

to hollow it. While at work, he was questioned by one of his own children, what he was doing. "I am making a trough for your grandfather to eat out of," was the reply. "Ah," said the child, "and when you are as old as grandfather, shall I have to make a trough for you to eat out of?" The instrument he was using fell from his hand; the block was cast into the fire; the old man's forgiveness asked, and he was restored to the situation his age and worth entitled him to.

From the Imperial Magazine.

ON THE WORD "ONLY."

I have oftentimes been entertained on witnessing the importance that is attached to the little word "ONLY," which, of itself, may perhaps be considered insignificant and unintelligible, but as becoming essentially useful when connected with particular sentences. It is indeed a word of much relative meaning, and we oftentimes find it adopted to a variety of purposes. As a weapon of attack and defence, its effects are truly wonderful. It is a balm which softens many of the ills of life, and assuages much of the anguish of pain; equally a powerful incentive to virtue, and a palliative of vice. It has a tendency to raise many to greatness, but more it degrades to want and wretchedness, and all the train of miserable vices. Is it not, then, a wonderful little agent? and yet, how deceitful! As a friend, it is indeed precious and valuable, for it is the parent of hope; but, as an enemy, it is baneful, treacherous, and destructive.

I was led, Sir, to those reflections, by a recapitulation in my own mind of the following little incidents, which in themselves, perhaps, are scarcely worthy of notice; but as they in some measure serve to illustrate my position, I hope you will give every indulgence. Calling one morning at a toy-shop, with a young lady, an acquaintance of my family, I observed her pay, for a small prettily-ornamented trinket, the trifling sum of one guinea. As a pupil of the unfashionable school of Franklin, I expressed, I believe, something of the *simplicity of surprise*; but was put to immediate silence by the following ingenious and unanswerable argument, "Phoo, it's only a guinea!"—"My dear," said I, one Sabbath morning, with all the humility of patience, to my wife, who was dressing to go to church, "we shall certainly be late." "It cannot be, Alfred; we shall be quite time enough: it's only a quarter past eleven now."—At an evening party, at which I was present, my mind was painfully exercised by the severe and cutting sarcasms thrown out upon the characters of many absent individuals, by a young lady of the party. A clergyman, who had for some time sat silent, ventured at length to interrupt the fair narrator, by a denial of certain of the facts advanced, which he was proceeding to unravel, but was silenced by the following reply:—"Why, absolutely, how rude! Why, you cannot surely think me serious! I was only in a joke."

Some business urging me to call one day on a friend, whose wife had just returned from the market, with a fine piece of salmon and some early potatoes, I was made an ear-witness of the following dialogue. "My love, see what a beautiful bit of salmon; it's the first this season." "Indeed! but what did you give a pound for it?" "Only half a crown." "Only half a crown! And the potatoes?" "Only eighteen-pence." "Only eighteen-pence! why, I shall be ruined." "What nonsense! I'm sure it's very cheap. Besides, it's only once and away."

I was standing one day at the door of an acquaintance, filled with various reflections, excited at a passing funeral. "Come in," said he, "don't stand there, man; it's only a funeral. Did you never see a funeral before?"

I know a youth, in many respects a promising character, who knows so little of the value of money, and to purchase every little silly thing he sees, an orange, a book, a stick, a knife. "It's only two-pence; it's only six-pence. What is six-pence? Nothing."

Speaking one day, in a serious moment to a gay and very beautiful young lady, on the uncertainty of life, and the necessity of a preparation for its close. "But," said she, "is there any fear of that? All this may do very well for a woman of eighty; but you know, uncle, I'm only eighteen."

Upon enquiring the reason of my servant's shutting the door with hasty violence, I was told, "It was only a beggar."

Thus, Mr. Editor, is it that many evils are palliated, extravagance excused, good purposes delayed or defeated, and defamation supported, by the insidious sophistry of this little talisman, *Only*.

EDUCATION.

An Antidote to Pauperism and Crime.

At a late annual Meeting of the Society for the Prevention of Pauperism, in New York, a report was made on the objects of the Institution, and several addresses delivered by the members. Among the speakers was Theodore Sedgwick, Esq. from whose remarks the following is extracted:—

"The most effectual remedy, next to the destruction of the system of gratuitous support, was the instruction, especially the religious instruction, of the poor. He had that morning been to visit one of our free schools—he went in company with one of the Quakers—he gave them their old denomination, and he used it with feelings far from disrespectful. There were some who had a prejudice against them—he had no prejudices on the subject, but such as were in their favour: they, Sir, do not live out of the soup-houses—there are no paupers among them—there are no litigations among them—they do little for us lawyers, Sir, [loud and repeated cheering] and I am glad of it. It was with one of these that I visited this school; and I beheld it with pride and delight. The room was clean as a parlour, and there sat a company of poor little boys, with bright eyes and shining faces; who but for this heavenly provision, might have been in the kennel. Among these, or such as these, I behold, Sir, our future legislators; they will remember with gratitude the benefits they have received, and transmit the same to others."

AN OLD MAN.—The contemplation of a venerable old man sinking gently into the arms of death, supported by filial affection, and animated by religious hope, excites a serious yet not unpleasant sensation. When the gay and busy scenes of life are past, and the years advance which have no pleasure in them, what is left for age to wish, but that its infirmities may be soothed by the watchful solicitude of tenderness, and its darkness cheered by a ray of that love "which cometh from above?" To such persons, life, even in its last stage, is still agreeable.

TRAFFIC DIMINISHING.—A correspondent of the Journal of Humanity in New York, says, "During the last two weeks I have had frequent opportunities of conversing with importers and vendors of ardent spirits, and with united voice they acknowledge that the demand for brandy and rum in this city has diminished more than one half. A large importer told me five days ago, that in attempting to dispose of rum, the grocers in the city all said, (I use his language) 'that their customers who used to buy hogsheads and puncheons, now will not buy more than a barrel.'"

MORTALITY OF INFANTS.—M. M. Villerme and Milne Edwards, have addressed to the Academy of Sciences of Paris the result of their inquiries into the influence of temperature on the mortality of newly-born infants. Mr. Edwards, sen., had asserted that in animals of warm blood the heat-producing faculty is at its lowest point at the period of birth; and that, in general, in the first stage of life it is so feeble, that the temperature of the animal cannot be kept up when it is exposed to powerful causes of cold. M. M. Villerme and Milne Edwards had subjoined this proposition to the test of statistical inquiries. They compared the mortality of infants in the north with that in the south of France, and found that it was greatest in the Provinces in which the climate is coldest. Taking the whole of France, and making the comparison between the seasons, they had discovered that it was always in the coldest season in the year that the deaths of children under one year old were most frequent, while from one year old to an advanced age the contrary was the case. The attention of the legislature, and of the ministers of religion, is called to this circumstance, and suggestions are made of the danger incurred from the custom of taking children at too early a period after their birth to the church for baptism, or the Mayor's office to

be registered. In France, in case of death, the public officer is required to attend at the house; and why, it is asked should not the same practice be observed in the case of birth.—*London Magazine*.

From the Quebec Gazette.

Shipwreck and loss of the whole Crew of the Betsy of Whitehaven, CARROL Master, on the Labrador coast, on her voyage from the Port of Quebec to Trulce, (Ireland) in the Fall of the Year 1827.

The following information, which has been communicated to us by a gentleman who arrived yesterday from the Labrador coast, may be entirely depended upon. The suggestions which are added, are made at the desire of the same gentleman, and on his knowledge of the whole coast; and may prove useful to the Ship Captains in this trade.

The Brig Betsy, of Whitehaven, was cleared at Quebec on the 15th October, 1827, with a full cargo of pine timber, deals, &c., by George Symes, Esq. The further particulars of her voyage and shipwreck have been obtained from her log-book, and from the Indians. She sailed from Quebec on the 17th,—was off Magdalen Islands on the 23d October; and meeting there with strong southerly gales, she bore away for the straits of Belle Isle. On the 24th she shipped a sea which carried away her bulwarks and deck-load; and she became leaky, and strained very much,—steering N. E. by E. and N. E. by N. On the evening of the 25th, by the number of miles she was running hourly, she must have been near the place where she was wrecked; but no one has survived, to tell the tale of the manner of her going ashore. It happened that none of the inhabitants of the coast passed that way the same autumn; but, next spring, the first boat which passed, reported having seen some pieces of pine timber on different islands. Shortly afterwards, a report was circulated by American and Nova-Scotia fishermen, that the hull of a vessel burnt to the water's edge had been seen on Ste. Mary's Isle, with the place where two men had been newly buried; but this report was never verified.

On the 6th November, 1828, all doubts were raised. Some Esquimaux hunting on the coast, seeing a piece of rope on shore near the big islands of Watawistik, landed, and found a small wooden compass and a scraper: on examining further, well-trodden paths in the moss shewed that persons had been living thereabout for a considerable time. After searching for some time longer, one of the Indians ascended a hill and saw in a hollow among small trees something like a shelter, to which they went. The skeletons of three men were laying outside the door, and three others inside; * on the top lay a box, containing the log-book of the Betsy, a work on navigation, the register of the brig, and some other articles nearly all destroyed by the weather.

There was no appearance that the people had been able to make a fire; and it was manifest, that instead of seeking to find inhabitants they had hid themselves. This is always the case with English sailors who are wrecked on this coast: they take it for granted that there are no inhabitants but Indians,—ready to murder them without mercy; while in truth, there are few or no Indians on the Labrador coast, or on the coast of Newfoundland; and these far from being cruel, are the most inoffensive people on earth,—who would perform any office of humanity to persons in distress. Under this impression the unfortunate crew of the Betsy, no doubt, died of cold and hunger, almost at the door of ready assistance; being within a mile of a hunting stand attached to the post of Itamamion,—in which were a stove and other articles which must have shewn them that houses were not far off.

It would be very necessary that all the captains of vessels trading to Quebec should be informed, that inhabitants are scattered along the whole North coast of the Gulf of St. Lawrence; and that in case of shipwreck or whatever part of the coast, it is only necessary when the crew has got ashore, immediately to proceed along the beach, either to the right or to the left, no matter which; and they cannot go far without meeting houses and people, who would not only render them every possible personal assistance, but might likewise often be conducive to saving the vessel and cargo.

* The Betsy on her last voyage outwards to this Port, had a Crew of 13 or 14 men and boys. It is probable she had as many on her return voyage. The log-book, &c., have been brought to Quebec.

It appears that the Brig Integrity, Captain Banks, of Warrington, which sailed hence on the same day as the Betsy, has never been heard of.