

Miscellaneous.

REMINISCENCES.

One evening some years ago, when the gas was first introduced into an ancient town in the north of Scotland, an old lady whose son had provided the luxury for the establishment, just before retiring to her silent repose, went to put out the light, and being accustomed from time immemorial, in all such cases, to display the strength of her breathing organs, she applied the same extraneous force to the jet, and all was speedily in obscurity. But the smell of ten thousand half extinguished candles was nothing to the virulence of the odour which speedily insinuated itself into every apartment; and the young man who was quietly poring over *Pilgrim's Progress*, actually imagined that he had come into contact with the sulphur from the pit of destruction. He was at length roused from his reverie and very speedily ascertained the cause, which it was only necessary to know in order to provide a speedy remedy. Now there was nothing very strange in all this. We cannot intuitively understand any new process which may have been adopted; although we are very much in the habit every day of expecting our children or domestics to do things as we wish them to be done without ever having given the slightest hint to that effect. Nothing could be more preposterous. Well, an amusing incident resulting from a similar cause transpired one day last week in the rear of one of our King Street shops. A female wanted to draw a pailful of water to perform some avocation among the tea-cups, and being seemingly a stranger to the premises, she enquired at a man-busying himself about something in the yard, where the well was. The sequel would almost induce the belief that the answer was both laconic and indelicate—something like; "is in the corner yonder." However the first thing that arrested the attention "in the corner yonder," was one of these patent weighing machines, with several weights suspended from it, and the stranger, very innocently imagining this to be the pump, laid hold of it and gave several vigorous twitches, but beheld the "well was dry." She communicated her plaint to the workman, who having heard the sudden jingling among the weights, lifted his head to discover the cause and could scarcely contain his gravity at the occurrence. He, however, had machineness enough left to go to the corner and satisfy the new comer that she had only by mistake pulled the wrong handle. Well, although we are all frequently apt to pull the wrong handle, we are always ready to enjoy a laugh at our neighbour's cost. This seems a failing in our nature, as universal as the light of the sun. So long, then, as we are not caught lifting our hat and making obeisance to a lamp post in the passing, we may be allowed to move on without much remark. But even that action grotesque as it may appear, unless performed through the influence of some stimulating agent, may not necessarily call forth our risible faculties. There was, some years ago, a very respectable old man who used to wander through the streets of Paisley, and sometimes he would stick himself up against a wall, and protest seriously that he was a clock, and would make his arm go to and fro, to represent the pendulum; at other times he would declare that he was a tea-pot, and would twist up his arms, to represent the spout and the handle. On such occasions he would very speedily collect a crowd of boys, who enjoyed the sport thus occasioned. The poor man had evidently pulled a long while at the wrong handle. He had laboured hard to amass money, and when his aim was accomplished the well became dry, and there was nothing heard but the jingling of the weights.

EDUCATION OF DAUGHTERS.

When a young lady is seventeen years of age, if she enjoys good health, she is just beginning to have that vigor of mind, which enables her to make intellectual acquisitions. Two or three years, then, devoted energetically to study, will

store her mind with treasures which will be more valuable to her than mines of gold. She will be thus able to command a husband's respect and retain his love. Her children will feel that they have indeed a mother. Her home will be one worthy of the name, where a mother's accomplished mind and glowing heart will diffuse their heavenly influence. An angel might cover the mission which is assigned to a mother. Your child, who thinks of finishing her education at sixteen, may soon have entrusted to her keeping a son, in whose soul may glow the energies of Milton, or of Newton or of Washington. She is created a little lower than the angels. When the waning stars expire, she is still to go careering on in immortality, till she reaches that climax of happiness—in the presence of God. Appreciate the exaltation of her nature, her duties, and her destiny. Let not the noble intellect, where dwells her immortality be unheeded. The years of youth are soon gone. The moments in which a young lady can attract attention by a few superficial accomplishments, are as transient as the morning dew. But there are life-long cares and responsibilities which will weigh upon her. And when she has passed through her three-score years and ten, and, venerable in age, she sits by the fire side with her children and grandchildren around her, accomplished scholar and honored statesman may be among their number, who shall assemble in her chamber with emotion of love and reverence.

SCARLET FEVER.

Dr. Lindsey of Washington says: My plan has been to have the whole body rubbed with the inside rind of fat uncooked bacon, during the whole course of the disease, and to depend upon the tincture of iodine, applied freely once, twice or three times in the course of twenty-four hours, to arrest the dangerous affection. But one case (and that had left the city convalescent) terminated fatally, besides another one which I saw in consultation, in which this treatment was applied. If there is any virtue in this simple remedy it cannot be too generally known.

Biographical Calendar.

	A. D.
May 9	1805. Schiller, died.
" 10	1850. Gay-Lussac, died.
" 10	1733. Barton Booth, died.
" 11	1771. Louis 15, King of France, died.
" 11	1778. Earl of Chatham, died.
" 12	1819. Hon. Spencer Percival, shot.
" 12	1611. Earl of Strafford, beheaded.
" 13	1763. Dr. John Bell, born.
" 13	1753. L. Carnet, born.
" 14	1820. Henry Grattan, died.
" 14	1832. Baron Cuvier, died.
" 14	1838. Zachary Macaulay, died.
" 14	1610. Henry IV, King of France, assassinated.
" 15	1696. Fahrenheit, born.
" 15	1818. M. G. Lewis, died.
" 15	1821. John Bunycastle, died.
" 15	1817. Daniel O'Connell, died.

William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, was the son of Robert Pitt, Esq., of Boconock, in Cornwall, where he was born in 1709. After studying at Eton and Oxford, he entered the army as a cornet of dragoons, but, quitting it on being returned to parliament as a member for Old Sarum. His talents as an orator were soon displayed in opposition to Sir Robert Walpole, and had so great an effect, that the Duchess of Marlborough, who had a deadly hatred to that minister, bequeathed a legacy to Mr. Pitt of £10,000. On the change of administration, he was made joint vice-treasurer of Ireland and paymaster-general of the army, which places he resigned in 1756; but the year following he was appointed Secretary of State. In a few months he was again dismissed from office; but an efficient administration being wanted in 1757, and the nation being enthusiastically at-

tached to him, he returned to his former office of Secretary of State. His great mind now revealed its full force; he aroused the nation to new activity, and in the space of a few years, we recovered our superiority over France, annihilating her navy and stripping her of her colonies. In 1760 he advised the declaration of war against Spain, while she was unprepared for resistance, as he foresaw that she would assist France. But his plans were suddenly interrupted by the death of George II. whose successor was prejudiced against Pitt by his adversary the Earl of Bute, a statesman of limited views. Pitt therefore resigned his post in 1761, only retaining his seat in the House of Commons. Foreseeing the separation of the American colonies from the mother country, if the arbitrary measures then adopted should be continued, he advocated, especially in 1766, a conciliatory policy, and the repeal of the Stamp Act. In the same year he was invited to form a new ministry, in which he took the office of Privy Seal, and was created earl of Chatham; but in 1769 he resigned, judging himself inadequately seconded by his colleagues. In the House of Lords he continued his opposition to the measures against the American colonies, even after their declaration of independence in 1776. He was speaking with his accustomed energy on this subject, in the House of Lords, April 8, 1778, when he fell down in convulsions. He died on the 11th of the following month, and was buried in Westminster Abbey at the national expense.—*Albion.*

At 9 Leopold Place, Edinburgh, on the 20th ultimo, after a short illness, Mr. William Aitken, of the *Edinburgh Advertiser*, in the 27th year of his age. To this brief obituary notice we would add a few words, for rarely has a young man departed this life more deeply and deservedly regretted than Mr. Aitken. Although almost unknown in this quarter, the remarks we have to make, will not be a useless employment of our space. Mr. Aitken commenced his professional career as reporter to the *Fife Herald*, and on the starting of the *Scottish Press* in Edinburgh, in 1817, Mr. Aitken was selected to a similar situation over many competitors. He was afterwards induced to join the *Edinburgh Advertiser*, with which paper he remained connected till his decease. In all these situations, while he gained the esteem of his employers by his integrity and ability, Mr. Aitken was careful to embrace opportunities for mental culture, and he was latterly becoming a frequent and esteemed contributor to some of the periodicals of the day. It has rarely been our lot to experience the personal friendship of one so extensively and warmly beloved, one, too, who was very perceptibly ascending to an honourable position in the world. From a private note, we quote the language of one, who, with ourselves, now mourns his loss.—"In him were combined a strong vigorous intellect, a gentle heart, and a charm of manner that secured the affections of all who approached him. He was a kind, steady friend, a fascinating companion, and a thoroughly honest, virtuous man. His was a life comparatively void of all evil; he had a heart free from guile; and a mind deeply imbued with the meek, and holy, and benevolent doctrines of Christianity. We may mourn his loss, but his memory will remain ever green, and never depart from us as long as we live." The remains of the deceased were conveyed by railway last Thursday to Cupar, and were interred in the burying-ground there.—*Alloa Advertiser.*

With our respected friend, Mr. Lothian, would we wish to bear our humble testimony to the private worth of the deceased. He has summed up his professional career in a few words. During that career we spent many pleasant hours together; but he has distanced all his Edinburgh associates in the race for immortality. The poet has beautifully said—

If thou art wise and good 'tis well,
For virtue has a charm;
But all thy goodness cannot stay
The tyrant's lifted arm.