

WEEKLY MISCELLANY.

Devoted to the Intellectual and Moral Improvement of the Young.

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AUTUMN REVERIES.

The leaves have fallen at last, and the first puff of Winter's breath has come, with its visions of a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, and all the other delights for which it gives so keen a relish. In another month we may hope to gather round the fireside in honor of King Winter's holidays, and, thinking only of the pleasures of bye-gone times, and the good cheer of the present, forget the bleak days that are ahead. In England the Yule logs will blaze, and the bells ring merrily out a welcome to a time that brings good will to all; and far away in the "frozen North" there will be strange old legends told of the times of which a Danish poet with an outlandish name wrote, when he said,

"The Nors-man's king is on the sea,
Though bitter wintry cold it be
On the wild ways his Yule keeps he."

For four or five long months stores of intellectual pleasure will be laid at our feet. While the Earth is resting under Winter's sway, we may be obtaining new strength and vigor of mind, learning of the marvels amid which we live, so that when the leaves unfold again and the birds come back, we may see new beauty in them all, and more cause for wonder, love and praise to Him who made and controls the universe.

The works of Nature invite us to earnest and minute investigation. Work of Art often strike any vision most pleasingly from a distance, but in all the natural objects around us there is a touch of beauty, sometimes of magnificence, that is kept as a reward for patient and diligent search. A few winter evenings' study may show to us wonders in the most common forms of insect life, may explain to us the tiny land shells that look

like specks of mould on the withered forest leaves, and may teach us lessons, stranger than many a romance, from the pebbles that lie upon our beach. If we become weary in exploring the realm of Nature, we may go to the storehouse of History and Biography, and learn how great men wrought their way in other days, how ancient Rome and Greece struggled for the mastery of the world, and how at last the great spirits that animated them both declined, leaving the nations, changed in all but name, to wear the laurels which they won; ever keeping in mind as we read, what all should teach, that truth will prevail, that honesty is the right policy, and that the best wealth is that which is accompanied by a sense of right conduct and the smile of divine approval.

Thus may each season find us, and leave us, better than ever we were before; more capable of enjoying the delights which are spread around us, and fitter to enter upon the new train of duties, the new course of life which every year brings round.

Nova Scotia is sometimes favored with delightful weather in November, called by naturalists, Indian Summer. To this interval between Autumn and Winter a popular poet thus alludes:

A few smiles more, departing distant snail
Some mellow smiles thro' the soft vapoury air,

Ere, o'er the frozen earth the loud winds run,

Or snows are sifted o'er the meadows bare.

Smiles on the brown hills and the leafless trees.

And the dark rocks whose summer wreaths are cast

And the blue gentian-flower, that, in the breeze

Nods lonely, of the beautiful race the last.

Yet a few sunny days in which the bee
Shall murmur by the hedge that skirts the way,

The cricket chirp upon the russet-leaves,
And men delight to linger in thy ray.

A few rich smiles and we will try to bear
The piercing winter frosts and darkened air."

CULTIVATE THE IMAGINATION.

As the imagination is the essential part of the genius of the poet, presenting to him analogies and relations which are not perceived by ordinary minds, so it is the main instrument of discovery in science and of invention in the arts. To the philosopher who enters on a new field of inquiry, it furnishes lights which illuminate his path and lead him onward in his journey—fallacious lights indeed if he trusts implicitly to them, but far other wise if he takes them for no more than they are worth, not supposing that they can in any degree supersede the necessity of strict observation and a hesitating and a cautious judgment. Such is the history of all the great achievements in the inductive sciences; nor is it otherwise even with those sciences in which we have to deal, not with probabilities, but with absolute certainties. How many crude notions must have passed through Newton's mind before he completed the invention of fluxions! So it is with all other human pursuits, whether it be in the case of Marlborough or Wellington arranging the plan of a campaign, or of Columbus directing his course over the hitherto unexplored Atlantic Ocean, or of Watt engaged in the invention of the steam-engine. Wherever great things are accomplished, it is the imagination which begins the work, and the reason and judgment which complete it.—*Brooks's "Psychological Enquiries."*

LAUNCHED at Maitland, one day last week, a fine brigantine called the Lilly, 250 tons register, built by G. Smith, Esq. for himself, Capt. Esdale and others. This vessel takes a cargo of plaster from Windsor, and goes to the United States in search of employ, in charge of Capt. Esdale, well and favorably known.

A fine two top-mast schr. named the Conquerall, was launched at LaHave, Lunenburg County, on 27th ult. from the shipyard of Mr. M. Weagles, for John McKean & Co. She is about 225 ton, carpenters' measurement. There is also on the stocks at LaHave, two others, the one a schr. owned by Edward Mullock, Esq., the other a brig. owned by E. Hubb & Co.—*Chron.*