

If language contains one word that should be familiar—one subject we wish to understand—one end on which we should be bent—one blessing we should resolve to make our own,—that word, that object, that end, that blessing should be in the broadest sense of the expression, *self-improvement*. This is like the instinct of nature, the dictate of reason, the demand of religion. It is interwoven with all to which it is possible, either to aspire or to rise. It appeals to us as men—calls us to the highest and noblest end of man—reminding us that God's image is upon us, and that as men we

may be great in every possible position of life. It tells us that the grandeur of our nature, if we will but improve it, turns to insignificance all outward distinctions; that our powers of knowing and feeling and loving—of perceiving the beautiful, the true, the right, the good—of knowing God, of acting on ourselves and on external nature, and on our fellow beings—that these are glorious prerogatives, and that in them all there is no assignable limit to our progress. Such is Self-education.

Hosmer.

---

## GEORGE STEPHENSON.

THERE is no one man, engaged in the arts, to whom society is so deeply indebted, within the last thirty years, as it is to the indomitable courage, perseverance and energy of the self-taught and self-made George Stephenson.—Speedy locomotion—thirty, forty, even seventy miles an hour—by rail-cars; the increase of commerce; the rapid spread of knowledge, from state to state, from province to province, is in great measure due to the iron road;—and the vast improvements recently effected in this modern means of transit, is due to the man whose name stands at the head of this article. Not only does the mi-

ner, whose business it is to excavate, and draw from the bowels of the earth, those vast stores of mineral wealth which are so extensively employed throughout all the ramifications of commerce, pour upon Mr Stephenson his heartfelt blessings for his invention of the "safety lamp." But the world is also greatly indebted to this railway engineer for the numerous benefits bestowed on science and the arts. His life and achievements, recently published, should be read by every youth of the land—a life pregnant with great results—and teaches the principles of self-reliance.

---

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### A TOUCHING INCIDENT OF FRATERNAL LOVE.

A French paper says that Lucille Rome, a pretty girl with blue eyes and fair hair, poorly but neatly clad, was brought before the Sixth Court of Correction, under the charge of vagrancy. "Does any one claim you?" asked the magistrate. "Ah! my good sir," said she, "I have no longer any friends, my father and mother are dead; I have only my brother James, but he is as young as I am. Oh! sir, what can he do for me?" "The Court must send you to the House of Correction." Here I am, sister—hear I am! Do not fear!" cried a childish voice from the other end of the court. And at the same in-

stant, a little boy with a lively countenance started forth from amidst the crowd and stood before the Judge. "Who are you?" said he. "James Rome, the brother of this poor little girl." "Your age?" "Thirteen." "And what do you want?" "I come to claim my Lucille." "But have you the means of providing for her?" "Yesterday I had none, but now I have. Don't be afraid!" "Well, let us see, my boy," said the magistrate; the Court is disposed to do all that it can for your sister. "But you must give us some explanation." "About a fortnight ago, sir," continued the boy, "my poor mother died of a bad cough, for it was very cold at home. We were in great trou-