

"Ob, lois! I dun'no. Old?—he's old enuff for any ting, I guess. How old be yer, nigger—do yer know?"

"Te-hee! te-hee!" tittered the old man; "te-hee! te-hee! I dun'no, Winny, gal. I 'spects I 'se older dan you be, but I dun'no—te-hee! te-hee!"

"Wal, I shouldn't wonder if yer wuz," said Winny, quietly regarding him.

"And have you got a mother, too, Winny?" inquired Alice.

"A mudder?—no, I guess not. I neber heerd o' none. Say, ole nigger!" turning to her father, "we ain't got no mudder, hab we?"

"Te-hee! te-hee! No, no, Winny, gal," tittered the old man. "No mudder! no mudder! no, no!—te-hee! te-hee!"

"I tort not," said Winny, turning to Alice. "Yer see we two haz been pardners a many years, an' I guess dar ain't no mudder in de biz'ness: I neber see none roun'. Yer didn't neber hab no mudders, did ye, Dro?"

"Te-hee! te-hee! Neber a mudder, gal—neber; te-hee! te-hee!"

"Is he so very deaf, Winny?" asked Alice, finding that Winny raised her voice almost to a scream whenever she addressed her father.

"Derf?—he? No, nor blind nuther. I wish he wuz: at this time o' life it would be a sight more respectable like if he wuz one o' t'other o' 'um. He ought to be 'shamed o' hisself, not to have no infirmities, an' he so awful ole. It 'pears as if the Lord had clean forgot the ole fellow—don't it now? An' 'twixen you an' I, Alice, I rather 'spect He 'haz."

"Oh, Winny, don't talk so," said Alice, her own tender filial feelings toward her only relative, her grandmother, making Winny's unfilial disrespect to her aged parent seem shocking to her. "Oh! don't talk so; you would be sorry if he were to die."

"Die! Who die? He?—Jad? Cutch im at it; I'd like to see 'im do it. Nut he! He ain't goin' to die, I know. He don't want to, an' he dun'no how to, if he did. He neber died in all his life, an' I guess he aint goin' to larn now. He's too old to larn nuffin'. He'll neber die: he wouldn't know how to begin."

"But, Winny," said Alice, returning to the main point in question, "do you think he can do what we want?"

"I don't see why he can't; for the massy's soul's sake, why no? But I'll ax him. Here, you ole rogue ob a nigger," she said, addressing her parent, "you kin build a hen-coop, you can't yer?"

"Te-hee! te-hee! No, Winny, gal,—no!" tittered the cracked old voice; "I can't make no hen-coop—te-hee!"

"Yer can't? An' why not can't yer? Yes, yer can, too. Why can't yer?"

"Te-hee! te-hee! Winny, gal, aint got no boards—can't make hen-coop widout boards—te-hee! te-hee!"

"Lordy! yer old fool! we wuz 'spectin' to 'fin' yer de boards—course we wuz. Did yer tink we 'spect'd yer to make it out ob yer own ole skin? An' if yer had de boards, nigger, kin yer build it den? Come, now, be smart—kin yer make it den, say?"

"Te-hee! te-hee! No, Winny, gal,—no, no."

"Why not? Yes, yer could. Why not?"

"'Coz it takes nails, Winny—nails, gal! Te-hee! te-hee!"

"You wicked ole fool! An' if yer had boards and nails—whatever else wud yer want?"

"Te-hee! te-hee! Winny, ole gal, hammer an' saw—hammer and saw—te-hee! te-hee!"

"Lord sake, yes! Yer'd want hammer and saw—ob course yer wud; but if yer had dem, kin yer do it?"

"Te-hee! te-hee! Winny, yes—yes, I kin, I kin. I'll make a hen-coop fas' enuff."

"Werry well, den; I'll 'fin' yer all dem tings. Take off yer jacket, ole man, an' rouse dat are ole barr' ob soap ober dis way, an' put it here. Ds you see, nigger? put it here."

Certainly the old man's strength had not diminished with his size. He moved the barrel with the greatest apparent ease, and placed it according to orders, and then shovelled away the ashes from the proposed site of the new partition: and by the time these two jobs were completed, Winny had mastered the necessary boards, nails, hammer and saw. It was amusing to Alice to see the professional earnestness of the old man, as he bent the saw in his withered hands to test its temper, and tried its set teeth upon his own broad thumb; and there being no fault to be found in this important auxiliary, he was satisfied, and the work was begun in earnest.

(To be continued.)

#### TRIALS OF A FLORIST.

Baron Nathaniel de Rothschild—not the chief of the great plutocratic house—has been expelled from Vienna. The Baron is a great florist, and in all his villas and castles carries on the culture of rare exotic plants upon a very costly scale. The Archduke Karl Ludwig, the Emperor's brother, visited one of the Baron's gardens during the absence of the owner, in order to get a glimpse of some of his rare plants. The Archduke is the foremost patron of art and science in the empire, and a great favourite of the cultivated classes and the people. Baron de Rothschild had given the order that no one should be allowed to inspect his gardens, but during his absence, the head gardener conceived that the order could not extend to so important a person, and so admitted the Archduke. When the Baron heard that his order had been disobeyed, he at once dismissed the head gardener. The Archduke wrote to the Baron begging him to revoke the dismissal. The great moneyed prince, however, would not grant the petition of the Imperial Prince. The Municipality of Vienna were impatient at this rudeness to the most popular and liberal member of the Imperial family, and gave the Baron to understand that he must either concede the Archduke's request for access to his gardens, or voluntarily cease to be an "Austrian." — *Frank Magazine*.

#### A LEGACY.

Friend of my many years,  
When the great silence falls, at last, on me,  
Let me not leave to pain and sadden thee  
A memory of tears.

But pleasant thoughts alone  
Of one who was thy Friendship's honoured guest,  
And drank the wine of consolation, pressed  
From sorrows of thy own.

I leave with thee a sense  
Of hands upheld, and trials rendered less—  
The unselfish joy which is to helpfulness  
Its own great recompense;

The knowledge that, from thine,  
As from the garments of the Master, stole  
Calmness and strength, the virtue which makes whole,  
And heals without a sign.

Yea, more, the assurance strong  
That love, which fails of perfect utterance here,  
Lives on to fill the heavenly atmosphere  
With its immortal song. —John G. Whittier.

#### HOBBS AND MATHEMATICS.

It was in the field of mathematics that Hobbes' blunder developed into the most startling absurdities. In proportion to his ignorance of the subject was his personal conceit, that he was competent to instruct the most proficient masters of the science. It was not till his fortieth year that he opened Euclid, when he discovered that the leading definitions were wrong, and that the whole structure of geometry had need of serious alterations. A straight line might be the shortest road between two points; but how a straight line could be without breadth, or any superficies without thickness, or any point without magnitude, Hobbes could not in the least make out. These definitions were absurd on the very face of them. Hobbes, therefore, having corrected Euclid, set about squaring the circle, doubling the cube, cubing the sphere, and solving all kinds of problems which had been hitherto deemed impractical. There were in those days (1654-5) two professors at Oxford—Seth Ward, of astronomy, and the more celebrated Wallis, who held the Savilian chair of geometry. Hobbes, whose fame was steadily rising in the world, had assailed the universities for not encouraging scientific investigation. He therefore sharpened the ire of these professors, who, as soon as his treatise "De Corpore" appeared, readily embraced the task of tearing it to pieces. Ward took the physics. Wallis the mathematical portion of the treatise. The exposure of Hobbes' errors was the more decisive, as his adversaries had obtained an unbound volume of the "De Corpore," in which Hobbes had, before revision of the last proofs, endeavoured to amend his own demonstrations. The mutilations in the text enabled Wallis to follow Hobbes blunders step by step. The result was the "Elenchus Geometriae Hobbianæ," which, three months after the "De Corpore" appeared, completely smashed to atoms every proposition which Hobbes had advanced on the subject. But Hobbes was far from yielding to the enemy. He had indeed removed the more serious portion of the mistakes before issuing an English translation of the "De Corpore" in 1556. But he nevertheless maintained the accuracy of the portions he had himself abandoned, and sought to carry the war into the enemy's quarters by attacking Wallis' "Arithmetic of Infinities." The result was still more mistakes and absurdities. Hobbes could lay bare as with a scalping knife the most complex psychological phenomena; but he was unable to grasp the commonest mathematical abstraction. His mind was too hardened, his ideas too crystallized to be permeated by the new analysis. — *The Quarterly Review*.

#### READERS RESPONSIBLE FOR WRITERS.

Between the writer and the reader, then, a certain marriage of the intellectual and sympathetic faculties should always exist. The book must be rendered complete not only by the writing of it, but by the writing assisted by the reading. The reader must do half the work. He must liberate his imagination, he must awaken his understanding, he must open the fountains of his knowledge and culture; he must contribute, in a word, from his capital of mind, to the beauty and elevation of the work of art that he contemplates. He must feel that he shares the responsibility of its truth and excellence, and that he, no less than the writer, is liable to blame for its deficiencies. If this be recognized, then literature will grow to heights hitherto undreamed of, because the writer will be left free to devote his entire energy to the development of his proper part of the result, instead of, as now, being compelled to do imperfectly the reader's work as well as his own. — *American Magazine for December*.

A PARAGRAPH has appeared in some newspapers to the effect that, owing to failing health, the Rev. Dr. Killen was about to resign the Chair of Ecclesiastical History in Assembly's College, Belfast, which he has held for so many years with such honour to himself and advantage to the Church. There is no truth whatever in the rumour that Dr. Killen was seriously ill.

The judges of the Court of Session have adhered to the decision of Lord Kinnear in the Rothessay Gaelic Church case, finding that Mr. Munn, merchant, Harbour-gate, Newoundland, has a good title to the site and buildings. His father made a gift of the site to the congregation, and also held the church and ground in trust for the purpose contained in its constitution. At the Disruption the congregation joined the Free Church, but in 1859 were ejected from the building.

## British and Foreign.

THE Duke of Norfolk, it is said, carried to Rome as his personal jubilee offering to the Pope \$50,000.

THE *Hebrew Standard* says that while "charity may cover a multitude of sins," this "is not its regular business."

KANSAS was a turning-point in the Anti-Slavery struggle, and Kansas is a turning point in the Anti-Saloon struggle.

SOME of the Chicago brewers have determined not to buy any barley from Kansas or Iowa, which are prohibitory States.

THE Rev. Dr. Charles L. Robinson retires from the pastorate of the Memorial Church, New York, and will give his time to authorship.

THE statue of the late Lord Shaftesbury, to be erected as a memorial in Westminster Abbey, will be ready for unveiling in about a fortnight.

THE legislature which was recently elected in Hawaii has cut down the salaries of all the State officials, and materially reduced the salary of the king.

PROFESSOR CALDERWOOD has been elected honorary-president of the new Christian association formed by the art students in Edinburgh University.

AN offer of thirty-five per cent. reduction has been made on behalf of Lord Lansdowne to the non-evicted tenants on his Luggacuran estate, Queen's County.

AT an election on Sunday in the town of Jamaive, Mexico, a fight occurred between the rival parties in which eight men were killed and over forty wounded.

THE Rev. I. N. Hays, D.D., has been elected Chairman of the Northern General Assembly's Permanent Committee on Temperance in place of the late Dr. Swift.

THE Rev. W. G. Woodbridge, pastor of the Fifth Presbyterian Church, Chicago, has tendered his resignation to the congregation, to take effect at the close of the present year.

THE Rev. William Johnston, D.D., the respected minister of Townsend Street Presbyterian Church, Belfast, who has been seriously ill for some time, is now on a fair way to recovery.

SOME of the frontier stations of the Church Missionary Society in the north-west provinces of India are enjoying a revival. Sikhs and Mussulmans are being converted and baptized.

IT is proposed to endow the Chair of Church History in the United Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Alleghany, and to call it by the name of its late occupant, Rev. David R. Kerr, D.D.

THE Rev. Dr. Scott, Dean of Rochester, died recently. He was one of the revisers of the New Testament, and joint author with Dean Liddell, Christchurch, Oxford, of the Standard Greek Lexicon.

LORD DUFFERIN has built a beautiful hunting lodge at Simla, where he will entertain his staff and friends during the season. It is said to be the first Indian residence lighted exclusively by electricity.

THE Serey Hospital, Brooklyn, N. Y., was dedicated on the 15th inst. The total cost will be \$1,200,000. It is the only Methodist Episcopal institution of the kind in the United States. It is open to all creeds.

THE new High License Law in Pennsylvania promises to be really restrictive. Saloon keepers find the greatest difficulty in securing bondsmen, and the applications, in some instances, show a falling off of fifty per cent.

THE whole of the cheap edition of Dr. Hamilton's History of the Church of Ireland having been sold out in a few days, the publishers have been induced to go to press again with yet another issue, being the fourth edition.

A PARADE containing over 7,000 men in line, with brass bands and waving banners, marched through the streets of Pittsburgh last Sabbath to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the accession of Pope Leo XIII. to the priesthood.

THE throne of the great Egyptian sovereign, Queen Hatshepsut, of the Eighteenth Dynasty, has been donated to the British Museum by the owner, Mr. Jesse Haworth, of Cheshire. It has been in his possession several years.

THE Rev. Professor Watts' new work on a phase of the great religious-scientific controversies of the age has just been published. The title of Dr. Watts' work is "The Reign of Causality; or A Vindication of the Scientific Principle of Telic Causal Efficiency."

LEO XIII. is almost a teetotaler, drinking, if any wine, a little stout claret at his simple dinner. Perhaps it is the irony of fate as well as ignorance that has sent him among his jubilee gifts about 6,000 baskets of champagne from various French vineyard-owners.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Daily Express* complains that the subscriptions to the Irish Church Sustentation Fund are in inverse proportion to the wealth of the provinces, Ulster contributing 2s. per head, Leinster 4s. 4d., Munster 5s. 9d., and Connaught 6s. 10d.

A BILL authorizing the expulsion from the country of such socialists as have incurred penalties for violating the anti-socialist law, has been introduced into the Reichstag at Berlin, under the terms of which most of the socialistic members of that body may be expelled.

THE Free Church congregation at Comrie, Perthshire, has unanimously resolved to give a call to the Rev. A. C. Watt, assistant to the Rev. Dr. Black, Inverness. Mr. Watt is a son of the late Rev. R. J. Watt, minister of the Free High Church in Elgin, and nephew of Rev. J. D. Crawford, D.D., B. Hall.

THE trustees of Columbia College, New York, have resolved that an academic course be adopted, and be recommended to be worn by the members of Columbia College, in their several faculties and degrees, in all places and on all occasions in which it is proper or desirable that the academic character should be indicated.