

sent as ambassador to prevail on the Bœotians to assist them, in which mission he succeeded. He was also at the battle of Cheronea, where the orator played the coward and fled, for which several accusations were preferred against him, but he was acquitted. On the death of Phillip, he appeared in public with a garland on his head, though he had but just lost his daughter. Demosthenes thought this a favourable opportunity to destroy the Macedonian power, and by his exertion a new confederacy was formed among the Grecian states; which was then broken by the activity of Alexander. The influence of Demosthenes being on the decline; Æschines took advantage of it to bring an accusation against him on the subject of his conduct at Cheronea, and his having had a crown of gold awarded him; but the orator so well defended himself in his celebrated oration De Corona, that he was honourably acquitted, and his adversary sent to exile. Shortly after, however Demosthenes was convicted of receiving a golden cup and twenty talents from Harpalus, one of Alexander's generals, who had retired to Athens with a quantity of plunder, which he had gathered in Asia. To avoid punishment, he fled to Ægina, where he remained till the death of Alexander, when he was recalled by his countrymen, and brought home in triumph. But this change of fortune was of short duration. The victory of Antipater was followed by an order to the Athenians to deliver up Demosthenes, who fled to the temple of Neptune, at Calurina, where he poisoned himself, B. C. 322. The Athenians erected a statue to his memory, and maintained his eldest child at the public expence. Out of sixty-five orations only a few have reached us; and the best edition of which is that of Beski, 8vo. 1720.

CONCEIT;

OR, THE CONFIDENT CARPENTER.

"I understand it! I understand it!" said Jem Timmings, shutting up his two-foot rule, and thrusting it into his pocket. "I understand it," said he, as he hastily walked off with the air of a man who knew what he was about, better than any one could tell him.

Now the mischief of it was, that Jem Timmings thought that he understood, not only the particular business which he had then in hand, but every thing else too; conceit and confidence were his failings, and these were manifested in every thing he undertook.

Jem Timmings was a carpenter. He had served his time with old Thomas Parkenson, a clever, though an humble man, and had usually passed for a smart young fellow at his business, so long as he followed his master's directions; but in nine times out of ten he mistook them, having too hasty a belief that he understood them. "I tell you what," old Thomas used so say, "you will

never understand any thing as long as you are so conceited."

After Jem had served his time, he set up for a master directly, very certain that he understood his business much better than his master did. Having a sprightly air, and being pretty glib with his tongue, he got several jobs to do directly. Those who employed him, however, soon found out that Jem understood, or thought he understood their plans a great deal better than they did themselves; and, as few people like to be instructed by those whom they pay to obey them, they soon left off employing Jem Timmings. The force of habit is very strong, and all the difficulties Jem got into by his conceit and confidence, did not in the least abate his self-estimation or obstinacy.

Jem had been sent for by the churchwarden to make him a pigeon-house, and it was after having had an interview about it, that he said so confidently, on leaving the churchwarden, "I understand it, I understand it!"

As Jem went along whistling, with his hat on one side of his head, he met with his old master, Parkenson, to whom he gave a very familiar nod as he passed, thinking that now he had begun to work for the churchwarden, he should soon put poor Parkenson in the back ground.

Now it happened that Parkenson was on his way to the churchwarden's when Jem Timmings met him, not knowing that his old apprentice had been there before him.

The truth was, that the churchwarden had a long job, of a particular description to give to a carpenter, and was anxious to compare the work of old Parkenson with the work of Jem Timmings, before he decided which of them he should employ. For this purpose he had sent for Jem to order a pigeon-house, the form and make of which he particularly described. He sent, too, for Parkenson, to order one of the same description, and was very particular in giving his directions to them both, saying, that if not made exactly to order he would not have it.

Jem Timmings was not five minutes in taking the order—he knew how it was to be done—he understood all about it! Old Parkenson, on the contrary, was very careful in thoroughly comprehending how every part of the pigeon-house was to be completed, and he made a rough drawing before he left the churchwarden, in which nothing was left to his memory to supply.

Jem Timmings set to work at the pigeon-house, but was not quite certain of the number of holes he had been ordered to make; he was, too, in some doubt whether the pigeon-house had been ordered four feet three inches high, or three feet four; but, being too conceited and opinionated to inquire, he made the pigeon-house at a venture.

Old Parkenson had no doubt at all about the matter; he had taken care to have a clear understanding of every part, and he

made his pigeon-house exactly according to the directions he had received.

The two pigeon-houses were sent to the churchwarden's, and as Jem Timmings went there to know if the one he had made gave satisfaction, he overtook old Parkenson: both of them were surprised when they found out that they were going to the same place, and still more so when they saw two new pigeon-houses standing, side by side, in the churchwarden's yard.

In a little time they were joined by the churchwarden, who pointed out to Jem that the pigeon-house he had sent was a foot too short, and had five pigeon-holes in it more than were ordered. He then showed him the one made by Parkenson, which was in every respect correct, and just the thing he wanted. "I understand it! I understand it!" said Jem, and proposed to rectify his mistake. "No, no," cried the churchwarden, "I wish you to understand that I will never employ, if I can help it, a conceited young fellow who thinks more of his own understanding than he does of the orders of his employers." Jem Timmings slunk away; his ill-made pigeon-house was sent after him, and in two or three days old Parkenson and his men were busily employed in putting new pews to the parish church.

Conceit and confidence are bad enough in respect to the things of time, and they are terrible in things that appertain to eternity. If it be silly to indulge in them in making a pigeon house, how foolish must it be to allow them to interfere as to a heavenly habitation; a building of God, "a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens!" Let us be humble, and attentive to the direction of God's word, that we may know the length and the breadth, the height and the depth, of his holy will, and that we may be "built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord." Eph. ii. 20.

BEGINNING THE WORLD.

"There is nothing that distracts the slumbers of young men so much as setting up in business. Beginning the world brings with it many serious thoughts, the hope of success, the fear of disasters, the ligaments of tenderness, the feelings of rivalry, all work deeply upon the youthful mind and render its nights restless and uneasy. There are some tempers however, that are always delighted with what may be called beginning the world. I knew a man who began business half a dozen times in the course of a few years, and each time with a different set of rules. He had been every thing for a time, but nothing long."

There is much truth and some point in the above little sketch. Beginning the world, choosing a profession, and choosing a wife, are three things connected with life, of much difficulty and of more importance.