

## SELECTIONS.

**I SHALL BE A KING.**—The late Duke of Hamilton had two sons. The eldest fell into a consumption, when a boy, which ended in his death. Two ministers went to see him at the family-seat, near Glasgow, where he lay. After prayer, the youth took his Bible from under his pillow, and turned to 2 Tim. 4: 7. "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness;" and added, "this, sirs, is all my comfort!" When his death approached, he called his younger brother to his bed, and spoke to him with great affection. He ended with these remarkable words: "And now, Douglas, in a little time you will be a Duke, but I shall be a King!"

**SHAKSPERE'S BIRTH-PLACE.**—The committee for the purchase of Shakspeare's birth-place, of which Lord Morpeth and Ellesmere are respectively president and vice-president, have just issued a report, stating the commencement of a fund for the accomplishment of the desired purpose. Prince Albert has consented to become patron, and has contributed £250, her Majesty the Queen dowager has also given £100, and the corporation of Stratford-on-Avon £100.

**ABOLITION IN THE DANISH WEST INDIES.**—The Journal of Commerce states that letters received here by the Caledonia from unquestionable sources, announce that on the 28th of July last the King of Denmark issued a decree, declaring that all persons who should thereafter be born in his dominions, should be born FREE; and that all persons, in servitude in his dominions on the 28th July last, and remaining so on the 28th of July, 1859, shall then be absolutely free, without compensation to the owners. In the negotiation with the colonists which preceded the issuing of this decree, he offered them the alternative of three years with a compensation of \$60 per head for each slave, or twelve years without any compensation, and they chose the latter. Denmark has three small islands in the West Indies, viz. St. Croix, St. Thomas, and St. John. St. Croix contains about 30,000 slaves. St. Thomas and St. John perhaps 5000 more.

**BOOKS.**—It is recorded of Plato, that notwithstanding he had a very small paternal inheritance, he bought three books at a price equal to \$1,200 of our money. Before the invention of printing, manuscripts in general bore such excessive prices, that few besides the opulent could acquire a library. St. Jerome almost ruined himself in order to purchase the works of Origen. Benedict Bishop, founder of the English monastery, made no fewer than five journeys to Rome to purchase books; for one of these, a volume of cosmography, King Alfred gave him an estate of as much land as eight ploughs could labour. Muratorio relates that an abbot earnestly besought the Pope, in a letter in 825, to lend him a copy of Cicero on Oratory, and Quintilian's Institutes, "for," says he, "a complete copy is not to be found in France." The Countess of Anjou paid for a copy of Homilies, two hundred sheep, five quarters of wheat, and the same quantity of rye and millet. Even so late as 1471, when Louis XI. of France borrowed the works of Rhasis, an Arabian physician, from the faculty of medicine at Paris, he not only deposited a considerable quantity of plate as a pledge, but was obliged to procure a nobleman to join with him as surety in a deed, binding himself under a great forfeiture to restore it.

The noble conduct of Captain Camp, of the Spanish brig Emilio, in rescuing the survivors of the crew and passengers of the Tweed steamer, has induced the committee of Lloyd's, to resolve upon recommending the subscribers to bestow a silver medal upon him; a bronze medal upon Senior Vila Verde, his mate; and a sum of money upon the crew of the Emilio.

**THE CASTANHA TREE.**—Behind the house was a grove of fine trees, some apparently having been planted for ornament, others bearing profusion of various sorts of fruits. The one of all these most attractive was that which produces the Brazil nut, called in the country "castanhas." Botanically it is the *Bertholletia excelsa*. This tree was upwards of one hundred feet in height, and between two and three in diameter. From the branches were depending the fruits, large as cocoa-nuts. The shell of these is nearly half an inch in thickness, and contains the triangular nuts so nicely packed, that, once removed, no skill can replace them. It is no easy matter to break this tough covering, requiring some instrument, and the exercise of considerable strength; yet we were assured by an intelligent friend, at the Barra Rio Negro, that the Guaribas, or howling monkeys, are in the habit of breaking them, by striking them upon stones or the limbs of iron-like trees. When the castanha nuts are fresh, they much resemble in taste the cocoa-nut, and the white milk, easily expressed, is no bad substitute for milk in coffee. This soon becomes rancid, and at length turns to oil. The nuts are exported largely from Para, and are said to form a very important ingredient in the manufacture of sperm candles.—*A Voyage up the Amazon.*

**INDIAN DRESS.**—A young Indian warrior is notoriously the most thorough-going beau in the world. Broadway and Bond street furnish no subjects that will spend as much time, or endure as much crimping and confinement, to appear in full dress. We think that we have observed such a character constantly employed with his paints and his pocket-glass, for three full hours, laying on his paints and arranging his tresses, and contemplating, with visible satisfaction, from time to time, the progress of his attraction. The chief and warriors in full dress, have one, two, or three clasps of silver about their arms, and generally jewels in their ears. Painted porcupine quills are twined

in their hair. Tails of animals hang from the head behind, or from the point where they were originally appended to the animals. A necklace of beads or alligators teeth or claws of the bald eagle or common red heads, or wanting these, a kind of rosary of red thorns hangs about the neck. From the knees to the feet, the legs are ornamented with great numbers of little, perforated cylindrical pieces of silver or brass, that tinkle as the person walks.—If to all this, he add an American hat, and a soldier's coat, of blue, faced with red, over the customary calico shirt, he steps firmly on the ground, to give his tinklers a simultaneous noise, and apparently considering his appearance with as much complacency, as the human bosom can be supposed to feel.—*Flint.*

**FAMILY PRAYER.**—In binding a family together in peace and love, there is no human influence like that of domestic prayer. Raising their hearts to heaven, it brings them all together in the presence of God. The family altar to which they repair from the cares and toils of life, reminding them of the rest reserved in heaven, it unites them in the efforts of faith and obedience for its attainment. Earth has no holier spot than a house thus sanctified by prayer—where the voice of supplication and thanksgiving consecrates every day—where the word of God is devoutly read, and all unite to show forth all His praises. It may be humble, but it is holy, and therefore heavenly. Poverty may be there, and sorrow; but its inmates are rich in faith, and joyous in the Holy Ghost. Sickness and death may enter it; but they will be as angels of peace and mercy; and the spirits whom they relieve from the imprisonment of the flesh, will be united, free and happy, to worship forever, as earth did not permit them, a family in heaven.

**COMFORT OF CHILDREN.**—Call not that man wretched who, whatever else he suffers as to pain inflicted, pleasure denied, has a child for whom he has hopes, and on whom he dotes. Poverty may grind him to the dust, obscurity may cast its darkest mantle over him, the song of the gay may be far from his own dwelling, his name may be unknown to his neighbours, and his voice may be unheeded by those among whom he dwells, even pain may rack his joints, and sleep flee from his pillow; but he has a gem with which he would not part for a wealth defying computation, for fame filling a world's ear, for the highest health, or for the sweetest sleep that ever sat upon mortal's eye.—*Coleridge.*

**THE VALLEY OF POISON.**—A real valley of death exists in Java: it is termed the Valley of Poison, and is filled to a considerable height with carbonic acid gas, which is inhaled from crevices in the ground. If a man or any animal enter it, he cannot return; and he is not sensible of his danger until he feels himself sinking under the poisonous influence of the atmosphere which surrounds him; the carbonic acid of which it chiefly consists rising to the height of eighteen feet from the bottom of the valley. Birds which fly into this atmosphere drop down dead; and a living fowl thrown into it, dies before it reaches the bottom, which is strewed with the carcasses of various animals that have perished in the deleterious gas.

**THE WICKED NO WHERE SAFE.**—There is no place so holy as to defend a wicked man; no place which makes a man holy, but a good man makes every place wheresoever he be holy. When Jeremy preached that God would destroy the temple for the wickedness of the priests, the priests could not abide to hear that, but cried out, "The temple of God, the temple of God," yet Jeremy said still, he would do unto that house as he did unto Sion and destroy it. There is no creature of God so holy, but if a man do abuse it God will give both him and it to his enemies' power if they do not amend. God suffered his holy ark, wherein were the tables written with his own finger, and Aaron's rod, and a pot full of manna, with other reliques, to be given into the Philistines' hands for the wickedness of the people and the priests which bare it, Hophni and Phineas, Eli's sons. So likewise should these holy hills and all of them be devoured with the sword, if they builded not this house of God.—*Bishop Pilkington.*

**A PAINFUL SIGHT.**—To see young men lounging about month after month, neither working nor desiring to work; while others—perhaps poor parents—are toiling from morning till night, to support and save them from a disgrace which their own thoughtlessness and laziness is fast bringing upon them. But how many such sights are to be seen in every community? How many are found who have not that sense of shame, which is necessary to force them off the lounge's seat, but enough of that false pride which will not allow them to take hold of employment if it does not happen to be genteel and profitable. Alas, the fate of such is sealed; they will go down to the grave unloved, un mourned, and soon to be forgotten by all.

Damon slept on his bed of steel, St. Luke in his iron crown, and a battalion of infantry has been known to sleep on a march.—*Bains' Anatomy of Sleep.*

**A WORTHY.**—Mr. Davis, the benevolent Burlington County Quaker, who has afforded employment, and found places for so many poor immigrants, called upon the N. Y. Alms House Commissioner yesterday for fifty women, whom he is ready to supply with constant employment. A few benevolent citizens in the adjacent states might in this way do much towards diffusing the worthy portion of these destitute immigrants amongst our older settlements.—*Newark Adv.*

An extensive base coinage of Turkish piastres has been discovered at Birmingham—nine casks of coin have been forged, amounting in nominal value to £25,000. Edward Darwin, charged with the coining and uttering, has been committed for trial.