

Youth's Corner.

HONOUR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER.

"My boy," said a boatman, "will you do an errand for me?" "O yes, sir," replied a lad of ten years old, as he jumped from the lock of the canal where he had been standing to watch the boats as they passed.

"Well, take this jug and run up to the inn there, and get me a pint of rum." "I had rather not do that," and the boy turned to go away. "But here, I will give you these two pennies if you will go."

WILBERFORCE RICHMOND IN HIS DYING-CHAMBER.

He gradually awoke, and I observed him to fix his eyes on a globe of water which stood near the window, and contained a gold fish. I inquired, what he was looking at so earnestly.

His remark led me to make some observations on the practical use which may be made of natural objects, and the advantages of cultivating a habit of seeing something of God and the soul everywhere, and of accustoming the mind to seek such comparisons and allusions as tend to improve and delight it.

He rested a short time and said, "Now send for Harriet; I want to speak with her while my strength lasts." His conversation with her was very searching, but very affectionate.

He was naturally volatile and buoyant in her spirits, and this disposition sometimes betrayed her into levity. The liveliness of her conversation had often pleased him, but he now thought he had encouraged her in some things inconsistent with real piety.

"You see, dear Harriet, I am very plain and sincere. I used to be so shy. But I do not feel afraid of speaking my mind now. How little does one care about the world and its opinions, when death is near; death takes away all reserve."

He then sent for Henry, his favourite brother and companion. Willy was much affected. He seemed to say farewell to Henry with deep emotion. He entreated him to supply his place in every thing—particularly in being a comfort to his father, and filling his place in the ministry.

He next sent for his younger brothers; they wept much as he addressed them. He spoke very touchingly to his younger sister, who was then a little child. "Would you like to meet poor Willy in heaven, dear Charlotte, then you must love God, pray to God to make you love him, and to make you a good child, a holy child."

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION AT ROME.

From a letter by an American.

I shall speak first of the city of Rome itself; and as it may be said there is an immense deal of theology and a multitude of churches with very little religion, so it may be said there is a great deal of teaching, and a multitude of schoolhouses, with very little instruction.

Another, and perhaps a more important class of schools are those which go under the name of Sectional schools; and which are intended for boys over five years of age.

Each master finds his own schoolroom, and collects as many scholars as he can; he keeps the school on his own account, and makes the parents pay according to their dispositions. The best school of the kind which I have seen had about sixty scholars, and the charge was invariably twelve pails, or one dollar and twenty cents a month.

They are kept by widows,—by broken down women,—by any one who cannot get a living in any other way. They receive a patent, or commission, from the government, for which they pay a very small sum, and which is renewed every year.

According to the law, they ought to be examined, and to pass a severe ordeal as to moral and intellectual qualifications; but all that really is required of them is the certificate of their parish priest that they are good and pious Catholics.

There may be good teachers among this class of masters, but I have not found them; on the contrary, I have conversed with many without meeting one who seemed to have the slightest conception of the true dignity of his calling, or any acquaintance with the modern improvements in the art of conducting schools.

They all pretend to teach reading, writing, and arithmetic; some of them add geography, history, and the Italian and French languages. I may safely say, however, that writing and the rudiments of the Latin language are the only branches that are thoroughly taught.

The rudiments of the Latin language are taught very thoroughly, as many of the boys are prepared in these schools for entering the Roman College. History is taught to a very limited extent, and geography on a still smaller scale.

In the schools of the second order, there are girls over five years of age, to the number in the whole of eight hundred and seventy-six, and they are professedly taught to read, to write, and to sew.

A few, and only a few, learn to write; but then they are all taught to sew, and to knit, and some are taught embroidery. The first class of regency or district female schools are fourteen in number, and contain three hundred and twenty scholars.

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