A CORRECTION.

Mr. H. Martin, of Victoria, B. C., writes as follows :

" Permit me to call your attention to an error which appeared in your issue of October 17th. In it you state that Nelson's flagship at Trafalgar was the Temeraire. His flagship at Trafalgar was the Victory. For very many years afterwards she was used as the flagship of the Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth."

We heartily thank Mr. Martin for calling our attention to so stupid a blunder. Probably the occasion of it was the following, from Vol. IV. on " Great Artists," issued by the Educational Publishing Co. : "Everyone knows that the Temeraire was Nelson's flagship, and this fact alone would make the picture of deep interest to Englishmen. . . How trivial, even saucy, seems the snorting tug as it pulls along to its final dissolution the hero of Trafalgar !" As soon, however, as we read Mr. Martin's letter, we remembered that there had been a " Victory." We frankly confess that our knowledge of the British navy is limited, but our curiosity has been aroused, and we will be very glad if Mr. Martin, or anyone else, will tell us the part which the Temeraire took at the battle of Trafalgar, also during what period she was Nelson's flagship.

The Quiet Hour.

NOT EASILY PROVOKED.

" A tone of pride or petulance repressed—
A selfish inclination firmly fought—
A shadow of annoyance set at naught—
A murmur of disquietude suppressed—
A peace in importunity possessed—
A reconcilement generously sought—
A purpose put aside—a banished thought—
A word of self-explaining unexpressed:
Trifles they seem, these petty soul restraints ;
Yet he who proves them such must needs possess
A constancy and courage grand and bold.
They are the trifles that have made the saints ;
Give me to practice them in humbleness,
And nobler power than mine doth no man hold."

When St. Paul strings together the magnificent cluster of jewels which he calls by the comprehensive name of Charity or Love, he does not forget the stone which is bright and sparkling as a diamond, and, like a diamond, hard enough to stand the friction of everyday wear and tear. Charity is " not easily provoked," or, in the stronger words of the revised version, " is not provoked." Now, I am afraid charity is a very rare article, for most of us are very easily provoked. One whose manners are very polite and charming to strangers, sometimes uses his own family as a safety-valve, letting loose on the unfortunate heads of his relations his whole supply of irritability and rudeness. Samuel Johnson has put into words what we all feel to be true : " The most authentic witnesses of any man's character are those who know him in his own family, and see him without any restraint or rule of conduct but such as he voluntarily prescribes to himself." What witness would our nearest relations bear to us if they told the exact truth ? Would they say that we were never known to get cross or snappish, even when everything was in a muddle, when the children were tiresome or mischievous, when the oven refused to get hot or the sewing-machine wouldn't work, when the bicycle was punctured or mud was tracked over a clean floor. If one's own family is unappreciative there must be something wrong. Nearly all these trifling annoyances I have mentioned are women's worries, but, really, it does seem as though women had more of these little things to fret and try them than men. Then women, especially on a farm, often work too hard. Their nerves are all on edge, and the least jar irritates them. If they only tried to get a rest in the afternoon every day it would add largely to the comfort of the whole family. Women who make an idol of work, and worship it from five in the morning until eleven at night, must indeed be angelic if they can always be pleasant and cheerful. They may keep up that sort of treadmill existence for a time, but it is pretty sure to end in a nervous condition of mind and body and a pitiable irritability of temper, which might be avoided if they would take our Lord's advice to His disciples, and " rest awhile." But an uncertain temper is not always a sign of physical overstrain. To be " easily provoked " is a habit we are apt to drift into unless we are on the watch against it. Good temper has been declared to be " nine-tenths of Christianity," and certainly it is not a virtue to be despised. How many men do you suppose have taken to loafing round the hotels and become drunkards, partly, at least, because the home atmosphere is so stormy and unpleasant and someone is always nagging or looking cross and gloomy. Perhaps we hardly realize that being cross and disagreeable is a sin at all, much less that it may do such terrible harm. Moses, who was usually so patient and long-suffering when the Israelities were mutinous and unruly, was forbidden to enter the Promised Land because his sorely-tried temper at last gave way and " they provoked his spirit, so that he spake unadvisedly with his lips." Surely God must have considered his impatient anger a sin, or He would never have punished it so severely. Do you think, then, that He never notices when we are provoked and speak unadvisedly ? It may happen many times in a day, when we are out of sorts or everything seems to go wrong, but that does not make it any less sinful. We may not entirely agree with the cynic who said : " Relations I detest, connections I hate, friends I dislike, acquaintances I tolerate, but the only people I really like are the people I don't know." We disagree with him, perhaps, but still we can hardly help owning that the poor man may have had some excuse for such a statement. Perhaps his relations used the privilege they too often assume of showing their worst side in the privacy of home.

" We have careful thoughts for the stranger,
And smiles for the sometime guest ;
But oft for ' our own ' the bitter tone,
Though we love ' our own ' the best."

One who " shines everywhere but at home " has not really good manners, for it is most certainly true that " a really good manner is like our skin, put on from within, and never taken off while we are alive." People who would be shocked at the idea of using strong language, sometimes indulge in what has been called " wooden swearing," as children often show their anger by slamming doors, kicking or stamping or banging things about. Without speaking a word, the fact that they have lost their temper is plain to the whole family, showing itself in every gesture and every action. Don't let us rest satisfied with controlling our tongues or trying to hide our angry feelings. Every temptation to angry impatience or crossness of temper is an opportunity for a victory. Victory or defeat—which shall it be ? Let us who profess to be disciples of Christ fight earnestly and prayerfully against this sin of being easily provoked, for it is no use trying by our words to draw others nearer to God if all the time we are making them think Christians are disagreeable people.

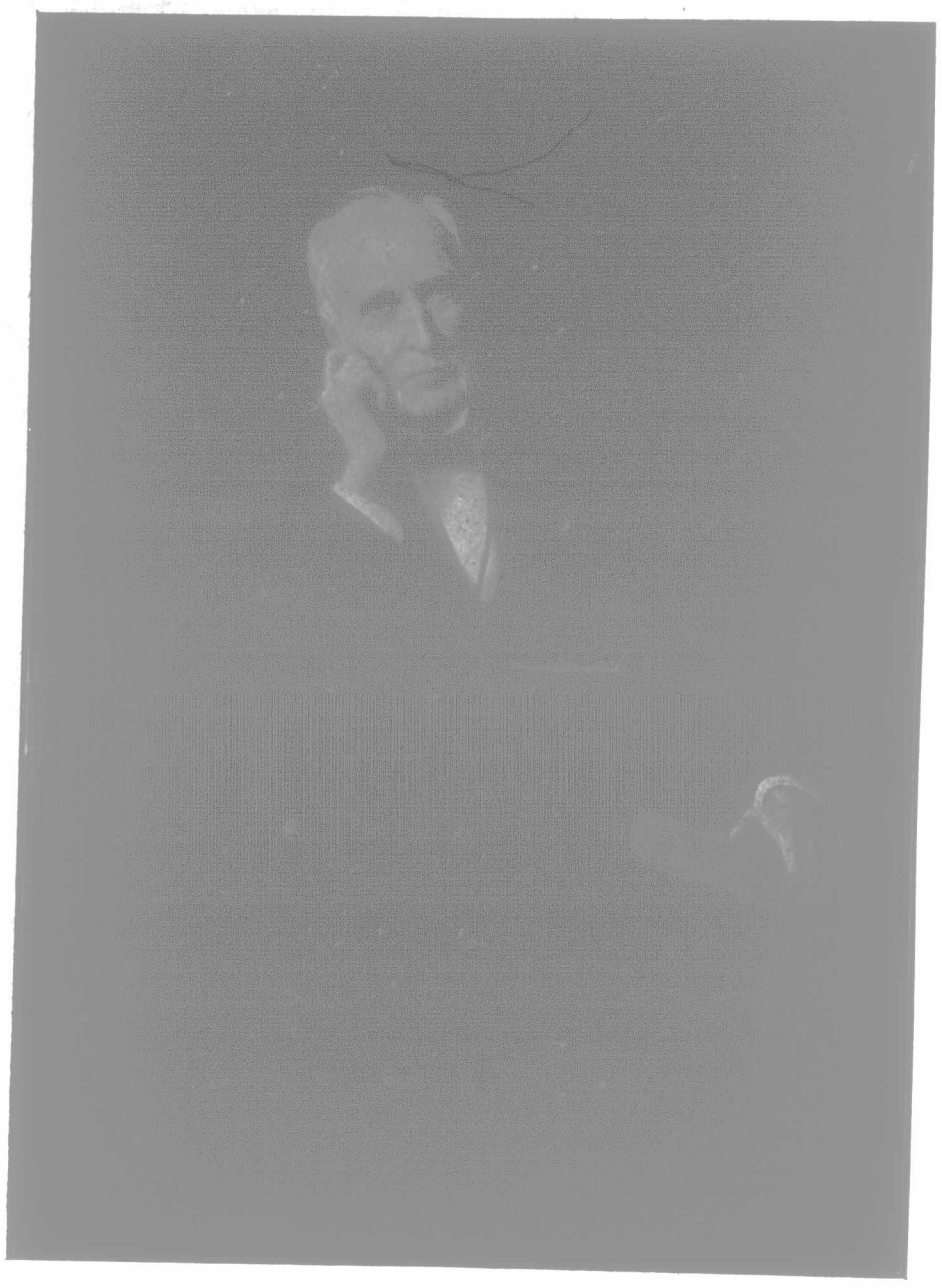
Don't you think if we saw our Lord watching us—as He surely is— if we remembered that He had prepared the little things which we allow to fret and vex us, as He is said to have "prepared" the worm which annoyed the prophet Jonah, we could meet them with a smile oftener than we do ? Every time we conquer the temptation to be provoked, we have gained in strength and beauty of character; and let us remember that character grows slowly and imperceptibly, but surely, even as the fruit grows and ripens in our orchards. Would you rather have such a smooth and easy life that you could never have an opportunity of being a victor ?

" Call no man weak who can a grievance brook
And hold his peace against a red-hot word,
Nor him a coward who averts his look
For fear some sleeping passion may be stirred."

The Captain is watching the battle and is always ready to give help when it is really needed. If He has placed you in a trying position, surely that is a great honor, for the most dangerous post is given to the bravest and strongest soldier. The Captain trusts you and expects you to conquer. But though we may fail over and over again, especially at first, He never loses patience, but is ready to forgive again. And I think our relations will be generally ready to forgive too when they see we are sorry that we lost our temper, especially if we are not too proud to own up that we were wrong.

" A good-bye kiss is a little thing,
With your hand on the door to go,
But it takes the venom out of the string
Of a thoughtless word or a cruel fling
That you made an hour ago."

HOPE.



Professor Goldwin Smith.

From a painting by Mr. J. W. L. Forster, A. R. C. A., Toronto, Ontario.

About the House.

LIGHTING FIRES WITH COAL OIL.

Not long ago there appeared in the papers an account of the burning to death of a man and woman, and the serious injury of a child, a tragedy caused through the mother having attempted to make a fire burn by pouring coal oil on it from a can. This is but one of many similar instances. People never seem to realize that coal oil is a dangerously inflammable agent, and that when ignition is conveyed to a closed can by way of the stream pouring from the spout, an explosion is inevitable. Coal oil should never be poured, even into an apparently fireless stove, from a can; there is always the danger of a lurking spark or coal ready to do damage. If it seems absolutely necessary to use it on account of the difficulty of lighting a fire, the only safe way is to pour a little on some splinters or sticks before they are placed in the stove at all, the match being applied only when they are safely in place.

THE GERM OF THE BULLETINS.

COOKING VEGETABLES.

(From Bulletin No. 256, Issued by U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.)

Turnips.—This vegetable is generally spoiled by over-cooking. The flat, white summer turnip, sliced, will cook in thirty minutes. Winter turnips require from forty-five to sixty minutes. To boil them, have them peeled and sliced, and drop into a stew-pan, with boiling water enough to cover generously. Cook till tender; drain well; mash with a wooden masher, and season with butter, pepper and salt.

Carrots, with White Sauce.—Scrape the carrots, and cut into large slices. Put in a stew-pan, with salted water, and boil until tender, thirty or forty-five minutes, according to age of carrots. When cooked, drain, season, put into a vegetable dish, and serve with hot white sauce over them.

Salsify.—To prevent this from turning dark, drop the root as soon as scraped into a mixture of flour and water, made slightly acid with vinegar. For six good-sized roots, mix together one tablespoon vinegar, two tablespoons flour, one teaspoon salt, and three pints water. Wash and scrape the roots, then cut into slices about three inches long. Drop into the prepared water. Place the stew-pan on the fire and cook thirty minutes, counting from the time boiling begins. Drain and serve in a white sauce. [Or pour milk over, let heat, season with butter, pepper and salt, and serve with toast or hot biscuit. A very little bit of codfish added to flavor is a great improvement. —Ed.]

Beets with Butter.—Wash the beets, be-