

SELECTIONS.

THREE FAULTS OF NURSES.—1. To lisp in a baby style, when the same words, in an endearing tone, would please as well; the reverse should be—the voice clear, emphatic, and each syllable distinctly articulated for imitation. 2. To tell of witches, ghosts and goblins; such superstitions, impressed upon young minds, are rarely gotten rid of. 3. To direct a child to act like a man; whereas it is not often becoming for a little boy to ape the man, but only to conform his demeanor to his age; every age has its own peculiar decorousness.—*New England Galaxy.*

Religion will always make the bitter waters of Marah wholesome and palatable; but we must not think it continually will turn water into wine because it once did.—*Warburton.*

LOCOMOTION IN PLANTS.—Amongst the numerous phenomena of plants, none is more striking than the movements which sometimes take place in their fructification, for the dispersion of the farina. "The Grass of Parnassus, a very interesting little British plant, has attracted great attention by its elaborate and beautiful nectaries, which are crowned with a semicircular row of little pellucid globules, generally thirteen in number on each scale. And it is also remarkable for the singularity above alluded to. When the flower begins to open, the anthers are discovered close to the sides of the germen, but on the first morning of the expansion of its petals, one of the stamens will move from its apparent repose, and becoming elongated, will present its anther over the stigma or summit of the incipient seed vessel. In this situation its farina will be discharged, and it will then recede from the centre of the flower, and fall back nearly to the petals. Thus, one stamen having performed its destined office, a second will be observed to advance in like manner; as also will each of the others in succession, till the farina of all has been discharged, and the fructification of the seed thereby completed."—*Gardeners' Edition of the Botanic Garden, January, 1847.*

A little girl walking in the cemetery of Pere-la-Chaise, Paris, and reading, one after another, the praises upon the tombs of those who slept beneath, exclaimed, "I wonder where the bad people are buried!"

COMPARATIVE VIEW OF VARIOUS EUROPEAN STATES.—The progress of Russian power since the accession of Peter the Great has not only astonished the people of other nations, but engaged the earnest attention of statesmen and diplomatists. The advance which this empire has made during the last and present century has been unexampled in regard to the acquisition of territory; but we consider that the adjoining kingdom of Prussia has secured greater real power, during the same period, than Russia. Great extent of territory does not constitute power. A population of 30,000,000 inhabitants, with an abundant employment, in a productive, compact territory, and occupying a favourable position on the world's surface, is far more powerful than a population of 60,000,000, settled over a territory ten times as extensive as the country inhabited by the 30,000,000. The 60,000,000 inhabitants are not only less powerful by their scattered position, but are also in a further degree weakened if they consist of different races, who have neither traditional sympathies for, nor existing interests with, each other. France is a country in which are found nearly all the advantages of a great population with abundant means of productive employment, with a territory compactly formed, and with a people who feel that they are, for all purposes of good or of evil, to themselves, or to their neighbours, one nation. Hence arises the great power of France, and the rapid reappearance of prosperity and of force, after the disasters of that great country. England, in like manner, owes her power to the formation and geographical position of her home dominions and to the united enterprise of her people. In respect to the traditional sympathies and the united nationality of the inhabitants, we must admit that France has the advantage over the United Kingdom. Holland is an example above all others, of the power of an united, intelligent, enterprising population, occupying a small territory. The peninsula of Spain and Portugal is, by geographical position and by rural configuration, as favourably adapted for power as France. Yet the great natural advantages of that peninsula are, comparatively, of little value in regard to power; while the country is only inhabited by a people composed of various races, who have had little traditional bonds of union; while the most industrious of these races, the Moors, have been expelled, extirpated, or debased.—*Macgregor.*

NEEDFUL HINT.—A minister was about to leave his own congregation for the purpose of visiting London, on what was by no means a pleasant errand,—to beg on behalf of his place of worship. Previous to his departure, he called together the principal persons connected with his charge, and said to them, "Now, I shall be asked whether we have conscientiously done all that we can for the removal of the debt; what answer am I to give? Brother so-and-so, can you in conscience say that you have given all you can?" "Why, Sir," he replied, "if you come to conscience, I don't know that I can." The same question he put to a second, and a third, and so on, and similar answers were returned, until the whole sum required was subscribed, and there was no longer any need for their pastor to wear out his soul in going to London on any such unpleasant excursion.—*Christian Witness.*

A GREAT TITLE!—A witness examined before the Committee on the New Zealand question, stated incidentally that he knew a chief in New Zealand who maintained that he had a great title in his land, inasmuch as he had eaten the former owner.

KINDNESS V. RETALIATION.—Retaliation is like a storm which sweeps through the forest in destruction; kindness is like the influence of the sun and rain of the cloud, which germinates seeds and unfolds their leaves, flowers, and odours.—*Rev. G. W. Montgomery.*

THE DEATH OF CROMWELL.—Mr. Carlyle gives a very different account of his hero's death from the current one. No remorse—no terrors of the grave—but peaceful and pious meditations on doctrinal topics, prayers and devout ejaculations—together with this one prayer for the people of England:—"Lord, though I am a miserable and wretched creature, I am in covenant with Thee through grace. And I may, I will, come to Thee for Thy people. Thou hast made me, though very unworthy, a mean instrument to do them some good, and Thee serve; and many of them have set too high a value upon me, though others wish and would be glad of my death; Lord, however Thou do dispose of men, continue and go on to do good for them. Give them consistency of judgment, one heart, and mutual love: and go on to deliver them, and with the work of reformation; and make the name of Christ glorious in the world. Teach those who look too much on Thy instruments, to depend more upon Thyself. Pardon such as desire to trample upon the dust of a poor worm, for they are Thy people too. And pardon the folly of this short prayer: even for Jesus Christ's sake. And give us a good night, if it be Thy pleasure. Amen." Cromwell died on the 3d of September 1658; a day of thanksgiving for the victories of Dunbar and Worcester.

"LICENSED TO RUIN SOULS."—We never see a sign, "licensed to sell spirits," without thinking that it is a license to ruin souls. They are the yawning avenues to poverty and rags in this life, and as another has said, "the short cut to hell." Is it to be tamely borne in this land of light and information, that these pest houses and dens of iniquity, these mantraps for souls, shall be open on the Sabbath, that they shall be enriched and kept afloat by this unholy traffic—many of them declaring that they could not keep up their shops if it were not for the Sabbath market-day. We may well say, "cursed is the gain made on that day!" Poor wretched man. Do you not know that every penny that rings on your counter on that day, will yet eat your flesh as it were fire—that every drop of liquid poison swallowed in your gas-lit palaces will only serve to kindle up the flame of the "fire that is not quenched."—*M. Cheyne.*

HINTS TO THE WORKING CLASSES FROM A FRIEND.—To gain any freedom worth having, the working classes must first of all emancipate themselves. And from what are they to be emancipated? Why, from all gross animal excesses—from beer insanity, and from tobacco and snuff insanity—the Caunt and Bendigo insanity—and from twelve-months-together-unwashed-skins insanity. Let them insure clean and comfortable bodies first of all. The next great step is to forswear intemperance. Let them avoid the beer-shop, even on business pretences. *Cannot sick-societies and secret orders meet anywhere else as well as at a pot-house?* Is it rational to open the business of the society with a hymn, and then to sottify our brains with beer and tobacco? and after wasting an hour or two in roaring senseless ditties, to shut up shop with another hymn, and go home drunk at one o'clock in the morning?—*Leeds Saturday Journal.*

THE RIFLE.—Many persons who are very expert in the use of the rifle know nothing of the principle upon which it operates, and would be at a loss if asked why a grooved barrel throws a ball truer than a smooth bore. The reasons are these:—In the first place, no bullet is or can be cast perfectly spherical. One side is always heavier than the other. The ball, therefore, swerves from the right line of projection. However hard it may be to prove this, theoretically, practice demonstrates it. The same smooth bore, immovably fixed, twice loaded with the same charge of the same powder, and with balls cast in the same mould, will not plant them in the same spot at the same distance. The rifle barrel is a female screw, which gives the tightly driven ball a rotary motion; so that if the bullet, or rather the slug, swerves with one twist of the screw, another revolution corrects the error. There are but three motions in the rifle ball, the straightforward, the spiral and the downward, caused by the power of gravity. A rifle of thirty to the pound, drops its ball about a foot in a hundred yards. Rifles are sighted, therefore, to meet this deviation. On leaving the barrel, the ball moves above the line of sight, continually falling in a particular curve till it intersects it. The point of intersection is called the point blank. Who invented the rifle is unknown. Its principle was known to the North American Indians before the discovery of the continent. Their arrows are feathered spirally, and move precisely in the manner of a rifle ball.

TRADE IN GODS!—Strange, and even profane as this title may sound, it is a literal fact. *La Democratie Pacifique* states that there is a warehouse in Paris with the title "Depot for African Gods!" The firm of Regis carries on an extensive business with Senegal, where there are about as many kings as medieval Italy had princes. These African kings make war by way of a little pleasant excitement. When one of them has lost a battle he dismisses his "Gods," and orders new French ones from Regis & Co, who employ artists to make them of deal, with serpents heads, lions' manes, and tigers' claws. When a Senegal potentate obtains a consignment of new "Gods" he goes to war in order to test their efficacy. Hitherto Regis and Co. have been lucky in their "Gods."—*True Sun*