

that it was next to impossible to press through it, and their little carriage became so completely enveloped by the surrounding mass, that even to turn back was impracticable. The reason of this assemblage was soon made manifest to their senses, for there, across the end of the lane, stood the supporters and cross-beam of a gallows. Young Lion and the most desperate of the crew had been selected to suffer the penalty of the law at Dover, as a fearful warning to the smugglers of that neighbourhood. Aunt Margaret sat in a sort of stupor; but her arm was convulsively grasped round the terrified Ellen, who had scarcely time to conjecture the meaning of what she witnessed, before the melancholy cavalcade approached the fatal tree, and at last drew up beneath it. She would have closed her eyes, but an indescribable dread prevented her, and she gazed upon the spectacle with breathless horror. The unhappy culprits knelt with the reverend clergyman in prayer; Young Lion had his back towards her, but in the countenance of his fellow-sufferer she remembered the features indelibly impressed upon her memory during the adventure in St. Margaret's barn—it was Teetotum. They rose from their knees, their handkerchiefs were removed, and the noose was adjusted round the neck. Young Lion drew a small packet from his breast, and presented it to the divine, who, by his gesticulations, seemed promising to comply with some request. The young man then turned to the crowd, but, oh what was Ellen's anguish and despair when she beheld in that dying man the first, the only love of her heart, Edmund Foster! A shriek, a wild and piercing shriek, drew his attention towards the spot, but the wretched girl had fallen prostrate in the carriage, and Edmund saw her not. A few minutes more, and he hung a corpse.

Ellen was conveyed home in a state of insensibility; and when she recovered a partial glimmering of reason, her constant, her earnest request was, that the body of her lover might be interred in the village churchyard. Through the intervention of friends, this wish was ultimately accomplished: an unsculptured stone was placed at the head of the green sods, and a few months afterwards the devoted girl was laid within the same cold tenement, where stands THE GRAVESTONE WITHOUT A NAME.

ADVENTURE WITH AN ELEPHANT.

A party set out to ascend one of the rivers at Delagoa Bay, for the purpose of hunting the hippopotamus. Whilst they were in quest of the haunts of those huge animals, a shrill angry cry reached their ears, and presently, Mr. Barrette, a midshipman, rushed from the reeds, his face covered with blood, calling loudly for assistance to Lieutenant Arlett, who had just been attacked by an elephant. The party proceeded to the spot, and found their unfortunate comrade stretched motionless on his back, covered with blood and dirt, and his eyes starting from their sockets, in all the expressive horror of a violent death. It was some time before he showed any symptoms of life; they succeeded, however, in carrying him on board, where he gradually recovered, and when he became sufficiently collected, he gave an account of what befel him, which shows the extraordinary sagacity of the elephant, when in its wild state. He, at the first approach of the animal, thought he had stumbled upon an enormous hippopotamus, the object of their pursuit, but he was soon undeceived. The animal, which appeared highly irritated at the intrusion, waved its trunk in the air, and the moment he spoke, reared upon its hind legs, turned short round, and, with a shrill, passionate cry, rushed after him, tearing down the opposing reeds in his way, while Lieutenant Arlett vainly attempted to effect his escape. For a short time he had hopes of eluding his pursuer, as the animal perceived one of the seamen mounted on the top of a tree, about twenty feet high, and three in circumference, menacing him by his voice and gestures, while preparing to fire. The elephant turned short round, and, shrieking with rage, made a kind of spring against the tree, as if to reach the object of his attack, when his ponderous weight bore the whole to the ground, but fortunately without hurting the man, who slipped among the reeds. The ferocious animal still followed him, foaming with rage, to the rising bank of the river; the man crying loudly, "An elephant! an elephant!" until closely pressed by his pursuer, they both came upon the top of the slope, where the party who had heard his cries were prepared, and instantly fired a volley as the elephant appeared. This made him return with increased fury to Mr. Arlett, who, in his eagerness to escape, stumbled and fell, the huge beast running over him and severely bruising his ankle.

As soon as he had passed, Mr. Arlett arose, and limping with pain, attempted once more to retreat, but the animal returned to the attack; his trunk was flourished in the air, and the next moment the unfortunate officer was struck senseless to the ground. On recovering himself, his situation appeared hopeless, his huge antagonist standing over him, chafing and screaming with rage, pounding the earth with his feet, and ploughing it with his tusks. When the party first saw them, Mr. Arlett was lying between the elephant's legs, and had it been the intention of the animal to destroy him, placing a foot upon his senseless body, would in a moment have crushed him to atoms; but, it is probable that his

object was only to punish and alarm, not to kill,—such conjecture being perfectly in accordance with the character of this noble but revengeful beast.

It appeared that the elephant, on his last return to Mr. Arlett, had filled his trunk with mud, which, having turned him on his back, and forced open his mouth, he blew down his throat, injecting a large quantity into the stomach. It was this that produced the inflated appearance of Mr. Arlett's countenance, for he was almost in a state of suffocation, and for three days after this adventure, he occasionally vomited quantities of blue sand.

Captain Owen's Voyages.

PLUMBAGO AND BLACK LEAD PENCILS.—There is only one purpose to which this form of carbon is applied in the solid state—viz., for the manufacture of black lead pencils. One of the most remarkable circumstances connected with the plumbago is the mode in which it is sold. Once a year the mine at Barrowdale is opened, and a sufficient quantity of plumbago is extracted, to supply the market during the ensuing year. It is then closed up, and the product is carried in small fragments of about three and four inches long, to London, where it is exposed to sale at the black-lead market, which is held on the first Monday of every month, at a public-house in Essex Street, Strand. The buyers, who amount to about seven or eight, examine every piece with a sharp instrument to ascertain its hardness—those which are too soft being rejected. The individual who has the first choice pays 45s. per pound—the other 30s. But as there is no addition made to the first quantity in the market, during the course of the year, the residual portions are examined over and over again, until they are exhausted. The annual amount of sale is about £3000. There are three kinds of pencils, common, ever-pointed, and plummets. The latter are composed of one-third sulphuret of antimony and two-thirds plumbago. The first part of the proceeds is sawing out the cedar into long planks, and then into what are technically called tops and bottoms. The second, sawing out the grooves by means of a fly-wheel. The third, scraping the lead on a stone; having been previously made into thin slices, to suit the groove, introducing it into the groove, and scratching the side with a sharp-pointed instrument, so as to break it off exactly above the groove. The fourth, glueing the tops and bottoms together, and turning the cedar-cases in a gauge. The ever-pointed pencils are first cut into thin slabs, then into square pieces, by means of steel gauge. They are then passed through three small holes, armed with rubies, which last about three or four days. Steel does not last above as many hours. Six of these ever-pointed pencils may be had for 2s. 6d. If they are cheaper than this, we may be sure that they are adulterated.

Record of General Science.

THE PEARL.

HALIFAX, FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 30, 1838.

CARE OF CHILDREN.—To all parents the title of this article will suffice to command their attention, and interest their feelings. The "Cry and Prayer against the imprisonment of small children," we shall assume, they have carefully read. Nay we will go farther and assume that the cry of the little prisoners has entered their hearts, and that they feel deeply concerned on the subject of their education. What then is the response of the father, of the mother, to that cry? In future will they be governed by the iron rules of custom, and cloister their little ones in the gloom of the school-house? Or governed by enlightened reason shall they eschew the common practice of tasking the intellects of their children before they are well able to bear it? As these questions meet the eyes of parents and guardians, we should like to read the emotions of their hearts, to hear their words of commendation, or note their different forms of objection. But is it possible that any can object to their children being strong and healthy and vigorous? And are they not satisfied that these elements of enjoyment belong to the child who exercises his physical rather than his mental powers? We do not expect the forced plant of the green house to be equally hardy with that which is reared in Nature's garden, and cultured by Nature's hand. Just so this hot-house forcing of the minds of children tend only to their weakness and early decay. When parents shall duly consider the soft, tender nature of the brain in children, they will no longer improperly excite them. A mother would be greatly alarmed to see her child bending and groaning under a heavy burden placed upon its little back by some injudicious bystander. And why? she knows that the muscles of the boy are not sufficiently formed to bear large weights, and she trembles lest her child should be crippled in the foolish attempt. But she does not feel at the sight of her child toiling and fagging at its school-task! It may bear this mental burden and she is not at all concerned. And solely because of her forgetfulness of the delicate nature of the young brain. Now to set a child "to remember, and reason, and study, with the ability and constancy of an adult," is to overstrain the organ of the mind, and this cannot be effected without injury to other parts of the human frame. "It is a fundamental

law of the distribution of vital powers," says Bichat, "that when they are increased in one part, they are diminished in all the rest of the living economy; that the sum is never augmented, but that they are necessarily transported from one organ to another, and, therefore, to increase the power of one organ, it is absolutely necessary they should be diminished in the others." To the same purpose Dr. James Johnson remarks: "Extra development and sensibility of the brain, cannot take place but at the expense of some function or structure in the animal or organic system: when therefore, an undue share of the vital energy of any individual is directed to a particular organ or system, a proportionate subtraction is made from some other organ or system; and this is a most undoubted and most important truth, which is little understood, and less attended to by the world in general." These testimonies received, and we think there can be but one opinion as to the danger of obliging children to memorise unintelligible jargon before their seventh or at the lowest calculation, their fifth year. When he is seven years old the child may be taught his alphabet, and it will not be long before he is on a level with those in learning who commenced sighing and pining over their hated books in their third year. Nay, by proper care in the direction of his studies, we have no doubt that in a few months he will distance all his early competitors.

According to the plan of Aristotle, the intellectual education of Alexander the Great, did not commence until his eighth year. A celebrated French writer thus speaks of early instruction:—"From the highest antiquity we have this rule, that mental instruction ought not to commence before the seventh year." Dr. Huefland, physician to the King of Prussia, observes: "Intellectual effort in the first years of life is very injurious. All labour of the mind which is required of children before their seventh year, is in opposition to the laws of nature, and will prove injurious to the organization, and prevent its proper development." Sinibaldi, an Italian writer, in his great work on the *Science of Man*, thus speaks of education in early life:—"This first epoch of life, from birth to the age of seven, ought to be entirely consecrated to the perfect development of the organization of children, and by the agency of physical education, to render them as healthy, robust, and strong as the nature of man will permit."

In short, a multitude of authorities might be introduced in proof that the early instruction of the young is detrimental to their health—often productive of disease and misery—and seldom, if ever, advantageous in a literary point of view. The brightest geniuses which have arisen amongst men, have been those who in their tender years neglected their studies. But on all these points we must refer our readers to Dr. Brigham's very superior work "On the Influence of mental cultivation and mental excitement upon Health."

THE HARMONICON.—We have much pleasure in being enabled to speak in the highest terms of this selection of sacred music. The mechanical execution of the work is exceedingly creditable to the press of Mr. Dawson of Picton, from whence it has been issued, whilst the compiler has evinced much taste in the selection of his tunes and anthems. We have a great variety of True Books in our possession, but we have not one of its dimensions, embodying so choice a collection of beautiful tunes as the Harmonicon. Its value, in our estimation, is exceedingly enhanced by the introduction of the greater part of W. Arnold's most admired compositions. These alone are worth the full price charged for the whole collection. To those also who are about to commence the study of sacred music, this work will be found of inestimable use, as the directions to learners are remarkable for their fulness and explicitness. The Harmonicon is for sale at the different book-stores in town, and we feel confident that all who examine it, having any knowledge of Psalm and Hymn Tunes, will concur with us in the opinion we have expressed, of its great value as a compilation of the very best tunes extant.

COMMUNICATED.

MR. LEGGETT'S GRAMMAR.—As the public will naturally inquire respecting the merits, and demerits, of Mr. Leggett's forthcoming Grammar, the following, copied from the late Parliamentary Reports of New Brunswick, may prove interesting.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1836.

"The House resolved itself into a Committee, to consider a Bill introduced for the purpose of protecting the copy-right of publications to authors. Mr. End* explained the nature of the Bill, which was copied from the English statutes; and during the course of his observations, which went to meet any objections that might exist, on the ground of inexpediency, he stated that he had seen the manuscript of an English Grammar, which has been written by the Rev. Mr. Leggett, and was well calculated for the instruction of youth; whose author would require that protection which the proposed Bill would afford. Bill passed."

*The learned and talented Member for Gloucester.