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Youth's Corner.

FASHION.

Fashion is a most tyrannical mistress. She compels people to submit to any inconvenience she pleases.

She pinches our feet with her shoes, chokes our necks with her cravats, and squeezes our bodies with her lacing.

She makes us sit up when we ought to sleep, and lie in bed when we ought to be up with the lark.

She will not let us go three paces to close the window, but makes us go four to ring the bell, that the servant may come up the stairs and into the room to shut them.

She makes us pay visits when we ought to be mending the children's clothes, and she requires the servant to say we are not at home, when the truth is we do not want to be bored with calls.

She makes some spend for ribbons and for wines that which ought to pay the grocer and the baker; and she makes others buy artificial flowers for the girls, when tuition at school remains due.

She makes people pay ten shillings for the binding of a book which is so fine, then, that they are afraid to open it for reading; and then she makes them borrow books which they want for use, and never return them.

She makes some be silent at Church because she says it is only for the charity children to respond in the service; and then she makes them talk and joke as they come out at the church-door, because it wouldn't be genteel to be impressed with the importance of religion.

She makes some stand up and look about who is come to Church, when they ought to be upon their knees to confess their faults and pray that God would spare them.

Fashion despises those who mind her. They are her dolls. If you would be respected by her and by yourself, let not fashion rule over you.

THE ESCAPE.

In the year 1800, a travelling mechanic stepped into the public-house of a village near Gera in Saxony, and ordered some little refreshment, while he laid aside his bundle, and sat down in a corner, evidently much fatigued with his journey on foot; it was not surprising to see him nearly exhausted, for he looked pale, sick, and depressed.

According to the universal custom among journeymen mechanics in Germany, this man, when he had gone through his apprenticeship, set out from his native place to see men and things. With a bundle of clothes upon his back, and a stick in his hand, he travelled to the nearest large city, and looked for work.

Under a new master, and amongst fellow workmen from different parts of the country, he acquired many new notions about handicraft, and became more expert at his trade. After some stay there, he got his certificate of good conduct, and marched further on again to collect more experience.

One day the master-mechanic was sent for to appear before the new judges who had been sent to try disaffected persons. As he was conscious of no evil that he could be accused of, he went without any apprehension, nor did his family entertain the

slightest fear; but while they were looking for his return, to know what he had been sent for, a neighbour came in great consternation to tell them that the man had been accused of having given shelter to persons who were enemies to the republic, and had been at once sentenced to death, and executed.

The poor German saw, the safest course for him to take was to get out of the country as soon as possible. He packed up his things; and as the night was setting in, he took at once his travelling staff, and opened the street-door to set out on his journey without delay.

Two spies perceiving his attempt to escape, seized him as he was stepping over the threshold, and dragged him to the men of blood. It was too late in the day for them to deliver him to the executioner at once; he was ordered to prison. But that place was so full already, that the jailer did not think he could lock him up with the rest of the prisoners; there was a dark hole, however, below, which one of the turnkeys bethought himself of, and into which he thrust the poor guiltless man, locking the door upon him.

He did not know how long he had been asleep, when he awoke and heard the noise above, which indicated that another night had past. He awoke to the threatenings of death, and to the immediate craving wants of a suffering body. No one came to look after him; he now perceived that he was forgotten; the terrors of the guillotine were displaced by the horrors of death from hunger.

But his bodily sufferings were protracted and very severe. Nobody came to bring him food or drink; when he knocked or called out, no one attended. The noise in the prison was very great during the day; and if he was heard at all during the night, it was not by the turnkeys who might have perceived that the sound came not from the large room.

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The place was examined, the dark hole opened, and the poor sufferer discovered on the ground, shivering with fever, and unable to raise himself. He was carried up, and at the first breath of fresh air he fainted away: it was too pure for him to bear. When he came to himself again, he learned that it was the fifth day since he had been thrown into prison.

DEATH BED SCENE.

It was in the autumn of the last year that J. N. married, and came to reside in our village. He was soon afterwards attacked by the epidemic, which so awfully spread over the length and breadth of the land: from this, at the time, he recovered, but the attendant weakness produced a decline, in which he lingered several months.

His animated countenance would show how greatly he enjoyed hearing hymns read, often saying, "I seem already in glory;" but the Bible was the book he chiefly liked to hear, because it "told him of his Saviour; and when he thought of his sufferings, it lightened his own."

About a fortnight preceding the death of this suffering Christian, a change for the better in his health gave some of his friends hopes of his recovery. He does not appear long to have entertained the idea himself: one day, when he was much stronger than usual, he observed to me, "perhaps the Lord may raise me up; nothing is too hard for him. I am willing to leave all in his hands. If I get better, I hope I shall live entirely in his honour and glory."

A very few days, however, showed how fruitless were the hopes entertained. On entering his room one morning, I saw a great alteration for the worse had taken place. His weakness prevented his talking much; but he smiled, and said calmly, "I am now going fast." I replied, "It is better to depart and be with Christ."

Oh! what a song that of the redeemed will be!" He often expressed a desire to be in glory; but would check himself, as if it implied impatience. "I am willing to wait the Lord's time. Last night I thought there may be a few days longer to stay here; well, never mind it is a few weeks, perhaps God may give me more pains to try my patience; but then he will strengthen me."

He spoke constantly of dying, as one would of taking a short journey: when taking leave at night, he generally observed, "This may be the last time we shall meet on earth; but we shall soon meet in glory. I am only going a little before you." Never shall I forget the animation beaming on his emaciated face, nor the sparkling of his eyes, as I repeated to this happy believer portions of Scripture, and hymns.

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