

3rd. The officers shall be, a President and Secretary, who shall hold office—weeks. The President shall preside at all meetings, decide all points of order and criticism, assign exercises to members, and have a general supervision over the association. The Secretary shall keep a record of proceedings, of exercises assigned, the Rules and list of members, and all papers belonging to the association.

4th. Each member shall promptly perform such exercises as may be assigned, and may take part in general criticism, inquiry and discussion, in proper order. Persons not members will not be allowed to attend the meetings, except with a view to become such, unless invited by the President.

5th. Each regular meeting shall be opened by the reading of a selection by the President, (this might be a passage of Scripture); followed by any appropriate selection by a member appointed as "1st select Reader," the week previous. Next in order shall be, the *reading by course* of such matter as may be decided upon by the association, members to read as called upon by the President at the time. After the general reading, any business, as the admission of new members, etc., may be transacted; after which a "2nd select Reader," also appointed at the preceding meeting, shall read a closing selection. Each reading exercise except the first, may be followed by criticism, inquiry, etc., to a proper extent. A special critic may be appointed for the evenings, and in that case, such critic shall have precedence in correction.

I have given the foregoing as a sort of *outline* of a plan, from which variations could be made, as required. Should the plan meet with favor where something of the kind is needed, and be the means of enlisting the attention and securing the improvement of any who might otherwise spend their evenings in a less profitable manner, my object will be accomplished. It will be readily seen that not only can much improvement be thus made in the art of reading, but also, much valuable knowledge may be acquired, and thought and inquiry awakened which may lead to more thorough and diligent study at other times.

H. HUBBARD,
Inspector of Schools.

School days of Eminent Men in Great-Britain.

By JOHN TIMBS, F. S. A.

(Continued from our last.)

CXXV.

LORD CLIVE—HIS DARING BOYHOOD.

Robert Clive, the founder of the British empire in India, was born in 1726, at Styche, near Market Drayton, in Shropshire, where his family had been settled since the twelfth century.

Some lineaments of the character of the man, (says Lord Macaulay,) were early discerned in the child. There remain letters written by his relations when he was in his seventh year; and from these letters it appears that, even at that early age, his strong will and his fiery passions, sustained by a constitutional intrepidity which sometimes seemed hardly compatible with soundness of mind, had begun to cause great uneasiness to his family. "Fighting," says one of his uncles, "to which he is out of measure addicted, gives his temper such a fierceness and imperiousness, that he lies out on every trifling occasion." The old people in the neighbourhood still remember to have heard from their parents how Bob Clive climbed to the top of the lofty steeple of Market Drayton, and with what terror the inhabitants saw him seated on a stone spout near the summit. They also relate how he formed all the idle lads of the town into a kind of predatory army, and compelled the shopkeepers to submit to a tribute of apples and halfpence, in consideration of which he guaranteed the security of their windows. He was sent from school to school, making very little progress in his learning, and gaining for himself everywhere the character of an exceedingly naughty boy. One of his masters, it is said, was sagacious enough to prophesy that the idle lad would make a great figure in the world. But the general opinion seems to have been that poor Robert was a dunce, if not a reprobate. His family expected nothing good from such slender parts and such a headstrong temper. It is not strange, therefore, that they gladly accepted for him, when he was in his eighteenth year, a writership in the service of the East India Company, and shipped him off to make a fortune, or die of fever at Madras. (1)

(1) As it can be seen, that want of good behaviour in early life was severely punished by the many hardships which befel him when an exile, and this he acknowledges himself. Superior talent and a reformed conduct alone led him to honor and distinction.

Clive arrived at Madras in 1744, where his situation was most painful: his pay was small, he was wretchedly lodged, and his shy and haughty disposition withheld him from introducing himself to strangers. The climate affected his health and spirits, and his duties were ill-suited to his ardent and daring character. "He pined for his home, and in his letters to his relations expressed his feelings in language softer and more pensive than we should have expected from the waywardness of his boyhood, or from the inflexible sternness of his later years. 'I have not enjoyed,' says he, 'one happy day since I left my native country;' and again, 'I must confess at intervals, when I think of my dear native England, it affects me in a very particular manner.'" Clive, however, found one solace. The Governor of Madras possessed a good library, and permitted Clive to have access to it: he devoted much of his leisure to reading, and acquired at this time almost all the knowledge of books that he ever possessed. As a boy he had been too idle, as a man he had become too busy, for literary pursuits.

His career of prosperity and glory, of wounded honor and bodily affliction, has been vividly drawn by Lord Macaulay, who considers him entitled to an honorable place in the estimation of posterity. From his first visit to India, dates the renown of the English arms in the East; from his second visit, the political ascendancy of the English in that country; and from his third visit, the purity of the administration of our Eastern empire, which, since this was written, the wicked ingratitude of revolt has done so much to endanger.

CXXVI.

CAPTAIN COOK'S EDUCATION ON BOARD SHIP.

It was at sea that Cook acquired those high scientific accomplishments by which he became the first circumnavigator of his day. He was born in 1728, and was the son of an agricultural labourer and farm-bailiff, at Marton, near Stockton-upon-Tees. All the school education he ever had was a little reading, writing, and arithmetic, for which he was indebted to the liberality of a gentleman in the neighbourhood. He was apprenticed, at the age of 13, to a haberdasher at the fishingtown of Staiths, near Whitby; while in this situation he was first seized with a passion for the sea; and having procured a discharge from his master, he apprenticed himself to a firm in the coal trade at Whitby, on board a coasting-vessel. In this service he rose to be mate, when, in 1755, being in the Thames, he entered as a volunteer in the royal navy. He soon distinguished himself so greatly that in three or four years afterwards he was appointed master of the *Mercury*, which belonged to a squadron then proceeding to attack Quebec. Here he first showed the proficiency he had already made in the scientific part of his profession by constructing an admirable chart of the river St. Lawrence. He felt, however, the disadvantages of his ignorance of mathematics; and while still assisting in the hostile operations carrying on against the French on the coast of North America, he applied himself to the study of Euclid's Elements, which he soon mastered, and then began to study astronomy. A year or two after, while stationed in the same quarter, he communicated to the Royal Society an account of a solar eclipse, which took place August 5, 1766; deducing from it, with great exactness and skill, the longitude of the place of observation. He had now completely established his reputation as an able and scientific seaman; and was next appointed to the command of the *Endeavour*, fitted out by Government for the South Sea, to observe the approaching transit of the planet Venus over the sun's disc, which he most satisfactorily recorded, besides a large accession of important geographical discoveries. He was next appointed to an expedition to the same regions, to determine the question of the existence of a south polar continent. Of this voyage, Cook drew up the account, which is esteemed a model in that species of writing.

CXXVII.

JOHN HUNTER'S WANT OF EDUCATION.

The well-known John Hunter, one of the greatest anatomists that ever lived, scarcely received any education whatever until he was twenty years old. He was born in 1728, in Lanarkshire, and was the youngest of a family of ten. When he was only ten years old, his father died, and the boy was left to act as he chose. Such was his aversion at this time to anything like regular application, that he could scarcely be taught even the elements of reading and writing; while an attempt that was made to give him some knowledge of Latin (according to the plan of education then almost universally followed in regard to the sons of even the smallest landed proprietors in Scotland), was, after a short time,