

"THE UNWELCOME VISITOR" AND "MISCHIEVOUS PLAY."

These companion pictures, after a drawing by a German lady, Clara VonWille, need very little explanation. They evince an earnest study of nature as well as high artistic talent. The Sparrow, the unwelcome visitor, thrusts itself forward into the canine companionship, and receives just such a withering look

of reproof from the stately dogs as ought to convince it that it had committed an act of unpardonable temerity, and should at once retreat from the society in which it is evidently not wanted. How often are the small ones of the world, made to feel that they put themselves forward, where their company is deemed an intrusion! "Mischievous play" exhibits a phase of wanton destruction for which the actor may possibly plead

ignorance of the estimation in which the flowers were held by those who took the trouble to cultivate them; but his look is one of such sprightly frolic, with a certain "regalish twinkle in his eye" as to make the beholder suspect that he cares little for the annoyance he may cause to others so long as he can amuse himself. He too may "point a moral," if not adorn a tale.



"THE UNWELCOME VISITOR."

MR. LAYARD AMONG THE RUINS OF POMPEII.

Mr. Layard, the newly appointed Minister to Madrid, delivered a lecture on Tuesday night on "The Ruins of Pompeii," in the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington. The celebrated cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum were destroyed while people were at their ordinary business, by outbursts from Mount Vesuvius. The right hon. gentleman commenced his lecture by stating that he had been among these ruins not three weeks since, where one was astounded in walking not among "ruins," but in a preserved silent city of the dead. The first indication of this unfortunate city being submerged was discovered in 1748. Charles the First was then upon the Neapolitan throne; and his Government being desirous to construct a canal from a certain district in the vicinity to Naples, the engineer, in conducting the works and making the necessary excavations, came upon the tops of several houses, and on examining further saw

regular streets. A report of this having been made to the Government it was decided to make further excavations, and in the course of these a large amphitheatre was discovered. He might observe that Herculaneum and several other towns or cities were brought to light before Pompeii was made out. What a melancholy idea it is that people can now walk through the streets of this "city of the dead," that they can almost tell what its wretched inhabitants were doing at the time the destruction came upon them. This desolation overtook thousands in the heyday of youth and life, and even revellers over their wine, in the same way as many enjoyed themselves at the present day. The Bay of Naples was one of the most beautiful spots on the face of the earth. Its climate was delicious, its scenery perfect, and around and about it were built villas surrounded by groves and orange gardens, convents, and other buildings of a public character. Yet with all this apparent prosperity, the inhabitants were never at peace. Sometimes sudden eruptions from Mount Vesuvius,

opposite, would take place, sometimes the wells would be dried up. Then, again, huge columns of fire would burst out from the mountain, followed by torrents of lava, which caused the greatest destruction to life and property. The first known account of any eruption from Mount Vesuvius was during the reign of the Emperor Titus; but the greatest of all was that which occurred in 1631, when 16,000 people were destroyed, and the ashes of the mountain scattered as far as Constantinople. But to return to Pompeii—it was only in the year 1779, or after a period of 1,700 years, that it and its neighbouring city of Herculaneum were discovered. Ho might say, from recent discoveries made, and many careful investigations instituted, that it was quite a mistake to suppose that these cities were destroyed by lava. The matter that did so were showers of small pumice-stone, intermixed with a species of dust so fine as to be capable of obtaining an entrance into any apartment. This was the reason why many parties—ladies among the number—were found at their usual avocation