

YOUTH'S CORNER.

TWO CONFIRMATIONS.

Continued.

As George was walking homewards with his mother and his little sister Catharine, two young men from the neighbouring village of Holzbronn were drawing near as if to walk with them, but the mother avoided their company, for she was desirous of keeping her son from light and ordinary talk; and she kept speaking to him with great earnestness about the solemn act in which he had been engaged that day, and the obligations under which he had now voluntarily laid himself, to live worthy of his calling as a soldier and servant of the Lord Jesus. She also endeavoured to keep him as much about her as she could, during the remainder of the day; and it was very satisfactory to her when her neighbour Margaret came in the afternoon, and sat with mother and son, which gave an opportunity for Margaret to talk about the way by which she herself had come to find peace with God. "It is our late Curate Eytel that I have to honour as the instrument in God's hand to give me light and comfort. At the time when he came into the parish, the men used to play at nine-pins on the ground joining hard to the parish-church every Sunday; their manners were altogether rude, and their lives dissipated. The Curate's very first sermon made such a stir that no one ventured to stay at nine-pins the following Sunday. Most of the old people were greatly delighted with the stillness and orderly manner observed in the parish after that time; and it was constantly in my thoughts that a mighty change had been wrought by dear Parson Eytel; but I found, by and by, that he constantly insisted upon a much mightier change yet, which was to take place inwardly in the hearts of sinners; and that the cure of rudeness and dissipation could not bring the soul to Christ, if it went no deeper than outward decency of life and propriety of conduct. Now I had no knowledge whatever of any such inward change, though I was so much pleased with the reformation which had been wrought in Effringen. I stood many a time before the Curate, desiring to ask him how it was with that inward change; but my tongue would not speak, and I remained ignorant and comfortless. In the mean time, I met with one and another who had passed out of a similar state into great gladness; who felt sure of the forgiveness of their sins and of the grace of God to wards them.

"One evening, the tears came rolling down my cheeks while they were singing:

Grace waits to bless thy soul: Will not thy heart believe? On Jesus all thy burden roll, He can, he will relieve.

"I felt as if darkness was passing away and my heart was melting within me. I was hardly able to sleep all that night. Long before day-light I was up, making the fires; I went to the stables and milked the cows: suddenly my sins stood before me mountain-high, and I felt that I must absolutely get them forgiven. I went to my grandmother's chamber, and asked her to forgive me every thing I might have done to offend her: she held back, for she did not know what was the matter with me; but when she saw me crying bitterly, she forgave me every thing. I went to my father and mother and asked pardon of them: my father became angry, for he thought I was going to be mad with religion; but my mother understood me, for she said: 'Dont scold her—you will soon see her comforted and happy.' And so it turned out. For in my earnestness about the pardon of my sins, the Lord himself assured me that he bore them in my stead on the cross, and he spoke peace to my weary and heavy-laden soul. Since that day I have known about the inward change and the virtue of Jesus's blood, and have had peace in believing."

George's mother listened with great attention, and it struck her that her neighbour Margaret had a particular design in relating her story just that day, and in the hearing of the boy. She now perceived that the good character which she had taught him to maintain amounted to no more than the outward reformation which Margaret's pastor said was not sufficient to bring the soul to Christ; and to the want of a deeper cure she had never directed his attention. Before she bid her neighbour good-night, at the street-door, she asked her a question; what did she think about her George who had been confirmed that day, and who had always been so well spoken of, for his good answers and correct deportment? Margaret was not ready to give a straightforward answer; but she said: "Ah, neighbour, if we want to have really a Saviour, we ourselves must first of all become great sinners." And with this saying, she went her way. But the landlady of the Crown Inn felt troubled and uneasy.

To be continued.

HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

JOSEPH ADDISON, the son of Lancelot Addison, D. D., was born at Milston, in the County of Wilts, England, in the year 1671.—He received his first education at the "Chartreux," from whence

he was removed very early to Queen's College in Oxford. He had been there about two years, when the accidental sight of a paper of his verses occasioned his being elected into Magdalen College. He employed himself at this time in the study of the old Greek and Roman writers, and distinguished himself by his Latin compositions, published in the *Musee Anglicana*,—being admired as one of the best authors since the Augustan age, in the two Universities, and the greatest part of Europe, before he became celebrated as a Poet in the town.—The first English performance made public by him is a short copy of verses to Mr. Dryden, followed by "an essay on the Georgics of Virgil," with a version of the fourth.—In his twenty eighth year he was encouraged, by the Lord Chancellor Somers, to visit France and Italy, and by this nobleman's interest, soon after, obtained from the Crown a yearly allowance of three hundred pounds "to support himself in his travels."—When about to return to England, he was informed, that he had been appointed to attend the army as Secretary under Prince Eugene, who had just commenced the war in Italy; but the death of King William frustrated that appointment while he was at Geneva: he therefore made the tour of Germany and, soon after he came home, wrote the celebrated poem called "the Campaign," in honour of the Duke of Marlborough, who had arrived at the highest pitch of earthly glory by delivering all Europe in 1701 from slavery:—for this production Mr. Addison was rewarded by the Lord Treasurer Godolphin with the lucrative office of Commissioner of Appeals.—He was then advanced to the situation of Under-Secretary to the Earl of Sunderland, at which time he wrote "the Opera of Rosamond" and the prologue to the comedy of the "Tender Husband."—His next preferment was to the post of Secretary under the Marquis of Wharton, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, in 1709; at this time his literary reputation became signalized by his elegant compositions in the "Tatler" which were soon followed by those equally classic and beautiful writings which appeared from his pen in the "Spectator" and "Guardian."—"The Tragedy of Cato" was his next production, the fame of which soon spread through all Europe, and he was then appointed one of the Lords-Commissioners of Trade. He now formed his plan for the "Treatise upon the Christian Religion," which his continual employment in business prevented him from pursuing until he resigned his office of Secretary of State to which he had been subsequently promoted; he was obliged, however, at last to abandon this work by the increased severity of asthmatic complaints which had long afflicted him, and, therefore, he left his design but imperfectly executed.—Mr. Addison died on the 17th June 1719, leaving behind him a daughter by the Countess of Warwick, to whom he had been married only three years before.

SAMUEL RICHARDSON was the son of a joiner in Derbyshire, England, but always avoided mentioning the town in which he was born. He was intended at first for the Church, but his father finding that the expense of his education would be too heavy, at last bound him apprentice to a printer. He was never acquainted with any language but his own, and from his childhood was remarkable for his invention, being famous among his schoolfellows for extempore stories, which he usually rendered, even at that early age, the vehicle of some useful moral.—During his apprenticeship he distinguished himself only by exemplary diligence and fidelity, although he even then enjoyed the correspondence of a gentleman of great accomplishments, from whose patronage, if he had lived, he entertained the highest expectations.

The rest of his worldly history seems to have been pretty nearly that of Hogarth's virtuous apprentice—for, he married his master's daughter, and succeeded to his business, extended his wealth and credit by sobriety, punctuality, and integrity; bought a residence in the country, and, though he did not attain to the supreme dignity of Lord Mayor of London, he arrived in due time at the respectable situation of Master of the worshipful company of Stationers. In this course of obscure prosperity he seems to have continued until he had passed his fiftieth year, without giving any intimation of his future celebrity, and even without appearing to be conscious that he was differently gifted from the other flourishing traders of the Metropolis:—about this time, however, 1740, his first work, "Pamela," appeared, and was received with a burst of applause. Within eight years after this, Richardson's reputation may be said to have attained its zenith, by the successive publication of the volumes of his "Clarissa," which obtained the most brilliant success. After "Clarissa," at an interval of about five years, appeared his "Sir Charles Grandison" which contains many excellent characters and met with very general admiration. Besides these works he published only a paper in the "Rambler" (the 97th); an edition of *Æsop's fables*, with reflections; and a volume of familiar letters for the use of persons in an inferior station.

Richardson's moral character was, in the highest degree, exemplary and amiable;—he was temperate, industrious, and upright; punctual and honourable in all his dealings; and he possessed a kindness of heart, and a liberality and generosity of disposition which must have made him a universal favourite, even if he had never acquired any literary distinction. His close application to business, and the sedentary habits of his life, had materially injured his health, and he, consequently, retired to his country residence at "Parson's Green," where his life was terminated in 1761, by a stroke of apoplexy, at the age of seventy-two.

SAMUEL JOHNSON was born at Lichfield, England, in 1709. His father, Michael Johnson, was a bookseller in that city, and placed his son, when eight years old, at the Free School there—but he was not then remarkable for diligence or regular application, though his tenacious memory made whatever he read his own.—In his sixteenth year he commenced his classical studies, and was placed at another school, where he remained until he entered Pembroke College, Oxford, in 1728:—there he completed a residence of three years, and then became Under-master of an academy in Leicestershire, which he soon left under great disappointment. About this period, his first literary work, "A Translation of a voyage to Abyssinia," appeared, and gained for him some celebrity, which, as the various points of his master-mind came forth, gradually increased from year to year.—In extreme indigence he married a widow in 1735, who died in 1752; she brought with her what, to a person in his straitened circumstances, was an affluent fortune which, however, was soon exhausted in his visionary project of a seminary of learning. From this, through many following years, his history is but that of genius struggling with adversity; and as it would be vain, in this brief compass, to attempt to describe either the chequered scenes of the one, or the brilliant productions of the other, we will merely observe, with an unbounded store of profound erudition and consummate talents, he was not able, at the age of thirty, to provide for the day that was passing over him; indeed up to this date, his life had been only a perpetual struggle with overwhelming difficulties. But now, halcyon days began to open upon him: in 1762 the King, as a reward to his high literary merit, granted him a pension of £300 a year, and then it was that he emerged from his obscurity, and, with an established fame and comfortable independence, began to dazzle and astonish an admiring world, which he continued to do with unabated access to the close of his laborious life.

Dr. Johnson, from childhood, had been affected in his nerves by that troublesome disorder called the King's evil, and at two years of age was presented to the royal touch of Queen Anne, under the supposition that healing virtue might be obtained from this communication. During the latter part of his life, he suffered severely from repeated attacks of dropsy, which proved fatal to him at last, on the 13th December 1784, in his seventy-fifth year:—he always had an unconquerable fear of death, arising from a constitutional morbid sensibility; but the strength of religion finally prevailed against this infirmity of nature, and his foreboding dread of the Divine Justice subsided into a pious trust and humble hope of mercy at the throne of grace. What a singular destiny has been that of this remarkable man! To be regarded in his own age as a classic and in ours as a companion! to receive from his contemporaries that full homage which men of genius have, in general, only received from posterity, and to be more intimately known to posterity than other men are known to their contemporaries—this is the reward of his fame! and this reward will be extended to him, in grateful remembrance as long as the English language is spoken in any quarter of the globe! C. S. J.

BRUNEL AND HIS BIRTH-PLACE.—The village of Itezqueville, in Normandy, is insignificant in itself, but deserving of mention as the birth-place of Mark Isambert Brunel, the engineer of the Thames tunnel, whom England is proud to own as her son by adoption, although France claims him by birth. He was educated in the college of Gisors, and when the vacations called him home, his favourite resort was the shop of the village-carpenter, whose tools and instruments had greater attractions for the youthful engineer than Latin and Greek, and his allotted holiday task (*devoirs*). The writer of this has frequently heard him describe the wonder and delight with which he for the first time beheld (1784), on the quay of Rouen, the component part of a huge steam-engine, just landed from England. "When I am a man (he said to himself) I will repair to the country where such machinery is made." London Globe.

A DISTRESSING ACCIDENT occurred on Wednesday week, near Reedham. Mr. Gown, a small farmer and butcher, who lived opposite Reedham Church, went into the marshes with his gun, for the purpose of shooting wild fowl. On

returning home, he was caressing his boy, a sweet child about three years of age, to do which he unthinkingly set his gun down on the butt-end by his feet, loaded and on cock, the father leaning upon the muzzle. At this moment, the child, playing between his father's legs, unconsciously pulled the trigger. The gun went off, and the contents entered the lower part of the head, and the father was immediately a corpse, stretched at the feet of his innocent, laughing, happy boy.—*Ipswich Express*, Feb.

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For sale by J. J. SIMS, APOTHECARY & DRUGGIST, Upper Town Market, SOLE AGENT FOR QUEBEC. March 5th, 1846.

F. H. ANDREWS, ORGAN & PIANO-FORTE TUNER.

NATIONAL SCHOOL, Nov. 1845. THE Girls' department of the British and Canadian School will re-open on MONDAY, the 6th instant, in a room in the Military Asylum. JEFFERY HALE, Quebec, 2nd Oct. 1845.

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