimes exists where there is a degree of real affection, but where the members of the family have separate pursuits and separate pleasures. The evenings of the industrious family may be, and ought to be, delightful seasons of joint satisfaction. If we must have evening parties of friends, let there be a proper mingling of sexes and ages. The presence of the old may to a degree moderate the mirth of the young, but in the same proportion the aged will be enlivened. This parcelling and assorting of society, like labelled packages in a shop, is becoming too common, and in my judgment injurious.—The young folks must be all together; and if matters go thus we may live to see parties of grey-beards and parties of sucklings. No! wherever it is possible, let the family chain be kept bright and whole. In the houses of the industrious, it is surely broken often enough by separation at work during the day.

Instead of thus living apart, which engenders selfishness and moroseness, I love to see the members of families flowing together like congenial drops. Show me the father often walking with his sons, and these sons often one with another, not in business merely, but in sports, and I shall think I see a virtuous and happy household.

THE BATTERY.—Those who look upon our Battery as a merely local beauty spot—one of those oases whose mid-urban-rurality relieves the traveller through this wilderness of brick—do little justice to the beauty of its sylvan shades and verdant bordered walks. That there is a lovelier promenade to be found on earth, we do not believe; but, there is a romance about it, that far excels even its own unrivalled charms of land and water prospect. It is very delightful to the general pedestrian to walk over these grounds; it is not very often that a man may enjoy at one and the same time so rare a treat as a stroll through paths that exhibit city and country blended into their own peculiar beauty at every step he takes. Nowhere else can he look on landscape embracing such a stretch of city, of country, and of sea! On our Battery, almost every possible variety of scenery is exhibited, with even more than theatrical suddenness of change; for it is not necessary to push or lift aside the mimic efforts of the painter. We have only to turn the eye, and the change is accomplished. Have you been gazing upon the blue hills of New Jersey, lit into golden tinges by the sunset? Look along the line of the glorious Hudson, and you have before you the loveliest river that ever laved the sylvan scenery of a mountain valley. Has your eye rested upon the green lawns and wooded slopes of Long Island? It has not done so without at the same glance embracing an ocean bay, studded with islands of surpassing beauty, and whitened by the sails of a thousand vessels of as many forms and of almost as many flags. Commerce congregates in this beautiful expanse of water, and here are seen the "Argosies" of all nations that hold maritime intercourse with each other; from the red cross of St. George to the scarlet flag of Muscat—from the tri-coloured banner of freedom, to the Greek cross of the Muscovite—our own glorious "haldric of the skies" predominant among them—the flags of war and of commerce float upon the breeze. This is the Battery, as it appears in its external characteristics; but there is a deeper interest in its less obvious and less known features. The Battery is as much the "Exchange" as will be the noble building in Wall-street. It is the domestic Bourse of New York—the place where the most important of all the civic transactions take place! On these green grounds are settled half the love affairs of three hundred thousand men, women, and children.—*N. Y. Mirror.*

PLEASURE.—A young and unperturbed mind sets out in early youth with fair prospects, with a happy disposition, with indulgent parents, and wealth at command, and for many a bright year all is smiles and gaiety. Pleasure leads on to pleasure, till comes satie-

ty: disappointments begin to appear, the trusted friends prove false, the hopes break like bubbles that a child would grasp; prosperity passes away, impatience, anxiety, intemperance succeed; the spoiled child of fortune bears ill the check of adversity, and new difficulties and reverses rush up to swell the amount. Violent passions, anger, wrath, strife come on; and life either ends in turbulence and crime, or else, improved though saddened, elevated tho' melancholy, the rest of existence is spent calmly, cheered by the hopes of another and a better world. How like is this history to the passing of many a summer day! It rises bright and beautiful with all the promises of splendour, of sunshine, and of light; the birds sing about the cradle of the infant morning, the painted insects hum around and flutter as it rises; cloudless in its golden prosperity it advances through the sky, till towards the heat of noon a cloud or two here or there comes with its shadow over the heavens. Ardent and more ardent the noonday sun shines strong, as if to overwhelm such intruders in its tide of glory: but the very heat seems to call up fresh masses of dull vapour: they rise, they increase, they grow upon the sky, the warm summer light but makes them look more dark and threatening, till at length the sun itself is covered, and the storms begin. Then comes the lightning, and the thunder, and the hail; the brightness and the beauty are all passed away; the calm light of the dawn, the golden warmth of the morning, the resplendent beaming of high noon, are all gone; and the day either comes to an end in clouds, and storms, and weeping darkness, or else, after many an hour, the blue sky appears again, the vapours are partially swept away, and with tearful eyes and aspect cool though clear, the day goes down into night, leaving the hope of a brighter morrow.

Miss Lasher, of Ohio, recently recovered a verdict of 130 dollars from a Mr. Smith (rather an odd name) for a breach of the marriage promise. Friend Smith offered in extenuation of his false vows, that the lady wore false teeth. No excuse at all. He should have discovered the defect by asking the lady to bite his little finger; and if there was a rattling among the ivory he would have known his cue. Such are not legal excuses at all, because, if the lover was so delighted with the graces of the mind as to overlook the defects of the person, that is his loss. Nevertheless, where there is a uniform system of deception practised with skill to entrap the unwary, it may be offered in mitigation of damages. I knew a dashing fellow in London by the name of Jack Franco, the most gay and fashionable person on the pave. He used to dress in buckskin breeches, top boots, blue coat, white vest, silk gloves, and a tippy cane in hand, and was really a fine, florid, fresh looking man of taste and fashion. Calling at his lodgings one day, to take him out to dine, I found him preparing his toilet; but what was my horror at seeing Jack take off his wig, take out his false teeth and place them in a tumbler of fresh water, and deposit a glass eye carefully on his table. He stood before me a man of 60, entirely made up. After dinner and a bottle of Port, we went to Drury Lane, and Jack fell asleep in the boxes, closing his natural eye, while his glass peeper remained open, giving him a most awful appearance. Now such a man, well made up, and with a charming address, might have captivated any lady; and if, discovering the deception in time, she should refuse to marry him, what jury would have given damages for the breach? He was an artificial man altogether.—*N. Y. Star.*

ENGLAND.—If an Asiatic or a Roman of the conquering ages of Asia and Rome, could start from his grave; with what astonishment would he see an island, once almost too trivial for his ambition, and too distant for his knowledge, lording it over a dominion wider than all ancient empire, touching with her sceptre the eastern and western extremities of the earth, impressing her will on the councils of every kingdom, filling every corner of the earth with her arts, her benevolence and her learning, gathering into her bosom the opulent products of every region, pushing her brilliant adventure to every spot where man can master the wild powers of nature, controlling an empire in the heart of Asia; not less proudly conquering another empire from the swamps and forest, and savage solitude of the western world; founding another empire in the new-born continent of the south; and in all, leaving vestiges of herself that no time will ever wear away; erecting altars that shall last when sword and sceptre are dust; founding institutes, not of harsh and sanguinary power, but like the pillars in the journeyings of Israel, sacred evidences that there God had been their guide, and renewed his covenant with his people; planting her noble language, the old wisdom of her laws, the matchless security of her freedom, the incalculable knowledge of her religion! England, the mighty mother of empires; the great dispenser of good; the intellectual sovereign of the globe.—*Rev. Dr. Croly.*

IMPARTIALITY.—An indolent youth being asked why he was so shamefully fond of his pillow, to the manifest injury of his reputation, replied, "I am engaged every morning in hearing counsel:—Industry and Health advise me to rise—Sloth and Idleness, to lie still, and they give their reasons at length, pro and con. It is my part to be strictly impartial, and to hear with patience what is said on both sides; and by the time the cause is fairly argued, dinner is generally on the table."