

duties of life." This is no new objection, it has been urged against a general elementary education, but it is now being seen to be a remnant of an age gone by, we trust never to return—an objection which will soon be numbered with the things that are gone for ever.

Return of the Parents.

BY H. A. STEBBINS.

Long had they sped
O'er distant hill and valley, noting much
God's goodness in the riches of the land,
The summer fruitage, and the harvest-ward,
The reaper wrothing with the boarded wheat,
And the proud torrent's glory when it abakes
The everlasting rock—nor yet forgot
To sprinkle greenness on the loneliest flower
That trembles at its base. Much, too, they spake
Of pleasure, 'neath the hospitable roofs
Of severed kindred; how the loving heart
From such communion learns to wipe away
The dust of household care, which sometimes hangs
In clouds o'er the clear spirit.

But anon
The eloquent lip grew silent, for they drew
Near that blest spot which throws all other lights
Into strong shadow.—Home.

At that full thought,
The bosom's pulse beat quicker, and the wheels
Moved all too slow, though scarce the eager steeds
Obeyed the rein. And as the mother spake
Somewhat, in murmurs, of her youngest boy,
There came a flood of beauty o'er her brow;
For holy love hath beauty, which gray Time
Could never steal.

'T is there, behind the trees,—
That well-known roof—and from the open door,
What a glad rush! The son, who fain would take
His mother in his arms, as if her foot
Was all too good for earth; and at his side
The beautiful daughter, with her raven hair
So smoothly folded o'er her classic brow;
The infant crowing in its nurse's arms;
The bold boy, in his gladness springing up
Even to his father's shoulder; lying tongues,
And little dancing feet, and outstretched hands
Grasping the parent's skirts—It was a group
That artist's pencil never yet hath sketched
In all its plenitude!

And when I saw
The brightness of the tear of joy, I felt
How poor the pomp of princes, and what dross
Was beaten gold, compared with that dear wealth—
Home, and its gratulation, and the ties
Which Heaven hath twisted round congenial hearts
To draw them to itself.

Formation of Character.

If greatness can be shut up in qualities, it will be found to consist in courage and in openness of mind and soul. These qualities may not seem at first to be so potent.—But see what growth there is in them. The education of a man of open mind is never ended. Then, with the openness of soul, a man sees some way into all other souls that come near him, feels with them, has their experience, is in himself a people.—Sympathy is the universal solvent. Nothing is understood without it. The capacity of a man, at least for understanding may almost be said to vary according to his powers of sympathy. Again, what is there that can counteract selfishness like sympathy? Selfishness may be hedged in by minute watchfulness and self-denial, but it is counteracted by the nature being encouraged to grow out and fix its tendrils upon foreign objects.—The immense defect that want of sympathy is, may be strikingly seen in the failure of the many attempts that have been made in all ages to construct the Christian character, omitting sympathy. It has produced numbers of people walking up and down one narrow plank of self-restraint, pondering over their own merits and demerits, keeping out, not the world exactly, but their fellow-creatures, from

their hearts and caring only to drive their neighbors before them on this plank of theirs, to push them headlong.—Thus, with many virtues, and much hard work at the formation of character, we have had splendid bigots or censorious small people.—
Friends in Council.

What might be done with the money wasted in War.

Give me the money that has been spent in war, and I will purchase every foot of land upon the globe. I will clothe every man, woman and child in an attire that kings and queens would be proud of; I will build a school-house on every hill side and in every valley over the whole habitable earth; I will supply that school-house with a competent teacher; I will build an academy in every town, and endow it; a college in every state, and fill it with able professors; I will crown every hill with a church consecrated to the promulgation of the gospel of peace; I will support in its pulpit an able teacher of righteousness, so that on every Sabbath morning the chime on one hill should answer to the chime on another, around the earth's broad circumference; and the voice of prayer, and the song of praise should ascend like an universal holocaust to Heaven.—*Stebbins.*

LEAD AND FEATHERS.—It is often asked, in jest, which is the heaviest—a pound of lead, or a pound of feathers? A person who had not his wits about him might be guilty of the *hibernicism* of answering, a pound of lead, to be sure! Another a little more shrewd would say they weighed just alike. Yet, under certain circumstances, they would both be wrong. Weigh a pound of feathers while they are in an uncompressed state, and then weigh them after being compressed, and in the latter case they would weigh more than in the former; because, when any substance has a large quantity of surface exposed to the atmosphere, in proportion to its bulk, it weighs less than the same bulk when compressed. Hence may be asserted with truth the seeming paradox, that a pound of feathers is heavier than a pound of lead. This principle is well understood by some of the wool merchants, who compress their wool as much as convenient, that the same quantity may make more weight. It is said, moreover, that a wool merchant often gains the interest of his money, in the additional weight which his wool will acquire by remaining stored during a season, and thereby becoming compressed. Gold, the heaviest of all metals, by being made into gold leaf, which has infinitely larger surface in proportion to its bulk than the solid gold, may be made to float in the air. According to the same principle are the clouds suspended in the atmosphere.

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Hamilton, March 9, 1848.

D. C. VAN NORMAN, A. M.,
Principal.

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