hairy caterpillar changes his skin ten or eleven times before completing his growth.

After the larva has attained to full size, he begins to make for himself a winding-sheet. This is usually of silk, which is manufactured by the insect from a gummy fluid in his body, which is thrown out in fine threads, and hardens by exposure to the air. He wraps it round and round himself until he is completely encased, looking like a little mummy. This is called the pupa state—as the Latin word *pupa* signifies mummy. Some insects do not have this silken covering. They merely attach themselves by silken threads to some twig or sheltered place, and hang there, while a hard, shell-like skin forms over them. The pupa of a butterfly is called a chrysalis, or aurelia. They are often very beautiful, of a light-green colour, dotted with black and golden points. They are sometimes improperly called butterflies' eggs.

While the insect is wrapped up in this case, apparently dead, a wonderful change is going on in his structure. The creeping worm, from which most people foolishly turn away with disgust, is being transformed to the beautiful winged creature which all love to look upon. The perfect insect which emerges from the pupa-case is termed the "imago," or image, because each such individual is an image and representative of the entire species. The imago of most insects in this climate comes from its confinement with return of warm weather. All through the cold weather, the butterflies and many other winged insects have been sleeping in their silken cradles, rocked by the winds as they hung suspended from twigs of trees or bushes. Had they ventured forth then, all must have perished; but the Creator, who made them all for some good purpose, continues to watch over them, and calls them from their prison-house when He has prepared the warm sunshine and the fragrant flowers for their reception.

The life of butterflies is a short and merry one. They dance gayly about for a single season, deposit their eggs, and having thus secured the perpetuation of their race, they die.

A CURIOUS INSECT.

The leaf insect of Ceylon exhibits one of the most cunning of all nature's devices for the preservation of her creatures. It is of every variety of hue, from the pale yellow of an opening bud to the rich green of the full grown leaf and the withered tint of decaying foliage. So perfect is the imitation, in structure and articulation, that these amazing insects, when at rest, are almost undistinguishable from the verdure around them; not the wings only being modeled to resemble ribbed and fibrous follicles, but every joint of the legs being expanded into a broad plait like a half open leaflet.

PROCRASTINATION.

Procrastinators are rarely successful in life. Never defer till to-morrow what can be done at the present time. If you have a lesson to learn, begin at once; by constant repetition you will accomplish it. If you wish to acquire any particular branch of education, you must be studious; by practice you will surmount many difficulties. Should you have an important duty to perform, never defer it; by so doing you may bring life-long trouble upon others. Be prompt in your actions; whatever you undertake try and fulfil. Never promise what you cannot perform. Learn punctuality and self-reliance; then there will be no occasion to rely on another's ability for help. Never retire to rest (even if you are tired) without offering up a prayer to Heaven for protection and guidance. Always endeavour to be dutiful to those who are capable of advising you by their superior knowledge. They indeed feel happy who are at all times ready to do that which is required for their good.

TIME FOR CUTTING FLOWERS.

Flowers should not be cut during sunshine, or kept exposed to the sun; neither should the flowers be collected in large bundles and tied tightly together, as this invariably hastens their decay. When in the room where they are to remain, the end of the stalks should be cut cleanly across with a very sharp knife, (never with scissors,) by which means the tubes through which they draw the water are left open so that the water ascends freely, which it will not do if the tubes of the stems are bruised or lacerated. An endless variety of ornamental vessels are used for the reception of such flowers, and they are all equally well adapted for the purpose, so that the stalks are inserted in pure water. This water ought to be changed every day, or once in two days at the furthest, and a thin slice should be cleanly cut off from the end of each stalk every time the water is removed, which will occasion fresh action and revive the flowers. Water, about milk-warm, or containing a small quantity of camphor, will sometimes revive decayed flowers. The best method of applying this, is to have the camphor dissolved in spirits of wine, for which the common camphorated spirits of the druggists' shops will be quite sufficient, and to add a drop or two of this for every half ounce of water. A glass shade is also useful in preserving flowers; and cut flowers ought always to be shaded during the night, and indeed at all times when they are not purposely exhibited.

In saying that our days are few, we say too much. We have but one; the past are not ours, and who can promise us the future?

"Paper is rising," as the boy said when his kite was going up.

ALPINE PEASANTS.

The peasants who inhabit the slopes and valleys of the Swiss Alps are a most interesting people. Their industry, intelligence, and indomitable love of freedom have been proverbial for centuries. Shut in from the rest of the world by almost impassable mountain barriers, they are forced to depend mostly upon their own resources to supply the comforts of life. They know little of its luxuries, save those which money cannot buy—health, contentment, and keen enjoyment of their scanty possessions. Thus industry is a national necessity, and its certain accompaniments, thrift and virtue, are everywhere seen.

Much of the country is a vast waste of barren rocks, accessible only to the hardy chamois and the more hardy hunter, who pursues him over the perilous heights of his mountain-home. But wherever grass will grow, or a vine can be made to draw nourishment from the scanty soil, there the hand of industry taxes its fullest capacity, and the humble cottages, are surrounded with flowers and fruits, which crown them with beauty.

Patches of herbage are scattered here and there among the slopes of the mountains—some of them at great heights. During the short summer, the Alpine herdmen lead their little flocks up to these spots, and remain with them until the early winter forces them to return to the sheltered valleys. They may often be seen at such seasons bending under the weight of their rude household furniture which they carry upon their backs. They go cheerily along, enlivening their toilsome journey with cheering songs, which seem filled with the very spirit of the mountains that echo back their notes.

BAD COMPANY is like a nail driven into a post, which after the first or second blow may be drawn out with little difficulty; but being once driven up to the head, the pincers cannot take hold to draw it out: it can only be done by the destruction of the wood.

TO AGENTS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

Some extra copies of No. 1 have been printed as a reserve for new subscribers: it has been put to press a few days earlier than the day of publication, in order that agents may be enabled to forward their additional orders previous to issuing No. 2. Succeeding numbers will be published weekly from the date of this number.

Our Agents generally have very cordially interested themselves in procuring subscribers, and we trust our young readers will appreciate their kind exertions, by calling promptly for their papers, and by putting the agents to as little inconvenience as possible in their delivery, after the mails are opened.