

of the sea. The next highest of these mountains is Illimani, in Peru, the summit of which exceeds 24,200 feet.—Chimborazo, which was formerly supposed to be the loftiest of the Andes, has an elevation of 21,420 feet,—5000 of which, from the summit, are covered with snow. The peak of Teneriff, in the island of that name, is 12,182 feet, or upwards of two miles high. Mount Blanc, the loftiest mountain in Europe, is 15,810 feet above the level of the sea. These altitudes, although apparently very considerable, are nothing when compared with the magnitude of the globe. Thus, if an inch were divided into one hundred and eleven parts, the elevation of Chimborazo, on a globe of eighteen inches in diameter, would be represented by only one of these parts. Hence, the earth which appears to be crossed by the enormous ridges of lofty mountains, and cut by the valleys and the great depths of the sea, is nevertheless, with respect to its magnitude, only very slightly furrowed with irregularities, so trifling, indeed, as to cause no difference in its spherical figure.

The more remarkable changes which the surface of the earth has undergone may be reduced to two general causes, floods and earthquakes.

Thomas Keith.

INCENTIVES TO READING.

EVERYTHING that passes around you, everything that you meet upon your walk, is a stimulus to read. The very roll of the tide, the fall of the leaf in autumn, the growth of the grass in spring, the roar of the tempest, or the starry firmament, each and every one of these things is a subject in itself. Do you understand these things? Do you know their changes? If you do not, don't say that you want a stimulus to read. Each of them is a study in itself; they are studies that will amuse you, that will instruct you, and that will elevate you.

THE BIBLE.

How comes it that this little volume, composed by humble men, in a rude age, when art and science were but in their childhood, has exerted more influence on the human mind and on the social system than all the other books put together? Whence comes it that this book

has achieved such marvelous changes in the opinion of mankind—has banished idol worship—has abolished infanticide—has put down polygamy and divorce—exalted the condition of woman—raised the standard of public morality—created for families that blessed thing, a Christian home, and caused its other triumphs by causing benevolent institutions, open and expansive, to spring up as with the wand of enchantment? What sort of a book is this that even the winds and waves of human passion obey it? What other engine of social improvement has operated so long, and yet lost none of its virtue? Since it appeared, many boasted plans of amelioration have been tried and failed—many codes of jurisprudence, have arisen, and run their course. Empire after empire has been launched upon the tide of time, and gone down, leaving no trace upon the waters. But this book is still going about doing good, leavening society with its holy principles—cheering the sorrowful with its consolation—strengthening the tempted, encouraging the penitent—calming the troubled spirit—and smoothing the pillow of death. Can such a book be the offspring of human genius? Does not the vastness of its effects demonstrate the excellency of the power to be of God?

The Woodstock Journal.

THE MOTHER MOULDS THE MAN.

THAT it is the mother who moulds the man, is a sentiment beautifully illustrated by the following recorded observation of a shrewd writer:—“When I lived among the Choctaw Indians, I held a consultation with one of their Chiefs respecting the successive stages of their progress in the arts of civilized life; and among other things, he informed me that, at their start, they fell into a great mistake—they only sent their boys to schools. These boys came home intelligent men, but they married uneducated and uncivilized wives—and the uniform result was, their children were all like their mothers. Their father soon lost all his in both wife and children. And now,” said he, “if we would educate but one class of our children, we should the girls, for when they become mothers they educate their sons.” This is the point, and it is true.—No nation can become fully enlightened when mothers are not in a good degree qualified to discharge the duties of the house-work of education.

Ib.