

GROWTH IN KNOWLEDGE.

If I wish to be thoroughly acquainted with the beauties of a palace, I may feel that I need to examine it again and again. At an early period, I made a rough sketch, but the resemblance was extremely imperfect, the proportions were ill taken, and many beauties overlooked. Better informed admirers were satisfied that I saw and could relish the excellencies of the building, while they told me I had much pleasure in reserve from continued observation. I have found it to be so. The palace is by no means altered since I first beheld it; but I have seen it in various states of the weather, in different lights, at different distances, from different quarters. Through the gracious condescension of the prince, I have even been allowed to draw near, and, in common with many others, to measure, though still very imperfectly, the breadth, and length, and depth, and height of it. I do not despise the first rough sketch. Blessed be the master who taught me to draw it. I confess, however, that I seldom compare it with the original, without feeling that it needs some touches of correction or improvement. I see excellent drawings made by others, which I greatly admire, and acknowledge to be superior to my own. These afford me many an important lesson, but still they are not my standard; it is the object itself that is the model to us all. And when any delineation of it, whether by others or myself, is found to vary from the original, there can be no dispute, whether the pattern or the copy requires alteration.—*Greville Ewing.*

THOUGHT, OUR DIGNITY.

Man is a reed, and the weakest reed in nature; but then he is a thinking reed. There is no occasion that the whole universe should arm itself for his destruction. A vapour, a drop of water is sufficient to kill him. And yet should the universe crush him, man would still be more noble than that by which he fell; because he would know his fate, while the universe would be insensible of its victory. Thus all our dignity consists in thought. It is hence we are to raise ourselves, and not by the aid of space and duration. Let us study the art of thinking well: this is the foundation of ethics.—*Pascal.*

CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES.

Remember that lofty trees grow from diminutive seeds; copious rivers flow from small fountains; slender wires often sustain ponderous weights; injury to the smallest nerves may occasion the most agonizing sensation; the derangement of the least wheel or pivot may render useless the greatest machine of which it is a part; an immense crop of errors may spring from the least root of falsehood; a glorious intellectual light may be kindled by the minutest sparks of truth; and every principle is more diffusive and operative by reason of its intrinsic energy than of its magnitude.—*Dr. Gregory.*

STATE OF THE HEATHEN.

What a bleak and barren wilderness, what a dreary solitude does their moral state present to the compassionate eye! Stretch the wings of your contemplation, and pass over them with a momentary but painful survey. From climate to climate not a house of God is presented to our eyes, not a pious family, not a religious example. Listen! no voice of prayer rises on the winds—no notes of praise are wafted to the heavens. Look! no sabbath smiles with peace and mercy on the desolate waste—no dews of Divine grace, no showers of life-giving rain descend on the sterile soil. "The heaven over their head is brass, the earth under their feet is iron."—*Dwight.*