wholly to the education of her son, she chose to remain a widow; and it was owing in part to the early, pious, and careful education, that the boy became afterwards so well known as the great church-teacher, John Chrysostom. Similar was the influence exerted on the education of her son by the mother of Theodore.

In like manner Monica, by her submissive, amiable, and gentle spirit, softened the temper of a violently passionate husband, and while she had much to suffer from him, scattered the seeds of Christianity in the young soul of her son Augustine, which, after many stormy passages of life, brought forth their fruit in him abundantly. To make their children early acquainted with the Holy Scriptures, was considered by such mothers as a task which belonged peculiarly to them.—*Neander's Church History.*

The Pin and the Needle.

A pin and a needle, being neighbours in a work-basket, and both being idle, began to quarrel, as idle folks are apt to do.

"I should like to know," said the pin, "what you are good for, and how you expect to get through the world without a head?" "What is the use of your head," replied the needle, rather sharply, "if you have no eye?" "What is the use of an eye," said the pin, "if there is always something in it?" "I am more active, and can go through more work than you can," said the needle. "Yes; but you will not live long." "Why not?" "Because you always have a stitch in your side," said the pin. "You're a poor, crooked creature," said the needle. "And you are so proud that you can't bend without breaking your back." "I'll pull your head off, if you insult me again." "I'd put your eye out if you touch me: remember your life hangs by a single thread," said the pin. While they were thus conversing, a little girl entered, and undertaking to sew, she very soon broke off the needle at the eye. Then she tied the thread around the neck of the pin, and attempting to sew with it, she soon pulled its head off, and threw it into the dirt by the side of the broken needle. "Well; here we are," said the needle. "We have nothing to fight about now," said the pin. "It seems misfortune has brought us to our senses." "A pity we had not come to them sooner," said the needle. "How much we resemble human beings, who quarrel about their blessings till they lose them, and never find out they are brothers till they lie down in the dust together, as we do."—*Madison Record.*

General Miscellany.

First Discovery of California by Drake, the Circumnavigator.

On the 15th of November, in the year 1577, Captain Francis Drake, sailed, from Plymouth with five ships, carrying 164 men and officers, professedly on a voyage to Alexandria, in Egypt, but really with the intention of sailing into the Pacific Ocean, where the English flag had never been seen before. After passing the Cape de Verde Islands, he sailed during 54 days without the sight of land, and then entered the River Plate. After supplying his vessels with water from that river, Drake sailed southwards, and passing through the Strait named after the only commander of the fleet who had preceded him in the Straits of Magellan, he entered the Pacific Ocean on the 6th of September. He arrived off Valparaiso on the 2nd of November. He plundered the town of St. Jago, where he took a booty of 25,000 pieces of very pure and fine gold. Proceeding thence to a port named Tarapaca, he landed, and found a Spaniard sleeping by the seaside, with the bars of silver lying by him, of the value of 1,000 ducats. He took the silver, and left the owner to finish his nap. Not far from thence, going inland for water, his men met a Spaniard and an Indian boy driving 100 llamas, or sheep of Peru, "which are as big as asses," every one of which had on its back two bags of leather, each bag containing 50lb. weight of fine silver. Bringing the llamas and their burdens to the ship, they found in all eight cwt. of silver. Thence they proceeded to Africa, where they plundered a vessel containing 57 wedges of silver, each weighing 20lb. On the 13th of February they arrived at Lima, where they plundered all the ships in the harbour, in one of which they found a chest full of rials of silver, and good store of silks and linen cloth. Here they heard of a rich treasure ship named the *Cacafuego*, which had sailed to Paita. They immediately gave chase, but on arriving at Paita, found that the Cacafuego, had sailed for Panama. They at once renewed the chase, and in the course of it they picked up a vessel, which contained 80lb. weight of gold, and a crucifix of the same metal, with "goodly great emeralds set in it." Continuing the pursuit, they at last came up with the Cacafuego, which well repaid them for the trouble that it had given them. Besides precious stones they found 13 chests of rials of silver, 80lb. weight of gold, and 26 tons of uncoined silver. This rich capture was made off Cape St. Francisco, about 150 leagues from Panama. From this point they proceeded to Guatulco, and thence to Ceno, where they careened their ships. On leaving the Island of Ceno, "which is in eight degrees north latitude," Drake resumed his cruise, and took another rich ship; and being now satisfied with his booty, he determined to return home by the islands of the Malucos, and "thence to sail by the course of the Portugals, by the Cape of Bona Esperanca." For this purpose, he ran northward for 800 leagues, to get a favourable wind, and on the 5th day of June, "being in 43 degrees towards the Pole Arctic, being speedily come out of extreme heat," Drake found the air so cold that his men being pinched with the same, complained of the extremity thereof: and the further they went, the more the cold increased upon them. Whereupon they thought it best to seek land, which they found to be not mountainous, but low plain land. "We drew back again (says the historian of the voyage) without landing, till we came within 38 degrees towards the line. In which height it pleased God to send us into a faire and good bay, with a good wind to enter the same." This country was no doubt the country which has recently become so famous under the name of California, and this bay was probably the great bay of San Francisco. The inhabitants came down to the shore, gave Drake a very friendly reception, and the King offered him the government of the country. "Wherefore, in the name and to the use of her Majesty, (Queen Elizabeth,) he took the sceptre, crown, and dignity of the said country in his hands, wishing that the riches and treasures thereof might be so conveniently transported, to the enriching of her kingdom, as it abundeth in the same." "There is no part of earth here to be taken up, wherein there is not some special likelihood of gold or silver." At his departure from the country Drake set up, as a monument of his having been there, as also of her Majesty's right and title to the same, "a plate, nailed upon a fair great post, whereupon was engraved her Majesty's (Queen Elizabeth's) name, the day and year of our arrival there; with the free giving up of the provinces into her Majesty's hands, together with her highness's picture and a piece of sixpence of current English money;" under the plate was also written the name of Drake. "It seemeth (says the historian of the voyage) that the Spaniards hitherto had never been in this part of the country, neither did ever discover the land, by many degrees to the southwards of this place." Such was the account of this land of gold, published in England, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. It certainly is one of the curiosities of history that the first land ever taken possession of by the English on the continent of America should have been the now famous California, and that it should have been occupied some years before the first attempt was made to colonise the provinces, which have since grown to be the United States of America.—*Baines's History of Liverpool.*

Universal Diffusion of Life.

When the active curiosity of man is engaged in interrogating nature, or when his imagination dwells on the wide fields of organic creation, among the multifarious impressions which his mind receives, perhaps none is so strong and profound as that of the universal profusion with which life is everywhere distributed. Even on the polar ice the air resounds with the cries or songs of birds, and with the hum of insects. Nor not only the lower dense and vaporous strata of the atmosphere thus filled with life, but also the higher and more etherial regions. Whenever Mount Blanc or the Cordilleras have been ascended, living creatures have been found there. On the Chimborazo, 8,000 feet higher than Ætna, we found butterflies and other winged insects, borne by ascending currents of air to those almost unapproachable solitudes, which man, led by a restless curiosity or unappeasable thirst of knowledge, treads with adventurous but cautious steps; like him, strangers in those elevated regions. Their presence shows us that their more flexible organization of animal creation can subsist far beyond the limits at which vegetation ceases. The condor, the giant of the vulture tribe, often soared over our heads above all the summits of the Andes, at an altitude higher than would be the Peak of Teneriffe placed on the snow covered chains of the Pyrenees. The rapacity of this powerful bird attracts him to these regions, whence his far-seeing eye may discern the objects of his pursuit, the soft wooled vicunnas, which, wandering in herds, frequent, like the chamois, the mountain pastures adjacent to the regions of perpetual snow.—*Humboldt.*

Temperance.

Taking Medicine Daily.

The responsibility of medical men is very great. I honour those who, with minds open to the truth, have conformed their practice to the light shed abroad upon this subject; but I am humbled to think that in a profession which depends for its success and glory on science, there should be found not a few mean enough to truckle to the vitiated tastes and prejudices of their patients. I recollect Dr. Patton, of America, telling that he was visited at one time by a deputation, consisting of two ministers from this country. One of them had serious objections to abstinence, but the other approved of it, and returned home apparently a continue I abstainer. Some years after Dr. Patton had occasion to visit his proselyte at his own house. To the doctor's amazement, wine was upon the table at dinner, and this hopeful scholar partook of it too.—"What means this, brother: did you not learn to abstain in my country?" The challenged backslider from the total abstinence practice, directed the doctor to apply to his medical man, who was also at the table, for an explanation. "Then is it by your prescription, sir, that my brother has betaken himself to wine again?" asked the doctor. "It is sir," was the reply. "How long have you been prescribing wine to my friend as a medicine?" "About seven years, I think." "And has it removed the disease?" "I cannot just say that it has." "Well now, will you inform me," asked Dr. Patton, "is it your usual practice to continue the same medicine for seven years, when it does not succeed in removing the disease?" "I confess," was the reply, "that that is a thought that never struck me." Now, I ask, Is it right, in the face of these facts, to continue a course so manifestly prejudicial to health? There is no remedy so efficacious for trifling ailments, as continued cold water applications. I feel then, that if I were a professional physiologist, I might take my stand on this ground alone, and rear an argument for total abstinence sufficient to satisfy every reflective mind of its propriety.—*The Effects of Moderate Drinking.*

Sir James Ross on Total Abstinence.

It is difficult to persuade men, even though they should not be habitual drinkers of spirits, that the use of these liquors is debilitating, instead of the reverse. The immediate stimulus gives a temporary courage, and its effect is mistaken for an infusion of new strength. But the slightest attention will show how exactly the result is the reverse. It is sufficient to give men, under hard and steady labour, a dram of the usual grog, or a dram, to perceive that often in a few minutes they become languid, and, as they generally term it, faint; losing their strength in reality, while they attribute that to the continuance of the fatiguing exertions.

No better testimony on this subject is required than the experience of the men who work in the iron foundries. That is the land [illegible] that falls to a man to do; and so we take [illegible] ers in this department know that [illegible] perform it, if they drink even [illegible] average during all the hours [illegible] labour is water.

He further says, "As I was [illegible] drank no spirits, and was also the [illegible] who had not indulged [illegible] [illegible] Second Voyage of Discovery to the Arctic Regions.

Total Abstinence.

The drinking habit is the curse of families, inasmuch as, by brutalizing the husbands and fathers, it blights the happiness of wives, and the physical and moral health of children. The prevalence of total abstinence would do more than any other thing to elevate the population, to refine their tastes, to improve their characters, and to bless their households. How many smiling wives and blooming children should we then see, compared with what we see at present! When will the working men of England arise to the [illegible] of their drinking habits, make themselves the best and happiest population in the world? In a single month even the drunkard may become a free man, and may have almost have forgot the taste that has so enslaved and degraded him.—Would that the rich and influential classes, and above all, that religious men, would set the example; and they would soon reap an abundant reward in the happiness of a sinning people, not to say that they themselves would be much safer and would enjoy much better health.—*Leeds Mercury.*

Take Care, Drinkers!

The man who sails downward on the Niagara, and who is hourly nearing the fell sweep of its falls, is in danger from the onset of his voyage, although he may have begun it where the current gives the least perceptible token of increased speed. So is it with the lover of strong drink.—He feels no increase of attachment, he sees no symptoms of danger. He sails along the stream of habit until it becomes as it were a second nature, and seals his ruin by refusing to be controlled.—*A Word to the Working Classes.*

For Farmers.

The Farmer and his Wife.

Allusions have been made in other parts of this work to the article of clothing appropriate in the country; but it may not be amiss to refer to it here, as one of the main features of living prettily. To dress neatly at all times, and yet so as to occasion no pecuniary outlay incompatible with the ordinary means in rural life, requires good taste and good management of a high grade, especially in the female head of the family. The mother who can clothe the children, as well as herself, in a style of comeliness—always in a condition to be seen by strangers without mortification, and without an expenditure to embarrass her husband, deserves of him and of others high commendation. This is one of the most valuable accomplishments of the housewife; and nothing in a greater degree, contributes to the end made the subject of the present chapter. Where we see a family of children decently clad, clean, tidy, and of good-breeding, especially in the more humble walks of life, we impromptu exclaim, they must have an excellent mother! The country district school, with its forty or fifty little boys and girls, attired in the manner described, furnishes one of the best specimens of the healthful simplicity and the good dress the economy in rural locations. Here the farmer's wife may gather laurels of unfading beauty and verdure; in comparison of which the jewels and costly attire of the fashionable lady in the ball-room are contemptible and worthless. And, indeed, what are the fashionable accomplishments of the lady of rank—her music, her drawing, and her fluency in French, to the ability of the farmer's wife to rear up sons that will be eminent statesmen and divines, and daughters that will hold the highest position in society?

While the farmer's wife is doing thus much toward living prettily, we have a few things to add for the farmer himself to do in this good work.—Who is to see that the Sunday-wagon, which takes the family to church, and now and then appears on a holiday, is free from mud and dust, and has been duly honoured with a coat of varnish? The farmer himself, or his sons, if he have them of sufficient age. Who is to see that the court-yard and garden-fence is in good repair, and made white with paint? Not the farmer's wife, but the farmer himself, or some one under his direction! Who is to see that the family mansion and the various outbuildings have been properly re-roofed; the hinges and fastenings upon the doors all sound; the paint kept bright; the windows free from broken glass; and no loosened weather-boards to become Æolian harps to the rats and mice while the family is asleep? It need not be said that this is the duty of the male portion of the household! Let not the male [illegible] if one question more be propounded [illegible] Ladies then, whose duty is [illegible] the mansion [illegible] the grounds con[illegible] of every [illegible] the work of the [illegible] He should [illegible] Here let it be said to [illegible] respectively [illegible] the minister, or the doctor, or your relative in the city, make you a visit, they will say to you, in sincerity and truth—How prettily you do live!—*Blake's Every Day Book for Farmers.*

A Secret for a Farmer's Wife.

While the milking of your cows is going on, let your pans be placed in a kettle of boiling water. Strain the milk into one of the pans taken hot from the kettle, and cover the same with another of the hot pans; and proceed in like manner with the whole mess of milk, and you will find that you will have double the quantity of good rich cream, and get double the quantity of sweet and delicious butter. This was given by a farmer friend. Try it, dairy women, and write us the result, will you?

Salting Stock.

Stock of all kinds are the better for receiving salt once or twice a week. To your horses, if you mix with their food a handful of ashes, finely sifted once a week, their health will be improved.