Family Reading.

SELF-DENIAL AND ENDURANCE. [From the Penny Post.]

One of the chief characteristics of the present age, is certainly its self-indulgence violent gale from the west, in which the and love of ease and comfort. It may be ship laboured hard, was much strained, doubted whether the numberless contri- and spring a leak. A sea stove in the vances which are daily invented to minister bulwarks, and washed the spars and galley to the luxury and convenience of those who from the lashing. The gale continued uncan afford to pay for them (a class very abated until 30 29th, when another sea numerous now, owing to the cheap rate at struck the vessel, which stove in the cabin which many of those luxuries may be pro- dead-light, and deluged all below with cured), tend as much to the real happiness water, souking books, charts, papers, nauand well-being of the community as at first | tical instruments, and all other articles in sight might appear. It it can be proved the cubin. In spite of wind and waves, that the tendency of these various luxuries | the captain kept his course, the crew being is to relax the energies, by diminishing the engaged chiefly at the pumps until the 4th necessity for exertion, and to produce a soft, effeminate character, we surely must fear that the rising generation will grow up a self-indulgent race, incapable of was breaking right over us, and carried

generous self-denial or manly endurance. What, for example, will our sons ever know of the exertions and hardships of travelling which their fathers underwent! The young railroad traveller, who is conveyed without effort on his own part from place to place, what can he possibly tell of the fatigue and intense suffering from cold in the early morning or night air, which his father endured when, mounted on the top of a coach, he performed the same journey in many painful hours which his son now accomplishes with case in as away the radder washed one of our best many minutes. We often hear this very hands overboard. His land scream tor convenience of railroad travelling brought help, which we were unable to afford him, forward as proof of the advantages of was heard above the roaring of the wind modern times. I may be a prejudiced old and the sea and the crash of broken spors, man, but I cannot help thinking that our and made a cold shudder run through each youthful traveller will lose much, both in stout heart among us. There was not one hardihood of character, power of endurance, of us who did not breathe a prayer for and knowledge of life, which his father ac- mercy on the soul of the drowing man. quired by mixing with all classes in his Yes, sir, some among us, who had never stage-coach journeys of former days. Don't prayed before, and who had hitherto ted suppose, because I say this, that I am so absurd as to wish the railroads were torn pray on that fearful night. On the evening up and the old conches put on the rend ngain; or that I forget that people save a libeir last. One of them had been insensi great deal of time in modern traveling, ble for some time, and died anconscion which, if they rightly use it, would partially of all that was going on around him counterbalance the loss I speak of.

What I have said of travelling will apply with equal force in many other ways. Education is no longer the bursh stern thing that it used to be; and though Dum by no means an advocate for severity, yet sometimes doubt whether our present system does not err on the other side: whether, by our assiduous contrivances for removing all physical discomforts or privations from our children, we are not inflicting on our country a race pany and feeble, both in body and mind : may, worse still a race not only weak and indolont. but selfish and hard-hearted; for who so selfish as those who are immersed in their own personal and material comforts, and who so hard-hearted, for the most part, as those who have never known what it is to nutler 1

That a life of hardship and exertion has a tendency to produce that class of manly and heroic virtues which the present selfindulgent habits of vast numbers among us have a direct influence to extinguish, is a fruth forced upon my observation by my connection with a class of men whose lite is one of constant toil, and frequent ex posure to suffering and danger. I allude to the seamen engaged in the merchant service. Little does the world in general know or appreciate the trials and hardships undergone by these men, their couragoous onterprise, their unflinching firmness, their heroic struggles in situations of extreme danger and difficulty. Yet to them are our luxurious people mainly indebted for most of the physical comforts they enjoy, for even our home manufactures could not be carried on without our imports from placed across the deck abuft the mainmost abroad. It is my intention in the following | Our work, however, was scarcely comstory, not to work up a tale of fictitious ploted, when we found the leak gaming so adventures, or even to color the truth fast upon us that we were obliged to ship highly by way of exciting the imagination | the chain and attend only to the pumps, of my readers, but to give a simple and the wind and sea continuing in the same unblemished account of some passages in | boisterous state. The starboard pump had the seaman's life, in the plain artless language in which they were related to me had to be steered by the sails, in order to by the very actors in those trying scenes. I must add that the instances I shall being tack. We were drifting fast northwards, forward are by no means of an unusual or singular kind, but that many cases of equal difficulty and suffering are constantly coming under my notice. I shall begin by Wo must have died of hunger had it not the narrative of a summan belonging to a brig of about 206 tons, engaged in the this our extremity served us for food, and palm oil trude from Bonny River, on the thus saved our lives. From this day forwestern coast of Africa, to Liverpool. His word, the 8th of January, we had nothing wasn tale not only of danger and defliculty, to subsist on but palm oil and peppers, faced with resolution and firmuoss, but of mixed with a wine glass of flour and the privation and anxiety, borne with unrepin- sume of rice, and half a pint of water ing patience; and here let me remark, that served out to each man daily. We took if one or two of my dainty young nequamtances had been passengers on board the larboard pump. Being entirely at the good brig — during her last voyage, mercy of the winds and the waves, we felt they might have learnt a lesson of selfdenial and endurance which would have was a chance that we ever should behold been of service to them through life. But now let me commence my story.

"We sailed, sir," said my friend the of an over-rating Providence. The perils sailor, a fine manly youth, of about two or of the deep open a man's heart, sir, to three-and-twenty, "upon the 9th of Sep- religion, and we all of us, I humbly trust, tember, 18-, from Bonny River. Our vessel was bound for Liverpool, being laden with a cargo of palm oil and peppers. Palm oil, as you doubtless know, sir, is the juice of the nut or fruit of the palm tree, proved to be the rocky coast of the Shet- (Elios Guineents) and is a great article of land Islands. The captain had the boat trade on the western coast of Africa, south lowered, and we all got into it and abanof Ferdinando Po. It is something of the doned the brig, thinking to save our lives thickness of butter, and is of a yellowish by rowing to the shore. The wind had color. You must often have seen them somewhat lailed, but we soon found that grensing the wheels of the railway carriages no boat could five in such a sea, so, retember, our vessel being then tight, staunch, near the shore that we could distinguish reverence with which he always spoke of and strong, well manned, rigged and fitted, the sea birds on the cliffs and hear the herthe masts and pumps all in order, the screams of the cormorant on his rocky had cought the fever in the marshes, and said in despair, to see the sun of that day and suffering for his sake—the gentle were ill below when we set sail. We were in all twelve souls, counting the captain, and we had been for a year at Bonny River, tading with the cargo we had brought from Liverpool, consisting of manufactured goods, gun-powder, and beads, which the

freight with which we were now returning to our own country. The first part of our voyage was prosperous, but upon the 26th of December we were overtaken by a 21st of January, to our inexpressible joy, and the deep, strong, deathless love with musts, as she was then water-logged. The hers alone-but every head which age Faro Islands, as you doubless know, had silvered o'er was reverenced for her belong to Denmark. There are 22 of them, sake. but only 17 are inhabited. The coasts are steep and rugged, and the interior of the the level of the sea; that in Stromoe opwards of 2,000 feet. The days at the time of our arrival were not five hours long, of January, when the wind veered suddenly but the aurora borealis lighted up the long to the south, we being then about 600 miles and dreary night. We were thinly clad to the west of Cape Clear. A heavy sea away the rudder head, the vessel shipping nearly dead with fatigue and anxiety, great quantities of water. The leaks were increasing, and the crew were almost exlonger, as the roughness of the sea prehausted, four of our men being sick below, and anable to perform any work; the rest January the weather moderated a little, of us kept the pumps going as well as we and geiting once again into the boat, we were able, until the evening of the 6th of made for the Island of Wideron. Our January, when the rudder was carried adverse fortune pursued us to the last, for away by the violence of the waves. Night here our boat was wrocked upon the rocks was closing in around us, and a gale was and dashed to pieces, and the manner in then blowing from the south-cust, with a which we all escaped, and contrived at last frightful sea. The same wave that tore to gain the shore was little short of miraculous. We were more dead than alive, and even then should have perished had it not been for the kindness of the simple-hearted and hospitable natives, ho lavished every care upon us which their slender meun would permit, feeding and clothing us, and formsling or as soon as we were sufficiently recovered with the means of returning to our own country." thoughtloss, careless lives, first fearnt to

of the 7th, three of our sick men breather

Another, for several days before his death

had been definous, and although the

wouther had become intensely cold, funcied

hunself in the burning jungle of Africa.

He raved of the tropical fruits he thought

he saw hanging on the trees above his

head, and which he tried in vain to reach

m order to cool his thirst, and in the fever

that consumed him, be impatiently east off

every covering which we had upon him

The third who died was a lad of fourteen,

my own brother. He sunk under the

some fever which his comrades died of.

Poor boy! he laid his head on my shoulder

and expired without a struggle in my arms

He was my only brother, sir; I had the

charge of him ever since he was sever

years old, for we were orphans, and now

no is dead and I am alone in the world."

Here the miler paused, and brushed away

a tear from his eye with the back of his rugged hand. "I think str, he resumed,

with a sigh, "that this charge thus laid

non me at so early an age, made me more

thoughtful and more attentive to my duties

than I should also have been, and now

have lost him. I felt when he died like a

mother who had lost her child, but in the

loisure for indulging in grief. We wrapped

our dead in their shrouls, and committed

them to the deep with a hurried prayer;

we had no time for more, for all hands

wore needed at the pumps, as the leak in

"On the 8th of January we had put over

the ship's stern ten fathems of chain cable,

vessel by tackle attached to another spar

got damaged and uscless, and the vessel

keep her from sinking, on the starboard

the brig being new perfectly unmanageable.

been for the cargo of palm oil, which in

it in turn to work day and night at the

in this protracted struggle for life that it

sir, we all felt that we were in the hands

became more thoughtful men during that

revived by the distant sight of land; it

"On the 18th of January our hopes

fearfol voyage.

floated by a spar, in order to steer the

the ship was increasing at a fearful rate.

peril that threatened us, there was no

The seaman was sheat. " And what," anid I " are your plans for the future?" felt interested in him, and wished much in my heart to serve him. "On," replied he garly, "I am now on my way to Liverpool; my old cuptain has just got the command many dangers together, and I am to join him on board the day after to-morrow. We sail in a week for Bonny River, and shall be absent a year. If God should spare our lives, I will call on you, air, when

I return." Thus, render, ends my scantan's story.

MY MOTHER'S HAIR IS GRAY. "the lamp—thy mother's love—aund the stars Shail life its pure name changeless, and below the throne of tool burn through exemily— lion—as it was it and lear they here."

" Pardon me, Miss Edwards, I canno ngree with you. To one gray hair is beautiful. My mother's hair is gray." A deep sitence followed these words.-The low, enthest, reverential tons in which they were spoken had impressed the gayest

of that gay young group.

The speaker had numbered more than forty years. He was above the medium neight, his frame indicating vigor and manty strongth, rather than grace or beauty .-- The face, though far from handsome, at once inspired both confidence and respect. Its ordinary expression was grave, smiles rarely visited it, but when they came, the effect was like a bright beam of sunshine in a shady prace. Around the broad, high brow, clustered graceful curls of brown hair .- The contour of the head was singularly beautiful and more than redeemed the planness of the face. He was a man of great moral and mental power, to whom his acquaintances looked up with admiration that was little short of reverence. By the magic of his eloquence he could sway a listoning multitude as the leaf-burdened branches of the forest trees are swayed by the winds of heaven. He had an enviable reputation as a man of learning, and he was one of

the blessed few Nor buy the attention of with the beact."

His influence was telt in the political world. Offices of honor and emolument were pressed upon him, and he had but to listen to the promptings of umbition to scale the dizziest heights of popular tavor. He was the poor man's triend. The willow and the orphan never claimed his sympathy in vain. Kind words, which are the true measure of benevolence, " Feel from him noiseless as the snow,"

and made glad the hearts of the needy. Ho knew the "names of husband and of father." The brightest ornaments of the modest cottage, where he had set up his household gods, were his beautiful sweet-voiced wife, and a group of fair haired children, who clustered like olive plants around his table. His absence from home was like the withdrawal of light from the loving household of which he was the head; his presence when he land ugain; a chance, did I say; oh no, returned seemed to them

"------to brighten light,
And give back sunshine with an added glow." He was a christian, not by profession only but in deed and truth. The religion was not a dead letter; a matter of mere formal belief, and more formal practice. but a living, active principle which regulated all his actions. He did not wear it like a Sunday coat, to be laid upon the shelf at the going down of the sun, but he wore it through the week, in the hurry of business, and the pursuit of pleasure, in the house and by the way.

That which more perhaps than any. thing else gave grace and beauty to his with it. The blacks out it as we do butter, luctually, we put back to the ship, to wait character, was the love he bore his mother, but I can certify to its being food not much it possible for more moderate weather. The watchtal care with which he smoothed to the taste of a Christian. Well, as I Onwards we drifted, powerless to arrest the path of her declining years, his unsaid before, we set sail on the 9th of S p. our involuntary course. We passed so wearied devotion to her comtort, and the

"To me gray hair is beautiful. My hatches properly secured, and in every perch. Onwards we drifted still; to land; mother's narr is gray." He could rememother respect well provided and furnished was impossible, for the sea ran mountains; ber when that same gray hair was dark for the voyage. Right glad were we to high, and we heard the distant roar of the and glossy as a taven's plane-when the get to sea, for Bonny River is a most desperakers dashing on the rocks. Onwards, calm pale brow it shaded was free from testable spot. It is an arm of the Niger, still onwards did we speed, and now the wrinkles—when the now colorless check falling into the Bight of Binfin. The shores receded from our longing eyes, was flushed with the resettint of nealth and country round is an unhealthy swamp, and we were once again in the wife happiness. He remembered how careswarming with musquitoes, and as hot as ocean; no land in sight, our hopes well tuly she guarded his helpless infancy. the inside of a boiler. Several of our men nigh extinguished in anguish, I had almost cheertelity bearing privation, weariness

black natives took in exchange for the was of God's mercy that the wind did not force with which she restrained him durveer and drive us off into the boundless ing the season of his impetuous youth-Northern Ocean, there to perish to a cer- the proud affection with which she marked trinty. But it kept steady, and upon the the noble development of his manhoodwe made the Faro Islands, and letting go which ail his life long she had covered our anchor, brought up the vessei opposite him as with a garment. And to him now, the Island of Fluegloe. In order to save in the pride and vigor of his manhood, her from capsizing, we cut away both even her gray hairs were beautiful. Nor

> In this busy, bustling age of the world, when the accumulation of wealth and the islands very mountainous. The high land passion for public honors engross so large in Osteroe towers nearly 3,000 feet above a share of men's time and thoughts, reveshare of men's time and thoughts, reverence for the old is in danger of being accounted an old fashioned duty, to be laid aside with hopes and furbelows, powdered Vicinity, that his Fall Stock of wigs, and silver knee backles. The command, " Honor thy father and mother," for these high latitudes, the flour and the which to many minds savors too strongly rice were quite exhausted, and we were of things beyond the flood to claim present obedience, is as binding now as on the nevertheless, we had still to want four days day God uttered it from Sinai. Even in the absence of a direct command, every vented our landing. On the 24th of high and noble sentiment of man's nature prompts him to yield to his mother the iomage of a love, if not as deep and tender, at least as pure and changeless as supplied. her own.

few and simple, enough but they revealed much. I thought how it would have quickened the mother's languid pulse, and how the weary heart, now almost home, would have leaped with joy had they fallen on her cars. Involuntarily, as it were the man whom the world called great had offered this tribute of fitted affection, and expressed his reverence for the "crown of glory" which gray hairs become to those who are found in the paths of righteousness.

Many a mother lives, whose gray hairs have no beauty in the eyes of her children, and claim no reverence from those for whose welfare she would cheerfully pour out her heart's blood. Many a mother's love is repaid by unkindness and inof another vessel in the palm oil trade; I gratitude. Many an hour of wearisome am attached to him, we have gone through toil and patient watching meets with no other recompense than deeds, the knowledge of which ring her faithful heart with arguish. Yet through all the misfortunes. even through the dishonor of her children. her love knows no variableness. Her sympathy is given, though unsought, it is not forced upon the attention, but its spothing power is felt. In the silent night watches her tears flow for them, unbidden. and her voice goes op in supplication that He who never slumbers will watch over and comfort them. In their presence her heart is never weary of planning nor her band of executing sweet offices of officetion; and in their absence the arms of her love are ever around them, and the incense of her prayers in their behalf rises continually before the Erernal one. A mother's love!

O There is none
In all this cold and helow world, no fount
Of deep, strong, deathless love, save that within
A nother's heart."

THOMAS BILTON, Merchant Tailor and Robe Maker.

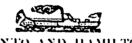
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