

suppositions to the test of observation, they would speedily shake off the enslaving chains of tradition and prejudice.

And what is it but the same root of bitterness, ignorance, and prejudice, that have ere now filled the earth with violence and covered it with blood—these have kindled the fires of persecution, and infused the spirit of demons into “those whom love had knit, and sympathy made one.”

While education is so necessary to guide the mind past those errors and prejudices to which it is thus so much exposed, it is not less essential to preserve us from many of those diseases and accidents, which are so often occasioned by ignorance of the laws of nature. All those who are educated are aware that there are certain laws, upon the observance of which, under God, health depends. And as they have been instituted by Him, it is the duty of every one to seek a knowledge of them, in order to obeying them. And, like all divine regulations, in the observance of them “there is a reward.” Similar remarks might be made in reference to mechanical laws.

OVERTHROW OF NAPOLEON.

BY J. S. ANNOTT.

When Napoleon was in his career of successful conquest through Europe, he overran Prussia with his victorious troops, and quartering his soldiers in the capital, took possession for himself and his suite of the sumptuous apartments of the Prussian king. After dismembering the empire, and exacting enormous tribute from the people, he left the king of Prussia humbled to the very dust, with an impoverished treasury, an army nearly annihilated, and with but the fragments of his former territory. The Prussian queen, upon her knees and with bursting tears, pled with Napoleon not to plunge the Prussian monarchy into such deep disgrace and ruin.—Her grief and prayers were utterly unavailing. “The tears of a beautiful woman,” said this most singular of men, “unquestionably are very pathetic, but surely they are unworthy of any consideration in the great affairs of state.” This reminds us of the remark of Josephine, that there were not more than two or three days in the course of a year, in which a lady could have any influence whatever over the mind of Napoleon. The Prussian queen soon died of mortification and a broken heart. The great and powerful empire of Prussia was thus reduced to the most abject weakness.

“I have always observed,” said one of the veteran generals of Napoleon, “that Providence favours the heavy battalions.” But before the wintry storms of Russia, with which God frowned upon the armies of France, it was found that there was a power superior even to Napoleon’s heaviest battalions. As this imperious conqueror was fleeing, with the freezing and starving fragments of his demolished army, from the disastrous campaign of Moscow, the enfeebled Prussian king saw that there was a chance, in the final defeat of Napoleon, of his regaining his former territory and power. He issued a proclamation to his subjects, informing them that he had no army and no money to pay for troops. But he promised that if they would volunteer their services, and vanquish their conqueror, he would, as a reward, confer upon them a constitution securing to them many civil rights. Universal enthusiasm pervaded the nation. Volunteers, by tens of thousands, flocked to the Prussian standard. At the battle of Waterloo, when the result of the terrible conflict was in suspense; when Napoleon had claimed the day as his own, and Wellington was uttering the anxious wish, “O that Blucher or night would come!” Blucher with his ‘heavy battalions’ of Prussians rushed upon Napoleon’s already exhausted squadrons, and effected the rout. The Prussian army marched with the allied forces to Paris, and having secured the imprisonment of Napoleon upon the rock of St. Helena, returned in triumph to Prussia, now reinstated in all its pristine grandeur.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GROWTH OF THE TEA PLANT INTO FRANCE. —M. Lecoq, the author of a brochure, published in 1845, on the culture and preparation of tea in France, has succeeded, not only in acclimatizing this precious plant, but in giving it the character and qualities of Chinese tea. Some difficulties yet remain to be solved as concerns Pekoe and Souchong; still success has crowned the efforts of M. Lecoq, so that all who wish to try the experiments may do so in all security. Every variety of tea in use is gathered from a single shrub, the green tea-plant (*thea viridis*.)

TWO EXTREMES IN DOMESTIC GOVERNMENT.

BY CATHERINE BEECHER.

Next to the want of all government, the two most fruitful sources of evil to children are unsteadiness in government, and over-government. Most of the cases, in which the children of sensible and conscientious parents turn out badly, result from one or other of these causes. In cases of unsteady government, either one parent is very strict, severe, and unbending, and the other excessively indulgent; or else the parents are sometimes very strict and decided, and at other times allow disobedience to go unpunished. In such cases, children, never knowing exactly when they can escape with impunity, are constantly tempted to make the trial.

The bad effects of this can be better appreciated by reference to one important principle of the mind. It is found to be universally true, that, when any object of desire is put entirely beyond the reach of hope or expectation, the mind very soon ceases to long for it, and turns to other objects of pursuit. But, so long as the mind is hoping for some good, and making efforts to obtain it, any opposition excites irritable feelings. Let the object be put entirely beyond all hope, and this irritation soon ceases. In consequence of this principle, those children who are under the care of persons of steady and decided government know, that, whenever a thing is forbidden, or denied, it is out of the reach of hope; the desire, therefore, soon ceases, and they turn to other objects. But the children of undecided or of over-indulgent parents never enjoy this preserving aid. When a thing is denied, they never know but either coaxing may win it, or disobedience secure it without any penalty, and so they are kept in that state of hope and anxiety which produces irritation, and tempts to insubordination. The children of very indulgent parents, and of those who are undecided and unsteady in government, are very apt to become fretful, irritable, and fractious.

Another class of persons, in shunning this evil, go to the other extreme, and are very strict and pertinacious in regard to every requisition. With them, fault-finding and penalties abound, until the children are either hardened into indifference of feeling and obtuseness of conscience, or else become excessively irritable or misanthropic.

It demands great wisdom, patience, and self-control to escape these two extremes. In aiming at this, there are parents who have found the following maxims of very great value:—First, avoid, as much as possible, the multiplication of rules and absolute commands. Instead of this, take the attitude of advisers. “My child, this is improper; I wish you would remember not to do it.” This mode of address answers for all the little acts of heedlessness, awkwardness, or ill-manners so frequently occurring with children. There are cases when direct and distinct commands are needful; and, in such cases, a penalty for disobedience should be as steady and sure as the laws of nature. Where such steadiness and certainty of penalty attend disobedience, children no more think of disobeying than they do of putting their fingers in a burning candle.

A BRIEF REPORT.—A committee on the state of religion in one of the New England Associations, deviating from the usually prolix style of documents on that subject, presented the following:—

“That the state of religion in the churches composing this Association is lamentably low, needs no argument to prove; but to prescribe a remedy is a task more difficult—let your Committee make an attempt. Therefore—

Resolved—That the shepherds of the several flocks repent of their lukewarmness, humble themselves at the foot of the cross, seek forgiveness of God, and return wholly to his service.

Resolved—That the flocks follow their shepherds.”

This number of the PEOPLE'S MAGAZINE will be sent gratuitously to many Post-masters and Merchants, in the hope that they will take an interest in the effort, and order such a number of copies as they are likely to be able to sell.

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