

the temporal courts would not trust the Ordinary with the trial of the offender, but delivered to him the convicted clerk *absque purgatione faciendi* (without purgation); in which situation the clerk convicted could not make purgation, but was to continue in prison during life, and was incapable of acquiring any personal property, or receiving the profits of his lands, unless the king should please to pardon him. It was high time that these abuses should be done away with at the reformation; and benefit of clergy now signifies in all offences in which it is allowed, that the capital punishment shall be omitted for the first offence, and the offender be subject to imprisonment, transportation, whipping, or such other penalties as the several acts of Parliament direct to be inflicted.

HUMILITY AND PERSEVERANCE.—A FABLE.

From the side of a mountain there flowed forth a little rivulet—its voice was scarcely heard amid the rustling of the leaves and grass around; its shallow and narrow stream might be overlooked by the traveller. This stream, although so small, was inspired with a proud spirit, and murmured against the decree of providence, which had cast its lot so lowly.

"I wish I were a cloud to roll all day through the heavens, painted so beautifully, as those lowly shapes are coloured, and never descending again in showers; or at least I wish I were a broad river, performing some useful duty in the world.

"Shame on my weak waves and my unregarded bubbling.—I might as well have never been, as to be thus puny, insignificant and useless."

When the brook thus complained, a beautiful flower, that bent over its bosom, thus replied:

"Thou art in error, brook. Puny and insignificant thou mayest be; useless thou art not, for I owe half my beauty, perhaps my life, to thy refreshing waters. The plants adjacent to thee are greener and richer than others. The Creator has given thee a duty, which, though humble, thou must not neglect. Besides, who knows what may be thy future destiny? Flow on I beseech thee."

The brook heard the rebuke and danced along its way more cheerfully. On and on it went, growing broader and broader. By and by, other rivulets poured their crystal waters into it, and swelled its deepening bosom, in which already began to appear the fairy creatures of the wave, darting about joyfully, and glistening in the sun. As its channel grew wider and wider, and yet other branches came gliding into it, the stream began to assume the importance of a river, and boats were launched on it, and it rolled on in a meandering course through a teeming country, freshening whatever it touched, and giving to the whole scene a new character of beauty.

As it moved on now in majesty and pride, the sound of its gently-heaving billows formed itself into the following words:—

"At the onset of life, however humble we may seem, fate may have in store for us many and unexpected opportunities of doing good, and of being great. In the hope of this we should ever pass on without despair or doubt, trusting that perseverance will bring in its own reward. How little I dreamed, when I first sprang on my course, what purpose I was destined to fulfil! what happy beings were to owe their bliss to me! what lofty trees, what velvet meadows, what golden harvests, were to hail my career! Let not the meek and lowly despair; heaven will supply them with noble inducements to virtue."

THE WALDENSES.—The nearer we approach these fastnesses in which, for so many centuries, the Waldenses have entrenched their faith and freedom, the more we are struck with the contrast which they offer, compared with the rest of Piedmont; the more we appreciate those heroic virtues that have left in every defile imperishable records of what they have achieved

and suffered; and the more we admire that piety and patriotism which counted nothing a sacrifice so long as they were left to serve God in the simplicity of their hearts, and to earn a frugal subsistence by the labour of their hands. Surrounded by powerful nations, in whose state policy they had little participation, and isolated by their religion, no less than their natural position beyond the pale of common sympathy, here they cherished in silent thankfulness that vital flame, first kindled by the apostles—a flame which has survived the shock of revolutions, the fall of empires, and descended with undiminished brightness to the present day. Europe was shaken by convulsions; Italy was overrun by successive hordes of barbarians; the monuments of her ancient glory were trampled under foot; the shrieks of the oppressed were heard in every city, and the march of rival armies resounded from sea to sea; science and art gave place to violence and the sword; mind was every where held in subjection to matter; endowments which confer dignity on human nature, were brought into degrading contrasts with physical strength; and the whole fabric of society convulsed and degraded during a period which has been justly characterized as the dark ages of history. But here, during the long reign of ignorance and superstition that intervened—like "a vase in which some precious treasure had been hermetically sealed up"—these villages enclosed the precious doctrines of revealed truth; and while the surrounding nations "sat in darkness," continued in the enjoyment of its light. When at length, the passion for crusades had wasted itself in fruitless expeditions, and the symptoms of a new morn began to cheer the moral horizon of Europe, the "vase" was opened, and from the sequestered corner of the christian vineyard, a new race of evangelists disseminated those "glad tidings" which they had long been the faithful depositaries. To their labours in Bohemia, where their tenets were first promulgated by John Huss and Jerome of Prague, and previously embraced by Wickliffe, England is indebted for the earliest seeds of the Protestant Church.

"Diffused, and fostered thus the glorious ray
Warmed where it went, and ripened into day
Twas theirs to plant in tears the precious seed,
'Tis ours in peace to reap the promised fruit
By them the bulwark of our faith was built—
Our church cemented by the blood they spilt—
In heaven's high cause they gave all man could give
And died its martyrs, that the Truth might live."

LIGHTNING.—The electric fluid in passing from the clouds to the earth, or from the earth to the clouds, as is sometimes the case, generally follows some conducting substance, such as smoke, the steam from a mow of new made hay, metals, trees, &c. It is therefore prudent during a thunder shower, to keep away from fire places, stove pipes, trees, the walls of buildings and the like. The best remedy for a person struck senseless by lightning is, to dash the head plentifully with cold water. Many lives have been saved by this remedy, and it should be remembered and immediately applied.

TASSO.—Tasso being told that he had a fair opportunity of taking advantage of a bitter enemy—"I wish not to plunder him," said he, "but there are things I wish to take away from him; not his honour, his wealth, or his life—but his ill-will."

DECANTER STOPPER.—When a decanter stopper becomes tight, a cloth wet with hot water applied to the neck, will cause the glass to expand, so that the stopper may be easily removed.

SIGNS OF THE WEATHER.—It is said the Penacot Indians, who were a formidable tribe, used to predict the weather from the appearance of the morning fog, which usually passed off in the direction towards the mountains. "If," said they, "the fog goes a fishing, we shall have fair weather; but if it goes hunting, look for a storm."