

board, and on a tree that grows by the door, a remedy for this distress and alarm—a sure means of saving the sick man from the threatened death. A strong decoction of young hyson tea, oak bark, or any other astringent vegetable, will change tartar emetic into an innocuous compound.

Vessels of copper often give rise to poisoning. Though this metal undergoes but little change in a dry atmosphere, it is rusted if moisture be present, and its surface becomes lined with a green substance—carbonate of peroxide of copper, a poisonous compound.

It has sometimes happened that a mother has, for want of this knowledge, poisoned her family. Sourkrout that had been permitted to stand some time in a copper vessel, has produced death in a few hours. Cooks sometimes permit pickles to remain in copper vessels, that they may acquire a rich green color, which they do by absorbing poison.* Families have often been thrown into disease by eating such dainties, and may have died, in some instances, without suspecting the cause. That lady has certainly some reason to congratulate herself upon her education, if, under such circumstances, she knows that pickles, rendered green by verdigris, are poisonous, and that Orfila has proved albumen to be the proper antidote to them.

Lead, (often used for drinking vessels and conduits,) if, when in contact with water, it is exposed to the air, yields carbonate of lead (the white lead of the shops.) It is surprising that the neutral salts in water retard this process, and that some salts seem to prevent it entirely—hence the water of Edinburgh may be safely used, though kept in leaden cisterns; and the water of the Ohio is conveyed to the inhabitants of this city with impunity in leaden pipes. Nevertheless, salts of lead may be formed under circumstances not unlikely to occur. Moreover, the acetate of lead is often used to sweeten wine; and the lady acquainted with the affinities of the metal, and the properties and antidotes of its compounds, may have occasion for her information. She will be able by means of articles always at hand—such as epsom salts, or glauher salts—to render the poisonous salts of lead inert. For the soluble sulphates brought in contact with them, will always give rise to the formation of the sulphate of lead, which is insoluble, and without any pernicious properties.

Illustrations might be very readily multiplied, but our space forbids. We conclude by saying, that persons always produce secondary effects, which antidotes, however perfect, do not prevent. In all cases of poisoning, therefore, the administration of antidotes should not prevent the calling of a doctor.

Ultimate Dissolution of the Solar System.

THE idea of the ultimate dissolution of the solar system has usually been felt as painful, and forcibly resisted by philosophers. When Newton saw no end to the deranging effect of the common planetary perturbations, he called for a special interference of the Almighty to avert the catastrophe; and great was the rejoicing when that recent analyst described a memorable power of conservation in our system's constituent phenomena; but after all, why should it be painful? Absolute permanence is visible nowhere around us; and the fact of change merely intimates that in the exhaustless womb of the future unevolved wonders are in store. The phenomena referred to would simply point to the close of one mighty cycle in the history of the solar orb—the passing away of arrangements which have fulfilled their objects, that they might be transformed into new. Thus is the periodic data of a plant perhaps the essential to its prolonged life; and when the individual dies, and disappears, fresh and vigorous forms spring from the elements which composed it. Mark the chrysalis! It is the grave of the worm, but the cradle of the unborn insect. The broken bowl will yet be healed and beautified by the potter, and a voice of joyful note will awaken one day even the silence of the urn! Nay, what though all should pass? What though the close of this epoch in the history of the solar orb should be accompanied, as some by a strange fondness have

imagined, by the dissolution & disappearing of all those shining spheres! Then would our universe not have failed in its functions, but only been gathered up and rolled away, these functions being complete. That gorgeous material framework wherewith the Eternal hath adorned and varied the abysses of space is only an instrument by which the myriads of spirits borne upon its orbs may be told of their origin, and educated for more exalted being; and a time may come when the veil can be drawn aside—when spirit shall converse directly with spirit, and the creature gaze without hindrance on the effulgent face of its Creator; but even then—no, not in that manhood or full maturity of being, will our fabled vault be forgotten, or its pure inhabitants permitted to drop. Their reality may have passed, but their remembrance will live for ever—the tenderer and the more hallowed, that the grave has enclosed and embalmed their objects; and no height of excellence, no extent of future greatness, will ever obscure the vividness of that frail but loved infancy in which, as now, we walked upon the benighted earth, and fondly gazed upon these far-off orbs, deeming that they whisper from their bright abodes the tidings of man's immortal destiny!—*Nicholl's Architecture of the Heavens.*

Ancient Carthage.

Sir Grenville Temple, who lately arrived at Malta from Tunis, on board the Ottoman frigate *Surich*, has employed himself for the last six months in making excavations on the classic soil of Carthage—a city, the mere mention of whose name awakens in the bosom of every scholar a thousand recollections of glory which adorned the mistress of the African seas, and the immortal rival of the Roman republic. His labors have been well rewarded by the peculiarly interesting discoveries he has made. Among them we may notice that on the site of the temple of Ganath, or Juno Cœlestis, the great protecting divinity of Carthage, he found about 700 coins, and various objects of glass and earthenware. But the most remarkable, and perhaps the least expected, of his discoveries, is that of a villa, situated on the sea shore, and buried fifteen feet under ground. Eight rooms are completely cleared, and their size and decorations prove that the house belonged to a wealthy personage. The walls are painted, and the floors are beautifully paved in mosaic, in the same manner as those at Pompeii and Herculaneum, representing a variety of subjects, and as marine deities, both male and female, different species of sea fish, marine plants, a vessel with female figures dancing on deck and surrounded by admiring warriors; other portions represent lions, horses, leopards, tigers, deer, zebras, bears, gazelles, hares, herons, and the like. Ten human skeletons, apparently those slain during the assault of the city, were found in the different chambers.

Sir Grenville also discovered, in another house, other mosaics of great interest; these represent gladiators contending in the arena with wild beasts, and over each man is written his name. In another part are seen horse-races, and men breaking in young horses. Our limits oblige us to restrict these details; but we hope, indeed we understand, that Sir Grenville Temple will shortly publish a complete account of his important and extraordinary discoveries. We are aware that Sir Thomas Rende, from the early period of his residence, as his Majesty's Agent and Consul General in Tunis, drew many specimens of antiquity from the same spot, which we believe were sent to enrich some of our public institutions in England. But Sir Grenville Temple has had the good fortune to make connections, which assisted generally his own ardor for antiquarian research; and the objects he has been thus enabled to recover from their long obscurity, are of a nature to throw a minuter light upon the customs and state of the arts in that celebrated Roman colony. These discoveries may perhaps eventually prove equal in interest to those which have long commended general admiration in Southern Italy, and will no doubt render celebrated the name of the persevering discoverer, amongst other British archaeologists, particularly, if any of the curiosities found should be placed amongst the valuable remains of antiquity which Great Britain already possesses.—*Malta Paper.*

* Acetic acid, with oxide of copper, constitutes verdigris.