

attention to the lesser details of any species of occupation; and we frequently find, that the greater the celebrity to which a man has attained, the closer has been his observation of the minor duties of his profession. It is told that Bonaparte considered no detail too low for his inspection, and nothing too trifling to be unworthy of notice. The Duke of Wellington acted upon the same principle in his campaigns: one day, inquiring of an officer about some minute details regarding the equipage of the troops, the officer replied, "that he did not consider the knowledge of such things within his province." "Not within your province!" exclaimed the Duke; "why, sir, I know the number of nails in every soldier's shoe."

The amount of valuable information, on all kinds of subjects, with which many individuals have it in their power to store their minds, and which by incidental circumstances may be brought to bear on some useful object, merely by attending to things apparently trifling—by considering no source of information too low, provided it be an honourable one, is altogether astonishing. The time that most people are consuming in idleness, or with a disregard of the minutiae of general occupation, others, who are aware of the value of knowledge, are assiduously picking it up wherever it is to be found, and carefully applying it wherever it is discovered to be useful. By this means a man becomes impregnable at all points; he is able to say something on all subjects; he obtains the reputation of a man of intelligence, and his force of character, as well as his known application, lead him to offices of distinction and respectable opulence—*Chambers's Edinburgh Journal.*

REVIEW.

MANUAL OF ENGLISH GRAMMAR, by the Rev. J. McCulloch, A. M. Edinburgh, 1835; price 2s. 3.

It is well known that the mode of education in Britain, has been lately undergoing highly important changes; but, in this country it is not so generally known, that the author of the little work now before us, has contributed much to its improvement.* This *Manual* is a philosophical and practical treatise, and displays not only a critical knowledge of the English language, but a minute acquaintance with the principles of universal grammar. For originality of conception and clearness of definition, it excels any that has been published since the days of Lindley Murray; and, in the latter department, even the work of this great author cannot maintain its former superiority.

Mr. McCulloch represents Grammar as a science rather than an art, and does not labour under the erroneous impression that the only object of the teacher is, to instruct youth in the principles of parsing, and of rectifying false syntax; without contemplating the great aim of education, the power of composing accurately. He seems to be the only writer on the subject, who has taken a correct view of the object of a grammatical treatise. Previous authors have, in many instances, formed arbitrary rules for language—his rules are deduced from its national and established usage; and he has accordingly stated his object to be, to collect and record the leading facts, respecting this usage.

Orthography and prosody, which are better learned by practice than by theory, are neither totally neglected, nor assigned a place too prominent: sufficient is said on these branches, to remove all difficulties from the way of the theoretical student. In Etymology and Syntax, this little treatise is far superior to any other that we have seen on the same subject. The original view of the verb in particular.

*Of elementary works for which the English reader is highly indebted to Mr. McCulloch, we may mention the two following, as superior to any thing of the kind now in use in the schools, and which together with the *Manual*, may be had at this office:

1. A series of Lessons, in prose and verse, progressively arranged; intended as an introduction to the "Course of elementary reading in Science and Literature." Price 4s.

2. A course of elementary reading in Science and Literature, compiled from popular writers, for the use of schools; to which is added a copious list of the Latin and Greek primitives, which enter into the compositions of the English language. Price 5s. 3d.

should arrest the attention of the candid teacher: as it is quite an innovation on the long established theory of Grammarians. In our opinion, its correctness and simplicity are equally commendable: it is adapted to the most ordinary capacity, and removes many of those obstacles which have hitherto opposed the progress of the industrious student.

Too much cannot be said in praise of Mr. McCulloch's diligence and research in collecting and arranging the sections on derivation. This is quite a new thing in works of this description; and its utility in removing the difficulties under which our best teachers formerly laboured, cannot be too highly appreciated. On a careful perusal of this branch of Etymology, no person can be so absurd as to say that a knowledge of Latin and Greek, are useless appendages to education. The classical scholar will always find both advantage and amusement, in tracing words to their origin, in endeavouring to understand their primitive meaning, and carefully observing the different shades which, through a succession of ages, they have undergone. But the portion of the work now under consideration, in some measure, supersedes the necessity of studying the ancient languages methodically, and will be found highly beneficial to the mere English scholar.

In Syntax, the rules are equally simple with the definitions in Etymology. The memory of the learner is not burdened with such long and intricate rules, as have been given by Murray, and succeeding Grammarians, who have scarcely deviated from the long trodden track.

In the education of youth, the proneness of human nature to extremes, is frequently exhibited. Some teachers over-burden the memory with unintelligible technical jargon, while others permit this faculty to receive little or no exercise, as if nature intended it should sleep forever.—The work before us recommends an intermediate course. The leading definitions, after being thoroughly understood by the pupil, are to be committed to memory; and the youth is not taught parrot-like to repeat so many words, without understanding a particle of what he utters.

If this work does not supersede the Grammars now in use, it must be attributed to prejudice, or a disposition to adhere to what is so improperly called the "good old system of education." Murray and Lennie may linger in the hands of the schoolboy, like Dilworth's Spelling-book, but this is no proof that there is not a better work in existence.

CORBETT'S CHARACTERISTICS BY HIMSELF.

'Thrown,' says he, 'by my own will, indeed, on the wide world, at a very early age, not more than eleven or twelve years, without money to support, without friends to advise, and without book-learning to assist me; passing a few years dependent solely on my own labour for subsistence; then becoming a common soldier and leading a military life, chiefly in foreign parts, for eight years; quitting that life after really, for me, high promotion, and with, for me, a large sum of money; marrying at an early age; going at once to France to acquire the French language, thence to America; passing eight years there, becoming bookseller and author, and taking a prominent part in all the important discussions of the interesting period from 1793 to 1799 during which there was in that country a continued struggle carried on between the English and the French parties, returning to England in 1800, resuming my labours here, suffering, during twenty-nine years, two years of imprisonment, heavy fines, three years' self-banishment to the other side of the Atlan-

tic, and a total breaking of fortune, so as to be left without a bed to lie on; and during these twenty-nine years, of troubles and of punishments, writing and publishing, every week of my life, whether in exile or not, eleven weeks only excepted, a periodical paper, containing more or less of matter worthy of public attention; writing and publishing, during the same twenty-nine years, thirty volumes on various, useful, and popular subjects. Yet mere genius did not acquire this for me. There must be something more than genius: there must be industry—there must be perseverance—there must be, before the eyes of the nation, proofs of extraordinary exertion,—people must say to themselves, 'What wise conduct must there have been in the employment of the time of this man! How sober, how sparing in diet, how early a riser, how little expensive he must have been!' These are the things and not genius, which have caused my labours to be so incessant and so successful."

UNITED STATES.

GREAT FIRES AT NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, AUGUST 16.—There is no city in the world so subject to fires as New York, with the exception perhaps of Constantinople—and on no occasion has the former city been visited with a more awful disaster of this kind than in the conflagration which broke out in Fulton street last Wednesday morning. It commenced in the second story of No. 115 of that street, occupied by Mr. Burritt, druggist, and spread with unexampled rapidity right through the block into Ann street, crossed this street, destroyed the catholic chapel there, and made its way into Beekman street, diverging literally when it reached Ann street, and stopping on the east and west at William and Nassau streets. The destruction, as may be imagined, was immense, and we regret to state that four lives were lost. In common with our brethren of the press we cannot avoid attributing the wide range and extension of this devastating calamity to the extremely superficial manner in which buildings are now run up, as if merely to answer a temporary emergency, instead of the construction of a permanent edifice. Some measures ought to be taken by the city authorities to protect the public, and an inspector of buildings should be appointed by whom all plans, elevations, and specifications of buildings should be examined and controuled.

The ravages in Ann street, more particularly among our contemporaries and the penny Dailies, was beyond precedent. At No. 32, 1st story, Old Countryman office; 2d and 3d, a bindery, and 4th and 5th, Wm E. Dean, Printer—building entirely destroyed. No. 31.—5 story, totally destroyed—occupied in the basement as a press-room, with two Napiers, belonging to H. Anderson, value \$3000—insured \$1500 on that and printing office in 3d story, which alone was valued at \$1500. First story of same building, Transcript paper; publication materials mostly saved. 2d story, Jeffersonian; materials partly saved. 4th story, furniture of the old catholic church, temporarily deposited there, entirely destroyed. 5th story, printing office of the New Yorker, (Greely and Winchester.) Their total loss is about \$2,500, having saved, out of the general wreck, only a few papers. Nos. 35 and 40, 2 story brick, entirely destroyed: On the opposite side of the street, No. 32, a 5 story brick, occupied as a paper warehouse below, and as a bindery in the third story. No. 33, occupied by Mr. Scott, printer, Mr. Redfield, stereotype founder, and others—both destroyed. This was also the printing office of the Mirror, 5000 copies of which beautiful periodical, prepared for the present week, were destroyed; a small portion only of which was insured. Also the catholic church, and a two story brick house adjoining.

Twenty-one of the finest printing offices in town—eleven binderies, including thirteen publishing establishments of Newspapers—five of which were large, and eight penny papers, have been among the property destroyed.

At least 1000 individuals have been thrown out of employ by this disaster, among whom are about 500 females employed in the book binding business.

The following are the amounts insured at the respective offices, but we are afraid that not one quarter of the loss will be covered thereby:

Howard,	- - - - -	\$12,000
Fireman's	- - - - -	20,000
Washington,	- - - - -	30,000
Traders,	- - - - -	10,000
Franklin,	- - - - -	4,000