

the possession of it such a privilege in the eyes of his fellows. And what with the buttons, and the knives and the twine, and the marbles, why there are materials of pleasure and amusement within his command which constitute the ultimatum of all his wishes. It is in the game however that the zest of boyhood for amusement is most keen and exciting; especially in those games which require adroitness and skill, and the losing of which incurs a penalty. It is a study to watch a game at marbles, or of hot-tie, where the knuckles or the palm have to pay the forfeit. Nor did Napoleon or Wellington exult more joyously over vanquished fields than do those boyish conquerors as they make their bowls plunk off the knuckles of the beaten, or the well aimed ball rebound from the swollen palm. It may be worth while to notice that much of the amusement of boyhood consists in mutual effort in furthering some great work. How are their hopes excited and their resources calculated, and what wonderful results do they expect from their labour. On the issue of their undertaking they are as bent as FRANKLIN in attempting to explore the North West passage, or MORSE to encircle the globe with Electric Telegraph. In such expeditions there are the nascent Franklin's and Morse's—the men in embryo or rather in miniature who are in their day to enlarge the capabilities of man for the enjoyment of life, and to increase indefinitely the means of enjoyment.

It has often appeared to me the refinement of cruelty, (and I confess with all ingenuousness that I have been occasionally guilty,) abruptly to terminate such schemes and projects of boyish undertaking and turn all their plans into confusion. Perhaps if the scheme itself be of questionable propriety, or if the carrying of it out may incur consequences of a disagreeable nature to other parties, or hurtful to themselves, prudence may demand that the whole thing be abandoned. But few such schemes are really of this nature when fairly examined; and hence instead of hindering or forbidding, they ought to be encouraged by the countenance and aid of their parents and friends. A Father or Tutor but acts in keeping with his high relationship when he enters into their plans, and stooping from his higher level (if he do stoop) make himself for the time their fellow-labourer and guide. Such countenance intensifies their interest and invests with something like sacredness the entire affair; and the assurance of pa-