

days putting all to rights. They at last reached Belfast, but the cargo was considerably damaged, as well as the vessel, so that it proved on the whole a disastrous voyage.

Strange as it may appear the misfortunes of this voyage conveyed no salutary lesson to Alexander, nor served to check his dissipated course. But a few years more and information was communicated to Mr. Marshall, that as his eldest son was almost constantly in a state of inebriety while at sea, and seldom appeared on deck to attend to the welfare of the ship or cargo, the merchants could not think of entrusting their property to his care. The depraved youth was recalled, and returned from his brandy and his pleasures to his native village, to recruit in indolence that constitution which his dissolute habits had so much shattered. Here we leave him to wander dally, with blood-shot eye, and feverish step, between his father's house and the harbour, a moving nonentity, with no complacent look or word of gratulation for any one.

(To be continued.)

To OUR READERS.—The Canadian Family Herald will in future be published by Mr. Charles Fletcher, Bookseller, No. 54, Yonge Street. It is kindly requested therefore that all communications intended for the Herald be addressed to the publisher, in order to prevent confusion, or delay in attending to them.

CANADIAN FAMILY HERALD.

TORONTO, SATURDAY, FEB. 28, 1852.

MUSIC IN THE FAMILY.

BY REV. WM. C. WHITCOMB.

Music is one of the best promoters of domestic happiness. As an awakener of the sympathies, and a uniter of hearts, a more efficient agency cannot be employed, next to the religion of the Gospel. It humanizes and elevates the depraved soul, enlivens hospitality, and excludes the demon, discord, from the home-circle. It is oftentimes as necessary to soothe the ruffled spirit, as David's harp was to calm the turbulent breast of Saul. It lightens care, augments joy, and increases conjugal, parental, filial and fraternal affection. Hence, in all families where there are individuals who can sing, or play on instruments there should be a good deal of music. I would that there were more instruments of music in families. But, especially, I would there were "singing and a voice of melody," and praise around every family altar, where night and morn the members of pious households take delight in assembling to pay their vows unto the Most High.

"Music in the family," as one truthfully expresses it, "is a means of domestic cheerfulness. A musical family, will in spite of perplexities and trials, be habitually cheerful; not gay, for there are many points of difference between cheerfulness and gaiety; but cheerful in that sense which implies good spirits and freedom from corroding care.—You can have the sunshine of cheerfulness in your house on the most cheerless day, if you only have music there; and if affliction has caused tears to flow, music, coming to the aid of divine consolation, and the sympathy of friends, will be a sweet soother of pain, and a lightener of the weight which oppresses the spirit.

"Music promotes good nature in a family.—And in this world, where there is so much ill-humor manifested in a thousand ways, anything which will increase good nature is to be prized. Who can be angry in the midst of music, and fret and scold with sweet sounds falling upon his ears; or keep up sour and sulky manners

when the very air around him is bland with soft harmonies?"

Let parents cultivate the power to sing, not only the infant's soothing lullaby, but hymns fraught with truthful, religious sentiments, for the benefit, present and everlasting, of their little ones. The words of a song may outlive the most eloquent sermons in the memory of the young.—How important, therefore, that memories which commence with the life be favored with songs worthy of lasting till life's close; yea, of influencing the soul while ages on ages roll their unceasing rounds in the endless day of heaven! So deeply impressed was one celebrated man of the importance of music, that he is said to have exclaimed, "Let who will make the laws of the people, but let me make their songs."

When the glorious truths of inspiration are breathed forth in expressive melody, they are clothed with a diviner eloquence than that of the preacher or orator. Oh, ye upon whom is imposed the responsibility of imparting instruction to children,

"Teach them some melodious measure,
Sung by raptured tongues above;
Fill their souls with sacred pleasure,
While they sing redeeming love."

Milton, in his important poem, Paradise Lost, presents us with the beautiful idea of learning lessons of praise from angelic lips and golden harps attuned above. Just before their evening worship one of them is represented as thus addressing the other:

"How often, from the steep
Of echoing hill, or thicket, we have heard
Celestial voices, to the midnight air
Alone, or responsive to each other's notes,
Singing their great Creator! O'er in bands,
With glorious touch of instrumental sounds,
In full harmonic numbers joined, their songs
Divide the night, and lift our thoughts to heaven."

PURSUITS OF KNOWLEDGE.

One element of strength to a young man is intelligence. This will command respect, will enable him to distinguish between fiction and reality, between truth and error. It will afford a knowledge of those facts and principles necessary as the basis of action, and suggest the best means of appropriating them. Nothing short of an enlarged intelligence will qualify them to meet the demands of the present age, and especially of our own country,—a knowledge not only of elementary principles, but of their development and application, as found in ancient and modern history, with special reference to the future. The attainment of a requisite intellectual culture is not the result of a mere wish, or of an indolent effort. He that would win must labour for the prize. With many, much progress in this direction has, perhaps, already been made, and some may even think themselves wise enough now. It has been said that self-conceit is common to the young, but there is need of qualification in making such a charge. A distinction must be made between a fault and the indispensable elements of confidence and energy. But should any really imagine thus, a few years of experience will bring them to a better mind, or, if it did not, they would scarcely be worth saving, at least as far as society is concerned.

Many may think themselves excused from the pursuit of knowledge, because they have not been born to fortune, or to leisure, or have not had the advantages of an academical or collegiate education. But great as these privileges are, they are not indispensable to a competent intellectual culture. To convince young men of this, were it necessary, I might appeal to their actual circumstances. I might ask if there were no means within their reach for obtaining knowledge, either from books or observation, that are neglected? I might ask how their moments or hours of leisure are employed? What were the topics of thought or conversation, during such intervals? and what

the intellectual character of their habitual associates? Perhaps a response to these inquiries might help them to perceive that excuses like those just mentioned were not as well founded as was imagined. Besides instead of its being a calamity to be obliged to labor observation teaches, that it is in many respects an advantage. It tends to invigorate the body, inculcates habits of industry, order and economy, while the knowledge obtained under such circumstances will usually be prized in proportion to the labor it cost to secure it. Look around! What was the early condition of a majority of those who have shone as stars of the first magnitude in the firmament of science? Were they cradled in wealth and nurtured in the lap of luxury? Look at some of our own countrymen. A Franklin, once in the streets of Philadelphia almost penniless, a Burrill, the master of nearly the whole circle of languages, toiling meanwhile daily at the anvil; and to come still nearer home, think of our now sainted Levings, years ago a young man in the city of Troy, laying the foundation for his subsequent usefulness and greatness in knowledge, obtained by torchlight at the forge, after the labors of the day were over.—*Christian Advocate and Journal.*

Answers to Correspondents.

INFORMATOR. BANK OF ENGLAND. The Bank of England was projected by Mr. William Patterson, a Scotch gentleman, and received its charter from Government on the 27th of July, 1694. The original capital which amounted to £1,200,000 was lent to Government at an interest of eight per cent., and an allowance of £1000 a year for management, as the scheme was projected solely with a view to relieve the necessities of the Government of the time. Three years afterwards another loan of £1,001,171 10 was made to government, but this was repaid in £1707, and the capital again reduced to its original amount. In 1713 the capital was raised to £3,559,995, and in 1729 further subscriptions of £3,400,000 were raised; and in 1749, at the renewal of the charter, another call was made upon the stockholders, and the capital was raised to £9,800,000, and various successive additions were made to the capital, so that it was raised to £14,553,000, the whole of which was lent to government. Up till 1826 the Bank Restriction Act was in force, which granted a monopoly of banking business in England to this chartered Bank, but it was then partially repealed; and to remove all doubts, a clause was inserted in the Bank Act of 1833, authorizing the establishment of Banks which do not issue notes. The Bank of England acts as the agent of Government in the management of the National Debt. Its profits are derived from discounts on commercial bills; interest on exchequer bills, of which a large amount is held, interest upon the capital stock in the hands of government; allowance of £60,000 for managing the public debt; interest on loans; dividend in stock in the public funds; profit on purchases of bullion, and some lesser sources of revenue. The Bank maintains an establishment of more than a thousand officers, clerks, porters, and messengers. The Bank has the power of issuing notes on a fixed amount of securities, which is of the value of £14,500,000, and any issue beyond this sum must be in bullion.