

experiments. It leads to inference, to deduction, to classification, and thus theories are formulated and sciences established.

An observing boy will become an observing man, and as boy and man he will have an advantage over those who have not cultivated the faculty.

A child may know more than a philosopher about matters that may not have come under the observation of the philosopher. A little girl entered the study of Mezerai, the celebrated historian, and asked him for a coal of fire.

"But you haven't brought a shovel," he said.

"I don't need any," was her reply. And then very much to his astonishment, she filled her hand with ashes and put the live coal on top. No doubt the learned man knew that ashes were a bad conductor of heat, but he had never seen that fact verified in such a practical manner.

Galileo noticed the swaying of a chandelier in a cathedral, and it suggested the pendulum to him. To another inventor the power of steam and its application was suggested by the kettle on the stove. A poor monk discovered gunpowder, and an optician's boy the magnifying lens.

Two boys of my acquaintance one morning took a walk with a naturalist.

"Do you notice anything peculiar in the movements of those wasps?" he asked, as he pointed to a puddle in the middle of the road.

"Nothing, except that they seem to come and go," replied one of the boys.

The other was less prompt in his reply, but he had observed to some purpose

"I notice that they fly away in pairs," he said. "One has a little pellet of mud, the other nothing. Are there drones among wasps as among bees?"

"Both were alike busy, and each went away with a burden," replied the naturalist. "The one you thought a 'do-nothing,' had a mouthful of water. They reach their nest together; the one deposits his pellet of mud and the other ejects the water upon it, which makes it of the consistency of mortar. Then they paddle it upon the nest and fly away for more materials."

You see one boy observed a little and the other a good deal more, while the naturalist had something to tell them that surprised them very much.

Boys, be observant. Cultivate the faculty. Hear sharply, look keenly. Glance at a shop-window as you pass it, and then try how many things you can recall that you noticed in it. You may not become great men through

your observations, like Newton, Linnaeus, Franklin, or Sir Humphrey Davy, but you will acquire information that will be of service to you, and make you wiser and quite probably much better men.

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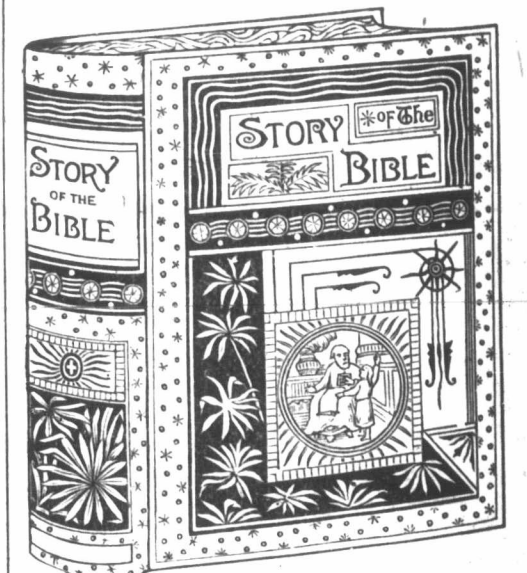
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