

hungry soul-yearnings for companionship and sympathy. For the want of this, what wrecks of humanity lie strewn about us—youth wasted for the mocking semblance of friendship, adrift at the mercy of chance, without the grasp of a true firm hand, without a kindly loving heart to counsel!

NATURAL AFFECTION.—Natural affection offers a fine foundation on which to erect the edifice of a firm and enduring friendship, but it will not rise up of itself. We must build it, stone by stone, if we would possess it. If we have a valued and respected friend, what pains we take to cherish his friendship; how carefully we endeavour to prune away from ourselves that which would displease him, and cultivate those qualities which he admires; how we strive to gratify him by pleasant surprises and to avoid all that could wound or trouble him! Yet let the familiar house-door shut us in, and how many of us take the same pains?

NECESSITY.—Necessity is the great master, and it operates on all classes of society—it gives the power of concentration to the lawyer, teaches the physician to be self-contained and studious, gives efficiency to the pen of the writer, drills the book-keeper and the clerk, and trains the hand of the artisan. It is an ever-present and most exacting schoolmaster; and, as, with an immense majority, this schoolmaster begins his lessons in youth by means of the struggles and burdens of life, and continues them without relaxation to the end, the discipline within certain limits is complete—the self-control being general, but

the proficiency lying in each case solely along the line of experience.

"GOOD" CHILDREN.—Much of the crossness, irritability, and general unamiableness which characterise certain children and make their presence so annoying springs from neglect of their happiness in some direction. Either from indiscreet indulgence, undue severity, or careless negligence, their physical system is out of order, or their tempers are soured, and, feeling uncomfortable, they naturally vent their discomfort upon others. In describing a young child the words "good" and "happy" are almost synonymous, and no effort to make him the former can be successful as long as the latter is neglected.

PONDER THIS.—All things are engaged in writing their history. The planet, the pebble, goes attended by its shadow. The rolling rock leaves its scratches on the mountain; the river its channel in the soil; the animal its bones in the stratum; the fern and leaf their modest epitaph in the coal. The falling drop makes its sculpture in the sand or the stone. Not a foot steps into the snow, or along the ground, but prints, in characters more or less lasting, a map of its march. Every act of the man inscribes itself in the memories of his fellows, and in his own manners and face. The air is full of sounds, the sky of tokens, the ground is all memoranda and signatures, and every object covered over with hints which speak to the intelligent.