

## DELUSION ABOUT GENIUS.

It is a common mistake, especially with young men of ability, to suppose that what they call genius is sufficient for success in life. They sneer at "mere plodders," and boast that it is only necessary to apply themselves for a few minutes in order to conquer the more difficult task. We have seen, in our time, many such. We have observed them, moreover, in every walk of life. We have known them as quick working mechanics, as brilliant declaimers in societies, as witty or eloquent students in college. But we have lived long enough to notice, that most of them have made shipwrecks of themselves forever. The smart mechanic, disdaining to work all the week when four or five days' labor would produce as much as others earned, who toiled from Monday morning till Saturday night, has generally acquired habits of dissipation and idleness, and ended, sometimes, in the penitentiary, but more frequently in the drunkard's grave. The showy orator has become a lazy lawyer, or good-for-nothing editor, or pot-house politician. The idle, though able student, has sunk into a "fast" young man, and died before he reached forty, the victim of his own excesses. As we look back on those we knew of these classes scarcely twenty years ago, we see, alas! that almost general ruin has overtaken them.

That there is naturally a difference between men in point of ability, we do not pretend to deny. This difference is less great, however, than is generally supposed; and no genius, moreover, is sufficient of itself, without discipline, and study. The difference, we say, is not so great as is usually believed. It is true, that one person may excel another in what is popularly called eloquence, but generally he is deficient in something else, as, for example, in the purely logical faculty. A witty lawyer, able to keep a jury in a roar, may not be as competent to argue a case in bar as a less felicitous rival. An excellent book-keeper to whom long columns of figures are nothing, may yet have no mechanical faculty at all; and a good mechanic may be a poor accountant. Nature wisely distributes her favors, generally bestowing different specialties, so to speak, on different persons. Jefferson was a great civilian, but had no talent for war whatever. Wayne was a splendid general, but quite an indifferent legislator. Putnam could head a charge gallantly, or defend a post heroically, but had no head for planning a complicated campaign. In more humble life, we see similar proofs of this difference. These are women, for instance, who can cut and fit, as if by instinct, who seem, indeed, natural born mantuamakers or tailors. There are others who always bungle, if they attempt such things.

Everybody, in fact, who is not an idiot, has a favourite faculty, or, to use the proverbial phrase, "knack of doing something." Now genius, in its true acceptation, is a knack of doing many things; or in its narrower sense, is a knack of excelling in literature, politics, or war. But as, in the humblest life, proficiency, even in that for which the person has a peculiar faculty, is only to be obtained by practice, so in the higher walks of mind, discipline is absolutely necessary. The boy who is put to learn the stone-cutter's trade because he is always moulding figures in clay, never becomes a sculptor unless he studies hard. The youthful dabbler in water colors never rises to be a great painter, without long years devoted to his art. The lad who makes a capital college speech, ends in becoming a wordy declaimer, unless he learns to think. It was not only his talent for painting, which won for Raphael the title of "divine," but the days and nights he devoted to mastering drawing and composition. The great Milton worked hard at poetry, thirty years, endeavouring to perfect himself, before he began *Paradise Lost*. There is not a famous name in history of which the same cannot be said. To rely merely on what is called genius, is to ensure failure, and is to cast away opportunities bestowed by nature—it is, in fact, to squander like a spendthrift, the fortune which, as it were, was given in advance at birth.

The San Francisco festival in honor of the fall of Sebastopol, ended in a row. 20,000 persons were present.

**THE CRIMEAN RAILWAY.**—The *Daily News* correspondent says, "Since last week two additional locomotives (old ones) have been landed at Balaklava and placed upon the Railway. The little 'Alliance' has already begun to run on the line, and, as she puffs and screeches along at the rate of eight or ten miles an hour, with her cumbrous tail of some half-dozen heavily laden trucks, intense is the gaping wonderment, and multitudinous are the *masgals* of many a crowd of Tartars, Croats, Bulgarians, pure-blooded Turks, Arabs, Hindoos, and Heaven knows what other nationalities besides, whom heavy wages and light work have attracted to this Crimean Babel. The wire rope so long used by the stationary engine to pull the wagons up the incline near Kadikoi has been removed, and the entire traction of the line will, it is hoped, be done by three locomotives now upon the rails. If this can be accomplished, the gain to our transport campwards will be immense, and the scores of heavy animals hitherto employed on the line solely will be available for the branch labour through the various divisions, and other parts of the camp not immediately connected with the railway."

The Paris correspondent of the *Morning Herald* has forwarded to that journal the following intelligence, which is not mentioned elsewhere:—"Letters from the Sea of Azoff announce that the English at Kerch have obtained a brilliant success, with the troops of the Turkish contingent. They attacked a Russian division 4000 strong, who were guarding a very large depot of forage. The Russians were put to the rout, and all the stacks destroyed by fire. The Turks only lost a few men in the affair. The loss of the enemy is said to have been very great. A very melancholy event has just taken place in the Black Sea. The Sardinian war steamer, which was bringing to Constantinople a great number of sick from the ambulances of Balaklava, has foundered, and all on board perished." Some confused accounts of the burning of the Russian stores at Gheisk, by the crew of Captain Osborne's gunboats, has probably given rise to this report of an action and destruction of forage; and it may be hoped, that the other report will not be confirmed.

**GAME IN THE CRIMEA.**—The Crimea is a wonderful country for game. Major Campbell, of the 46th, the other day, without a dog, shot 7 couple of woodcocks; the Hon. Captain Keane, R. E., 11 1-2 brace, with a hare and a few quail. This officer told me, that he had at different times, without neglecting his duties, killed 105 couple of quail. The French think nothing of shooting at small birds with ball; and the Zouaves are particularly successful at killing foxes, whose skins they of course keep.—[Times Correspondent.]

This year it has been noticed that a large quantity of Scotch herrings have found their way to Russia, either via Dantzic or Konigsberg; and in at least one instance, it is said, that a cargo was invoiced direct from the Scottish coast to Warsaw where the importer made a very handsome profit. One great inducement to the Russian population to purchase the herring is the quantity of salt the barrels are found to contain undissolved, owing to the blockade salt in Russia being very dear and very scarce. The whole quantity of herrings sent to Russia, directly or indirectly, from Scotland, is estimated at 75,000 barrels.

**A LUNATIC DOCTOR.**—Recently, while one of the patients of the Lunatic Asylum, who was formerly a doctor, was taking his accustomed stroll for air and exercise, he was attracted to a house not far from the asylum by the cries of a young girl, who, in climbing over a fence, had fallen and broken her arm. On entering the door he ascertained that the poor, decrepid, bed-ridden mother and the unfortunate girl, whose labor was the only support of the two, were the only occupants. A boy had been sent for a physician or surgeon. The doctor could not witness the young girl's distress, so he instantly went to work and set and splinted the broken limb. The old lady with tears of joy and gratitude, exclaimed, "Doctor, what's to pay?" "O, nothing," he replied; "I am amply repaid in the satisfaction this opportunity has afforded me to relieve your daughter's distress." "Thank you, dear doctor, and God bless you! But when the doctor we have sent for arrives, who shall we say set the arm—what name and residence, doctor?" "Tell him," said our doctor, "that a patient from New York State Lunatic Asylum did it."—[Utica Telegraph.]

The following has been seen the Arithmetic of love. After introduction; 2 compliments make 1 blush, 3 blushes make 1 tender look, 4 tender looks make 1 ramble by moonlight, 2 rambles make 1 proposal, 2 proposals (1 to ps) make 1 wedding.

## READING.

Every man and every woman who can read at all, should adopt some definite purpose in their reading—should take something for the main stem and trunk of their culture, where branches might grow out in all directions, seeking light and air for the parent tree, which, it is hoped, might end in becoming something useful and ornamental, and which, at any rate, all along, will have had life and growth in it.

It must not be supposed that this choice and maintenance of one or more subjects of study must necessarily lead to pedantry or narrowness of mind. The Arts are sisters; Languages are close kindred; Sciences and fellow workmen; almost every branch of human knowledge is immediately connected with biography falls into history, which, after drawing into itself various minor streams, such as geography, jurisprudence, political and social economy, issues forth upon the still deeper waters of general philosophy. There are very few, if any, vacant spaces between various kinds of knowledge: any track in the forest, steadfastly pursued leads into one of the great highways: just as you often find, in considering the story of any little island, that you are perpetually brought back into the general history of the world, and that this small rocky place has partaken the fate of mighty thrones and distant empires. In short, all things are so connected together that a man who knows one subject well, cannot, if he would, fail to have acquired much besides; and that man will not be likely to keep fewer pearls who has a string to put them on, than he who picks them up without method. This, however, is a very poor metaphor to represent the matter; for what I would aim at producing, not merely holds together what is gained, but has vitality in itself, is always growing. And anybody will confirm this, who, in his own case, has had any branch of study of human affairs to work upon; for he must have observed how all he meets seems to work in with, and assimilate itself to, his own peculiar subject. During his lonely walks, or in society, or in action, it seems as if, this one pursuit were something almost independent of himself, always on the watch, and claiming its share in whatever is going on.

Again, by recommending some choice of subject, and method in the pursuit of it, I do not wish to be held to a narrow interpretation of that word "subject." For example, I can imagine a man saying, I do not care particularly to investigate this or that question in history; I am not going to pursue any branch of science; but I have a desire to know what the most renowned men have written; I will see what the twenty or thirty poets have said, what in various ages has appeared the best expression of things nearest to the heart and fancy of man. A person of more adventure and more time might seek to include the greatest writers in morals or history. There are not so many of them. If a man were to read a hundred great authors, he would, I suspect, have heard what mankind has yet had to say upon most things. I am aware of the culture that would be required for such an enterprise; but I merely give it as an instance of what may justly come under the head or the pursuit of one subject as I mean it, and which certainly would not be called a narrow purpose.

This is another view of reading, which though it is obvious enough, is seldom taken, I imagine, or at least acted upon; and that is, that in the course of our reading, we should lay up in our minds a store of goodly thoughts in well-wrought words, which should be a living treasure of knowledge always with us, and from which, at various times, and amidst all the shifting of circumstances, we might be sure of drawing some comfort, guidance, and sympathy. We see this with regard to sacred writings. "A word spoken in due season, how good is it!" But there is a similar comfort on a lower level to be obtained from other sources than sacred ones. In any work that is worth carefully reading, there is generally something that is worth remembering accurately. A man whose mind is enriched with the best sayings of the poets of his country, is a more independent man, walks the streets in a town, or the lanes in the country, with far more delight than he otherwise would; and is taught by wise observers of man and nature to examine for himself. Sancho Panza with his proverbs is a great deal better than he would have been without them, and I contend that a man has something in himself to meet troubles and difficulties, small or great, who has stored in his mind some of the best things which have been said about troubles and difficulties. Moreover, the loneliness of sorrow is thereby diminished.—*Friends in Council.*

The Buffalo Commercial, in alluding to the large sums expended in that city for presents on Christmas day, says that one gentleman invested four hundred dollars in books on that day.

## HASZARD'S GAZETTE.

Saturday January 12, 1856.

The Civil cases tried this Term, were as follows, viz:—

M. Gill, vs. Corish, Assumpsit; verdict for Plaintiff.

J. H. Winslow, vs. Stephen Martin, Debt for Rent; verdict for Plaintiff.

James Stewart, vs. Francis McQuade, et al. Trespass; verdict for Plaintiff.

Edward C. Haythorne and another, vs. James Gay, (Special Jury,) Debt for Rent; verdict for Plaintiff.

There happened during this Term one of those anomalous occurrences which are peculiar, we believe, to Courts regulated by the maxims of English jurisprudence. Two women of the name of McGrath, were arraigned on an indictment for Burglariously entering a dwelling house of one Adam Murray, and stealing a Cash Box with a quantity of money. On being asked the usual question,—"Are you guilty or not guilty?" they replied "Guilty." Before the plea was recorded, the Chief Justice after a short conference with Mr. Justice Peters, warned the prisoners of the consequences of pleading guilty, reminded them that their lives were in jeopardy, and that it would be his painful duty if they persisted in pleading guilty, to pronounce sentence of death upon them. On a subsequent day, when the cause came on to be tried, it appeared that the evidence for the crown was a confession made by the prisoners to Murray himself, who had induced them to make this acknowledgment under a promise, that by so doing, they would be treated with greater lenity. The Court held, that a confession under circumstances of this nature was not such evidence of the commission of the crime as ought to induce a Jury to find them guilty, and therefore refused to allow it. That in order to render a confession of the parties accused available evidence for the prosecution, it ought to appear that it was a voluntary acknowledgment of guilt, and the party making it uninfluenced by either promises or threats. There being no other evidence, the Court directed a verdict of acquittal. This was all as it should be, and in accordance with the law as it had been long settled and acted upon. We cannot, however, but think that this is one of those fallacies which are fast disappearing, an end to which will be given by the improved methods of administering justice in modern times. We agree with the maxim, that a confession of guilt should not be drawn forth by undue or improper promises or threats made to the accused, and go fully with the law, that when parties are brought before ministers of justice, however humble, that no confession should be received but one purely voluntary, and that the parties should be cautioned, that any confession made to a magistrate or constable would be used against them on their trial; but we think a difference should be made where the confession is elicited by an advice on the part of one not clothed with authority. Nothing is more common than when parties are accused of a crime, for them to turn round and seek counsel of the bystanders, and nothing is also more common, more natural, and we would add, more rational, than for the person thus addressed, to advise the accused, that if he be really guilty, it would be his best policy to confess his guilt, that thereby he might be better dealt with, and the punishment be made lighter. Now, we think, that in all such cases, the evidence should be received, but that when the fact of the guilt of the party accused rests solely on a confession thus obtained, that in such case, the promise of lenity should be fairly acted up to, and a modification of the punishment awarded. It seems a mockery of justice to have a party come in and confess himself guilty, and, when induced to withdraw the plea, to be acquitted for want of evidence. It would be better, we think, in all these cases, to allow the plea to be recorded, and take the circumstances into consideration when awarding punishment.

Charlottetown, Jan. 7th, 1856.

Mr. Editor:

Believing that it will afford gratification to your numerous readers, to learn something of the movements of the Total Abstinence body on our Island, I venture to trespass upon your space for a brief notice of a Public Temperance Meeting held in this City on the evening of New Year's Day.

The Central Committee felt it to be but right to hold simultaneous meetings in every principal place on the Island, on the day when the Liquor Law would come into operation in the sister Province of New Brunswick, in order to give expression to our congratulations to the friends of the cause in that Province on their having achieved so great a triumph, as well as to improve a fitting opportunity of presenting to the public throughout the Island, our strong and decided conviction on this great and absorbing question of Legal Prohibition.

I am happy to inform you, that such meetings were held in various places, at which, as