

mitable pathways of the outer heavens. The conclusions which we reach, are oppressively grand and sublime; the imagination sinks under them; the truth is too vast, too remote from the premises, from which it is deduced; and man, poor frail man, sinks back to the earth, and sighs to worship again, with the innocence of a child or Chaldean shepherd, the quiet and beautiful stars, as he sees them in the simplicity of sense. But in the province of geology, there are some subjects, in which the senses seem, as it were, led into the laboratory of divine power." * *

STORY OF CYRUS, KING OF PERSIA.

The history of our race presents few examples more full of instruction, and peculiarly addressed to youth than that of Cyrus the Conqueror of Babylon.

Cyrus was educated at the court of his father Cambyses, king of Persia, until he attained his twelfth year. He was, says the historian, "beautiful in his person, lovely in the qualities of his mind, had a great desire to learn, and a noble ardor for glory. He was never afraid of any danger, or discouraged by any hardship or difficulty."—The youth of Persia at that time lived, and were educated in a uniform manner; bread, cresses and water were their only food; the design being to accustom them early to *temperance and sobriety*, "Cyrus was educated in this manner, and surpassed all of his age, not only in aptness to learn, but in courage and address in executing whatever he undertook." In his twelfth year he went to visit his grandfather Astyages king of Media, at whose court, pride, luxury, and magnificence, universally reigned. Every thing was calculated to fascinate and lead astray the youthful mind, and no doubt the heir to the throne of Persia, and the grandchild of the king of Media, was flattered and caressed in every possible manner. Now what was the effect of this upon Cyrus? Youthful reader, how would you have been affected under similar circumstances. Gibbon says, "all this finery did not affect Cyrus, who was contented to live as he had been brought up, and adhered to the wise principles he had imbibed in his infancy. His grandfather, in order to make his grandson unwilling to return home, made a sumptuous entertainment, in which there was a vast plenty and profusion of every thing that was nice and delicate. All this exquisite cheer and magnificent preparation, Cyrus looked upon with indifference, and said to his grandfather 'the Persians, instead of going such a round about way to appease their hunger, have a much shorter way to the same end; a little bread and cresses with them answers the same purpose.'"—

"At one time Cyrus performed the part of cupbearer to his grandfather. The custom was for the cupbearer to pour some of the liquor into his left hand, and taste it before

he presented it to the king. His grandfather reminded him of what he supposed was forgetfulness; but Cyrus said, 'No it was not forgetfulness; but I apprehended there was poison in the liquor.'—'Poison! how could you think so?' said the king.—'Yes, poison,' said Cyrus; 'for not long ago at an entertainment you gave to the lords of your court after the guests had drunk a little of that liquor, I perceived all their heads were turned; they sung, made a noise, and talked they knew not what.—You yourself seemed to have forgot you were king, and they that they were subjects; and when you would have danced, you could not stand upon your legs.'" Here was a youth of twelve years of age, who made a resolution of *total abstinence*, in the midst of the greatest temptations, and under circumstances the most trying. And his resolution, and his *consistent course*, commanded the respect and admiration of all around him. The historian says, that "during his residence at this court, his behaviour procured him infinite love and esteem." The luxurious Medes could not but respect and admire, what they had not courage and resolution to imitate. He was as remarkable, also, for his *obedience to his superiors*, as he was for his temperance.

Let us now look at him as he advanced in life. At the age of sixteen he returned to Persia, and "entered the class of youths to which he had formerly belonged, and remained with them a year, setting them an example of diligence and sobriety." He soon after entered the army, and in a short time was entrusted with the entire command; and his battles and victories are amongst the most interesting and wonderful in history. *Temperance* was his constant motto. *Humanity and a love of justice* were also distinguished traits in his character. His *command of his temper* was equally remarkable. Cicero says, "that during the whole time of Cyrus' government, he was never heard to speak a rough or angry word. But above all he was distinguished for his *respect to the institutions of religion*. He had little or no knowledge of the true God, probably until after his acquaintance with the prophet Daniel; but there is reason to believe that he acted according to the light he enjoyed. The capture of Babylon was the most remarkable of his conquests. The Babylonians were the most powerful nation on earth. Their city has never been equalled by any other in extent and magnificence. Its walls were of a prodigious height and thickness, and it was stored with provisions for many years. The besieged laughed at Cyrus, and invited him from the tops of their walls.—But what he could probably never have accomplished by force was effected for him by an agent which has done more towards destroying individuals and nations, than all other causes combined, viz. *strong urink*.

Cyrus watched the habits of the Babylonians, and was constantly in readiness to take advantage of any favourable circumstance. He learned that a great festival was at hand, and that the Babylonians were accustomed to pass the whole night in drinking and debauchery. He discovered that the gates were deserted by the sentinels, and that the whole city was in confusion, and at a favourable moment he gained admittance, captured the city, and put an end to the kingdom of Babylon forever.—The wealth was immense, and the last enemy of Persia was destroyed. And now what did Cyrus do? His first step was to return thanks for his victory; and then he called around him his principal men, and exhorted them to maintain their ancient virtue, and represented that after having, by their bravery, conquered their enemies, it would be disgraceful to suffer themselves to be overthrown by the allurements of pleasure.

Youthful reader, you may not, perhaps be a Cyrus; but with temperance for your motto, and by a wise improvement of the privileges you enjoy in this blessed land, you may certainly become distinguished and eminent.

COLUMN FOR ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

"As the twig is bent the tree's inclined."

O what a happy day is that, when a boy, for the first time in his life, is *put into trousers*! There is not a merchant on the Royal Exchange who feels himself to be of more consequence, than a boy arrayed in his new clothes. One turns him round to see him behind; another, to admire him before: his sister speaks highly of his jacket, pointing to the buttons and seeing herself in them; his brother praises his trousers, and the *pockets*;—his father gives him a penny, his mother a half-penny; and he struts about with his hands in his pockets, tinkling his money, perfectly unconscious that the wide world contains a human being more important than himself! In such a season, the heart of a child may have in it as much happiness as it will hold; but even in this light-hearted hour, there may be that will work within him, which in after days will be the source of much misery. He is told that he is become a *man*, and he often considers that his fine clothes have wrought this change in him. He is praised, and petted, till pride becomes a principle within him.—And he is thus taught even in the tender years of childhood, to pay more respect to fine clothes than to good conduct.

If a boy lived in Aïtica, among Hottentots, he would have little to learn, except the way in which his daily provisions were to be procured; but in a state of Society like ours, there are so many duties for a man to perform, and so many advantages