

RESISTING TEMPTATION.

In his sketch of Hugh Miller, the author quotes a passage from the autobiography of that remarkable man, which shows the self-control he exhibited under temptation, and affords a striking moral example.

He worked away in the quarry for some time, losing many of his finger-nails by bruises and accidents, growing fast, but gradually growing stronger, and obtaining a fair knowledge of his craft as a stone-hewer. He was early subjected to the temptation which beset most young workman, that of drink. But he resisted it bravely. His own account of it is worthy of extract :

"When overwrought, and in my depressed moods, I learned to regard the ardent spirits of the dram-shop as high luxuries; they gave lightness and energy to both mind and body, and substituted for a state of dullness and gloom one of exhilaration and enjoyment. Usquebae was simply happiness doled out by the glass, and sold by the gill. The drinking usages of the profession in which he labored were at this time many; when a foundation was laid, the workmen were treated to drink; they were treated to drink when the walls were leveled for laying the joists; they were treated to drink when the building was finished; they were treated to drink when an apprentice joined the squad; treated to drink when his apron was washed; treated to drink when his time was out: and occasionally they learned to treat one another to drink.

"In laying down the foundation stone of one of the larger houses built this year by Uncle David and his partner, the workmen had a royal 'founding-pint,' and two whole glasses of the whiskey came to my share. A full-grown man would not have deemed a gill of usquebae an overdose, but it was considerably too much for me; and when the party broke up, and I got home to my books, I found as I opened the pages of a favorite author, the letters dancing before my eyes, and that I could no longer master the sense. I have the volume at present before me, a small edition of the Essays of Bacon, a good deal worn at the corners by the friction of the pocket, for of Bacon I never tired. The condition into which I had brought myself was, I felt;

one of degradation. I had sunk by my own act, for the time, to a lower level of intelligence than that on which it was my privilege to be placed; and though the state could have been no very favorable one for forming a resolution, I in that hour determined that I should never again sacrifice my capacity for intellectual enjoyment to a drinking usage; and, with God's help, I was enabled to hold to my determination."

A young working mason, reading Bacon's Essays in his by-hours, must certainly be regarded as a remarkable man; but not less remarkable is the exhibition of moral energy and noble self-denial in the instance we have cited.

MORE PRECIOUS THAN RUBIES.

Would it not please you to pick up strings of pearls, drops of gold, diamonds and precious stones as you pass along the street? It would make you feel happy for a month to come. Such happiness you can give to others. How, do you ask? By dropping sweet words, kind remarks and pleasant smiles as you pass along. These are true pearls and precious stones, which can never be lost; of which none can deprive you. Speak to that orphan child, see the pearls drop from her cheeks. Take the hand of the friendless boy, bright diamonds flash in his eyes. Smile on the sad and dejected, a joy suffuses his cheek more brilliant than the most precious stones. By the wayside, amid the city's din and the fire-side of the poor, drop words and smiles to cheer and bless. You will feel happier when resting upon your pillow at the close of the day, than if you had picked up a score of perishing jewels. The latter fade and crumble in time; the former grow brighter with age, and produce happier reflections forever.

CAT MANIA.

A cat mania is a singular thing; yet it existed in Mrs. Griggs, of Southampton Row, who died on the 16th of January, 1792. Her executors found in her house eighty-six living and twenty-eight dead cats! Their owner, who died worth £30,000, left her black servant £150 per annum for the maintenance of the surviving cats and himself. Pope records an instance of a famous Duchess of R—, who bequeathed considerable legacies and annuities to her cats. But if, of the gen-

ter sex, there are those "who cradle the blind offspring of their Selimas; and adorn the pensive mother's neck with coral beads," some also of the remarkable among our sterner race have shown an extraordinary fondness for these luxurious quadrupeds. Mohammed, for instance, had a cat to which he was so much attached that he preferred cutting off the sleeve of his garment to disturbing her repose, when she had fallen asleep upon it. Petrarch was so fond of his cat that he had it embalmed after death, and placed in a niche in his apartment. Dr. Johnson had a feline favorite, and when it was ill, declined its usual food, but greedily seizing at an oyster when it was offered, he was accustomed to bring home for her daily some of those tempting molasses. Mr. Peter King, who died at Islington in 1806, had two tom cats that used to be set up at table with him at his meals; and as he was a great admirer of fine clothes richly laced, he thought his cats might like them too. The grimalkins were accordingly measured, and wore rich liveries until death.

ELEPHANTS AT WORK.

In the East Indies Elephants are worked with great profit: and we fancy the following extract from the book of Mr. Baker, an English traveller in the island of Ceylon, will be read with interest, by all who like to know the peculiarities of other lands than their own. He is giving an account of an elephant he saw at work:—

"It was an interesting sight to see the rough plain yielding to the power of agricultural implements, especially as some of those implements were drawn by animals not generally seen in plough harness at home.

"The 'cultivator,' which was sufficiently large to anchor any twenty of the small native bullocks, looked a mere nothing behind the splendid elephant who worked it, and it cut through the wiry roots of the rank turf as a knife peels an apple. It was amusing to see this same elephant doing the work of three separate teams, when the seed was in the ground. She first drew a pair of heavy harrows; attached to these, and following behind, were a pair of light harrows; and behind these came a roller. Thus the land had its first and second harrowing and rolling at the same time.