

Dawning Genius.

It was a mother's kiss of approbation and encouragement which made Benjamin West the artist he was, when with childish hand, but eye of genius, he drew the sleeping baby, in which her fond eye noted a resemblance. Had that been a smile of ridicule or a hastily spoken word to say he might have been better employed, who can tell on so sensitive a plant as a child's unfolding genius what a blighting effect it would have had.

In our illustration another young artist is at work. See the studious and earnest face as he bends over his slate, and the picture grows under his hand. No half-hearted work there; his soul is in it and all his faculties are engaged. The words of a Great Teacher spoken eighteen hundred years ago come to mind, and we think there are many things we older people have to learn, in which we would do well to imitate and receive, even "as a little child."

What else do we note in our illustration? On a wooden chair the boy has his work. No home of wealth, with easels, pallets or flowing fountains, no cradle of luxury does our youthful genius claim. Let elegantly carved rooms and gorgeous upholstery continue to surround those whose brains the world's work may do without, but may our men of genius continue to come from the little cot and the rude hamlet, carrying with them wealth of mind and health of body. Let them come from the green fields and the blue skies, redolent with sunshine and singing birds and beauty, and with "the greatest thing in the world"—as Professor Drummond terms it—love, love to man and love to God.

And when the world wants wisdom and clear minds and heads, yes, and hearts, in its hours of trouble and difficulty, they will turn aside to meet the men they require, without asking if their coat is worn or if they know certain rules of etiquette. It will take them *as they are* and pass to them their offices of trust.

Let us look again at our illustration and see the power one earnest worker possesses. The little sister, wondering at her playmate's silence, comes to see, and his enthusiasm holds her spell-bound and her dolly lies forgotten on her arm. What does she learn from the picture as she stands there, her face lit up with interest, and watches the strokes one by one as they fill

in and make up the picture? More than one lesson is there taught; a deeper love and respect for the young artist, a lesson in perseverance and an object, an object to be accomplished before we lay our work down. What life lessons these! The man that is to be shines through the boy's eyes and face; the little child will yet be the confidential sister, and with a mother's love and father's pride, what may we not predict for the persevering, studious, loving and loved son and brother; what may we not predict when the development of all these God-given powers is ac-



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complished, when

"The shadows are lifted,
When the sands of life are all sifted,
And the well-fought fight is won."

KATE ROBERTSON, Strabane.

How is it possible to proceed in two opposite directions at the same time? By walking from the forward to the aft of a vessel while sailing. What is the centre of gravity? The letter V.

At Sir Ralph's Evening Party—Captain F. (brought by a friend)—"Old Stick-in-the-Mud does the thing well, doesn't he? The supper alone must have cost him a guinea a head." Lady—"Twenty-two and sixpence, sir. I can give you the exact figures." Captain F.—"Why, how, what do you mean?" Lady—"Merely that I am old Stick-in-the-Mud's daughter."

Fashion Notes.

An effort is being made to renew the popularity of the long skirt hems, but the untidiness and awkwardness of over-long skirts tempt us to wonder whether any sensible woman would ever adopt them. Another attempt is that of reviving the all-round hoops, but let us hope without success.

The inclination is to "mannish" styles, but the little jacket is jaunty, and the linen collar and shirt looks like a man's; the little lady who wears it looks very pretty and neat. If there are

little side pockets we need not put our hands into them, and if we do wear a sailor hat it must be worn on top of the head, not a particle to one side. Fashionable travellers are wearing black silk underwear throughout, not excepting night robes; it is claimed they do not soil so easily. It is yet too early to tell what will be worn for autumn, as only a few new styles are shown, but our summer usually lingers so long there is not much time to get out any distinct mode for autumn, so a little brightening of summer bonnets, a little heavier mantle or a darker dress are all the changes that the majority comply with. What shall I buy for a nice black woollen dress, and how shall I make it at home? are asked constantly by girls who have just so much to spend upon a dress, and black being the most serviceable it should be of good material, Henrietta cord or Russian cashmere being the best. Trim the basque with silk cord passementerie in vandyke designs down the bust, around the cuffs and down one side of the skirt. Another plan would be to have full sleeves of silk or velvet

with a panel of velvet and a border six inches deep around the front hem. You should make it as near the style as possible, a princess back and slightly draped front and high standing collar; the sleeves stand up high at the top, and for turning have one vandyke only pointing upwards for a cuff.

The birds that were used upon summer hats bid fair to reign undisputed, and despite the efforts to renounce caprice of fashion for sentiment the feathered beauties have returned in many varieties.

Shoulder capes in all materials will be worn for autumn; of cloth pinched at the edges, of heavy silk or plush lined and trimmed with fur, or of the material of the dress finished a ruching or fur.