

exception of the leader, were all young boys, but they played with a great deal of spirit, and the grand crash was quite "a tempest in a teapot."

The first part of the entertainment commenced with a melodrama, of which the adventures of two children lost in a wood formed the subject, and this was succeeded by several *light* pieces. Considering that the age of the younger performers averaged only nine or ten years, nothing could exceed the excellence of their performance. They appeared to have a perfect idea of the feelings incident to persons at their period of life, and at the same time were perfectly free from the awkwardness which so pre-eminently characterises the "gawky age." The elder personages were represented by young people of a more advanced age; these were not so well qualified for their parts as the children, for they were not at their ease—the girls occasionally giggled and blushed, and the boys looked like disabled windmills. The spectators however overlooked these faults and enjoyed the plays and any allusions in them to ordinary events with the greatest zest.

They occasionally testified their delight by stamping their tiny feet on the floor, which they did at the instigation of their nurses—this is the mode of applause practised in the French theatres, clapping of the hands is rarely if ever resorted to. During the melodrama they appeared to identify themselves with the scenes passing before them, and when the ogre with his big mouth made his appearance, the nurses had the greatest difficulty in preventing them from giving way to the terror he caused; they hid their heads in their bosoms, and several began to scream and cry out most lustily; the uproar which was increasing would have become general, had his ogreship remained much longer on the stage; a very different state of feeling, however, was produced by the after-pieces, and all traces of fear were lost in the merriment and laughter caused by the utterance of the jokes and humorous speeches put into the mouths of the characters engaged in them.

This theatre was first set on foot and is owned by a person of the name of Le Comte. Some of the best comedians of the French stage began their career when infants, under his auspices. Mr. Le Comte is very popular with the little Parisians, and he has also gained the good-will and gratitude of their mothers and nurses, for the bare mention of his name is found to do more towards restoring order in the nursery than would the distribution of a cartload of sugar-plums.

E.

#### ANGLING ANECDOTE.

In 1822, two young gentlemen of Dumfries, while enjoying the amusement of fishing at Dalswinton Loch, having expended their stock of worms, &c., had

recourse to the well-known expedient of picking out the eyes of the dead perches, and attaching them to their hooks—a bait which the perch is known to rise at quite as readily as any other. One of the perches caught in this manner struggled so much when taken out of the water, that the unseen, though not unfelt hook had no sooner been loosened from its mouth than it came in contact with one of its eyes, and actually tore it out. The pain occasioned by this accident only made the fish struggle the harder, until at last it fairly slipped through the holder's fingers, and again escaped to its native element. The disappointed fisher, still retaining the eye of the aquatic fugitive, adjusted it on the hook, and again committed his line and cork to the waters. After a very short interval, the latter substance began to bob, when, pulling up the line, he was astonished to find the identical perch that had eluded his grasp a few minutes before, and which literally perished by *swallowing its own eye!*

#### CAUSE AND EFFECT.

Two persons meeting, one observed to the other, "So, our old friend, the counsellor, is dead; and I am surprised to hear that he has left very few effects," "Not at all to be wondered at," replied the other, "as I understand he had very few causes." —*Literary Gazette.*

Dean——, when residing on a living in the country, had occasion one day to unite a rustic couple in the holy bands of matrimony. The ceremony being over, the husband began "to sink in resolution," and falling as some husbands might do, into a fit of repentance, he said, "Your reverence has tied the knot tightly, I fancy; but under favour, may I ask your reverence, if so be you could untie it again?" "Why no," replied the dean, "we never do that on this part of the consecrated ground." "Where then?" cried the man eagerly. "On that," replied the Dean, pointing to the burial ground.

On Mr. H. Erskine receiving his appointment to succeed Mr. Dundas, as justiciary in Scotland, he exclaimed that he must go and order his silk robe, "Never mind," said Mr. Dundas, "for the short time you will want it, you had better borrow mine." "No!" replied Erskine, "how short a time soever I may need it, Heaven forbid that I commence my career by adopting the abandoned habits of my predecessor."

A person who cannot relish absurdity and wit, and must, moreover, have a satisfactory reason for whatever is said or done, is a philosophical block-head.