

With a curse before and behind thy feet—
Ashamed to live, and afraid to die ;
No home, no friend, and a pitiless sky.
Merciful Father, my brain grows wild,
Oh, keep from evil my beautiful child !

Beautiful child, mayst thou soar above,
A warbling cherub of joy and love,
A drop on Eternity's mighty sea,
A blossom on life's immortal tree—
Floating, flowering evermore
In the blessed sight of the golden shore ;
And as I gaze on thy sinless bloom,
And thy radiant face, they dispel my gloom ;
I feel He will keep thee undefiled,
And his love protect *my beautiful child.*
—From Harper's Magazine for April.

2. CHOOSE THE BEST SOCIETY.

It should be the aim of every young person to find an entrance into good society. By good, I do not mean fashionable society. That often merits least of all this honorable title. A good social circle is one where sound principles, refined manners, and intelligent ideas are the characteristics of its members. Many a young man has gone to ruin by choosing the society of the low and vulgar, instead of those whose influence would be elevating. It is always so easy to fall into evil, but it often requires hard work to gain a sure footing in a refined circle.

But the end is with the effort. If a young man desires to sharpen his intellect he will find that a judicious mingling with society, will do this better than digging forever over his books. There is a wonderful amount of electricity in the social atmosphere, and the galvanic battery of the social circle will not fail to elicit many brilliant sparkles.

If one desires to improve in manners, he can never do so without mingling with the refined and good.

Diffidence often keeps back those who have had in early life but few social advantages. The only way to overcome this painful difficulty is to plunge in. It is one of the most curable of all maladies. A bath in the bracing ocean of social life enables a person to keep his footing bravely.

One of the most finished gentlemen and accomplished speakers of the day, one who is harassed by invitations on all sides to address the highest literary circles in the land, and who is the flattered guest of every gathering he chooses to honor with his presence, used to be, in the language of a lady friend who knew him well in college, "really afraid of his own shadow."

So, generally, able men have been very unassuming and often diffident in their manners.

When Sheridan was asked the secret of his becoming such a fluent speaker, he replied it was "from never neglecting an opportunity to speak." So, if you would improve socially, embrace the opportunity.

Your chances of success in life will be tenfold greater if you have secured a wide circle of good friends, by your obliging, gentlemanly manners.

No one cares about trusting or recommending a person of whom they know, little or nothing, except that he exists in the same community. You will often advance your interests more by spending a social evening in a respectable family, than you will by sitting in your room and poring over your money matters, or writing a whole package of business letters.—*Schoolday Visitor.*

3. WHAT BREAKS DOWN YOUNG MEN.

It is a commonly received notion that hard study is the unhealthy element of a college life. But from the tables of the mortality of Harvard University, collected by Professor Pierce, from the last triennial catalogue, it is clearly demonstrated that the excess of death for the first ten years after graduation is found in that portion of each class of inferior scholarship. Every one who has seen the curriculum, knows that where Æschylus and political economy injure one, late hours and dissipation use up a dozen. Dissipation is a sure destroyer, and every young man who follows it, is as the early flower to untimely frost. Those who have been inveigled into the path of vice are named legion. A few hours' sleep each night, high living and plenty of "smashes" make war upon every function of the body. The brains, the heart, the lungs, the liver, the spine, the limbs, the bones, the flesh, every part and faculty are overtasked and weakened by the terrific energy of passions loosened from restraint, until, like a dilapidated mansion, the "earthly house of this tabernacle" falls into ruinous decay. Fast young men, right about.

VII. Educational Intelligence.

—UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.—At the recent Convocation for the admission of students, the President, after the prizes had been presented, said that it now remained for him to close the proceedings according to custom, by making a few remarks; but it was not his intention to detain his audience long by any lengthened observations. He would merely advert to one or two topics, which seemed worthy of special notice. Referring first to the College itself, he found that the total number of candidates for matriculation this year had been 60, and the number of colleges and schools from which they had been sent was 32. One of the candidates had received private tuition, and four had been self-taught. The largest number of candidates that had been sent by one institution (seven) had come from the town of Whitby. The number of schools that did not obtain scholarships was 20. Of these, 12 held a very good position for the number of honors obtained by their pupils, and 8 sent up matriculants who passed the examination. The total number of candidates for honors was 49, and the total number of honors obtained by them was 127. On this point he might mention the curious fact that this year, in mathematics alone, there were 28 honour men, just exactly the number of honour men that there were in all the other branches put together when the College was first founded. Upper Canada College still retained the distinguished position that it had long held, and Hellmuth College had proved itself to be a formidable rival of that institution. Before our grammar schools could be improved sufficient funds must be supplied to induce efficient masters to take charge of them. The speaker then alluded to the fact that this College put modern languages and scientific studies on the same par with the studies of the old English institutions, thus taking the lead in a movement that was extending to the old world. (Applause.) He next referred to the prosperity of the College, and said that he was gratified to be able to state that this prosperity was but a reflection of the prosperity that prevails throughout the whole country—a prosperity so marked as to call for special notice. With reference to this fair city, it was enough to remark that it was rapidly becoming the great mart for western merchants to buy in, and for this it was eminently fitted by its position. If any stranger wished to know the marks of the prosperity of our city, let him walk about the streets; let him go to almost every part of it, and he would see in the uprising houses the demonstration of the city's prosperity. The speaker was informed that before the close of the year there would probably have been erected a thousand houses in Toronto within twelve months. Many of these were beautiful and ample stores, and elegant private residences. Through the enterprise of our citizens we were to have a number of railways in addition to those now in operation, which would bring in from the back country the treasures of the land. But not only in this city was there prosperity; it marked the whole Province. It would be an agreeable and an easy task for the speaker to prove that prosperity was general, but it would take up too much time. He would therefore offer only one proof, by referring to the exhibition recently held here. That exhibition, in spite of shortcomings that might, for all he knew, have attended it, was most creditable to the Province. In the horses, cattle, grain, fruit, vegetables and other things of that kind shown, it equalled some of those exhibitions in the old country about which so much was said. In reference to farming, he said that he might venture to express an opinion that there would be improvements in that pursuit when science was brought into play; and here he might state what had often presented itself to his mind. He had never been able to understand why so few pupils attended the school of agriculture in connection with University College, which was under the direction of a professor eminently qualified in theory and in practice, both in the old country and in this, for the discharge of his duties. The speaker believed that if scholarships were offered in this branch they would have a good effect. Referring next to the Dominion, he said that he never forgot that the shortest distance between the Atlantic and Pacific by 700 miles was through British territory. A rail-