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THE CANADIAN FAMILY HERALD.

FIVE SHILLINGS PER ANNUM.]

Virtue is True Happiness.

[SINGLE, THREE HALF PENCE.

VOL. I.

TORONTO, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1852.

No. 10.

Poetry.

MY BIRTHDAY.

BY THOMAS MORR.

"My birthday"—what a different sound
That word had in my youthful ears!
And how, each time the day comes round,
Less and less white its mark appears!

When first our scanty years are told,
It seems like pastime to grow old;
And, as Youth counts the shining links
That Time around him binds so fast,
Pleased with the task, he little thinks
How hard that chain will press at last.
Vain was the man, and false as vain,
Who said "were he ordained to run
His long career of life again.
He would do all that he had done."
Ah, 'tis not thus the voice that dwells
In sober birthdays, speaks to me;
Far otherwise—of time it tells,
Lavished unwisely, carelessly;
Of counsel mocked; of talents, made
Haply for high and pure designs,
But of, like Israel's incense, laid
Upon unholy earthy shrines;
Of nursing many a wrong desire;
Of wandering after Love too far,
And taking every meteor fire
That crossed my pathway for his star.
All this it tells; and, could I trace
Th' imperfect picture o'er again,
With power to add, retouch, efface
The lights and shades, the joy and pain,
How little of the past would stay!
How quickly all should melt away—
All—but that Freedom of the Mind,
Which hath been more than wealth to me;
True friendships, in my boyhood twin'd,
And kept till now unchangingly,
And that dear home, that smiling ark,
Where Love's true light at last I've found,
Cheering within, when all grows dark,
And comfortless, and stormy round!

Literature.

THE LOVERS' FIRST VISIT.

On the sunny side of a gently sloping upland there stood, some twenty years ago, an old square built, thatch-roofed farm house, where lived Anabella Gourlay, a young, beautiful maiden in the sweet, roseate bloom of seventeen summers. She was not tall, and rather inclined to be stout, face roundish rather inclined to be full, cheeks reddish inclined to be rosy, eyes light blue, and mild looking, teeth well set, and withal adorned with a profusion of dark auburn tresses. Miss Gourlay was born to affluence, and was nursed in the lap of affection; but through the inscrutable vicissitudes of fortune, she had retired from the scene of fashion and grandeur, with her only brother and a widowed mother, to live a rural life, far from the din and bustle of mechanical or commercial pursuits. Blithely did she milk the cows, or feed the poultry, or coll the hay, or flourish the sickle, or do any of the numberless little duties which belong to a small farm. But Anabella was not

"born to blush unseen"

She was dearly loved by a mild, amiable, though rather soft looking young man, who seemed at that time to have no definite aim in life, if that one was erased from his mind. And that love was sweetly reciprocated. But there were others who claimed a share in her affection, and among the rest, two young

lads, who lived in a little town some eight miles distant from the farm. These two youths set out one fine morning in December to pay a long promised visit to the farm, to see the lovely Anabella, and to spend a day with the family.

As nothing, in these days of degeneracy, is more necessary than the choice of good companions, it may be well before proceeding with these two youths on their excursion, to give the reader a sort of idea of the company to which he has been introduced, confident as I am, that a cursory glance at the aims and ennobling pursuits of these two young men, will enable the reader very speedily to come to the conclusion, that he is about to make an excursion with young men of high promise.

One was a mechanic, the other a gentleman. I will therefore start with the mechanic first, as I fully believe that until after the days of Nimrod, there were no gentlemen in the world. There was Jabal, the father of the tent-makers, and Jubal, the father of the organ-builders, and Tubal Cain, the father of the brass-founders; but strictly speaking there were no gentlemen, because prior to that time it would not have been safe to lie down in gentlemanly indolence, for fear of an attack from wild beasts. Thanks to that mighty hunter, men can now indulge in the most soporific listlessness, with impunity.

Well then, this mechanic,—or rather this son of a mechanic—some great men were once mechanics—well, this youth, was determined to be a great man, and the first daring effort of his genius was an attempt to make "spring swords." Startle not, gentle reader, he did not attempt to rival John Toledo,—his was a far higher aim. It happened in the process of events in this ever eventful world, that a certain Signor de Beston, a far-famed Indian juggler—by the way, this same said de Beston, was known to have been at one time a Dumfermline damask weaver, and had made his escape from the shuttle,—but be that as it may, this famed Indian juggler came to the town of Ardmorin, where our mechanical hero lived, and performed many striking feats, and among the rest was that of swallowing a sword. This was something new to the honest Ardmorinians, and many and sad were the conjectures as to where such uncanny looking arts would lead. Common report said that the man had connexion with the Evil One, and that his appearance was a sure presage of the last times when Gog and Magog were to be deceived and drawn forth to battle.

An old man-o'-wars-man, however, who seemed to be more acute than his neighbours, had picked up a nice little piece of wood with a knot-hole in it, about three-eighths of an inch in diameter. Through this the old tar looked, and saw as clear as day, that the juggler had only cast glaumer in their eyes.

But our youth took another view of the matter, and fully determined not to be done by anything that lay in the line of mechanics, went straightway to consult the parish minister about this wonderful affair. The minister as may be imagined was loth to think that

Satan could have power to infest a territory, in which he had himself laboured so abundantly, and was not long in hitting upon a solution of the mystery.

"The fact is, Samuel," said he,—by the bye, the young man's name was Samuel,— "the fact is, I have been thinking seriously of this subject ever since this mysterious stranger came to this neighbourhood, and I have come to the conclusion,—a conclusion by the way which I owe to my profound study of mathematics, and more particularly from having read Xenophon's 'History of the Wars,' in the original language, which I believe few are able to master so well;—and also from a meditative turn of mind, which ardent study has superinduced,—Well, I was saying that I have come to the conclusion, that it is a 'spring sword,' that is to say, it is a sword of such a construction, that while he presses the point of it upon his teeth, he touches a secret spring in the handle, which by the law of repulsion, forces from it the opposing substance, and while you imagine the sword goes down his throat, it only in obedience to this law coils itself up into the little handle, by the force of the spring. This I believe to be the true secret of the matter, and you know there are many things which we daily believe, though we cannot fully explain their causes. For example we see the daisy growing, but we cannot explain why it does not assume the appearance of a mushroom. So it is with this sword, although there does not seem in the handle—supposing it were hollowed out—space sufficient to contain half the length of the sword, yet we must believe that that is the process; for it would be a melancholy alternative, to give way to the popular belief that the Prince of Darkness was aiding the man to deceive us."

Considerably relieved by this philosophic explanation, the youth went away quite delighted and was not long in setting to work to make a "spring sword." The first one he made, he left the blade stiff enough to have the appearance of a sword, but then to make it coil up was impossible. He made another limber enough to coil itself up a little, but behold! it assumed the form of a watch main-spring. Something evidently was wrong, and to the unfolding of the mystery he was about to turn his sole attention, when a company of strolling players came to enliven the dulness of Ardmorin. Among that light hearted band was a young man who either in Sheffield or Brummagem, had learned to make cork-screws, but unfortunately he had an effervescence of eloquence which constantly bubbled forth like an exploding volcano, and he consequently left the forge to twist his figure in the diplays of his oratory, as he had been wont to twist his cork-screws.

This Othello, no doubt enquiring for the geniuses of the place, found his way to Samuel. He examined the swords but could not pronounce an opinion in reference to that sort of thing. He could however for a very slight consideration, instruct him how to make cork-screws.

This was a new idea and it was eagerly seized upon. In a little while one was made to show the process from beginning to end. Samuel tried his hand and brought out the length of twisting which the player having finished it was shown round amongst the friends, and served in no small degree to enhance the already high opinion of the young mechanic. Several others were forged and polished and brought to the point when they require to take that peculiar spiral formation which characterises the cork-screw. Here however they stuck. The strolling party had moved off, and several ineffectual attempts were made to give them the finishing twist. This was unfortunate; but it by no means damped the ardour of Samuel. He had a considerable share of perseverance, and would have gone on with this idea, for it seemed quite a neck-and-naïf, but, for one powerful consideration.

He had an uncle in the neighbourhood named Adam Bentham a millwright in trade, and a reputed genius. Adam had spent twenty years in the construction of a "perpetual movement," and the result of all this mental and bodily labour he bequeathed to Samuel as a legacy, accompanied with the injunction that he was to devote himself night and day to its accomplishment. The old man was grieved at thought of leaving the world without benefitting mankind by his discovery, yet there was consolation in the reflection, that the name of his nephew would one day be transmitted to immortal honour by the great achievement.

The honour which would undoubtedly accrue from such a wonderful discovery, at once turned the current of the thoughts of the youth, and he set himself assiduously to work to give the finishing touch to that "movement," whose unceasing motion was only to be stopped at that eventful period when the earth and all the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Never having seen this machine I cannot convey to the mind of the reader the slightest idea of its appearance. It was necessarily a secret and I believe ever will remain so, as the latest account published in reference to it, was that issued on the morning on which Samuel set out on this excursion, when he stated to his companion, with no little heart-felt self-gratulation, that the only thing needed to complete the machine, was a "small piece of sheet brass."

That will suffice for a bird's-eye view of one of the travellers. The gentleman, for so I must style the other as he was a man of letters, was tall and slender, neither sharp nor blunt looking, and was pretty nearly a representative embodiment of the phrase—"little good, little ill." He had however a great desire to be considered an antiquary; and but a few days previous to this morning already alluded to, he had given the inhabitants of Ardmore an abundant theme for future dazzling expectations in the Prospectus of the Pantechnologicon, a new work, on which several years labour had been expended. The Prospectus, printed on a large sheet, in attractive characters, was to the following effect:—

"IN THE PRESS, and will speedily be published in monthly parts—price one shilling—a CHRONOLOGICAL, ETHNOLOGICAL, GEOLOGICAL and HISTORICAL account of Ardmore, from that ever memorable epoch—the Flood, down to the present day.

AIDED by a bundle of ancient manuscripts lately found in a secret vault of the old castle of Ardmore, in the neighbourhood, the publisher has been enabled to make considerable additions to his previous researches in reference to the Thane by whom that castle was built, and the several branches of the family through whom it has descended to its present illustrious possessor.

THE GEOLOGICAL discoveries lately made in that particular spot, in the field to the westward, known as the "back moor," enable him to certify that palm trees flourished there at no distant day.

The Pantechnologicon, will contain a very concise yet comprehensive sketch of the rise and progress of Ardmore, which so many of us

proudly claim as our birth place and from which have issued so many brilliant lights to illuminate the world, which is still I hope, ere long, to be more highly honoured by the production of that work, whose very name sends a thrill of joy to the heart.—"The Perpetual Movement."

THE HISTORICAL department will give a correct list of all the births, deaths, marriages and funerals, which have taken place in Ardmore from the memorable date already alluded to;—also, its ships, ship-building and ship-builders;—its houses, architecture and architects;—its music, musicians and musical instrument-makers, and in fact every species of information that would be pleasing to communicate or gratifying to know.

THE MUSICAL department will be conducted by James Cook, Esq., eldest son of Mr. John Cook, whose musical powers so charmed the bull on Shardslo Moor lately, when that enraged animal threatened to gore him. Of Mr. James Cook's musical attainments it would be superfluous to speak. You all know him—of his perseverance in Literary Research, it is enough to say that his grandfather was second cousin to the celebrated Captain James Cook who circumnavigated the Globe. His little apostrophe to music is now familiar to us all—

Musical ethereal effluence!
Breathest thou upon the tremulous air
In silvery undulations,—and all that love
Of purity, or Heaven bestows,
Is sweetened; even misery itself,
By thy mellifluous cadence
Is transformed to bliss.

The Pantechnologicon will therefore in fact be a family treasure, and the warm reception which his late work, the Literary Casket, met, induces the publisher to spare no expense in illustration, and no pains in research, to make the pages interesting, confident that his labours will not be in vain.

N.B.—It may be as well to remark that the department of Natural History will be a correct epitome of the famous work of the celebrated Gilbert White, of Selborne. Ardmore is certainly rather farther north than Selborne, but it presents the same general features, and therefore its Natural History may be presumed to be similar.

Signed,
Yours, as is most meet,
DAVID DONALDSON.

Reader, excuse this feeble attempt to convey even the most beggarly idea of the abilities and importance of these two young men. Enough has been said to show that they were no ordinary every-day characters, with whom you are now to take a short excursion. The month, as before stated, was December, the day somewhere about the 25th. They breakfasted at an earlier hour than usual, and set out in full glee upon their first visit to Windy Hill, —by the way the farm was named Windy Hill. Now, I will not attempt impossibilities, to pander to the prurency of my reader. I did not accompany the travellers, and therefore cannot record any of the edifying, scientific conversation, by which the eight long country miles were beguiled. This is one of the inconveniences of life, which, for want of ubiquity, we are all less or more doomed to suffer. Well, well, as to what they spoke of by the way, it now makes little matter. With feelings of the most perceptible emotion they reached the little homestead, well-known in the distance by its three tall elm trees that shaded the barn, and in which from time immemorial two families of magpies had built their nests. By the by, there is a popular superstition in that quarter in reference to magpies. From personal experience I can testify that nine out of every ten rustics in that moorland strath, at this very day give unqualified credence to the superstition, or "freet," as they term it— "that if on a journey you see two magpies hopping or flying together it is most ominous, and whatever you are pursuing is sure to come to naught. This 'freet' is no doubt transmitted in the old ballads of the country. I fell in with some of these old doggerels in manuscript at one time, and they con-

firmed me in that opinion. One of them says—

If Jockieiling o'er the heather,
To meet his Jenny in the loon,
See two Witch Pies chat together,
He tynes a' heart, his luck is gone.

And though in lily-throated happiest mood,
His Jenny meets him at the thorn,
He hears the chattering croaking brood,
Tells ominous tales about the morn.

The other extract seems of a more modern date, although still perpetuating the same fatal idea.—

Lo! to fore him o'er the meadow,
Chattering loud two magpies flew—
Court he need not maid or widow,
All is feckless he may do.

Nothing but ill-luck and sorrow
Can the bumpy path attend,
Sleepless shall he lie till morrow,
All his hopes are at an end.

Whether our travellers had the misfortune to see two magpies in close confab as they journeyed on, is not easy to say, but from the sequel it may be safely predicated they had. Be that as it may, they were kindly welcomed at the farm house. Anabella, laying love aside, was glad to see them, for there were many fond associations hovering over the spot they had that morning left, and she eagerly enquired for all her old friends. As modestly as possible the various pursuits in which they themselves were engaged were referred to, and Samuel happening by chance to have a copy of the prospectus of the "NEW WORK" in his pocket, it afforded subject matter for a lengthened conversation, and, as a matter of course, Anabella's name was requested to be put down at the top of the second column of subscribers.

(To be continued.)

TO OUR READERS.—The Canadian Family Herald will in future be published by Mr. Charles Fletcher, Bookseller, No. 54, Yonge Street. It is kindly requested therefore that all communications intended for the Herald be addressed to the publisher, in order to prevent confusion, or delay in attending to them.

CANADIAN FAMILY HERALD.

TORONTO, SATURDAY, FEB. 14, 1852.

We have thought proper to withdraw the PROSPECTUS from this number, as well as all the NOTICES OF THE PRESS. It was necessary to keep up the one a short time, in order that no misunderstanding might arise in reference to the nature and design of the little Miscellany, and to save the trouble of requiring to state that such and such communications were not suited to our columns. The Notices of the Press were inserted as a mark of respect to those Editors who had so kindly welcomed the Herald; and also to show its readers what those who may be entitled to pronounce an opinion had said about the stranger. Solomon says,—"Let another praise thee and not thine own mouth,"—and although it may be considered only a somewhat modified form of self-praise, to publish "on the house-top," the panegyrics which others have lavished upon you, yet in the present instance it admits of considerable extenuation. When a little stranger makes his appearance in the family circle, as a necessary consequence, all is rejoicing, and the little fellow is watched and cared for by a host of aunts and cousins, and is kept in long cloths to ward off the rude wind. By and by, although contrary to philosophy, he is encouraged to make

use of his limbs, and is carefully propped up to prevent a fall. In like manner was the Herald ushered into the social circle of the Press, and it is gratifying to say that it was received with the most kindly rejoicings. Of this friendly regard we wish now to testify our sincere appreciation, and to the whole family of the Press, we return our warmest congratulations.—To those kind friends from whom we have received communications expressing their approval of the Herald, and their wishes for its success, we render our heartfelt thanks, and humbly desire to continue to merit their favour.—To those of our correspondents who have demurred as to the propriety of part of the space being occupied by advertisements, we have only to say, that at present, that arrangement cannot be dispensed with. It may by and by be necessary to put the advertisements on a separate page so as not to interfere with the paper. In the meantime, the most will be made of our available space. In the Artists' Corner will be found a brief sketch of one of the Great Masters of Art, of the Dutch School. That corner has hitherto been occupied by instructions in colour mixing, &c., which is very useful in its own way. It is fitting however that the artist should divide the space with his implements, and for that purpose a series of sketches of great artists will appear, carefully prepared for the Herald. Last number contained the first of a series of Oriental traditions, which have been translated from the Talmud and other Oriental works expressly for the Herald. These we have no doubt will be very acceptable, as the Talmud is not found at every fireside. The one in this number is a most admirable piece. We have the pleasure too of introducing the first of a series of stories in this number, which, combined with other interesting matter, will at least give an air of freshness to the Herald, and we trust will make it a welcome guest at every fireside.

Answers to Correspondents.

THOMAS. ICE IN A HOT LADLE. Your question no doubt involves a little mystery. It is nevertheless possible to perform the operation. The process was first attempted by the fat-famed chemist Faraday, and has since been tried by various chemists. It is some years since, while attending a course of chemical lectures under the celebrated Dr. Murray, we saw the operation performed, and it took his audience by surprise. To explain the process thoroughly would require a very extended space. An idea of it may however be gathered from the following remarks. If liquid mercury be put into a mixture of solid carbonic acid, and pure ether, contained in a red hot platinum crucible—the carbonic acid being in the spheroidal state, and not in contact with the sides of the crucible, its evaporation will produce so intense a cold as to freeze the mercury. Now as mercury solidifies at 40 degrees below zero, it follows as a necessary consequence that water would freeze much more easily than mercury. The following very beautiful experiment may easily be performed by any one having an air pump, and it cannot fail of being in-

teresting to any one who takes delight in this noble science. Take a small thin glass jar, fill it half full with good ether, then place it within another jar half filled with water. Let this be then placed under the receiver of an air pump, and so soon as the air is exhausted, the ether will boil and the water will be frozen. The reason is that when the pressure of the atmosphere is removed by the air pump from the surface of the ether, its own latent caloric, occasions its expansion, and absorbing caloric from the water, it becomes converted into gas, and the water having now lost all its caloric of fluidity, is converted into ice.

PRO BONO PRAVICO. It is generally believed that Cherry Pectoral contains a certain quantity of Prussic Acid; but it is of so volatile a nature, that it is not easy to discover the exact quantity comparatively. Prussic Acid, if properly administered is considered, however, an admirable sedative, so that the Pectoral may in many cases be found to be an admirable remedy for the irritation produced by cold. We have never used it and cannot therefore speak from experience.

Toronto Mechanics' Institute.

On the evening of Friday, the 30th ultimo, Dr. Hodder delivered a lecture on the Hibernation of Animals. After apologizing for the disappointment caused by his non appearance on the previous lecture evening when announced to lecture, and thanking Mr. H. Y. Hind for his valuable services on the occasion, the Dr. said, that the word "hibernation" was not applicable to all those animals which are subject to periodical sleeps. The etymology of the word proves that it refers to the winter exclusively; hence the use of the terms "summer-sleepers" and "winter-sleepers." All animals were more or less subject to sleep, either diurnal, nocturnal, or periodical, and even in the vegetable kingdom a suspension of growth of some plants has been observed. In the islands of Madagascar, and the Mauritius, which are within the torrid zone, a species of animals has been discovered which sleep during the summer months only; and it is in such climates also that in some instances during a short period of the very warm season of the year a total suspension of vegetable life takes place. A certain kind of plants has been observed to dislodge themselves entirely from the ground as soon as the moisture has been absorbed, and being thus freed, are driven hither and thither with the winds until they find a place sufficiently moist, when they again take root and very soon assume all the appearance of active vegetable life. In cold climates the hibernation of animals properly takes place. The bat, the dormouse, the hedgehog, and such animals, are in a state of hibernation or torpidity during the greater part of the winter season. Various experiments have been made with those animals subject to the long hibernal sleeps. The bat during his sleep has been awakened up but could not be induced to partake of food, whilst the hedgehog, however, on being so disturbed, would eat a little, but would immediately return to his former lethargic state. A careful observer will perceive the superior wisdom of Providence in thus making provision for these animals during the long winter season, when it would be difficult to procure the necessary food. Some animals, however, sleep longer than others. The Dr. went into a minute explanation of the effects which the weather produces on these animals, showing that a low temperature is unfavourable to their torpid habit; but that on the other hand, a mild temperature is often the means of prolonging their numbers. Upon application of the thermometer to the bodies of

these animals whilst in a state of hibernation, it is generally found that the degree of heat nearly corresponds with that of the air, except in a case of extreme temperature, either high or low, when it is found to be within a degree or so lower if the temperature is high, and about the same above, if the temperature is low. The lecturer then referred to the interesting experiments of Dr. Marshall Hall with some animals whilst in the state of hibernation. A frog was placed in a vessel containing gases of the most obnoxious character without any apparent effect, but as soon as the animal was removed, death almost instantaneously ensued. The same gentleman made similar experiments with the same result. It is well known, the lecturer continued, that frogs have on various occasions been taken from the hearts of solid rock many feet under the surface of the ground, and sometimes from the trunks of trees; and the question has been more than once asked how they came there, and how it is that in such a situation they continue to retain the vital spark! Some have attempted to account for these singular circumstances by saying that they are capable of existing without air—a conclusion to which he, nor any well informed person, could not by any means come to. He said he believed that the most probable way to account for these animals having got into the rocks, which are generally of granite, was, that a crevice must have existed, into which they had fallen, and being unable to extricate themselves, the rocks having a tendency to unite with the sands, which would be driven into these crevices, they eventually became enclosed. Their prolonged existence can only be accounted for in this way,—that being animals which require very little air, the pores which the rocks are known to possess, admit air sufficient for their purpose. It has also been ascertained that the existence of these animals in the trunks of trees, has been prolonged by the admission of air through their pores. During the course of his lecture, the Doctor exhibited grains of wheat which he said were the produce of seeds taken from the hand of a mummy that was unwrapped a few years ago in Dublin. He stated that the inscriptions proved that upwards of 2,100 years had elapsed since the mummy left the hands of the embalmers. The audience testified their appreciation of the lecturer's talents by repeated marks of applause.

Literary Notices.

CYCLOPEDIA OF USEFUL ARTS, PART XIV, London and New York, George Virtue.—Toronto, H. Rogers, Yonge Street.

This part contains a very beautifully executed engraving of Nasmyth's Patent Steam Hammer, as shown in the Great Exhibition. It contains also an elevation of an Electro Magnetic Machine, and two very tasteful elevations of Embossing Presses, and an Engraving showing the process of Raising the arched ribs of the Transept of the Crystal Palace as described in a previous part. A very concise sketch of the process of engraving is given, which contains several curious and interesting passages. An account is also given of Enamel and Enamelling, with a variety of Recipes for the preparation of coloured enamels, transparent enamels, &c., as well as a representation of the implements used in the art. This will form an admirable book of reference, and should be procured by every artisan.

HOME AND SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY,—New York, G. P. Putnam.—Toronto, A. H. Armour & Co.

This is unquestionably the happiest bookmaking idea of the season. Putnam has creamed the "London Milk," and has served up the cream most admirably. Home and Social Philosophy is a collection of the gems from Dickens' Household Words, done up in stiff paper covers, very neatly printed, and forming the first part of a series to be entitled Putnam's Semi-monthly Library. It is all probability it will command an extensive sale.

Agriculture.

FUNGI—AS A PARASITE.

The study of Zoology, in all its branches, is calculated to be useful to man, especially as it has a tendency to his refinement in preparing him for an agreeable conversation with those with whom he associates. It is well known that Canada affords an immense field for this study, and I am surprised to see many young men ignorant of the benefit derived from such useful resources which would be to them a vast amount of interesting information. The idea of discovering strange objects every day should be of itself encouraging. For instance, what a beautiful study we have in the branches, botany and entomology? Every schoolmaster should be profound in all the studies of natural Philosophy, devoting a part of his time to giving illustrations of the works of God, to those under his care, showing the grand and harmonious spectacle of Nature, its vast superiority and beauty, in comparison with the most beautiful of human inventions; in elevating the mind of youth, inspiring them with high and salutary thoughts, all of which are "indicative and productive of gentleness, refinement and virtue." It has always been pleasing to youth to listen to the hypotheses upon which nature is explained, and an early advantage of that pleasure should be insinuated into them. The remembrance of the errors of ignorance ought to humble us, while nature is daily opening the treasures of her hidden marvels, and science advancing in Christian lands. Those discoveries will help to close the lips of the sceptic, whose blind prejudices have constantly accused such philanthropists, of mistaken views, while giving a diffusion of plain facts, which alone can lead to an acquaintance with the natural mysteries of our country.

My intention therefore is to confine the principal subject of this letter to the branches heretofore mentioned, giving a clear statement of facts which I have no doubt will be of great service to our Canadian Agriculturists.

First—Fungi as a Parasite. And as it is proper to define the word, it derives its name from the Greek (*Parasitos*)—meaning one that lives at the expense of another: thus, the parasite of a vegetable is another vegetable existing under these circumstances; for example, the mistletoe, exists on the ascending sap of the plants to which they are attached, elaborating it in their own leaves. Parasites of plants are of two kinds, the leafy and the leafless. A botanical author says:—"But it is manifest that those which are leafless cannot be otherwise; they require sap previously converted into proper juice, or descending sap in the plants to which they belong, having no organs of their own capable of effecting this essential process of vitality." I have often found them growing from the roots of their peculiar vegetables, robbing them of the Cambium, or sap, on its passage down the stem after being elaborated in leaves—an instance in the common *Cuscuta*, or Dodder, which attacks clover, has been no doubt an importation with foreign seed; another still more remarkable, and very commonly found on clover, called the

Orobanchæ, or Stranglo-vech, fastening itself to the roots, but unlike the former, it sends its fibres into the soil. Some Parasite Fungi are very minute, indeed, it is impossible to comprehend their action especially upon the various parts of the wheat plants without the aid of a microscope; it has been stated that their sporules float in the atmosphere around us until they light upon some place adapted to their growth, therefore it is necessary to explain their nature and habits. *Thallogens*, of which there are three sections very closely connected, viz.—*Alga*, *Fungi*, and *Lichens*. The first live in water and damp situations, the last two in air: the chief distinction in these two is that the fungi "are never accompanied by those green separated cellulose of the medullary layer of the thallus, which, as well as their spores or seeds form reproductive matter in lichens." A fungus is a cellular flowerless plant, deriving its nourishment by means of a thallus, to which the name has been given *Spæra*, living in air, and propagated by spores, which are naked. In their functions of respiration "they approach more to animal than vegetable life, for they absorb oxygen and exhale carbonic acid gas." Like lichens, they contain a vast quantity of nitrogen, and a substance called *fungine*, extracted by chemists, bears a close resemblance to animal matter. They derive nutriment from the substances on which they grow, the juices of the peculiar plant to which they adhere form their appropriate food. They assume various forms, some are composed of articulated threads—for example, in submitting the mould to the power of the microscope it will be found to branch off in a mass of articulations of the strangest forms, others consist of cellular tissues, the interior containing the spores adhering to them, commonly four together, and when dried consisting of a dusty substance, such as is seen in the common puff-ball.

The celebrated Botanist, Lindley, was of opinion that fungi might be classed into orders, founded upon the peculiarities of structure, viz.

1. Hymeno-mycetes, (skin or membrane) such as the agarics or mushroom tribe—spores set in four.
2. Gastero-mycetes, (case or stomach) as puff-balls, and sphaerias.
3. Conio-mycetes, (dust) having a dust-like appearance, as have been seen on corn plants—spores single, or occasionally in sevens.
4. Hymphocycetes, (a web), such as attacks vetches, potatoes, &c., spores hanging naked, resembling berries on the threads—often in sevens.
5. Asco-mycetes (a bag) such as are found on the peach-trees, hops, peas, and beans—the sporidia generally being in eights.
6. Physo-mycetes, (a brown bladder) the spores being surmounted by a sort of vesicular veil, the thallus of these fungi is floccose.

It is well known that some of these are excellent food, and are eaten in this country and throughout Europe, those generally used are the mushroom, the morel, and the truffle. Some are intoxicating, others are extremely poisonous. In some parts of the globe they are beautifully phosphorescent in the dark, assuming the richest splendour. Well may the Fungi be designated "the scavengers of nature." When we look upon those singular appearances, "called fairy-rings," in our meadows we are apt to pass them by with a transient thoughtless glance, or a momentary wonder at their existence." Science has not done so, for it has discovered that they consume putrescent organized matter, and when decomposed forms a most excellent manure for the land. Would it be believed that the inoculation of a fungus would terminate the existence of an animal, such is, however, the case; in some countries a species of wasp is subject to the growth of a fungus, and has been seen with it adhering to its body, also, the caterpillar of a moth in New

Zealand is infested by its parent inhaling the spores of a fungi called *Sphaeria Robertina*, buries itself in the earth, never to show itself on its surface in the imago state, but appears tapering from the ground as a fungus. That this animal was healthy in the early period of its existence is easily seen as it possesses the power to descend into the earth, not however without being diseased by the agency of this nauseous fungus. Another astonishing fact in connection with this animal fungi is, that if by chance it is broken, another quickly succeeds it. A Rev. Author remarks:—"These beautiful progressions seem to give the Christian a natural shadow of a hoped for existence of a nobler kind. True, the shadow is feeble, but yet it manifests that the promise of a life to come is but a grander realization of that which exists under our constant observation proclaim to be in unison with the proceedings of the Author of all existence, in certain of the works of His hand. Unimportant as are the transformations before us, compared with our reurrection unto life, still it is most interesting to perceive that a faint type of it exists in the world."

(To be continued.)

Miscellaneous.

AFFINITY OF LANGUAGES.

In rude ages, the families or tribes of men are named from some character of the people; or, more generally, from the place of their residence. The Greeks gave the name *Scythia* to the north of Europe and Asia, but the primitive inhabitants of the west of Europe they called *Kelts*, or *Celts*, a word signifying woods men. These were descendants from the same ancestors as the Greeks and Romans themselves, but they had pushed their migrations into Gaul, Spain and Britain. The first settlers or occupiers of these countries were driven forward by successive hordes, until they were checked by the ocean; there they made their stand, and there we find their descendants at this day. These may be considered as the descendants of the earliest settlers or first inhabitants of the countries where they are found. Among these are the inhabitants of France, south of the Garonne, and those of the north of Spain, called by the Romans Aquitani and Cantabri, in more modern times Gascoigns, Basques, and Cantabrians, who still retain their native language, and in Great Britain, the Gaels in Scotland, and the natives of the north and west of Ireland, who also retain their primitive language.

The first inhabitants of the north and west of Europe, known to the Greeks and Romans, to whom we are indebted for our earliest accounts of that region, were the Cimbri, who inhabited the peninsula of Denmark, now called Jutland, and the tribes which belonged to the Teutonic and Gothic races which were established in Germany and on both sides of the Baltic. Whether tribes of Celtic origin had overspread the latter countries before the arrival of the Gothic and Teutonic races, and all Europe had been inhabited by the Celts even to the borders of Sarmatia, has been a question much disputed by historians and antiquaries. The German and French writers generally contend that the Celts inhabited all the north of Europe, as far at least as Sarmatia; but some respectable English writers are of a different opinion. Now it is agreed that the Welsh are descendants of the Cimbri, inhabitants of Jutland; and their language bears a strong affinity to the Celtic languages which still exist; a fact that countenances the opinion of the German and French writers. But the dispute is of little moment; the Celtic, Teutonic and Gothic races being all of the Japhetic stock, migrating from Asia through Asia Minor at different times, and pursuing different courses westward. The first tribes probably sought the warm climates along the north coast of the Mediterranean, and established themselves in Greece and Italy. Others followed the course

of the Danube and its subsidiary streams, till they fell upon the rivers that conducted them to the Baltic. The first inhabitants of Greece and Italy were probably of the Celtic race; but if they were, it is very evident that tribes of the Teutonic or Gothic races invaded those countries before they were civilized, and intermingled with the original inhabitants. The Pelasgi may have been among the number. This is an inference which we draw from the affinities of the Greek and Latin languages with those of Teutonic origin. The Teutonic and Gothic races impressed their language upon all the continent of Europe west of the Visula, and from that river to the Rhine, or rather to the Seine, anterior to the conquest of Gaul by Julius Cæsar. The same races invading and conquering the south of Europe, in the fourth and fifth centuries, on the downfall of the Roman empire, infused a portion of their language into the Italian and Spanish, which is still distinguishable.

The ancient Sarmatia, including Poland and Russia, was probably peopled originally by races of men who passed into Europe by the country north of the Euxine. Their original residence was along the rivers Kur and Araxes, or on the mountains between the Euxine and Caspian. The name of the *Russ* or Russian, is clearly recognized in the *Rosomans* of Pliny and Ptolemy, and possibly the ancestors of this race may have entered Europe by Asia Minor. That the Teutonic races, originally from Persia, inhabited Asia Minor, and migrated westward by that course, is evident from the names which they impressed on mountains, rivers and places. Such are the *Cragus* of Pliny, the Welsh and English *crag*, *Perga* in Pamphylia, now *burg* or *burgen*; *Thymbreck*, the name of a small stream, near the site of Troy; a word in which we recognize the English *brook*; it was contracted by the Greeks into *Thymbrus*.

It is admitted by all gentlemen acquainted with oriental literature, that the Sanscrit, or ancient language of India, the parent of all dialects of that great peninsula, is radically the same or from the same stock as the Greek and Latin; the affinities between them being remarkably clear and decisive. If so, the inhabitants of India and the descendants of the Celtic and Teutonic nations are all of one family, and must have all migrated from one country after the separation of the nations of the Shemitic stock, from those of the Japhetic race.

Whether that country was Persia, or Cashmir, or a country further east, is a point not easily determined. One important inference results from this fact, that the white men of Europe and the blacker or tawny men of India, are direct descendants from a common ancestor.

Of the language of Europe, the Greek was first improved and refined, and next to that the Latin. The affinity between these languages and those of the west and north of Europe is very striking, and demonstrates their common origin. It is probable, however, that there are some words in the Greek derived from Africa, if Egyptian colonies were established in Greece, as historians inform us.

FLOGGING AN EDITOR.

About twenty-five years ago, when a certain western state (which we shall not name) was a territory, and with a very few inhabitants, a young lawyer from one of the old states emigrated thither, and settled in the town of K—. He succeeded admirably in his profession, and rose rapidly in popular favour. He had been there nearly two years, when he had induced a printer to come and print a weekly paper, of which he was editor and proprietor. Squire S. was much pleased for a while with editing a paper. He was a man of very low stature, but he used the editorial "we" as frequently as if there were a dozen of them, and each as big as Daniel Lambert, or the Kentucky giant. Strange to say, there were at that time men in office who were not a particle more honest than they should be—a thing which probably never happened before, and never will again. Squire S. felt all the patriotism of a son

of '76, and poured out grape and canister against the public abuses. This soon stirred up a hornet's nest about his ears; but as there was no other paper in the territory there was no reply, and he enjoyed his warlike propensities in security. At length he published an article more severe and cutting against malfeasance in office, than any that had preceded it. In fact, though pointed at no one individual in particular, it was a scorcher. Some three or four days afterwards he was sitting alone in his editorial office, which was about a quarter of a mile from the said printing establishment, his pen was busy with a paragraph, when the door was opened without much ceremony, and in stalked a man about six feet in his stockings. He asked—"are you S., the proprietor of this paper?"—"Thinking he had found a new patron, the little man, with one of his blandest smiles, answered in the affirmative. The stranger deliberately drew the last number of the paper from his pocket, and, pointing to an article against rogues in office, told the affrighted editor it was intended for "him." It was in vain that S. protested that he had never heard of him before. The wrath of the visitor rose to fever heat, and from being so long restrained, boiled over with double fury. He gave the choice, either to publish a very laudible recantation or take a flogging on the spot. Either alternative was wormwood, but what could he do? the enraged officeholder was twice his size, and was able to qualify him for an obituary notice. He agreed to retract, and as the visitor insisted upon writing it himself, he sat down to the desk. Squire S. made an excuse to the printing office, with a promise that he would be back in season to sign it as soon as it was finished. S. had hardly gone fifty yards, when he encountered a man who enquired where Squire S.'s office was, and if he was at home. Suspecting that he too was on the same errand as the other sutor, he pointed to the office and told him he would find the editor within writing a most abusive article against officeholders. This was enough. The eyes of the comer flashed fire. He rushed into the office and assailed the stranger with the epithets 'liar,' 'scoundrel,' 'coward,' and told him he would teach him how to write. The gentleman supposing it was some bully sent there from the editor, sprang to his feet, and a fight ensued. The table was upset and smashed into kindling wood—the contents of a large jug of ink stood in puddles on the floor—the chairs had their legs and backs broken beyond the skill of surgery to cure them. This seemed only to inspire the combatants with still greater fury. Blow followed blow with the rapidity of lightning. First one was kicking on the floor, then the other, each taking it in turns pretty equally. The ink on the floor found its way to their faces, till both of them cut the most ridiculous figures imaginable. The noise and uproar was tremendous. The neighbours ran to the door and exclaimed that two negroes were fighting in Squire S.'s office. None dared separate them. At length, the circumstances of the case became known; and the next day, hardly able to sit on horseback, their heads bound up, they started homewards, convinced that they had obtained very little satisfaction from their attempt to flog an editor.—[Hogg's Instructor.

THE AZTEC CHILDREN.

We find in a New York paper the following remarks upon the two diminutive children exhibited in the St. Lawrence Hall, Toronto, a few months ago. No doubt most of our city readers embraced the opportunity of visiting the interesting little creatures at the time, but the statements made are worth consideration.—

On entering the room two diminutive figures met our eye—a male and a female, the first eleven, the other twelve years of age, brother and sister; the one 27 1-4 inches high, and the other 38. Both are exceedingly affectionate and intelligent looking. In color they are about the shade of a mulatto, with jet black hair, and as beautifully arranged as one can imagine. They are agile to a wonderful degree, and are celebrated for the great

perfection of their muscular powers. In general appearance they differ from anything claimed to be human ever seen before. Some of the bystanders expressed an opinion that they were a species of monkey, that had had the advantage of a refined education; and others again were inclined to the belief that they were the progeny of degraded Africans. But little observation, however, is necessary to convince one that they are neither the one or the other. What they really are, we may state in a few words.—a couple of children from the mysterious city of Iximaya, in Central America, a city mentioned by Stevens, and recently explored by two daring travellers, Mr. Hewitt of Baltimore, and Mr. Hammond of Canada, both of whom sacrificed their lives in this extraordinary enterprise. These children, it is said, belong to the ancient sacerdotal caste of Kaanaa, or Pagan Mimos, and their faces bear a perfect resemblance to the rude sculptures upon all Aztec and ancient Egyptian monuments, the line from the top of the head to the tip of the nose being perfectly straight. The race is Lilliputian in stature, three feet being the average height. An account of these wonderful creatures, in the *Mirror*, says:—

"The female, after hopping upon the table to show herself off, ran to her nurse's arms and fell to caressing her very lovingly. They were neatly dressed in black tights and tunics, with a few ornaments peculiar to their country. They are said to be orphans, and were obtained by Senor Velasquez, one of the party of adventurers, through the agency of a priest; and the object of the proprietor is to exhibit them as ethnological curiosities throughout the world. How they slipped through Barnum's fingers is a mystery that cannot be explained, except on the presumption that the great showman is already satiated with his gains. If what we have written of these little half human descendants of the ancient priests of Iximaya has excited the 'bump of the marvellous' in the heads of our readers, we can only assure them that to see these wonders we have attempted to describe will excite them still more.

The city of Iximaya has had no knowledge or intercourse with the world for four thousand years, the party of Velasquez being the first ever known to have left it alive. It has a population of 85,000, is surrounded by a wall fifty feet high, and is built in the form of a parallelogram, four miles long and three wide. The Kaana children are supposed to be the descendants of Pagan Priests, who emigrated from Assyria five thousand years ago.

GLASS BOTTLES.

A great improvement in the manufacture of bottles, and one which promises to reduce that prolific source of loss to the exporter of bottled beer, &c.—the bursting of bottles—to a mere nothing, was recently patented by Messrs. Heley and Norton of Crutched Friars, (Eng.) It consists, says the *Mining Journal*, in making in the neck of the bottles, a vent hole near the rim which permits the bottle to be completely filled to that point—the vent-hole allowing any liquid displaced by the cork, or stopper, to pass off from the bottle; the cork, or stopper, when driven in, closing the vent-hole as well as the mouth. The vent-hole may be situated on the shoulder, or in the "punt" of the bottle; but when so it requires to be provided with a stopper of its own, which is inserted in the vent-hole during the filling of the bottle, and must be released when the same is filled in that way—so that liquid sufficient to fill it completely may be injected through such vent-hole when that is to be recorked. Under the patent is included an improved cork or stopper, which will effect the same object; also several new forms of bottles, having extra strong necks and shoulders, to enable them the better to resist the pressure of the contained liquids some of them possessing the novel faculty of standing on their mouths; also a highly ingenious machine for corking bottles, which renders that critical operation as easy a matter as it is to place a cork in the mouth of a phial.

AN ORIENTAL TRADITION, FROM THE TALMUD.

When David, the son of Jess., exhausted by the cares of his Kingdom, and from the grief caused by his children, departed this life upon the royal couch; behold there met him first Jonathan, the friend of his youth, in the dark valley of the shadow of death. Our friendship is eternal said he to the form of the old King; but, alas! I cannot offer you my right hand, for thou art stained with blood, even the blood of my father's house, and laden with the sighs of my own son. But follow me, and David followed the heavenly youth. Alas! sighed David, and said within himself, the life of man is indeed a difficult state, but still more difficult is the life of a king. Oh! Jonathan, had I but died like thou with an innocent heart, in the blossom of my years; or had I remained a singing shepherd on the beautiful green fields of Bethlehem. Oh! why did I not die with thee.

Murmur not, said Jonathan against Him who bestowed upon thee the crown of his people, and made thee a father of an eternal kingdom. I have seen thy works, and thy sufferings, and have awaited thee here.

And he led him to a stream in Paradise, drink said he, of this fountain and thou shalt forget all thy cares; wash thyself in this stream, and thou shalt become younger and more beautiful than thou wast at the time when we swore to each other eternal friendship. But dive deep into the river, it flows like silver, and it must purify thee like fire.

David drank of the holy fountain and washed himself in the crystal waters. The draught made him forgetful of his former cares upon earth, but the waters pierced deeply through him, like fire it glowed within him, until he stood purified like his heavenly friend. Jonathan now reached him a harp, and sweeter than hitherto, the King of Songs, sang beneath the tree of life. David and Jonathan kissed each other, and renewed the vow of eternal friendship, which can no more be broken by death.

RUSSIA.

The Russian Empire, embracing about as much territory as the half of Europe, is mountainous and somewhat rocky, with some exceptions. Its population is about 67,000,000, 65,000,000 of whom are in Europe. The Northern part of Russia in Europe is very barren, and marshy and rocky, being leaky and low. The Southern part is sandy, and through which runs the Volga, Don, Niep and Nissa. Four of the rivers of Russia flow in one direction, and four in an opposite. No part of the world is as level as Russia—being the lowest country in Europe. If you were to level it off, it would be only thirty-five feet above the sea. According to Humboldt, it would take materials from Central Europe, and Southern Europe in particular to make it six hundred feet above the level of the sea. The early history of Russia, is involved in great obscurity. Rome never conquered any part of her. She was impenetrable by the Romans. The Greeks, however, planted colonies in the southern part of Russia before the Christian era; and hence civilization in the Southern part of Russia advanced in the ages which followed the advent of our Saviour. But by the irruptions of Tartars and Barbarians, Greek civilization disappeared; and when again it set its foot upon Russian soil, instead of South, it showed itself in the North, especially at St. Petersburg. Scythia was according to the idea of the Romans, filled with various tribes, who lived in tents, and whose occupation was sporting and fishing. These tribes were constantly at war with each other. The only way in which the Greeks and Romans got any intelligence from the Scythians was from travellers. In the fifth century, according to Russian historians, a Slavonic tribe obtained preponderance over the rest. The Government

was established at Kieff. It is surrounded by a ridge of hills, over which the French came.— Moscow was burned in 1812, after the French had taken possession of it. It was set on fire after that was done. There are now no ruins of the conflagration to be seen; the city has been completely rebuilt. The chief charm of the place is the Kremlin. Some Prince found a hill on the North side of the river that he thought he could convert it into a Kremlin. It is 75 or 80 feet above the river, and is the chief promenading place in the city, commanding a fine view of the city. The city of Moscow was a long time growing up, and is the only city in Russia of any importance, with one or two exceptions. Russia was troubled by the irruption of Asiatics in the time of Tamerslane. The Tartars conquered a great part of Russia, and, at the same time, the Poles gave the Russians a great deal of trouble; for, being more civilized, they were more warlike. Between the Tartars and the Poles, the Russian Empire was almost annihilated in the sixteenth century. Ivan, a man of indomitable courage, began to make war upon the Tartars and Poles, and transferred the Government to Moscow.

Peter the Great began to reign in 1699, just about the time of the revolution in England, when the Prince of Orange took possession of the throne of England. From that time dates the existence of Russia as a European country. Before that it was emphatically Asiatic. Peter went to work to make them Europeans, the most remarkable of his movements was his trying to create an army and a navy. Peter was extremely anxious for commerce and manufactures; thought Russia could not be anything without commerce. He got possession of the Gulf of Finland, which occasioned war with Sweden. He contrived to conquer a place near the Gulf, upon which he founded St. Petersburg. This city was built in the woods, and now it is immediately surrounded by swampy forests. But Peter was not intimidated, and at his death, the city which he built in the woods contained a population of sixty thousand inhabitants. It lies in latitude 60°, and is somewhat unhealthy—the principal disease being Mlous fever. It is twenty-four miles in circumference, though a great deal of space is taken up by the rivers, and the streets are too wide—this fault being characteristic of the Russians. The reason of this is, their houses are mostly built of wood, and to prevent fires. Peter the Great began to have commerce and a navy. And as there was no person in Russia who knew anything about nautical affairs he went to Holland and England to learn the ship carpenter's trade. He entered the navy and was successively promoted, and then entered as a common soldier in the army and was superior. He found that his troops were really a match for the Swedes. From that time Russia has advanced. Peter wished that all his subjects might read, but he did not do much toward bringing it about. All the civilization he effected was of a general nature, and did not touch the masses as it did the higher classes. After his day there succeeded many sovereigns, not to be compared to him. Peter's son reigned three years. The empress Ann reigned ten years, during which the great bell, weighing 430,000 pounds, was made. This bell a few years afterwards fell, when the building was burned, and was broken. This bell was large enough to hold a congregation of one hundred people. It was sixty feet in circumference, and thirty feet high. The daughter of Peter, Elizabeth, reigned twenty-two years. Catharine reigned thirty-four years and died suddenly. She had a son Paul, who reigned from '96 to 1801, and then was dethroned on account of plunging the country in war with England. After the murder of his father, Alexander came to the throne, reigned from 1801 to 1825, and then died. The Empress died shortly afterwards.— When the news arrived of the death of Alexander, Nicholas sat for his brother Constantine, to come immediately and take the government into his hands; but, it being found that Nicholas was the rightful heir he proceeded to administer the

oath. Three or four regiments refused to take it. About two o'clock in the afternoon, a faithful regiment was brought up from the barracks and the fight commenced, which lasted about half an hour. At last they submitted and threw down their guns, and went to the barracks. The officers went to Siberia. That was the way Nicholas came to the throne instead of Constantine. The throne had been brewing for three or four years but Alexander, who was conscious of the fact, had not courage to put it down. The cry was "Constantine and the Constitution" and when asked what they meant by "Constitution," they answered that they wanted "Constantine and his wife." Nicholas has now been on the throne 27 years. He is now 66 years of age; a man of fine health, and it is not likely that he thinks of giving up the throne. He has a son 33 years of age, to whom the Russians look forward with great confidence, as he is a friend of improvement. He projected the railroad from St. Petersburg to Moscow, 550 miles long, which was made by American engineers, and others will shortly be built. Russia is a good country for railroads, as it has plenty of iron.

The present Emperor has three sons and two daughters. The oldest son is called Alexander, after the name of his uncle. He is a man of great promise, and is better educated than his father.

HUBBUCK'S PATENT WHITE ZINC PAINT.

The test of time has unanswerably demonstrated the great superiority of Oxide of Zinc, over that of lead, when used for the general purposes of painting. Independent of the increasing esteem in which it is held in the Dock-yards and shipping, we are happy to observe that since our last notice of this material, its use has rapidly spread in this country, and particularly among the British Mercantile Marine. Nor can we wonder at it, when practical seamen observe the strange contrast of the two after a prolonged sea voyage, and particularly, when exposed to the continuous action of carburetted hydrogen in a close ship's hold, as is ever the case with ships laden with sugar from the East or West Indies or the Mauritius. While the lead paint is blackened to the deepest dye, the Zinc paint retains its primitive purity and richness of appearance, and there is no doubt but that its preserving qualities are very great. Recommended for these qualities, as having a richer appearance, and as being more economical, as less likely to be adulterated, and as readily mixing with all other colors, we shall undoubtedly live to see it supersede lead paint entirely; and when we consider the deadly influences exercised by the latter upon those who constantly use it, we do say, this consummation is most devoutly to be wished. We regret to learn that the extraordinary success attending the sale of this paint has given rise to a host of imitations, manufactured from zinc ores, containing arsenic, lead, and other poisonous materials; we would therefore put the public on their guard against purchasing of pretended agents. The patent White Zinc paint is sold by Mr. Hubbuck, opposite the entrance of the London docks, is well known to the mercantile and shipping community for its purity, it is adapted to all ships' purposes, and more especially valuable as an article of export, particularly to tropical climates, where the maintenance of a pure white colour is at all times most desirable. We have seen numerous testimonials in its favour from Captains and others, which may now be scarcely said to be necessary, the value of pure Zinc Paint being now pretty generally known.

Varieties.

Written after a labour of eleven years, produced his *Enid* imperfect.

Books had all his principal works printed two or three times at a private press before submitting them to his publisher.

Time properly employed never appears tedious, on the contrary, to him who is engaged in usefully discharging the duties of his station according to the best of his ability it is light, and pleasantly transitory.

I live, says Plutarch, entirely upon History, and while I contemplate the pictures it presents to my view, my mind enjoys a rich repast from the representation of great and virtuous characters.

ROBERTSON used to write out his sentences on small slips of paper; and after rounding them and polishing them to his satisfaction, he entered them in a book, which, in its turn, underwent considerable revision.

GENIUS.—"I know no such thing as genius," said Hogarth to Mr. Gilbert Cooper. "Genius is nothing but labour and diligence." Sir Isaac Newton said of himself, "that if ever he had been able to do any thing, he had effected it by patient thinking only."

BENDING A TREE.—Some years ago, a gentleman in one of the Southern States had a wild, reckless son. He had long passed the age when the rod is deemed necessary to insure obedience; but one day, after some great offence, the father resolved to whip him. The youth submitted, but after receiving chastisement quietly turned to the parent, and pointing to a small tree near the door, said, "Father, I wish you would bend that tree for me." Surprised, the father answered, "Why, what do you mean?" "Can you do it?" "No, of course not." "You could have done it once—and so it is with me; there has been a time when you could have bent me to your will; it is too late now."

SCIENCE.—The Crystal Palace has social suggestions as well as lessons of political economy. The hollow brick, the discovery of the Flax process, the circular Loom, the Reaper, the new Engine which threatens to reduce steam to its primary insignificance, are but practical instructors, teaching us the necessity of co-operation and a reform of our social system, whereby labor shall find enough to do, and a certainty of its reward. Another result of the Great Exhibition is a wider and deeper affirmation of the value and dignity of Labor.

THE WIFE.—If you wish to be happy, and have peace in the family, never reprove your husband in company—even if that reproof be ever so slight. If he be irritated, speak not an angry word. Indifference sometimes will produce unhappy consequences. Always feel an interest in what your husband undertakes, and if he is perplexed or discouraged, assist him by your smiles and words. If the wife is careful how she conducts, speaks and looks, a thousand happy hearts would cheer and brighten our existence, where now there is nothing but clouds of gloom, sorrow and discontent. The wife, above all others, should strive to please her husband, and to make home attractive.

SUCCESS.—The secret of success is—what is it? It lies in the pursuit of intelligence, temperance and frugality. If the great fortunes which dazzle the misjudging mob be analyzed, they will be found, in ninety-nine out of a hundred cases, to have sprung and matured from calm, patient and simple toil, which had an endurance and faith behind, and an object of hope before it. So, too, in success, in whatever man seeks to accomplish. A clown may stumble upon a splendid discovery in art or science, but a fixed general law provides that high achievements shall require profound and ceaseless labour. The price of success, in insulated cases, is the devotion of one's life. He is a fool who trusts in a dream for possession or advancement, unless he connects with it the exercise of his own energy and judgment.—The little spring in the mountain rock becomes a brook, a torrent, a wide rolling river, and a part of the fathomless ocean, simply by pushing steadily and bravely forward.

SCIENCE teaches with the happiest effect the important value of time, of which the indolent, having no conception, can form no estimate.

DECEIVED CHILDREN.—The most essential point in our intercourse with children is to be perfectly true ourselves. Every other interest ought to be sacrificed to that of truth. When we in any way deceive a child, we not only show him a pernicious example—we also lose our own influence over him for ever.

Artists' Corner.

GREAT MASTERS.

PAUL REMBRANDT VAN RYN

REMBRANDT, one of the Great Masters of the Dutch school, was the son of a miller named Herman Gerritsz, and surnamed Van Ryn, that is of the Rhine, in consequence of his mill having been situated on a branch of that river. It was situated near Leyden, between the villages of Leydenloot and Konkerek. Here the artist was born on the 15th of June, 1606, and was named Rembrandt, a name since rendered famous by his genius. When of age, his father, who was in easy circumstances, sent him to the university of Leyden, being determined to give him a classical education to qualify him for one of the learned professions. But the love of painting had far greater charms for the young student than the study of the languages. Considerable doubts have arisen as to who was Rembrandt's first master, but as genius will ever unfold itself, howsoever circumstanced, it signifies little who first gave the germinating touch to that power which subsequently rendered his name imperishable. Sandrart, a contemporary says in his History of Painters, that Rembrandt passed much time with Van Swanenburg, an engraver of Leyden, from whom he received his first lessons in that art. Bryan in his "Dictionary of Painters" says that he was placed under Jacob Van Swanenburg, at Amsterdam, under whom he studied three years, and his progress in that time was the astonishment of his master. Houbracken says that Rembrandt's first master was Peter Lastman, with whom he studied six months and then entered the study of Jan Pinas. Leeven, places him under the tutorage of G. Schooten, of Leyden. In the midst of such contradictory statements, even by those who may be supposed to have examined all the concomitant circumstances, it is impossible now to say who had the honour of developing the latent talents.

"Seven eides now contend for Homer's seat,
Through which the living Homer begged his bread."

Whoever was his master it is evident that Rembrandt was no copyist. His style is peculiar to himself, and is not even that of a concentration of the excellencies of others formed into one general whole, but has an originality and freshness about it that stamp it as the elaboration of a free and independent mind. Rembrandt's personal appearance is thus described. On his return from Amsterdam to his father's mill, he was about twenty years old; healthy and vigorous; his forehead capacious and slightly projecting, exhibited those developments which announce the existence of thought and imagination; his eyes were small and deep set, yet lively, intelligent, and full of fire; his hair, growing in rich abundance was of a dark auburn colour, and curled naturally over his shoulders, giving him the appearance of a Jew. His nose thick, flat, and rubicund, marked his countenance with an air of extreme vulgarity, which, however was somewhat relieved by a well formed mouth, and the bright expression of his eyes. Such says a modern French writer was Rembrandt, himself the model of those whom he delighted to portray, they had expression without nobleness—intellect, but no dignity?

Rembrandt occupied himself for some time admiring and studying the beauties of nature which

surrounded his miller's home, without considering that he had himself become an object of attraction. One of his first pictures having attracted the notice of some persons who could appreciate its worth, the young artist was advised to carry it to the Hague, and exhibit it to the inspection of a wealthy amateur there. Here he met a gracious reception, and to his great astonishment received a hundred florins for the picture. In detailing this incident Dreamps says "this sum of a hundred florins well nigh turned the head of the young painter; he had undertaken the journey to the Hague on foot, but, that he might make greater speed to acquit his father with his good fortune, he ordered a post-chaise and flung himself into it. When the carriage arrived at the inn where travellers on this journey were accustomed to dine, the host and his servants, as a matter of course, went forward to see who might be its occupants. Rembrandt would not alight, he thought only of his treasure, and fearing he might by so doing expose it to danger, he would not allow the waiter to detach the horses from the vehicle, but merely to bring them some oats in a moveable trough. This request finished, he again started forward for Leyden, where he arrived without interruption; and jumping hastily from the carriage hurried homewards with the riches he had acquired." This incident gave a new bent to his mind, and terminated in his heart the feeling to acquire wealth. To realize this new idea he established himself in a house at Amsterdam, where he immediately commenced painting and engraving his own portrait in a variety of ways, sometimes robed in a rich mantle and wearing a velvet cap, in others represented with a multiplicity of bills and tufts of plaited lace. When once established he opened a school, dividing it into separate studios, in order that every pupil might work by himself from his own model, which was the living figure. He was thus anxious to bring out the individuality of his pupils as he was to preserve his own originality.

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BEGS to Inform the Merchants of this city and surrounding country, that he has opened out on Yonge Street, opposite the Bank of British North America, a general assortment of Broad Cloths, Fancy Doekins, Cassimeres, Shirts, Bonnets, Caps plain and fancy Muleskins, Corduroy, Shirtings, Ready-Made Clothing, Hosiery, &c., &c., all of which he offers to the Public at the lowest wholesale prices.

Toronto, Nov. 28th, 1851.

1-1f

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C. FLETCHER.

Toronto, January 8th, 1852. 6-58

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Wholesale Grocers,

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A PERSON competent to canvass for this Paper in the City and Country.—Apply at this Office.

Toronto, Dec. 13, 1851.

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BEING about to make extensive alterations in his premises, will sell after this date, the whole of his Winter Stock of

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Remember No. 88, King Street, 3 doors West of Church Street.

Toronto, Nov. 29th, 1851. 1-13

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Toronto, Dec., 1851. 3-55

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Toronto, Nov. 29th, 1851. 1-4

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Toronto, Nov. 29th, 1851. 1-11

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Toronto, Nov. 29th, 1851. 1-11

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