

home in the evening.* Meanwhile the children in the house had been making themselves happy also in their manner. For them there had been provided every kind of indoor pleasure; there was music for them to dance to; and the library was open, with all manner of amusing books; and there was a museum full of the most curious shells and animals and birds; and there was a workshop with lathes and carpenters' tools for the ingenious boys; and there were pretty, fantastic dresses for the girls to dress in; and there were microscopes and kaleidoscopes, and whatever toys a child could fancy; and a table in the dining-room loaded with everything nice to eat. But in the midst of all this it struck two or three of the more "practical" children that they would like some of the brass-headed nails that studded the chairs, and so they set to work to pull them out. Presently the others, who were reading or looking at shells, took a fancy to do the like, and in a little while all the children nearly were spraining their fingers pulling out brass-headed nails. With all that they could pull out they were not satisfied, and then everybody wanted some of somebody else's, and at last the really practical and sensible ones declared that nothing was of any real consequence that afternoon except to get plenty of brass-headed nails, and that books and the cakes and the microscopes were of no use at all in themselves, but only if they could be exchanged for nail-heads, and at last they began to fight for nail-heads as the others fought for the bits of garden. Only here and there a despised one shrank away into a corner and tried to get a little quiet with a book in the midst of the noise; but all the practical ones thought of nothing else but counting nail-heads all the afternoon, even though they knew they would not be allowed to carry so much as one brass knob away with them. But no, it was: "Who has most nails?" "I have a hundred and you have fifty," or "I have a thousand and you have two; I must have as

* I have sometimes been asked what this means. I intended it to send forth the wisdom of men in war contending for kingdoms, and what follows to set forth their wisdom in peace—contending for wealth.

many as you before I leave the house; or I cannot possibly go home in peace." At last they made so much noise that I awoke and thought to myself—"What a false dream that is of CHILDREN." The child is the father of the man, and wiser. Children never do such foolish things. Only men do.

RUSKIN.

JOHN BRIGHT.

In no other public man in England, probably, is there manifested a greater interest than in John Bright. He is one of the few men concerning whom public opinion has changed. Statesmen and politicians, who thirty years ago reviled him as a violent demagogue, now find no terms of praise too great for him, and listen with almost breathless attention to his speeches on public questions. And Mr. Bright has gained this power, not so much by a superiority of intellect as by his strict integrity and adherence to principle. It has been frequently asserted that Bright was a factionist, an extremist, and nearly always in the minority. The latter part of this charge is true, the first is not. It can be easily explained why he has been so often in the minority. Ever since he entered public life, he has been from five to ten years in advance of even the Liberals of the English Parliament and people. After becoming convinced of the utility and justice of a measure, he is usually engaged in pleading and fighting for it several years before he can convince the people of the truth of his views; and when he has succeeded in regard to that measure, he finds himself still as far advanced on some other question of public moment. But those who have opposed him have always found that in some way, alone or assisted, he has eventually succeeded in his advocacy. As nearly all are acquainted with his general career, we will merely refer to a few things in regard to which his position is not so well known and understood.

First, we mention the stand he took against the Russian war. It is well known how vigorously he opposed this war, both in and out of Parliament. And it is equally well known how few were his supporters, because at that time England was wild with enthusiasm for the