

The Squirrel's Lesson.

Two little squirrels, out in the sun,
One gathered nuts, and the other gathered none.
"Time enough yet," his constant refrain;
"Summer is still only just on the wane."

Listen, my child, while I tell you his fate;
He roused him at last, but he roused him too late.
Down fell the snow from a pitiless cloud,
And gave little squirrel a spotless white shroud.

Two little boys in a school-room were placed,
One always perfect, the other disgraced:
"Time enough yet for thy learning," he said,
"I will climb, by and by, from the foot to the head."

Listen, my darling; their locks are turned gray;
One as a governor sitteth to-day;
The other, a pauper, looks out at the door
Of the almshouse, and idles his days as of yore.

Two kinds of people we meet every day;
One is at work, the other at play,
Living uncare for, dying unknown—
The busiest hive hath ever a drone.

Tell me, my child, if the squirrels have taught
The lesson I longed to implant in your thought!
Answer me this, and my story is done—
Which of the two would you be, little one?

—*Growing World.*

Etiquette.

A young man, some days after becoming a student at college, was enjoying a row on a neighboring stream. Through mismanagement, the boat was upset within a few yards of the bank, and not being a swimmer he was in considerable danger.

A townsman on the bank, regarding his struggles, at last appealed in great excitement to another student near him, whose flannel dress seemed to point him out as no novice on the water, and who was also watching the issue in evident hesitation.

"For Heaven's sake, sir, if you can swim, give him a hand," he cried—"he's only a few yards' distant."

"Oh, I can swim well enough," was the slowly uttered reply; "but you see, the fellow has never been introduced to me."

Courtesy is a distinctive feature of civilized and intelligent society. It is the most beautiful illustration of the refining power which a higher development of humanity always exerts upon our race. By courtesy we mean that behavior of man towards man which he would ask for himself. It is but another and instinctive mode on the part of intelligent society of carrying out this great Christian motto, which lies at the base of good order and harmony among men; "Do unto others as ye would that others should do unto you."

ABOUT TALKING.—Language gives fullness under the eyes. It is very large in the head of Charles Dickens. Language gives the power of conversation—of communicating our ideas to others. This faculty does not give us the ability to learn other languages—only to talk our own. The ability to acquire other languages than our own depends upon other faculties, combined with this. A child brought up with Germans will talk German; with French, French; with English, English; with the Italians, Italian. We all learn to talk, and the child will learn to talk the language it hears, whatever that may be. And if the child hears low, vulgar, coarse, inelegant language, it will learn to use that language, and will use it. And it chaste, pure, elegant, elevated conversation, the child will imbibe the same taste. It behooves parents to take care of the manner and substance of what they say before their children, it is also very clear that the silly, nonsensical stuff talked to children is not only very silly, but equally injurious.—*Phrenological Journal.*

CURIOUS AND SCIENTIFIC.

Japan Varnish.

The beautiful black Japan varnish, so much admired by everybody, is the production of a tree which grows wild both in Japan and China. The yield of the tree is greatly increased by cultivation, and huge plantations of it are raised. It requires seven or eight years for a tree to reach maturity, when the varnish is gathered as follows: At midsummer, a number of laborers proceed to the plantations, each furnished with a crooked knife, and a quantity of hollow shells, larger than oyster shells. With their knives they make many incisions in the bark of the trees, about two inches in length and under each incision they force in the edge of the shell, which easily penetrates the soft bark and remains in the tree. This operation is performed in the evening; as the varnish flows only at night. The next morning, the workmen again proceed to the plantation. Each shell is then found to be either wholly or partially filled with varnish. This they scrape out carefully with their knives, depositing it in a vessel they carry with them, and throw the shells into a basket at the foot of the tree. In the evening, the shells are replaced, and the collection of the varnish is repeated the next morning. This process goes on the rest of the summer, or until the varnish ceases to flow. It is calculated that fifty trees, which can be attended to by a single workman, will yield a pound of varnish every night. When the gathering is over, the varnish is strained through a thin cloth, loosely suspended over an earthen vessel. The varnish has a corrosive property, very injurious to the workmen employed in its preparation, and the utmost care is taken to avoid its distressing effects. It causes a kind of tetter to appear on the face, which in the course of a few days, spreads over the whole body. The skin grows red and painful, the head swells, and the entire surface of the body becomes covered with troublesome sores. The artisans who use the varnish can work only in the season when the north wind blows.

VARNISH FOR DRAWINGS, MAPS.—A varnish for paper which produces no stains may be prepared, according to the *Polyt. Notizblatt*, as follows. Clear damar resin is covered, in a flask, with four and a half to six times its quantity of acetone, and allowed to stand for fourteen days at a moderate temperature, after which the clear solution is poured off. Three parts of this solution is mixed with four parts of thick collodion, and the mixture allowed to become clear by standing. It is applied with a soft camel's or beaver's hair-brush in vertical strokes. At first, the coating looks like a thin white film; but, on complete drying, it becomes transparent and shining. It should be laid on two or three times. It retains its elasticity under all circumstances, and remains glossy in every kind of weather.

A NEW PRESERVATIVE.—It seems that for some time past there has been extensively employed throughout Germany a peculiar fluid substance, which has received the name of Carbolineum, and which being almost a fluid, as water, is very readily applied, not alone to wood-work, but to hempen goods generally. Its peculiar recommendation is due to the fact that it forms an excellent preservative agent for articles liable to contact with damp soil, or for such as are purposely destined for prolonged immersion in water; for example, wooden piles and the mesh-work of fishing nets. The new preservative is an oil, apparently of the petroleum class, and has been found to contain, amongst other compounds, about ten per cent. of carbolic acid. One peculiar feature possessed by it is, that while it freely sinks into wood exposed to its action, and which it materially hardens, it does not close up the pores.—*Christian Union.*

A gentleman near Winchester made a rookery in front of his house in which he planted some beautiful ferns, and having put up the following notice, found it more efficient and less expensive than spring-guns or man-traps. The fear-inspiring inscription was: "Beggars beware; Scolopendriums and Polypodioms are set here." The wall of a gentleman's house near Edinburgh some years since exhibited a board on which was painted a threat quite as difficult for the trespasser so understand as the preceding: "Any person entering these inclosures will be shot and prosecuted."