

YOUTH'S CORNER.

THE RUSSIAN DRIVER AND HIS HORSE.

Goodness of heart exhibits itself in the Russian in his mode of treating animals. Let only an unemployed wankie be observed in the evening, who, in sharing a piece of bread with his beast consolatorily addresses him, "Thou must content thyself with a little, my nag: I have myself not much, but willingly share it with you. My earnings are not great, but winter is still long, and in spring we shall have masted together a few roubles, and will return to dear home. Thou shalt then rest thyself, and live upon dainties: for thou shalt have as much white oats and green clover as thou wilt. Do not, then, despair. See yonder comes a gentleman, and he will certainly hire us!" and he now suddenly turns to the stranger, offers him a sledge, and is satisfied with his small earnings.

During my winter journey, I have often amused myself with such a conversation between a driver and his horses. We might then hear, "Fy, fy, old brown one, you ought to be ashamed to be so idle! Look at the gelding; he is smaller than you, and yet runs better. You will soon make me cross, and I shall then be forced to beat you. Blows hurt you, hark!" (He then strikes the sledge with the whip, and continues:) "So, so, old brown one! that's all right. Now you run well; when we arrive, you shall have a good feed. Run, run! I'll sing you an amusing song!" He now commences singing, and it seems actually as if the animals understood him.

Shortly before Christmas, in the year 1833, when I was making a courier trip from St. Petersburg to Constantinople—I think it happened in the Government of Kiow—the already tired horses could not, with all their exertions, drag my carriage up the hill covered with smooth ice. Haste was important, and I myself not in the best humour. I therefore desired the postillion, in harsh words, to urge the horses still more. "Strike me, sir, if you are angry," said the man; "my horses do their utmost without blows: but you may easily see that, with the very best intent, they cannot drag us up." I convinced myself that the good natured fellow was right, and then willingly waited till he had fetched other horses from a neighbouring village.

But it also appears as if animals were sensible of the affection of their masters. Thus in St. Petersburg, the equipages which have taken their masters to the theatre remain exposed to the open sky until they return home. In the severest cold weather, I have often seen at night, the postillion who guides the leaders, sleeping, either stretched out and balanced upon his horse, or seeking protection from the falling snow beneath its belly, and even its legs—the horse standing quite still, as if fearing to disturb the boy.

In front of the large theatre in St. Petersburg, there are two projecting roofs of tin which rest upon iron pillars and are surrounded by stone seats. Beneath these roofs in winter, and during the time of performance, large fires are made at the expense of the government. Here both coachmen and their horses throng to warm themselves. The hearsed fellows gossip and jest, and, in their usual way, address a few words to their horses, who look on with bright and friendly eyes, as if they were attentively listening to the conversation.—Von Tietz's Travels.

HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

WILLIAM HARVEY, born at Folkstone in Kent, in the year 1578, studied medicine at Cambridge and afterwards at Padua in Italy, and received the appointment of Lecturer on Anatomy and Surgery in the College of Physicians in London. His reputation must have been great, for he was appointed to the honourable office of Physician to King James I., and held the same post afterwards under that Sovereign's son and successor, Charles I. Great opposition, however, was stirred up, when he announced his discovery of the circulation of the blood. Until his time, a vague and unsatisfactory notion only was entertained that the blood moves, but of a regular course which it takes, nothing was known. Harvey's observation led him to perceive that the valves of the heart are so constructed as to allow the passage of the blood only in one direction; he then discovered that the blood is carried away from the one side of the heart by a set of vessels called arteries, and is brought back to the other side of the heart by a set of vessels called veins; and in the year 1619 he commenced publicly to teach the result of his observations which is now commonly called the circulation of the blood. The opposition made by those who either envied him the reputation to which his discovery justly entitled him, or who were unwilling to investigate and be convinced of their former ignorance and the correctness of Harvey's system, brought upon the discoverer the loss of a good deal of practice; he persevered, however, published his system in the year 1628 by a work in Latin printed at Frankfurt in Germany, and had the satisfaction, before his death, to see the clamours of his opponents silenced and his doctrine universally established. King Charles I. recognised his merit, and treated him with great distinction. Harvey, on his part, adhered faithfully to the King amidst the great troubles which broke out and which at last brought the

unfortunate Sovereign to the scaffold. His high character was acknowledged even during the time of Cromwell's protectorate, and he was elected President of the College of Physicians, in the year 1654. That honour, indeed, he declined; but he showed great liberality towards the College, building a library and museum, and settling his paternal estate upon the institution. He died in 1657, at the advanced age of nearly eighty.

EDWARD JENNER, the son of a Clergyman at Berkeley in Gloucestershire, was born in 1749, and became apprentice to a surgeon at Cirencester, but afterwards enjoyed the instructions of the celebrated anatomist John Hunter, in London. He had several good offers for service abroad, but preferred to settle at his native place, Berkeley, where his habits of observation led him to the discovery that many among the people who had to do with cows became infected with a harmless disease in the skin which, when it had once been got over, secured them against the small-pox. He commenced a course of experiments, which led to the conclusion that the matter of the cow-pox, transmitted from one person to another, proved a preventive of the dangerous disease. In the year 1798, Jenner took a Doctor's degree at Edinburgh, and then published his discovery under the title of "An Enquiry into the Causes and Effects of the Cow-pox." Other writings of his followed, as his experiments led to further elucidations, and a very general interest was excited. Honours and rewards crowded in upon the discoverer: the University of Oxford gave him a Doctor's degree, and various learned Societies elected him member. The sum of £20,000 was bestowed upon him by Parliament; and when the Emperor of Russia and the King of Prussia were in England, he had interviews with both of them, who recognised in him a benefactor of mankind. Not only in England, but all over Europe, and in America, vaccination, that is the use of the cow-pox as a preventive of the small-pox, was generally introduced, and thus the ravages of one of the severest scourges to which man is exposed were stayed by a simple and easy measure of precaution. Jenner practised medicine with credit and success at Cheltenham, but died suddenly at Berkeley in 1823.

HSL.

CRUELTY OF THE HEATHEN.

We had travelled all day over a sandy plain, and passed a sleepless night from extreme thirst and fatigue. Rising early next morning, and leaving the people to get the waggon ready to follow, I went forward with one of our number. After passing a ridge of hills, and advancing a considerable way on the plain, we beheld an object of heart-rending distress. It was an old woman, a living skeleton, sitting with her head leaning on her knees. She tried to rise; but trembling with weakness, sunk again on the earth. I addressed her by the name which sounds sweet in every clime, and charms even the savage ear. "My mother, fear not, we are friends, and will do you no harm; pray how do you come to be in this situation?" To this she replied, "I have been here four days; my children have left me here to die." "Your children?" I interrupted. "Yes," raising her hand to her shrivelled bosom, "my own children, three sons and two daughters. They are gone," pointing with her finger, "to yonder blue mountain, and have left me to die." "And pray why did they leave you?" I inquired. Spreading out her hands, "I am old you see, and I am no longer able to serve them; when they kill game, I am too feeble to help in carrying home the flesh; I am not able to gather wood to make a fire; and I cannot carry their children on my back as I used to do." This last sentence was more than I could bear; and though my tongue was cleaving to the roof of my mouth from excessive thirst, this reply opened a fountain of tears.—From Missionary Scenes in Southern Africa, by the Rev. Robert Moffat.

A BLESSING ON STRICT CONSCIENTIOUSNESS FROM RIGHT PRINCIPLE.

Account of change of character in the Rev. S. Walker of Truro, given in the London Christian Observer, 1835. The first impression that he was in error arose from a conversation between himself and a few of his parishioners on the subject of justifying and saving faith, to which he was judiciously led by Mr. Conon, master of the grammar school at Truro, of whom he says, "he was verily the first person I had ever met with, truly possessed of the mind of Christ, and by whose means I became sensible that all was wrong within and without." A singular incident had led to this good man's intimacy with his minister. Mr. Walker received a letter, containing a sum of money, which the writer requested him to pay at the custom-house, as justly due to the revenue; for duty on some French wines which he had used for his health. He had been unsuccessful in his attempts, in that age of smuggling on the coast, to obtain any on which custom had been paid, but his conscience remembered his Master's Divine command. Curious to know whether the same conscientiousness was manifest in all his doings, Mr. Walker sought his acquaintance, and the result was a respect for him ap-

proaching to veneration; for he saw in his daily habits the powerful effects of true religion. The attractions of his conversation and the purity of his life at length ripened intercourse into intimacy; and Mr. Walker's change of character was owing, under God, to his instrumentality. Though threatened with the loss of his stipend and scholars—a threat which was afterwards actually carried into effect—he persevered in his course. He was persecuted purely for righteousness' sake; for he was acknowledged on all hands to be an instructor of extraordinary ability, to whose tuition almost all the gentlemen's sons in the middle and western part of Cornwall had been committed. But he was guilty of the crime of training up his pupils in the nurture and admonition of the Lord—an error far less venial, in the eyes of ignorant and pre-udiced parents, than carelessness of morals or neglect of discipline. For many years he walked hand in hand with his pastor and convert, who never took any step of importance in the management of his parish without asking his advice. He bore his trials with Christian resignation, and carried himself with a dignity and mildness that ought to have disarmed his enemies. He says, in a letter written under the pressure of severe illness, "I am engaged in honour and conscience to do all I can for the good of the school and the public, and have forgot, and most heartily forgiven, all former bad treatment, and even present unkindness." The severest blow he ever received was the death of his beloved minister which, coupled with other circumstances, induced him to remove to Padstow, where he undertook the instruction of a select number of pupils. This occupation was his great delight, and he frequently expressed a wish, that, if it pleased God, he might the while employed in it, and that suddenly. His wish was fulfilled; for one Saturday evening, after endeavouring to prepare his scholars for the solemnities of the approaching Sabbath, and while actually praying for a blessing upon his labours, his voice was silenced by the sudden stroke of death.

PRAYER BEFORE SCHOOL.—[From the Life of Dr. Arnold, Head-master of Rugby School.]

The spirit in which he entered on the instruction of the school, constituting as it did the main business of the place, may perhaps best be understood from a particular exemplification of it in the circumstances under which he introduced a prayer before the first lesson in the Sixth Form, over and above the general prayers read before the whole school. On the morning on which he first used it, he said that he had been much troubled to find that the change from attendance on the death-bed of one of the boys in his house to the school-work had been very great; he thought that there ought not to be such a contrast, and that it was probably owing to the school-work not being sufficiently sanctified to God's glory; that if it was made really a religious work, the transition to it from a death-bed would be slight; he therefore intended for the future to offer a prayer before the first lesson, that the day's work might be undertaken and carried on solely to the glory of God and their improvement, —that he might be the better enabled to do his work.

THE RESULT OF OBSERVATION UPON YOUTH.—I am daily more and more struck with the very low average of intellectual power, and with the difficulty of meeting those various temptations, both intellectual and moral, which stand in boys' ways; a school shows as unobscurely as any place, the corruption of human nature, and the monstrous advantage with which evil starts, if I may so speak, in its contest with good.—Dr. Arnold.

SIN FINDING OUT THE SINNER.

A vessel set sail from Basorah to Bagdad, with several passengers on board. In the course of the voyage, the sailors, by way of a joke, put a man in irons as he lay asleep, and he became a subject of diversion to the whole party, till they drew near to the capital. But when the sailors wanted to let him loose, the key was no where to be found; and after a long and fruitless search, they were compelled to send for a blacksmith to knock off the fetters. When, however, the blacksmith came, he refused to do what they wanted, till he had the authority of the magistrate; for he thought the man might be some criminal whom the officers of justice had laid hold of, and that his friends wished to favour his escape. To the magistrate they accordingly went, who sent down one of his attendants to see into it. But the officer, when he had heard their story, and had taken the evidence of some of the most respectable among the passengers, shook his head, and with a look of solemnity, said it was much too serious a case for him to decide. So they repaired in a body to the magistrate, and carried the poor captive with them. So strange a procession was sure to attract notice; and a crowd soon collected about them, each curious to know the prisoner's offence, and to catch a sight of him: till, at length, one man, springing forward, seized the captive by the throat, and exclaimed, "Here is the villain I have been looking for these two years; ever since he robbed and murdered my poor brother." Nor would he quit his hold till they came before the magistrate; and the murder being

clearly proved, the man who had been confined in joke only, was given up to death, as a punishment for the blood that he had shed.—Keene's Persian Stories.

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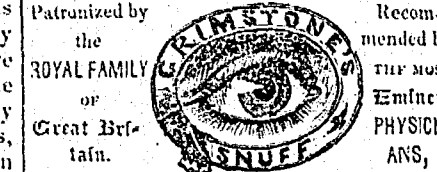
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