

suits in which he engaged. Who can peruse the life of Dr. Murray, without being struck with his persevering spirit. See him a poor shepherd boy, watching his flock on the hill, with his book open before him, drinking in its contents. Not satisfied with the English branches alone, he procured works in Greek, Latin, French and Hebrew. Although deprived of the privilege of school instruction, he still persevered until he became master of these various branches, and was finally elected professor of Oriental Languages in the University of Edinburgh. He raised for himself many trophies, and extended the bounds of human learning. Upon persevering efforts the student must rely for all her improvement. Although she may be assisted by intelligent friends, and be endowed with high mental powers, without perseverance, she will make very little progress in her studies. We may take, for example, two young persons, the one possesses a talented mind and makes very rapid progress; rapidly ascending the hill of science she looks back with contempt upon her more tardy companion, who, notwithstanding her mental inferiority, toils patiently to obtain an education, striving to overcome every difficulty as she advances. Her progress, at first scarcely discernible, is ridiculed by her boasting friend; still she moves slowly onward, with her eye fixed on the pinnacle of the hill of science; her course is upward, until, by and by, she sees her gifted companion far below in the valley.

Though now obliged to toil while others enjoy relaxation; though difficulties continually arise to obstruct her progress; yet encouraged by the assurance that "Perseverance conquers all things," she applies herself still more diligently, and, at last, gains the desired point.

Miss Elizabeth Smith, who was raised from the situation of a poor soldier's daughter to that of Teacher, in nine different languages, with no other instructor but her books, and no time but what she could snatch between the marches of the regiment, affords an illustrious example of the success attending persevering effort. Examples of the wonders accomplished by persevering effort and industry might be multiplied; but a sufficient number has been presented. Genius may intoxicate, and excite to fitful efforts; but perseverance gains the battle and wins the prize.

SELF-GOVERNMENT.

BY S. O. GOODRICH.

In the midst of events which seem to bespeak predestination, man still feels that he is free. The planets wheel through the heavens; the earth revolves on its axis, and performs its vast annual circuit; the seasons come and go; the clouds rise and vanish; the rain, the hail, and the snow descend; and in all this man has no voice. There is a system of government above, beyond and around him, declaring a sovereignty which takes no counsel of him. But still, in the midst of all this, man possesses a consciousness of freedom. The metaphysician may be confounded with the seeming inconsistency of an omnipotence, ruling over all things, yet granting free agency to the subjects of its power. But common sense does not puzzle itself with an attempt to discover the precise point at which these seeming principles of opposition may clash or coalesce. It contents itself with the obvious fact that God is a sovereign, who has yet created beings, and given them their freedom, prescribing boundaries to their powers and capacities indeed, but within these limits permitting them to act by their own volition.

Man then is free; he has the power to seek happiness in his own way. He enters upon existence and sets forward in the path of life. But as he passes along, a thousand tempters beset him—Pleasure comes to beckon him away, offering him present flowers, and unfolding beautiful prospects in the distance. Wealth seeks to make him her votary, by disclosing her magic power over men and things. Ambition woos him with dreams of glory. Indolence essays to soften and seduce him to her influence. Love, envy, malice, revenge, jealousy, and other busy spirits, assail him with their various arts. And man is free to yield to these temptations if he will; or he has the power to resist them if he will. God has surrendered him to his own dis-

cretion, making him responsible, however, for the use and the abuse of the liberty bestowed upon him.

If a person mounts a high-spirited horse, it is important that he should be able to control him, otherwise he may be dashed to pieces. If an engineer undertakes to conduct a locomotive, it is necessary that he should be able to guide or check the panting engine at his pleasure, else his own life, and the lives of others, may be sacrificed.—But it is still more indispensable that an individual, who is entrusted with the care of himself, should be able to govern himself.

This might seem a very easy task; but it is one of the most difficult that we are called upon to perform. History shows us that some of the greatest men have failed in it. Alexander could conquer the legions of Persia, but he could not conquer his passions. Cæsar triumphed in a hundred battles, but he fell a victim to the desire of being a king. Buonaparte vanquished nearly the whole of Europe, but he could not vanquish his own ambition. And in humbler life, nearer home, in our own everyday affairs most of us are often drawn aside from the path of duty and discretion, because we cannot resist some temptation or overcome some prejudice.

If we consider that self-government requires two things; first, whenever we are tempted to deviate from the path of rectitude or to act imprudently, or whenever we are tempted to neglect any duty, that we should possess and exercise the power to check ourselves in the one case, and to compel ourselves to the required action in the other, we shall see that it is the great regulator of conduct, the very balance-wheel of life. Without it, a person is almost sure to miss happiness, however great may be his gifts, however high his fortune; with it, the humblest individual may command not merely the world's wealth, but the world's respect; and, what is better, peace of mind and the consciousness of Heaven's approbation.

If parents would not trust a child upon the back of a wild horse without bit or bridle, let them not permit him to go forth into the world unskilled in self-government. If a child is passionate, teach him, by gentle and patient means to curb his temper. If he is greedy, cultivate liberality in him. If he is selfish, promote generosity. If he is sulky, charm him out of it, by encouraging frank good humor. If he is indolent, accustom him to exertion, and train him so as to perform even-onerous duties with alacrity. If pride comes in to make his obedience reluctant, subdue him, either by counsel or discipline. In short, give your children the habit of overcoming their besetting sins. Let them feel that they can overcome temptation. Let them acquire from experience that confidence in themselves which gives security to the practiced horse-man, even on the back of a high-strung steed, and they will triumph over the difficulties and dangers which beset them in the path of life.

Music in the Family.

Its beneficial effects may not be doubted. No family should fail to encourage the largest possible amount of musical talent. Independent of its happy influence on the mind it should be fostered on account of its physical advantages. The late Dr. Rush said "the Germans rarely die of consumption, because they are always singing." If this beautiful accomplishment tends in any degree to mitigate a malady so terrible, for the world's sake let us have a world of it. But there are other reasons—it induces amiability and banishes bad passions. We have somewhere read the testimony of an excellent clergyman, possessing much knowledge of human nature, who instructed a large family of daughters in the ordinary practice of music. These were observed to be amiable and happy. A friend inquired if there was any secret in this mode of education; to which he replied—"When anything disturbs their temper, I say to them, sing; and if I hear them speaking against any person, I call on them to sing for me; and they sing away all discontent, and every disposition to scandal." Such a use of this accomplishment might seem to fit a family for the company of angels; young voices around the domestic altar, breathing sacred music at the hour of morning and evening devotion, are a sweet and touching accompaniment.