

South's Corner.

THE BABY.

Come here, my dear boy, look at Baby's two hands, And his little feet upon which Baby stands.

Two thumbs and eight fingers together make ten; Five toes on each foot the same number again.

Two arms, and two shoulders, two elbows, two wrists— Now bend up your knuckles, make two little fists.

O! what would my boy do without his two hands, Or his two little feet upon which he now stands?

Glasgow Infant School Magazine.

THE LITTLE PRISONERS.

A little boy having found a nest of young sparrows about a mile from the house where he lived, took it, and returned home.

He thought that they would feed the little birds, if they could get at them; so, when he reached home, he put the nest and the young birds in a wire cage, and placed the cage on the outside of the window.

The little birds were hungry, and cried for food. Very soon, both the parents, having caterpillars in their bills, came to the cage, and gave one to each of the young birds, and seemed glad to see them: then away they flew for more food.

The old birds continued to feed their young ones very diligently, till they were fledged, and seemed able to fly. Then the little boy took the strongest of the young birds, and put him on the outside of the cage.

They wanted him to fly away: but he had never tried to fly, and was afraid. Then they flew backwards and forwards, from the cage to the top of the chimney that was near, as if to show him how easy it was to fly, and that the journey was short.

Next day the boy put another of the birds on the outside of the cage. The old birds were as glad to see him as they had been to see the other little bird; and took as much pains to teach him to fly.

It was by no means right in this little boy to take away the nest; and, had he not allowed the birds to fly away when they were able, he would, indeed, have been very cruel.

BENIGNUS AND CONTUMAX.

Which is the happier of the two? We will suppose a shipwreck in which every soul perishes except two passengers, whom we will name Benignus and Contumax.

The first emotions of Benignus, after struggling through the waves, are admiring gratitude to God for giving him his life, and a cheerful confidence that he who has aided him thus far, will not then leave him to perish.

Presently Benignus discovers in the rock, far above the reach of the waves, a spacious cavern, the entrance to which is protected by an artificial wall, and its sides pierced, evidently by a human hand, for the admission of light and air.

Contumax scorns any such inference; he cannot see why benevolent people should wish to drive poor shipwrecked wretches into such a dismal hole in the rock, instead of providing them with a comfortable and pleasant home.

Benignus reminds him that a house with windows and doors could not endure the storms of such a coast; and as no one would live there to take care of it, it would be continually out of repair, and far less comfortable than the cavern; and therefore the very nature of the shelter provided should be regarded as a striking proof not only of the benevolence, but also of the wisdom of the provider.

Benignus soon finds, carefully stowed away beyond the reach of damp, a tinder-box with all the necessary furnishing, and a quantity of dry fuel for making a fire.

care of the provider of the cavern: here are all the materials for making a quick fire, of which we are so much in need." "How do you know," replies Contumax, "that these things came here in that way? They probably belong to some poor wretch who has been shipwrecked before us, and found a chance to get away again, as I wish from my heart I could do."

Benignus, greatly delighted with what he has already discovered, makes further search in the cave, and finds plain and wholesome provisions, such as would not be injured, together with medicines and cordials; and also a supply of coarse, but clean and warm clothing, carefully cased up so as to preserve it from all injury of wet or moth.

Contumax, however, does not hesitate to warm himself by the fire which Benignus has made of the materials found in the cave; he partakes freely, and with great zest, of the provisions and cordials, simple as they are; gladly lays aside his own wet and torn clothing, for the coarse but comfortable and dry raiment provided for him; and fixing himself in the most easy position he can devise, and as near the various comforts of the grotto as he can get, he is quite ready to enter into an argument to any extent.

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THE LATE KING AND QUEEN OF PRUSSIA. A household scene at Potsdam is not to be omitted. The king was accustomed to take his breakfast in the queen's apartments, however busy he might be, even if he had but a moment to take this meal, which generally was composed of fresh fruit, or other simple viands. On one occasion, as he entered, he saw lying on her work-table a very pretty head-dress, which seemed to be quite new.

From "The Disciple and the Sceptic," by C. E. Stowe, in The Visitor, August, 1847.

dollars." The king laughed, acknowledged he was caught in his trap, gave the sum she had so playfully forced him to give, through her extravagance, as he called it, and heartily wished the old invalid good luck with his present. The affair was, of course, repeated in the antichamber, and was received with peals of laughter. That veteran's name was Christian Brandes, who told this anecdote to Bishop Eylert himself.

A SAINT'S FESTIVAL IN SICILY.

Notwithstanding all that may have been said, we found the monks of Sicily, with a few exceptions, neither rich nor luxurious. The Benedictines of Catania, indeed, inhabit a superb palace; their revenues are princely, and their fraternity all of noble birth: but the annual stipend of our host did not exceed forty-five dollars, and that of the other brethren was much less: their daily fare in the refectory was of Pythagorean simplicity: a little shell-fish, eggs, salad, and bread forming the principal diet, wine being very moderately used, and meat rarely seen: their robust and ruddy appearance, therefore, might be ascribed to the effects of temperance rather than of luxury.

Whilst we resided in this convent, we had an opportunity of witnessing the festival of its patron saint, when night and day were made hideous by the constant sound of drums, trumpets, and pateraroes [fire-works]; whilst processions of mummeries took place, in which every convent of the city endeavoured to distinguish itself by the most pompous display, and each sturdy monk endeavoured to carry a crucifix more ponderous than his fellow.

Drumming ennobled.—The Roman Civic Guards are somewhat too much in a hurry for reform, to please their masters. On a late occasion, a body of them, comprising five or six battalions, had received permission to assemble in the meadows of Roma Vecchia for the purpose of being exercised, and afterwards to join at a banquet.

exposed, and where every coral was in full life and luxuriance. Smooth round masses of maandrina and astræa were contrasted with delicate leaf-like and cup-shaped expansions of explanaria, and with an infinite variety of branching madreporæ and seriatopore, some with mere finger-shaped projections, others with large branching stems, and others again exhibiting an elegant assemblage of interlacing twigs, of the most delicate and exquisite workmanship. Their colours were unrivalled—vivid greens, contrasting with more sober browns and yellows, mingled with rich shades of purple from pale pink to deep blue.

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