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## ON THE ADVANTAGES OF EDUCATION.

The inestimable advantages of Education cannot, perhaps, be more properly explained than by considering it in its most extensive sense as applied to almost every object in Nature.

In every production of Nature there are numerous latent qualities which it is the province of enlightened men to draw forth and bring to light; this is properly Education, which is derived from the Latin word *educere*, to lead or draw forth. Thus, in the block of marble, while it lies in the quarry, is contained the exquisite statue or the magnificent vase; but it is the chisel and the art of the statuary that bring it forth to view, without which it would have been for ever invisible to mortal eyes.

The Almighty has graciously provided every thing in this world that can conduce to the benefit of all his creatures: but, having endowed man with the faculty of reason, he has, in his wisdom, left many of these benefits undeveloped, for the purpose of exercising that reason, and calling forth that skill which would otherwise lie dormant and useless. Thus, gold and jewels lie hidden in the obscurity of the mine, until brought to light by human industry; and even when thus produced, they will not display their beauty and lustre until one is refined and the other polished; this may be called their education, the drawing forth their qualities to view.

In the vegetable world we see the great importance of education in the improvement which takes place in plants, fruits and flowers, from judicious cultivation. Compare the wild plants of the woods and wilderness with those of the same genus, that have been reared in gardens with care and skill;—compare the wild berries of the copse and hedge-rows, the crabs and sloes, with the variety of delicious apples, plums, peaches, strawberries, &c. which hang on the branches of cultivated trees, and grow on the walls of well-managed gardens, and we shall see some of the advantages of Education. To it we owe the staff of life, bread; for where it is not for cultivation, wheat would have been merely an insignificant grass, fit only for the browsing of a goat.

In the animal world, education is exercised in various ways. Man is instinctively not a brute animal, denominated irrational, have to trust to; he is infinitely far as it goes, and would probably of itself enable creatures that are under its influence more easily to provide for themselves than human beings can. But those observers of nature are well aware that parent animals instruct their young in many useful particulars, for which instinct alone would be inadequate. Birds have been seen teaching their nestlings to fly, and pointing out to them the places and manner in which their food is to be procured; and thus bestowing on them the education they need.

Indeed, not a doubt can exist in the mind of a well-informed naturalist, that the inferior animals have a means of conveying a much greater number of ideas to each other than the generality of mankind are willing to admit them. Thus, in a country where man predominates over the wild inhabitants of the forest, a lion will, on first meeting with his antagonist, show evident signs of fear. Yet his only knowledge of the power of man may have been received from some of his own species, that had experienced it. On the contrary, in solitary deserts, where the foot of man seldom treads, a lion will fearlessly attack numbers undisciplined, because unacquainted with the deadly nature of their weapons. Again, inhabited countries, birds that have just left the nest will fly at the approach of man, though the first time of seeing him, while it is a well known fact, that in some newly discovered islands, where man was unknown, the birds had no dread of the settlers that landed, but suffered themselves to be struck on the head without attempting to move out of the way. This state of things, however, lasted not long; the birds soon discovered that an enemy was amongst them, and became as shy of the approach of man as in populous countries.

From these and other circumstances it being evident that brutes have a species of language, or at least a method of communicating their few ideas to each other; we have no reason to doubt that parents bestow an education on their young, sufficient to enable them, at a proper age, to protect and provide for themselves; and when this is done, their concern for them ceases.

**Domestic Happiness.**—The great end of prudence is to give cheerfulness to those hours which splendour cannot give, and accumulation cannot exhilarate. Those soft intervals of unbounded amusement, in which a man shrinks to his natural dimensions, and throws aside the disguises which he feels in privacy to be useless encumbrances, and to lose all effect when they become familiar. To be happy at home, is the ultimate result of all ambition, the end to which every enterprise and labour tends, and of which every desire prompts the execution. It is, indeed, at home that every man must be known by

those who would have a just estimate of his virtue or feignity; for smiles and embroidery are alike occasional, and the mind is often dressed for show in painted honour and fictitious benevolence.—*Johnson*

**The best way to Teach.**—It was once said by the French philosopher *Dieterot*, "what the best way to educate a child is to tell it stories, and let it tell stories to you." There is as much true philosophy in this remark, that we will extend it a little. There is a school-room education, and an ambulating or walking education; the one is obtained out of the book on the bench, the other from walking among and talking of things. And we believe that this out door instruction has been much neglected; education having been conducted on the principle of looking out of the window at things, instead of visiting objects, and learning properties and uses. The student for example, looking out of his college window at a horse can give five or six names to the animal: one in Latin, one in Greek, another in German, and then the French name, &c. The stable boy can give but one name; yet which knows the most of the properties, nature, disposition, and uses of the horse? Education consists too much in merely naming things, when it should relate more to their properties and uses. It should connect words with ideas, and ideas with things, and the nature of the subject will allow of, with objects. If we instruct children orally while visiting nature, words, ideas, and objects, will naturally be more in connection with each other than the school-room lessons can make them. And the teacher should take occasion to instruct in the fields, in the ship-yards, in the crowded streets and in the pathway of canals and railroads. He should talk on all these subjects, and elicit from the children their own impressions, inquiries, and reflections. He should talk and walk and let the children talk and walk more, in the progress of education, than has been the practice with the majority of instructors.

**Mechanism of the Heart.**—On reviewing the mechanism of the heart every reflective mind must be struck with the admirable adaptation and suitability of its several parts, and also the harmony of its operation. How important is the least part of complex machinery! If but one of its slightest members burst; if a single valve omitted to fall down before the retrograde current of blood, or become inverted, the vital functions could no longer be carried on; the vast machinery of the whole animal frame would be immediately deranged and death necessarily ensue! Who would suppose that an apparatus so complex, so easily deranged, and which is thrown into action considerably more than a hundred thousand times a day, should yet continue unimpairing for fifty, eighty or a hundred years? How insignificant and imperfect must appear the most admirable mechanism constructed by man, when compared to this! What piece of mechanism, exerting so much power, could bear such velocity for one year. Yet so perfect is this apparatus, and so well-fitted to all its parts, that its rapid motions never, during health, disturb even the tender babe, in whose breast it beats perhaps a hundred and fifty thousand times a day.

**Laws of Nature.**—If the laws of nature, on the one hand, are invincible opponents, on the other they are irresistible auxiliaries; and it will not be a miss if we regard them in each of these characters, and consider the great importance of them to mankind. 1. In showing us how to avoid attempting impossibilities. 2. In securing us from important mistakes in attempting what is in itself possible, by means either inadequate, or actually opposed to the ends in view. 3. In enabling us to accomplish our ends in the easiest, shortest, most economical, and most effectual manner. 4. In inducing us to attempt, and enabling us to accomplish objects, which, but for such knowledge we should never have thought of undertaking.—*Herschel*

**A Horrible Contrivance.**—In the Arsenal of Venice is shown a curious Dressing case, containing six small cannons, which are so adjusted as to explode on the opening of the case. This is said to have been sent as a present to the Countess Sacrata, by Francesco Carrara, the last Lord of Padua, famous, or rather infamous, for his cruelties. The unfortunate lady, little suspecting the nature of the cadeau, hastily touched the spring by which the box was opened, and immediately fell, shot through the heart. The armoury are also preserved several pocket-crossbows and steel arrows with which the same wretch was accustomed to amuse himself by killing or wounding all of those against whom he bore a grudge, without their knowing from whence the blow came. He was strangled at Padua, in 1485, by the decree of the Venetian senate, as a fitting punishment for his abominable crimes.—*Ainsworth's Magazine*.

**A Yankee Notion.**—A correspondent from

Trinidad de Cuba, in a sketch of a trial at American house keeping in that place, says, "the only item of novelty in our domestic present, is our acquisition of a brass clock, a patent from the Yankee state of Connecticut, which denotes the half hours instead of the whole, striking two for half past one, &c. "Whether this be the merit of the invention for which the patent was obtained," says the letter-writer, "or merely a youthful irregularity of the clock itself we have not yet ascertained, but it is more amusing than convenient."

**MACKENZIE** the Canadian rebel is again before the public, and as usual, in no enviable light. On his flight from Canada, after his unsuccessful attempt to create a rebellion, he took refuge in the United States, and notwithstanding he was demanded by the government of Canada as a fugitive criminal, charged with the crimes of murder, arson, and mail robbery, his person was protected and his surrender refused, on the ground that his offences were political. Having thus secured an asylum here, he speedily became acquainted with many leaders of the Democratic party, and at last obtained an appointment in the New York Custom House, under Mr. Van Ness, the late collector, and went out of office with the latter.

## CHINESE BOATS.

The immense variety of boats which crowd the waters of China may be divided into two classes; those that have eyes and those without them. To the former class belong the military and trading junks that navigate the "great sea." They are clumsy in the shape of a new moon, and as nearly a craft as could well be contrived, having sterns at least thirty feet above the water, and bows the third of that height. The Emperor not only affords no encouragement to improvement, but actually discourages it, in the exaction of foreign port duties from junks constructed on improved principles. These vessels have always a great eye pivoted on each side of the bows. This usage had its origin probably in some superstition. If a Chinaman is questioned as to its cause, his reply is, "Have eye can see, can savery; no have eye, no can see, no can savery."

The craft used upon the inland waters of China vary from the rudely constructed junk, down to the small "Sanpan." There are boats appropriated to pleasure parties called "Hwa-chow," i. e. a flower-boat; they are frequently occupied by the wealthy classes in summer evenings, and are for the most part stationary; being moored together in rows, secured by strong hempen cables.

The material used in building boats in China is oak and teak; very little iron or copper is used, the bolts, knees, and stanchions being composed entirely of wood, as well as their ponderous anchors. The seams are all secured or payed (a nautical term) with clinch, which is a strong white substance like mortar, made from the Chinam tree; it much resembles putty; becomes as firm as rock, and never starts, and the seams thus secured by it are perfectly safe and water tight. The deck-planks of Chinese boats are never secured, although well contrived and dovetailed into one another; they are made to take up at pleasure, as underneath are kept all the culinary utensils, spare cordage, and apparatus required.

The masts are made of bamboo, and the sails of rattan sewn together, and fastened to bamboo joints running parallel, so that the sails open in the manner of a fan and can be reeled at pleasure by closing any of the joints, each angle having a rope or sheet attached which points on to one which can be belayed at pleasure or held in the hand. The rudder is a large unwieldy affair, universally perforated with small holes, which may be set down as a wonder for the wise.

The river craft, and small boats particularly, are generally propelled by sculling, a method which is made absolutely necessary by the number of boats always in motion. This scull, which is usually of a large size, moves on a pivot fixed in and lashed securely on one side, and the skill with which the Chinese perform this operation confuses the old proverb that "Practice makes perfect" for the boat is made to dart forward at a rapid rate, and in a line as direct as any well-

managed sailing vessel could pursue. In the small sampan and tanka boats, which are managed chiefly by females, in addition to the scull named, a girl sits forward and rows with a small scull fastened to a kind of thole-pin, or the sculler manages it with the foot.

## DISEASE IN THE POTATOE CROPS.

From the Halifax Post.

Sir,—Whatever concerns that useful and vital importance to the community, and as the public appear to have taken the alarm on the present state of the Crop, not only on this peninsula, but in different sections of the Province, it would be well to consider what remedy, if any, can be applied to check the disease with which it is effected. In looking over one of the newspapers, I observed a paragraph under the Quebec head, mentioning the prevalence of the disease in that vicinity, and the remedy used, was mowing the tops.

This has led me to examine more fully into the subject, and determine, if possible, the nature of the disease—in doing which, I have fully satisfied myself that it is caused in the first place by an insect or fly, which attacks the leaves, by first perforating them and ultimately leaving them like a piece of gauze or net work, totally divested of verdure and becoming quite black—as the disease spreads the stalk goes into decay, and thereby the root text becomes affected. Now it does not follow necessarily that the insect should descend into the hill and attack the potatoe in the ground, as the effect produced by destroying the leaves, in my opinion, naturally leads to this result—to prove this it may be somewhat necessary to enter into a more scientific view of the subject. The leaves and plants are supplied by nature for purposes of respiration, and are therefore termed the "lungs" through the upper surface of which those qualities in the atmosphere necessary for the growth of plants, commonly called Oxygen, are received, so also through the under surface of the leaves the poisonous air or effluvia called Hydrogen is thrown out, and thereby the health of the plant is preserved, but the destruction of the leaves causes a total derangement of the system, and disease is the natural result—the poisonous quality of which it is said, the potatoe, (in a raw state,) partakes largely, first confines itself to the stalk or stem, and as decomposition, which soon takes place, proceeds, the poison descends through the stem, being hollow, into the potatoe, and hence we observe the progress of the disease forming small excrescences or warts on the surface, being the first symptoms of decay.

Now for the remedy. As soon as the leaves are discovered to turn black—I would recommend that the tops be mowed or reaped and covered to the compost heap. By this means the sap no longer descends through the tube or stalk to the potatoe, but soon evaporates, causing a rush of atmospheric air in its place, and thereby the stalk dries up, and the Potatoe is left to go through the process of curing or ripening against the proper season for digging and conveying them to the cellar.

I would not wish to assert here, that cutting the tops will make a cure in those potatoes already affected with the rot, but I have good reason for supposing that it will be a means of saving those which are not already affected with it—should the foregoing remarks at this critical period be found to subserve any use, the object of the writer will be fully attained. By giving insertion to the above in your useful paper, you will oblige

## PHILANTHROPIES.

**THE HYAENA.**—Ignatius Palmie, in his travels in Kordofan, vindicates the hyaena from the charge of ferocity and cruelty usually brought against it by writers on natural history—most of whom assert that the animal is unamiable. He says—In the court of a house at Lobed, I saw a hyaena running about quite domesticated. The children of the proprietor teased it, took the meat thrown to it for food out of its jaws, and put their hands even into its throat, without receiving the least injury. When we took our meals in the open air, to enjoy the breeze, as was our general custom during the hot season, this animal approached the table without fear snapped up the pieces that were thrown to it like a dog, and did not evince the slightest symptom of timidity. A full grown hyaena and her two cubs were, on another occasion brought to me for sale; the latter were carried in arms, as you might carry a lamb, and were not even muzzled. The old one, it is true, had a rope round its snout, but it had been led a distance of twelve miles by a single man without having offered the slightest resistance. The Africans of this quarter do not even reckon the hyaena among the wild beasts of their country, for they are not afraid of it.

**WOMAN'S FORTITUDE.**—I have often had

occasion to remark the fortitude with which women sustain the most overwhelming reverse of fortune. Those disasters which break the spirit of a man, and prostrate him in dust, seem to call forth all the energies of the softer sex, and give such intrepidity and elevation to their character, that at times they approach to sublimity. Nothing can be more touching than to behold a soft and tender female, who had been all weakness and dependence, and alive to every trivial rudeness, suddenly rising in mental force to be the comforter and supporter of her husband under misfortune, and abiding, with unshrinking firmness, the bitterest blast of adversity.

## GENERAL SUMMARY.

During his stay at Killarney, Dworkanoff, Turgov visited the Liberator at Derry, and Sir Robert Peel has purchased the original portrait of the celebrated Judge Blackstone, by Gainsborough.

A garrison order has been issued at Gibraltar, prohibiting military medical officers from practising mesmerism.

Prince Worozoff now persecutes the Circassians by burning the forests to which they fly for shelter.

The Pope has severely reprimanded the laxity of the discipline and exertions of the Catholic priests in Westphalia.

According to an article in the Medical Times, dry air is prejudicial, and humidity beneficial to consumptive patients.

Forrest, the American tragedian is at present in Liverpool. His celebrated pantomime, is just recovered from a severe attack of jaundice.

Some fanatics have been preaching at Exeter to immense audiences, announcing that the end of the world is fixed for the 10th of October next.

King Oscar, of Sweden, has entirely won the hearts of his people by espousing the law of marriage and inheritance, despite the opposition of the nobles.

A company is about to be established at Edinburgh, with a capital of £25,000 to prosecute the business of taking fish in the German Ocean.

Four new Roman Catholic Bishops are about to be established at China, in the cities through open to Europeans by the treaty of Nankin.

Intelligence has been received at Lloyd's, that masters of vessels have been fined several hundred pounds at the Cape of Good Hope, because the Christian names of the seamen were not signed in full, as required by the new act.

Notwithstanding the immense importations of North American and Baltic timber into Belfast this season, the price of the article is rising, and is likely to raise high through the year, from the great demand occasioned by the large number of new buildings in progress. Scottish and Irish larch is also in extensive request for railway purposes.

**Ridicule.**—The fatal fondness of indulging in a spirit of ridicule, and the injurious and irreparable consequences which sometimes attend the too severe reply, can never be condemned with more asperity than it deserves; not to offend is the first step towards pleasing; to give pain is as much an offence against humanity as against good breeding, and surely it is as well to abstain from an action because it is sinful, as because it is impolite.—*Dr. Blair*.

**The Sailor's Compliment to a Lady.**—It is said that a Lady of extraordinary beauty, once confessed that the only real compliment she ever received was from a coal heaver, who asked permission to light his pipe in her eyes.

We have lately met with another compliment paid by a sailor, who was directed by his captain to carry a letter to the lady of his love. The sailor having performed his errand, stood gazing in silent admiration upon the countenance of the lady, for she was "beautiful exceedingly."

"Well, my honest man, she said, for what do you wait? There is no answer expected."

"Lady, said the sailor, I would like to know your name."

"And why? she replied. Why should you seek to know my name?"

"Because," said he, I would call upon it in a storm, and save some ship from sinking."

**Frugality.**—Frugality may be termed the daughter of Prudence, the sister of Temperance, and the parent of Liberty. He that is extravagant will quickly become poor, and poverty will enforce dependence, and invite corruption. It will almost always produce a passive compliance with the wickedness of others, and there are few who do not learn by degrees to practise those crimes which they cease to censure. *Job 13:10*.

**A Fact.**—Young ladies who are accustomed to read newspapers, are always observed to possess winning ways, most amiable dispositions, invariably make good wives, and always select good husbands.





