

"Gray's Elegy in a Country Churchyard."

It is not enough to read books; to derive any true advantage from them we must read them systematically and understandingly. Voltaire always read with a pencil in his hand to mark and to comment on passages of interest. The profound Ruhnken always read pen in hand, and under-

lined every difficult passage, that he might recur to it again. A famous scholar advises students to proportion an hour's meditation to each hour's reading. The mind requires—like the body—time to digest its food. Too many people learn only words, and not ideas; for them the field of literature is barren—its pleasures unknown.—*Gleason.*

## A Desperate Conflict between a Lion and an Antelope.

Dr. Livingstone gives a very interesting description of a fight we witnessed in Africa between a lion and an antelope. The Dr. and his guides had just emerged from a narrow defile between two rocky hills, when they heard an angry growl, which they knew to be that of the "monarch of the forest." At the distance of not more than forty yards in advance of them, a gemsbok stood at bay, while a huge tawny lion was crouched on a rocky platform, above the level of the plain, evidently meditating an attack on the antelope; only a space of about twenty feet separated the two animals. The lion appeared to be animated with the greatest fury,—the gemsbok was apparently calm and resolute,—presenting his well fortified head to the enemy. The lion cautiously changed his position, descended to the plain and made a circuit, obviously for the purpose of attacking the gemsbok in the rear, but the latter was on the alert and still turned his head towards his antagonist.

This manoeuvring lasted about half an hour, when it appeared to the observers that the gemsbok used a stratagem to induce the lion to make his assault. The flank of the antelope was for a moment turned to his fierce assailant. As quick as lightning the lion made a spring, but while he was yet in the air, the gemsbok turned his head bending his neck so as to present one of his spearlike horns at the lion's breast.

A terrible laceration was the consequence; the lion fell back on his

haunches, showing a ghastly wound in the lower part of his neck. He uttered a howl of rage and anguish, and backed off to the distance of fifty yards, seeming half disposed to give up the contest, but hunger, fury, or revenge once more impelled him forward. His second assault was more furious and headlong; he rushed at the gemsbok, and attempted to leap over the formidable horns in order to alight on his back.

The gemsbok, still standing on the defensive, elevated his head, speared the lion in his side, and inflicted what the inspectors believed to be a mortal wound, as the horns penetrated to the depth of six or eight inches. Again the lion retreated groaning and limping in a manner that showed that he had been severely hurt, but he soon collected all his energies for another attack. At the instant of collision, the gemsbok presented a horn so as to strike the lion immediately between his two fore legs, and so forcible was the stroke that the whole length of the horn was buried in the lion's body. For nearly a minute, the two beasts stood motionless; then the gemsbok slowly backing, withdrew his horn, and the lion tottered and fell on his side, his limbs quivering in the agonies of death. The victor made a triumphant flourish of his heels, and trotted off apparently without having received the least injury in the conflict.—*Dr. Livingstone's travels in Africa, an Unpublished Work.—Michigan Journal of Education.*