#### CHILDHOOD.

(Translated from Victor Hugo.)

A child was singing: pale its mother lay, Stretched on a couch, in life's last acony. Death's shadows seemed to hover o'er his prey— I heard the sob of pain, the song of glee.

Five summers only had the cherub smiled, That played and danced in innocent delight. While the wan mother, near her wissome child Who sang all day, coughed all the weary night.

oon, in the grave she rested from her woe— The child sang on, with heart as light as air— ed doth not will, grief's bitter fruit should grow On the frail branch too weak its load to bear!

#### THE EARLY TRAINING OF CHILDREN

Fræbel assumed that no child should be pressed with artificial learning until it had attained the age of seven years. I would venture to go further, and say that no artificial education should be pressed on any child until it has attained the age of fourteen years. I admit that there may be instances of rapid development in which a child can learn a great deal before that period, and perhaps without injury; but I am not dealing with such exceptions, and indeed cannot admit any exceptions into the argument. because they are too few to be weighty. I admit again that, for a time, social necessities may compel early education; but this also is apart from the true position of the question, because we ought to have no such necessities as drive us headlong against nature. When nature, with her great, strong, overwhelming voice, is calling to us day by day, nay, minute by minute, telling us that we are wrong, and chastising us right and left for our transgression, it is notime to sit at ease and plead for necessities which are of our own making and from our own folly. It is rather, I should think, time to begin to ask whether nature is not wiser than what we call necessity, and whether strict obedience to her is not the first and greatest of necessities. To understand the reason why the immature child should not be pestered with artificial knowledge, it is only necessary to recall that the amount of natural knowledge which such a child is bound to acquire, whether he will or not, is sufficient, however obscure his position may be, to demand all the resources of his little intellect. apt to forget what this natural knowledge is; to forget that the child comes into life with not a single impression on its brain; but as it enters day by day into new spheres, and is brought into contact with new objects, it has everything to learn, that it must learn names of things, properties of things, reasons for acts which it sees done, and all else that goes to make up the inventory of life. This is learn-ing, true learning, natural learning, learning of all others not to be interfered with, yet most interfered with, nay, sometimes severely corrected. What do we too often say of a child who looks into everything; opens bellows, per-chance, to find the wind; beats a hole through his drum to discover the cause of sound; disembowels his trumpet to get at the music; cuts into his ball to see what it is filled with; or takes the back off the head of a doll to know why the eyes move? We say the child is mischievous. Mischievous indeed! It is trying to know; it is trying to discover the very things we should, and in the same way, if we were in like ignorance; and yet we often punish a child for this, as though it were not learning by the true and natural method. Again, we ruthlessly accuse children of being idle when they will not take to books, but will persist in prefering to "look about them" and listen to what other people are saying, and to direct our attention to what in their estimate are novelties, and in our estimate are commonplace things. But folly is this ! for assuredly, as no two bodies can occupy the same space at one and the same time, so no one mind can take in two impressions at one and the same time; therefore it must be that the child that was learning the natural external thing, could not, at that same moment, have been learning the lesson placed before it in the book. In short, until the mind has acquired such a knowledge of surrounding objects as shall make it master of all that is connected with the circle in which it moves, everything that is artificially thrust into it or upon it must of necessity displace some knowledge that was coming to it naturally, and which, if the know-ledge be proper, useful, and good, ought not to be displaced. Another argument in favor of the line of instruction marked out above is, that the in a certain measure of knowledge. Pressed too closely, it has a tendency to become strong on one or two points only. It has, perchance, a It has, perchance, a natural aptitude for certain developments, and these, as a result, become allpowerful, to the exclusion of other faculties which, had the cultivation been even and unforced, would have been also developed and brought out, leading to the formation of a vigorous and well-balanced intellect. I believe it will be found, without exception, that men of one idea have been overpressed children, who, finding it impossible to take in all that was tried to be driven into them, contented themselves at last with one object. and were lost to everything else, lost, I may say without compunction: for if there is a living bore greater than another, it is the man who knows but one thing. The power of the brain to receive impressions—the quality of the organ, in other words—shows itself in the capacity it exhibits for absorbing the external world. Quickness of perception indicates a brain ready

and facile at absorption; dullness indicates smallness of the brain, or quality that does not receive. But under our present systems we commonly treat both conditions as one; we spur on the precocious child because it is precocious, and we spur on the dull child because it is dull. In both cases we err. When the mind is easily influenced, the danger usually consists in pressing its powers too far, in making a show and wonder of what can be done. When the mind is dull and stupid, it is often filled to repletion before the earnest teacher is conscious of the fact; it is thus overburdened, and worn by the pressure, but it is not instructed. For the reasons given, I have always persistently op-posed the special prize system in schools and colleges. As a teacher and as a student, I can recall no single instance in which noted prizewinners in youth bore away more than others the rizes—that is to say, the successes—of after-life. have, however, many times known the success ful prizemen in the class to be the least successful afterwards, and as often have known the ordinary men in class come out as the best in life. Overwork in the child and in the student defeats, therefore, its own object. It does not bring out the powerful brain necessary for the man; for all life is as a new and great lesson, and some young brain must be left free for the reception of lesson on lesson. Of this there need be no doubt, and there we may leave the first and leading fact. But the danger of overwork, unfortunately, is not confined to the brain; it extends to the body as a whole. When the brain is overworked in the growing child, however well the child may be fed, there will be exhaustion of nervous force in proportion to the overwork. Thereupon will follow faulty nutrition, a stunted growth, a weak bodily frame-work, a badly-developed skeleton, altogether an impaired organism.—Gentlemen's Magazine.

### IN VINO YERITAS.

We are indebted to our amusing contemporary Quiz for the following somewhat ghastly story, which si non e vero e ben trovato:

In the neighbourhood of Marseilles, not long ago, was discovered an ancient Roman burying ground, containing, amongst other interesting graves, that of the Consul Caius Septimus, wherein a quantity of antique weapons and coins were found, and, moreover, an amphora-the inscription upon which was all but illegiblecontaining a small quantity of a thick, reddish liquor. The amphora, emptied of its contents, was submitted to the inspection of an eminent archæologist, who, after bestowing extraordinary pains upon the deciphering of the mutilated characters engraved upon its surface, declared it to be his opinion that they indicated the pre-sence of genuine Falernian within the vessel, adding that Caius Septimus, a jovial Consul of considerable repute as a judge of good wine, had obviously ordered that a flask of the best vintage in his cellar should be buried with him. The scientific gentleman who had discovered the Consul's grave and taken possession of its contents, upon learning the true character of the liquid relic in question, at once started for Paris with his Falernian in a glass decanter, and, there arrived, invited a dozen of his friends, members of the Academy of Inscriptions, to a dinner at one of the leading restaurants. At dessert he produced the "Consul's wine," ovrefully poured it into tiny liqueur glasses, and handed it round to his guests, exhorting them to drink it, reverently and upstanding, to the immortal memory of Caius Septimus. The glasses had scarcely been emptied when a telegram was brought in by the head-waiter on a salver, and laid before the founder of the feast. He opened and glanced at it, and then, letting it fall upon the floor, fled from the room, with a cry of terrible agony. One of the startled academicans picked up the message and read it aloud. It ran as follows: "Marseilles, 7 P.M. Don't drink contents of amphora. Not Falernian at all. Have deciphered inscription on foot, which previously escaped my notice. Red liquor is body of Consul Caius, liquefied by special embalming process." But the friendly warning came too late. The archeologist and his academical colleagues had drunk up the Consul to his last drop.

# TOOLE THE COMEDIAN

An English journal has the following anecdote

of Toole, the celebrated actor:

was made when he was playing with Brough in 'Dearer than life.' Toole in a very poor dress, and Brough, in the uniform of the workhouse, were on their way to the Stereoscopic Company, or some other eminent photographers to sit for their portraits in character. fashionable neighborhood, Toole remembered an acquaintance who was well known for his snobbish propensities. He was wealthy and kept a fine establishment. Toole and Brough, leaving their cab at the corner of the street, quickly got out and called upon their friend. They knocked at the door. The footman, seeing them, was inclined to shut it in their faces, but he con-

Toole. 'However, we'll we'll call again,' said Toole. 'Tell the guy'nor his two uncles from the workhouse have called.' On the guy'nor's return home the footman and other upper servants all gave notice; they could not possibly remain in the service of a person whose uncles came to visit him from the workhouse.'

#### VARIETIES.

AN ASTRONOMICAL DISCOVERY. -Col. A. W. Drayson writes to the London Daily News from Halifax, Nova Scotia, to announce that he has made an astronomical discovery, the result of ten years' investigation. It is: "That the earth rotates annually once round a second axis, which second axis is not coincident with the axis of daily rotation." This movement is due to the fact that, owing to the preponderance of land above the water in the northern hemisphere, and owing to the mass of land in Asia, Europe and Africa on one side of the earth, the centre of gravity of the earth is not coincident with the centre of the earth, and, consequently, is not located in the plane of the equator. The results of the discovery are most important, as the changing positions of stars from month to month can, by the aid of this discovery, be calculated, so that the endless observations of scores of computers at various observatories become no longer necessary.

BARONESS Burdett-Courts is usually accompanied by a beautiful colley-dog, which is a gir from Mr, Henry Irving, and which has a little history. The actor was one day driving over the Braemar moors when he lost his Skye terrier' which had been trotting along behind his trap On the moor he met a shepherd with a colley, and the man, when told of the actor's loss, offered to find the terrier. At a word from him the colley darted off, and after an absence of ten minutes returned. "Where is he?" asked the shepherd, and the dog lifting one paw, pointed in the direction of the road. "He has gone after the trap," the shepherd said, and Mr. Irving marvelling, and, in truth, incredulors, returned to the road, and coming up with the trap found his little favourite awaiting his arrival. He bought the colley at the moderate price of fifteen guineas, and on his return to town presented it to the baroness.

An extraordinary story comes to us from Berlin. It seems that a very celebrated artist was invited to a ball of the elite, and pressed to come, but he sent a gruff answer that he never went out to dance, and had something better to do. Nettled, and even affronted, a small joke was resolved upon : a friend of the artist, an actor was deputed to call upon him and press the artist to attend a bal costume, and take part in representing a tribe of Indians, the actor pro-missing to lend the artist a fitting costume: after a little hesitation the proposal was accepted, and on the evening arranged the artist was duly feathered, besmeared, and got up as a savage—then driven off to the rendez-vous The artist was ushered into the room, with the announcement by the servant of Herr greatest savage in Berlin, and then he found to his astonishment and horror, that he was among the elite whose ball he had so roughly declined. He left precipitately, amidst a roar of laughter—and does not like the story to circulate.

A TEUTONIC ARGUMENT .- In the Legislature of Ohio, some years ago, there was a warm dis-pute whether a certain proposed railroad should commence at a given point down or at a certain other up the river. "Who ever heard," said a down-the-river advocate, "of beginning any-thing at the top! Who ever heard of building a chimney from the top downward? Who ever saw a house begun at the top?"

Up jumped a Dutch member from an up-the river county. "Meester Brezident, de jentlemans zay dat dees beeznes ees all von hoomboog, because vee vants to pegeen our railroat mit de top ov de Shtate, und he make some seely combarisons about de houze und de schimney. I veel also ask de jentlemans von questions. Een hees bart ov de Schate, ven dey begins to built von vell, do dey begins mit de bottom ov de vell! Veel de jentlemans bleese answer me dat leetle von question!"

The laughter which explosively followed this Teutonic retort showed who, in the opinion of the legislators, had the better of the argument. -Editor's Drawer, in Harper's.

COULDN'T CLIMB.—The other day, says the Indianapolis News, John F. Wallack, superintendent of the Western Union Telegraph in this district, related a bit of his experience. It occurred during one of the night storms so frequent last summer. The violence of the wind detached the trunk quadruplex wire, used for New York business, and the testing instrument located the break at the first pole west of Lewisville. Mr. Wallack called up the operator there, and ordered that the break be fixed.
"Can't go out to-night; storm is too bad,"

was the reply.

"Storm or no storm, the thing has to be fixed.

"Well, I've got no ladder." "Go out and climb the pole." This some-

what testily.
"I can't climb the pole."

"What's the reason you can't ?" Manager's

temper going fast.

Mr. Wallack had forgotten, in the press of business, that Lewisville had a female operator, but when reminded of it he gave up the job and hired two boys to attend to it.

THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT AND THE IRISH. MAN.-All classes in Ireland are fond of grandeur and circumstances; and the establishment of a royal residence there would have a most beneficial effect. During the stay of the Duke of Connaught in the country, he was, as usual. very affable, and won golden opinions among rich and poor. I was told that one day when he was standing at the door of an hotel, a tatter. demalion came up to him, and with native assurance called out :

"Welcome to Ireland, your Royal Highness ! I hope I see your Royal Highness well!"
"Quite well. I am much obliged to you,"

replied the Duke.

"And your Royal mother the Queen t' continued the man. "I hope she is also enjoying

"Yes, thank you, replied the Duke; "the Queen is very well."
"I'm glad to hear it, your Royal Highness. And how are your Royal brothers!"
"Get along there, fellow!" said one of the

aide-de-camps, who happened to come out at the moment.

"What are you interfering with me for, sir!" retorted the tatterdemalion, much affronted.
"Don't you see that I'm holding a conversation with his Royal Highness?"—London Society.

#### MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

It is rumoured that there will be a litigation over Mr Sothern's will

ITALY will hold her first "International Music l'estival" at Turin next June.

JANAUSCHER has commenced an engagement at Booth's Thea.re, in the course of which she will appear in all her great impersonations.

THE agent of "Fritz" Emmet has secured in the New York Marine Court a verdict for \$498 as the balance of salary due to him from the erratic actor. Miss Florence Marryat has appeared on the

stage at a morning performance of a play founded by her-seif and Mr. G. Neville upon her novel, "Her Word Against a Lie."

MONSIE R Jacques Lemmens, eminent organ-ist composer and teacher, husband of the distinguished so-prano, Madame Lemmens-Sherrington, died in his native country, Belgium, of January 30, aged 5fty-THE London Globe states that the stage will

shortly receive an illustrious recruit in the person of a well-known." Queen of Society. If the debutance wins as many suffrages in this new prevince as in that where she has long reigned, her triumph will be something more than a success d'estime.

#### ORGAN FOR SALE. From one of the best manufactories of the

Dominion. New, and an excellent instrument. Will be sold cheap. Apply at this office.

## OUR CHESS COLUMN.

For Solutions to Problems sent in by correspondents will be duly acknowledged.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W. S., Montreal.—Papers to hand, Thanks, Student, Montreal.—Correct solution received of Problem No. 311.

J. R., Hamilton.—Letter received. Thanks.

E.D.W., Sherbroke, P.Q.—You were right in considering Problem No. 318 as defective. Shall be glad to have solution to the amended position.

THE HAMILTON CHESS CORRESPONDENCE TOURNEY.

We have just received the subjoined tables from the Conductor of the Hamilton Chess. Correspondence Tourney, and feel assured they will be of interest to the competitors, some of whom seem to be making large scores. A considerable number of games have yet to be played, but, indging from the time occupied by those already fluished, the end of the contest is not far distant.

GAMES CONCLUDED FROM DEC. 31st, 1880, TO MARCH lat, 1881.

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