

MODERN CHILDREN.

An English magazine writer says:—"Children now are brought up on a very different principle from that on which their fathers and mothers were prepared for the wear and tear, for the sufferings and temptations of life. The difference between right and wrong, we frequently find now a-days, is made more of argumentative than of practical interest; and it is not unusual to hear a parent discussing with mere infants the whys and the wherefores, the pros and the cons of everything which it is required to do. A sharp child, consequently, often gets the best of the argument; the humiliated parent is reduced to silence or snappishness, according to his individual temperament, and the child sees his advantage, and does no fail to let it appear that he does.

"This is a very different system from the laconic 'do this' and 'do that' of a day gone by; or from the 'wholesome neglect,' the disgrace and isolation of the juvenile delinquent who was a wilful transgressor of established rules. No one was then allowed to plead moral color-blindness to the different shades of right and wrong. Children were not so much experimentalized upon; or brought up in that visionary theoretical school whose training leaves the youthful mind impressed with the idea that nothing is very right and that nothing is very wrong—that much which appears right on the face of it has some demoralizing tendency at the rest; and that much which at first sight strikes us as wrong, is in fact entitled to some interest, and is more a misfortune of circumstances than an error in act. The moral delinquent of this school is invested with a sort of value, as a chemical test by which to detect some poisonous ingredient in the last new educational tonic administered at the instigation of a successful quack.—The good little brother or sister who has no moral wound to heal is comparatively uninteresting."

☞ The Duke of Norfolk had a fancy for owls, of which he kept several. He called one, from its resemblance to the Chancellor, "Lord Thurlow." The Duke's Solicitor was once in conversation with his Grace, when, to his surprise, the owl-keeper came up and said, "Please you, my Lord, 'Lord Thurlow's' laid an egg."

☞ There is but one way to preserve the health, and that is to live moderately, take proper exercise, and be in the fresh air as much as possible.

THE PAST.

Gone, forever gone, from us, is the past, with all its joys and sorrows, its pleasures and pains. Never again, but in memory, shall we grow happy in the sunlight of its pleasures, or bow beneath the weight of its afflicting hand. Yet, at times, we love to wander back through its desolate halls, and imagine them again peopled with their former inhabitants. We love to go back to childhood's happy hours, and imagine ourselves surrounded by those who were our companions, when our highest ambition was some school-boy triumphs, and our greatest grief no more lasting than a summer's day. We pause and consider if the hopes of those happy hearts that surrounded us in youth have been realized,—if, in the great battle of life, they have achieved the triumphs they anticipated. Ambition, the guiding star of youth, seemed to point an easy path to fame's summit: Hope whispered sweet words to the panting heart, and all was joy and gladness. But we pause not long for reflection,—a grassy mound, beside the stream where often we had wandered, points the resting place of some,—and anticipations never realized tell the fate of many still numbered with the living.

Yet, how instructive are the simple records of the past. There is a lesson read to us from out their midst that is not to be mistaken. As we review the season of youth, we may learn this lesson from its departure,—life is fast passing away, and before we are aware of it, another stage of existence will be ushered upon us. Let us remember that hope gleams out from every action of a well-spent life, and happiness is only found in doing good.

HOW TO HAVE LIGHT.

We are responsible, not only for what we do, but for what we see. More than we often think, the eyes of the soul are in our power. Say what we will of the obscurities of Revelation and the mysteries of Providence, truly spiritual and believing men and women go on reading both deeper and deeper, clearer and clearer, all their lives, till at last, no longer through a glass darkly—the veil taken away—they see as they are seen, know as they are known, stand face to face with the Saviour they have so long and so trustingly followed, and have "open vision for the written word." If we do not behold the constellation of splendid truths that radiate their evangelic light from the *gospel*, it is be-

cause blindness is in the dim pupils of our eyes, unused or abused. Just as fast as we will let it, the day will dawn and the day star arise in our hearts. By living out all the goodness we know, in the daily beauty of holiness, we shall behold life's grand proportions. By walking with Christ you shall wear his likeness. Nay—for he is a living Christ—you shall have him formed within you, not only the hope, but the present possession of glory. And because you know him spiritually, in the purity and love of his life and cross, men will also take knowledge of you, that you have been with him, and are with him now, and shall be his people forever.—

Rev. Dr. F. D. Huntington.

THE MIND WANTS FOOD.—In a civilized community mental food is as necessary as bodily food. The mind "feeds" as well as the body. It is always active. It receives and digests, and grows or dwarfs according to its nourishment. But food of some sort it must have. Milk for babes, and meat for strong men, an apostolic maxim, applies as well to the mind as the body. The speaker meant it to do so; and as there is no possible satiety in riches, as our first pound in the savings bank makes us desire to make it a hundred, our first hundred a thousand, and so on, so there is no possible satiety in knowledge. We know something—we desire to know more; we would know all things. If in our days a tree of knowledge were planted, it is not only a single apple that would be plucked therefrom, but scarcely a leaf would be left on the tree.—*Family Herald*.

☞ A woman can no more become beautiful, in the true sense of the term, or remain so, without healthful exercise in the open air, than a plant can thrive without light. If we put the latter into a cellar, it either dies outright or refuses to bloom. Shall we wilt our sisters, wives or daughters by a similar deprivation of what is as necessary to their harmonious development?

☞ We well recollect the reply of an intelligent farmer, when asked if his horses were well matched. "Yes," said he, "they are matched first rate; one of them is willing to do all the work, and the other is willing he should."

☞ Forgiveness, the noblest of all self-denial, is a virtue, which he alone who can practice in himself can willingly believe in another.