

STRAY NOTES ON EDUCATION.

BY "CLANCAHILL," HAMILTON.

IT is a generally conceded maxim that "Knowledge is Power,"—not that dormant knowledge which, like the wealth of the miser, or the buried talent of the faithless steward, lies uselessly hidden from the light; but that active, vigorous knowledge which, by due circulation, benefits the general community without at all depreciating its own value. Nor is it the false knowledge of the scientist, who, carried away by his own conceit, seeks to ignore the agency of a Supreme Being in the system of creation, and to blast man's hopes of future happiness by placing his origin and destiny on a par with the brutes of the field; but the sublime knowledge of the Christian that exhibits the imprint of the Almighty hand in every phase of nature, and teaches mankind that the reward of a well-spent life is an eternity of bliss in the home of the Sovereign Good.

In some of the callings of life the acquisition of knowledge is an actual necessity, in others it is an invaluable assistant, and, in every instance, the truth of its power-possessing properties can be fully proved. Numbers of young people daily deceive themselves with the idea that as their intended occupations are not among what the world calls "the learned professions," there is no occasion for their becoming scholars. This is a great mistake, for, influenced by this opinion, hundreds have risked their prospects in a state of ignorance that dwarfed their usefulness into that of mere machines, or confined their occupations to the drudgery of "hewers of wood and

drawers of water." Had they possessed themselves of that learning they formerly treated so lightly, with what a wealth of discovery and improvement they might have enriched their respective occupations, as well as have added materially to their worldly condition? It is to be hoped that the time is not far distant when the value of a good education will be proportionately appreciated by the postulant for the plough of the farmer, the anvil of the smith, and the professor's chair.

GRAMMAR AND LITERATURE.

The true philosophy of language may be summed up in three words: correctness, power, and beauty. Correctness of expression can be acquired, not by a mere memorizing of grammatical definitions and principles, but by a just perception of their utility, with a power to grasp their force and application. It is not enough, for instance, to know that a verb is a word that expresses "existence, condition or action," one must also have a definite idea of the office of the verb, otherwise there would be a likelihood of classifying as verbs only such words as naturally express the functions contained in the definition. In the sentence "*Dost thou me?*" the word *thou*, in its nature a pronoun, is invested with the properties of the verb—emptying the fact that almost any word in English can be verbalised. This will go far to prove that, in the study of grammar as well as of anything else, it is the spirit of the principle and not a formal comprehension