

Youth's Corner.

THE CITY OF NUREMBERG.

Continued.

Our instructive acquaintance had to leave us at last, his residence being outside the gates, in a direction contrary to the one we had to take on our return to the Crown Prince. We expressed very cordial thanks to him for the benefit of his company, and our way soon brought us to a house which my children thought must surely be the ugliest that exists in Nuremberg—so old and out of keeping with others around it: but I had it in my power to inform them that an Association has actually been formed for the very purpose of preventing this house from being brought into harmony with modern taste in building; it is the dwelling formerly occupied by the celebrated painter Albert Durer, who died in the year 1527, after having produced many valuable engravings and paintings. Perhaps the ugliness of this house is preserved, to make us think with wonder of the beauty of those works which were produced in it.

We bent our way towards Mr. Heerdegen's book-selling establishment, where I intended to purchase a Nuremberg Chronicle, and this gave us an opportunity of viewing Albert Durer's bronze statue, set up on the milk-market. It is a fine piece of workmanship, which Mr. Burschmit completed in 1840. But the old artist has provided for himself better monuments than this, in the works of his own hands, with which Nuremberg is ornamented to this day.

The Chronicle was bought, and as we felt pretty tired, on arriving at our hotel, we retired to our rooms at once, where my little son turned over the leaves of the book, to read out, what here and there struck his fancy as peculiarly remarkable. In the year 1390, the German princes and free cities agreed to pay a great sum of money to the Emperor, and the Emperor consented to a decree which cancelled all the debts due from any Christian to a Jew. Nuremberg had to pay 4000 guilders; and it raised that money by requiring every one who owed 100 guilders to a Jew, to pay into the city-treasury 30 guilders, whereby his debt to the Jew was cancelled. That is the way that those who professed to be the followers of the Lord Jesus dealt in those days with the people whom they ought to have endeavoured to win over to the Christian faith.

In the year 1452 one John Capistranus, a monk commissioned by the Pope of Rome, came to visit Nuremberg, and was received with great pomp, which he thought very right. But when he preached in a stone pulpit erected outside of St. Sebald's church, he rebuked the people severely for their pride and luxury, and bade them burn all sleighs, dice, long pointed shoes, wadded bonnets, cards, and backgammon-boards. This really caused a great burning: 3690 boards, 40,000 dice, and heaps of cards, were committed to the flames. But the Chronicle says nothing about the burning of shoes and bonnets; and it is not unlikely that the preacher's power failed, where the tyranny of fashion opposed him. They admitted his right to reprove them for sin; but when he undertook to cure their nonsense, they slighted his authority.

In the year 1591, the Nuremberg butchers presented to the worshipful the city-council a sausage which measured sixty ells; two men carried it on a pole, painted white and red, and ornamented with shells and rosemary; a man playing the bag-pipe walked before them. This excited great zeal in making long sausages, and in the year 1658, the butchers produced one 658 ells in length, that is just the number *anno Domini*, dropping the one thousand. The Chronicle reports no advancement beyond this, and it must be allowed that the sausage was long enough; having shown what their skill could produce, the trade in all probability confined themselves after that to the short lengths which answer a more practical purpose, as myself and my young folks had experienced that very day.

In the year 1541, the Emperor Charles V. held a pompous entry into Nuremberg; that is to say, he was surrounded by pomp on every side, but himself wore a simple black dress and a plain hat upon his head. He was determined to be distinguished from the courtiers around him; and as they all wore splendid clothing, he concluded that it would be most majestic for him to study the utmost simplicity. The Nurembergers presented to him a gold cup, containing one hundred pieces of gold, the first of which was one guilder in value, the second two, the third three, and so forth, by arithmetical progression, so that the last of them was worth a hundred guilders. My little son immediately set to work, as he read this, calculating the value of this present, and you may do so, too, which will be better for you than if I told you what the amount was.

The Nurembergers were desirous of putting the Emperor in good humour with them by the honour they did him; but they were not willing to gratify him by taking part against the reformed Princes of Germany. What they really effected, however, was only just to let the Emperor know that if he wanted money, it was to be had in Nuremberg. In the year 1547, accordingly, he imposed upon the city a fine of 300,000 guilders, because some of his Spanish soldiers were killed at Nuremberg in consequence of their haughty and provoking conduct. In 1648 the reformed Church service also had to give place to the Romish fashion of reading mass and chanting in Latin, which grieved the people greatly, after all the comfort they had derived from hearing the Scriptures, and prayers, and sermons in their native tongue. But the Emperor ruled with great might in Germany, after his victory over the Protestant Princes, the Elector of Saxony and the Landgrave of Hesse; and the reformation

seemed to be put down, until the Elector Maurice of Saxony found the time convenient, so that he came suddenly with his army upon the Emperor, chased him out of Germany, and restored liberty to the reformed Churches.

By this time, my children gave signs of more desire for sleep than for history: I sent them to their beds, after prayers which had to be short, lest they should drop asleep over them; and I myself did not stay up a very long time, having more desire to get up early in the morning and see the country-people come in to market, than to sit up late at night and lose the freshness of the first hours after sunrise.

The children slept long—and no wonder, after such exercise as they had the day preceding. It was their first sleep away from home, and when they awoke, they had some work to collect their thoughts and find out what a strange place they had got into. But no sooner did they recollect themselves that they were in Nuremberg, and that all sorts of new sights were waiting for them, than they jumped out of bed like squirrels, and would hardly allow themselves time to wash and comb and brush and dress, before they rushed to the window under which the noise of horses, carts, and wheel-barrows bore witness to the ample supply of market articles which gardeners and peasants were bringing in from the country. I interposed my authority; and after they had put themselves in proper trim, we read our portion of Scripture, offered morning prayer to God, and then I gave them leave to look at the wonders of the street with its stream of market-people.

To be continued.

LORD ELDON'S FIRST JUDGMENT.—At this time Lord Eldon gave the first specimen of his judicial powers—which must be allowed to have been very promising, although as yet he had a very slender store of jurisprudential lore. Being senior resident fellow of University College, two under-graduates came to complain to him that "the cook had sent them up an apple pie that could not be eaten." The defendant being summoned, said, "I have a remarkably fine fillet of veal in the kitchen." The judge immediately overruled this plea as tending an immaterial issue, and ordered a *proferat in curiam* of the apple pie. The messenger sent to execute this order brought intelligence that the other under-graduates, taking advantage of the absence of the two plaintiffs, had eaten up the whole of the apple pie. Thereupon, judgment was thus pronounced:—"The charge here is, that the cook has sent up an apple pie that cannot be eaten. Now, that cannot be said to be uneatable which has been eaten; and as this apple pie has been eaten, it is eatable. Let the cook be absolved." He used to say, in telling the story, "I often wished in after life, that all the causes I had to decide had been apple pie causes, and then no one could have complained of my doubts or delays.—*Lord Campbell's Lives of the Chancellors.*

LORD ERSKINE'S OBLIGATION TO HIS ELDER BROTHER.—The Earl of Buchan considered himself quite superior in genius to his younger brothers, and he was rather shocked that they had got on in the world by following a trade. Yet at times he would boast of their elevation, taking all the credit of it to himself. He said to an English nobleman who visited him at Dryburgh, "My brothers Harry and Tom are certainly extraordinary men; but they owe every thing to me." This observation occasioning an involuntary look of surprise in his guest, he continued, "Yes, it is true; they owe every thing to me. On my father's death, they pressed me for a small annual allowance. I knew that this would have been their ruin, by relaxing their industry. So, making a sacrifice of my inclination to gratify them, I refused to give them a farthing; and they have both thriven ever since,—*owing everything to me.*—*Lord Campbell's Lives of the Chancellors.*

SEVERE PUNISHMENT.—"What do you mean to do with K?" said a friend of Theodore Hook, alluding to a man who had grossly vilified him. "Do with him?" replied Hook; "why, I mean to let him alone most severely."—*The Kendal Mercury.*

CAPTAIN BRENTON'S COXSWAIN. [The Captain has been relating an unsuccessful attempt by his boats, to take a vessel, in one of the creeks in the Mediterranean; and the SPARTAN is the name of the frigate commanded by him.]

The coxswain of the barge, reported among the killed and wounded, was a very fine, active young man, and had been indulged with the permission to bring his wife on board. She was very young at this period, and the attachment between the couple was remarkable, as well as the respect they obtained from all on board from the correctness of their conduct. On the boats returning, and the report of Bodie's death, his poor little wife was frantic with grief. When the dead were placed on the main deck, she flew to them, uncovering their faces, and calling out for her husband. She then ran up, and took her seat on the coxswain's box, in the barge, which had now been hoisted in, calling for her husband: and from thence to the captain on the quarter-deck, imploring him to let her see the body. Calling for some of the people who were in the barge, upon whom the greatest dependence could be placed, I desired to know how Bodie had been killed; when one of them said, "Sir, we were boarding the vessel together on the starboard side, and were getting into the main chains, when I was wounded and fell into the boat, and Bodie at the same time was killed, and fell between the boat and the ship." The wife was present at this detail, and at length seemed convinced of her dreadful loss. The greatest attention was paid to her by all on board, to alleviate as

much as possible her sufferings; on the arrival of the Spartan at Malta a subscription, amounting to £80., was made for her; and she soon after sailed for England in a transport, with a letter to Mrs. Brenton at Bath, by whom she was received, and remained with her for some time, previous to her departure for Ireland. A month or two afterwards, the Spartan boarded a Genoese trader, and her people mentioned that a polacre had arrived there some weeks previous, which had been attacked by the boats of an English frigate, and had succeeded in beating them off. When the firing had ceased, the cries of a man were heard under the stern, and an English sailor was found hanging on by the rudder chains, and wounded. On taking him on board he proved to be the coxswain of the frigate's barge; he stated that he had been severely wounded in endeavouring to board the polacre, and had fallen between the ship and the boat, but as he passed astern he had caught hold of the rudder's chains, and hung on until the action was over. The story added, that on the vessel's arrival at Genoa, the man was sent to the hospital; and on his wounds being cured, had been marched into France. No doubt now existed as to the correctness of this statement, and I immediately wrote to Verdun, requesting my friends to make inquiries as to the depot to which Bodie was sent; and on ascertaining his safety, that information might be immediately sent to Bath. In a few weeks a letter reached Mrs. Brenton from the Rev. L. C. Lee, informing her that Bodie had reached that depot, and was no sooner known to have been Captain Brenton's coxswain than the greatest interest was manifested in his behalf, and permission was procured for him to remain there, where every care would be taken of him, and that he had quite recovered from his wounds. These joyful tidings were soon in the hands of Mrs. Bodie, at Cork, whose happiness may be easily imagined.—*Quarterly Review, March 1847, on Sir J. Laflack Brenton's Memoirs.*

CHINA.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF CANTON.—The recently-arrived stranger naturally manifests surprise and incredulity on being told that the estimated population of Canton exceeds a million. As soon, however, as he visits the close streets, with their dense population and busy wayfarers, huddled together into lanes from five to nine feet wide, where Europeans could scarcely inhale the breath of life, the greatness of the number no longer appears incredible. After the first feelings of novelty have passed away, disappointment, rather than admiration, occupies the mind. After leaving the open space before the factories, or, as the Chinese call them, the thirteen hong, and passing through Old China-street, New China-street, Curiosity-street, and similar localities, the names of which indicate their propinquity to the residence of foreigners, we behold an endless succession of narrow avenues, scarcely deserving the name of streets. As the visitor pursues his course, narrow lanes still continue to succeed each other, and the conviction is gradually impressed on the mind, that such is the general character of the streets of the city. Along these, busy traders, mechanics, barbers, vendors, and porters, make their way; while occasionally the noisy abrupt tones of vociferating coolies remind the traveller that some materials of bulky dimensions are on their transit, and suggest the expediency of keeping at a distance, to avoid collision. Now and then, the monotony of the scene is relieved by some portly mandarin, or merchant of the higher class, borne in a sedan-chair on the shoulders of two, or sometimes four men. Yet, with all this hurry and din, there seldom occurs any accident or interruption of good nature.

On the river, the same order and regularity prevail. Though there are probably not fewer than 200,000 denizens of the river, whose hereditary domains are the watery element that supports their little dwelling, yet harmony and good feeling are conspicuous in the accommodating manner with which they make way for each other. These aquatic tribes of the human species show a most philosophic spirit of equanimity, and contrive, in this way, to strip daily life of many of its little troubles; while the fortitude and patience with which the occasional injury or destruction of their boats borne, is remarkable. To return from the wide expanse of the river population to the streets in the suburbs, the same spirit of contented adaptation to external things is everywhere observable, and it is difficult which to regard with most surprise—the narrow abodes of the one, or the little boats which serve as family residences to the other. There is something of romance in the effect of Chinese streets. On either side are shops, decked out with native ware, furniture, and manufactures of various kinds. These are adorned by pillars of sign-boards, rising perpendicularly, and inscribed from top to bottom with the various kinds of saleable articles which may be had within. Native artists seem to have lavished their ingenuity on several of these inscriptions, and, by their calligraphy, to give some idea of the superiority of the commodities for sale. Many of these sign-boards contain some fictitious emblem, adopted as the name of the shop, similar to the practice prevalent in London two centuries ago.—*Rev. G. Smith's Consular Cities of China.*

THE POTENTATES AND THE PRASANT.—When the allied army were in possession of Paris, it was no unusual thing for the Emperors of Russia and Austria and the King of Prussia to walk out *incoog*. In one of these rambles they were accosted by a countryman, of rather superior address, who asked them to point out the way to the Tuileries, to which the reply was, that they were going that way and should

be glad of his company. The familiar tone of conversation of the Emperor Alexander soon brought out the stranger to converse, who, after some time, asked to whom he had the pleasure of talking, and the answer was, "I am the Emperor of Russia." This seemed to stagger his belief; he asked another: "And pray, who are you, sir?" "I am the Emperor of Austria!" Another, "And you, sir?" "I am the King of Prussia!" This seeming the climax of absurdity, he burst into a loud laugh and was going away, when the Emperor of Russia begged he would tell them who he was. "Oh," said he, "I am the Emperor of China!" and then walked quickly away, evidently under the impression that he was "not to be done."—*Courrier de l'Europe.*

THE OBJECT OF INSTRUCTION. From Dr. Ryerson's Report on a system of Public Elementary Instruction for Upper Canada.

With the proper cultivation of the moral feelings, and the formation of moral habits, is intimately connected the corresponding development of all the other faculties both intellectual and physical. The great object of an efficient system of instruction should be, not the communication of so much knowledge, but the development of the faculties. Much knowledge may be acquired without any increase of mental power; nay, with even an absolute diminution of it. Though it be admitted that "knowledge is power," it is not the knowledge which professes to be imparted and acquired at a rail-road speed; a knowledge which penetrates little below the surface, either of the mind or of the nature of things—the acquisition of which involves the exercise of no other faculty than that of the memory, and that not upon the principles of philosophical association, but by the mere juggle of words;—a mere word-knowledge learned by rote, which has no existence in the mind apart from the words in which it is acquired, and which vanishes as they are forgotten,—which often spreads over a large surface, but has neither depth nor fertility,—which grows up as it were in a night and disappears in a day,—which adds nothing to the vigour of the mind, and very little that is valuable to its treasures.

This is the system of imparting, and acquiring knowledge which notoriously obtains in many of the Academies, Schools and other Educational Institutions in the neighbouring States, though it is lamented and deprecated by all the American authors who have examined the educational institutions of other countries, and many others who are competent witnesses of its effects and evils, and who have the virtue and patriotism to expose them. The author of the excellent work heretofore quoted, *School and Schoolmaster*—remarks: "The grand error, that that is called knowledge, which is mere rote-learning and word-mongery. The child is said to be educated, because it can repeat the text of this one's grammar, and of that one's geography and history; because a certain number of facts, often without connexion or dependence, have for the time being been deposited in its memory though they have never been wrought at all into the understanding, nor have awakened in truth one effort of the higher faculties.

"The soil of the mind is left by such culture really as untouched and as little likely therefore to yield back valuable fruit, as if these same facts had been committed to memory in an unknown tongue. It is, as if the husbandman were to go forth and sow his seed by the way side, or on the surface of a field which has been trodden down by the hoofs of innumerable horses, and then when the cry of harvest-home is heard about him, expect to reap as abundant returns as the most provident and industrious of his neighbours. He forgets that the same irreversible law holds in mental as in material husbandry *'whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.'*"

School and Schoolmaster. By Dr. Potter, Union College, [now Bishop of Pennsylvania.]

SCENE OF THE LOSS OF H. M. STEAMER AVENGER.—The uninhabited island of Galita is a rugged mass of granite rising to a height of 1500 feet above the sea, and is about twenty-one miles distant from the nearest point of the Tunisian coast. There is tolerable anchorage in its great S. E. cove; and water, wild goats, and rabbits, are obtainable. There are several islets around, all of which are high and steep, with deep water in the channels. W. S. W. from Galita, and about twelve miles and a quarter distant, lie two dangerous rocks, or rather the two heads of a large subaqueous mountain. These were examined by Captain Smyth, and as they lie opposite the islets on the coast of Barbary, called the Fratelli, he designates these the Sorelle, in order to draw the attention of mariners to their existence. They lie about a mile apart, the least water on the eastern one being three feet and a quarter; and on the other, which is exactly on the same line of bearing from Galita, there are from three to five fathoms. Between the two is a channel of thirty fathoms, and at a little distance around not less than one hundred. In some winds these may be perceived five or six miles off, by the breakers; but in fine weather it is difficult to see them, even when pretty close. The rest of the channel between Galita and the Barbary shore is everywhere clear from danger; but it is remarkable that within the island the current sets to the westward, and without it to the eastward, unless in gales of continuance.—*Naval and Military Gazette.*

MARCH OF MUSIC.—A respectable family in Greenland has lately advertised in the Copenhagen newspapers for a music master.—*Daily News.*

LIVERPOOL SAILORS' HOME.—The annual meeting of the members of the Liverpool Sailors' Home, Registry, and Savings' Bank, was held on the 21st inst., at the offices of the East India

and China Association, Exchange Buildings. Mr. Coleworth, vice-president, was called to the chair. Mr. Boardman, the secretary, read the report.—The number of men registered (and these were strictly limited to those who received good characters from their employer), in 1847, was 2212; the total number since the opening of the institution, 9433. The number of ships supplied with crews last year was 536, against 470 in 1846; the number of men shipped 7535, against 6028 in the previous year. The number of crews paid off in the institution in 1847, was 323. The Bank for Savings was in a flourishing condition. The money in hand on Dec. 31st, 1845, was £138; on the same date, in 1846, £439. The payments during 1847 were £1770 4 4. Of this, £1364 2 8 had been drawn, leaving a general balance now in hand of £815 10 10 held by 97 individuals, all of whom are now at sea. The statements of accounts showed a total balance in hand of £17,254 2 4. The report and the statements of accounts were adopted, and the ten directors retiring in rotation were re-elected.

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