

THE MOTHER TO HER CHILD.

One kiss, my boy, upon thy cheek,  
That cheek so young and bright,—  
And once again I'd hear thee speak  
Thy softly hush'd "good night;"  
Then rest, and not a shade of earth  
Can cloud thy slumbers fair;  
Dark dreams from worldly cares have birth,  
And thou hast nought of care;  
O, why might not life's silver tide,  
With thee thus ever smoothly glide!

Who gazes on the bloom of May,  
Nor sighs that all will wither?  
And yet the blossoms must decay,  
Ere we the fruit may gather;  
And life's sweet morning buds of joy,  
Like spring-flowers soon depart;  
And thou must change, yet wear, my boy,  
Life's freshness in thy heart;  
Pure feelings, like the flower's perfume,  
Embalm the memory of its bloom.

Man's lot—"dominion o'er the earth"—  
Maketh his sinews strong,  
And that proud lot will lead thee forth,  
All ardent mid the throng;  
Life's onward path is wrapp'd in night,  
And dangers are its Fame;  
Ambition holds an eagle flight,  
And spurns at Quiet's name;  
And Pleasure's siren songs entice,  
And flowers conceal the precipice.

O, wilt thou wander, then, my boy?  
Away, ye idle fears!  
Why shroud out sun of present joy  
In clouds of future years?  
There's One will watch thee, though I sleep  
Where morning never shone;  
There's One thy faltering steps can keep;  
Wouldst thou His voice were known?  
Then list, amid the world's wild din,  
The still small voice, thy heart within.

Variety.

Mixing together profit and delight.

RAIL ROADS.

In reviewing the history of the human race, we find every remarkable increase in civilization to have taken place very much in proportion to the facilities of intercourse enjoyed in particular situations; first, therefore, civilization grew along the banks of great rivers, as the Nile, the Euphrates and the Ganges; or along the shores of inland seas and Archipelagoes, as in the Mediterranean and the numerous islands of Greece; or over fertile and extended plains as in many parts of India. The reason is obvious. When the situation thus binds a great number of individuals into one body, the useful thought or action of any talented individual, and which were he in the isolated state, would soon be forgotten and lost, extends its influence immediately to the whole body, and becomes the thought or action of all who can benefit by it; it is recorded forever, as part of the growing science or art of the community. And in a numerous society, such useful thoughts and acts are more frequent, because an emulation arises in all the pursuits that can contribute to the well being of the society, from each individual feeling that he has the eyes of a multitude upon him, and that the rewards of excellence will be proportionally great. Men soon learn to estimate aright these and many other advantages of easy intercourse; and after having seized with avidity all the stations naturally fitted for their purposes, they begin to make new stations themselves, and to improve upon the old; they create rivers and shores, and plains of their own, that is, they construct canals and roads; and thus connect regions which nature seemed to have separated forever. In the British isles, whose favoured children have so proudly taken the lead in showing the prodigies which wise policy may effect, the advantages arising from certain lines of canal and road first executed, soon led to numberless similar enterprises, and within half a century, the empire has been thus intersected in all directions; and it seems if the noble work were now to be crowned by the substitution of level rail ways for many of the common roads and canals. Several rail ways of considerable extent have already been established, and although they and the carriages upon them are far from having the perfection which philosophy says they will admit, the results have been very satisfactory. If we suppose the progress to continue, and the price of transporting things and persons to be reduced by them to a fourth of the present charge, and in many cases, it may be much less; and if we suppose the time of journeying with safety also reduced in considerable degree, of which there can be as little doubt, the general adoption of them would effect an extraordinary revolution and improvement in the state of society. Without in reality changing the distances of places, it would, in effect, bring all nearer to each other, and would give to every part of the kingdom the conveniences of town and country, of sea coast and of highland district. A man, wherever residing, might consider himself virtually near any other part; for at the expense of a tiny and money which he now pays to go

a short distance, he might go a long one. The over crowded and unhealthy parts of towns would scatter their inhabitants into the country; for the man of business would be as quickly and cheaply at his post from several miles off, as he is now from an adjoining street. The present heavy charges for bringing produce to market from great distances being nearly saved, the buyer, every where, would purchase cheaper, and the producer would be still better remunerated. In a word, such a change would arise as if the whole of Britain had been compressed by magic into a circle of a few miles in diameter, yet without any part losing aught of its magnitude or beauties. All this may appear visionary; but it is less so than it would have been seventy years ago, to anticipate what has now come to pass, that the common time of travelling from London to Edinburgh would be forty-six hours. At the opening of the rail road near Darlington, in 1825, a train of loaded carriages was dragged by one little steam engine a distance of twenty-five miles within two hours; and in some parts of the journey, the speed was more than twenty miles an hour. The whole load was equal to a regiment of soldiers, and the coal expended was under the value of a crown. An island with such roads would be an impregnable fortress; for in less time than an enemy would require to disembark on any part of the coast, the forces of the country might be concentrated to defend it.

[Dr. Arnott's Elements of Physics.

CONCENTRATION OF SOUND.

The reason why a tube conveys sound so far is, that its sides confine or repress, by a continued reflection, the advancing sound, which in the open air would quickly spread laterally, and be dissipated. And the reason that the plane surface of a smooth wall, or of water, &c. also conveys sound so far is, that it similarly prevents the lateral spreading and dissipation, although only on one side. Persons far apart may converse along a smooth wall. The clear voice of a sure-crier, in a town situated on the borders of a lake, may be heard across the water, in a calm evening, at a distance of more than five miles—the sound of bells, of course, is, audible much farther. And in the stillness of night, a steam-boat, by the splashing of its wheels, will announce its approach, to persons, waiting, at a distance of fifteen miles. If a sound-reflecting surface be curved inwards, that is, concave, it not only prevents the spreading of any sound which passes along it, but is constantly condensing such a sound, by driving the external parts inwards. Hence in a circular space, such as a gallery under a dome, persons close to the wall may whisper to each other at all distances. A ear-trumpet is a tube wide at one end, where the sound enters, and narrow at the other, where the ear is applied; its sides are so curved, that, according to the law of reflection, all sound which enters is brought to a focus in the narrow end. It thus increases manifold the intensity of a sound which reaches the ear through it, and enables a person who has become deaf to common conversation to mix again with pleasure in society. The concave hand held behind the ear answers in some degree the purpose of an ear-trumpet, and in a very large theatre is sometimes useful even to persons of the quickest hearing. A notorious instance of a sound-collecting surface was the ear of Dionysius, in the dungeons of Syracuse. The roof of the prison was so framed as to collect the words, and even whispers of the unhappy prisoners, and to direct along a hidden conduit to where the tyrant sat listening. The wide-spread sail of a ship, rendered concave by a gentle breeze, is also a good collector of sound. It happened once on board a ship sailing along the coast of Brazil, 100 miles from land, that the persons walking the deck, when passing a particular spot, always heard most distinctly the sound of bells, varying as in human rejoicings. All on board listened, and were convinced, but the phenomenon was mysterious and inexplicable. Months afterwards, by comparing notes, it was ascertained that at a time of observation the bells of the city of St. Salvador, on the Brazilian coast, had been ringing on the occasion of a festival—the sound, therefore, favoured by a gentle wind, had travelled over 100 miles of smooth water, and had been brought to a focus by the sail in the particular situation the deck where it was listened to. It appears from this, that a machine might be constructed, having the same relation to sound that a telescope has to light. The speaking trumpet is made according to the same law of reflected sound, with the view of directing the strength of the voice to a particular point. The sea captain uses it to send his orders aloft, where the unaided voice would be lost in the noise of the wind and waves; or to hail ships at a distance. A similar form of mouth is used for the bugle horn and common trumpet, and fits them to sound the note of command amid the uproar of contending armies. Some amusing effects have been produced by operating on sounds with tubes and concave surfaces. What was termed the invisible girl, was a contrivance where the questions of visitors were caught by a concealed concave, and carried to the director, who sat at a distance; and his

replies, as in the whispering gallery, became audible to the inquirers alone. The concave, undulating, and perfectly polished surface of many sea shells fits them to catch, to concentrate, and to return the pulses of all sounds that happen to be trembling about them, so as to produce that curious resonance from within, which closely resembles the sound of the distant ocean—so closely, that the spirited boy, after studying the interesting stories of voyages, which paint dangers to be nobly braved, and charms of nature to be seen in distant lands, often feeds his imagination with this voice of the shell, and fancies himself already riding among the billows.

[Arnott's Elements of Physics.

PAUL PETERS.

Many years have passed away since Paul Peters dwelt in one of the numerous little hamlets, which sprinkle the proud State of New York. He had come among the simple dwellers of the land, a stranger; and had gradually glided into their confidence. Apparently poor and friendless, none knew him; and after a few short weeks none asked who he was; yet in that brief space of time he had made himself beloved; his kindness to the little urchins of the place, and his good natured countenance were a welcome passport to the hearts of all. He was not rich, though he did not appear to be poor. The simplest garb was his constant apparel. The farmer with whom he had domesticated himself, affirmed that he had ever paid his little demands cheerfully.

Two summers passed away, and still Paul was a universal favourite. Not a dance took place, but Paul tripped it away the liveliest of the happy throng; not a harvest feast was given, at which Paul was not the merriest guest; not a fire side party took place without his telling the best story.—When he came among the old, they looked upon him as the herald of joy, and he was every where welcomed with a hearty smile. The young considered him as a kind friend, who had caused them many a happy hour by the pleasant tales of lands far away. The little ones delighted to cling about him; and often as they hung around his neck, would ask him of his home, his family, and friends; he never answered them, save with a kiss.—Many a rosy, cheeked damsel, as she laughed with him in a dance, would sigh when she gazed upon Paul's broad, manly face, and thought he perhaps loved some fair one who resided in the place where he had spent his younger days.

The family in which he lived began to look upon him with the feelings of kindred; the good old farmer, so dear had he become to him, called him his own dear boy, and the dame would hope he might one day become so, when she beheld him kiss the blushing cheek of her half laughing, half resisting daughter Lucy. Summer flowers die; but love's blossoms ripen.

Paul was soon to become the husband of Lucy. From constantly associating together, they had learned to love each other; and Lucy was one of the simplest and loveliest of the children of nature! The family were assembled the day before the intended nuptials, around the blazing hearth. All appeared cheerful, when the dash of a horse's hoofs was heard over the frozen ground, and in a few minutes a grey headed negro, having alighted from a noble horse, presented a packet to Paul. The limbs of the horse were sleek and well formed; and the neatness of the black's dress proved him to be the favored servant of some good lord. Paul having perused the packet, directed the rider to tether the horse, and rest himself until the morrow. No more was said of the occurrence, for it had made no alteration in the manners of the one it most concerned. The jest and the laugh went round; and gay Lucy retired to rest, to dream of the kind hearted Paul and of future days of love.

The morrow came. But neither Paul nor black were to be found. The horse too was gone. Lucy wept, and her parents advised; but what is advice to a love-sick heart! Though her mother would strive to console, yet what appeared in the shape of comfort acted only as a probe. She was still the same gentle being she had ever been; but she never smiled, the joy of her countenance was gone.

Paul's name was now never mentioned; for it seemed to increase the sadness of Lucy; and his memory, save with the disappointed girl, had begun to die away. Month after month rolled on, but the truant came not.

The war of the colonies was beginning to throw its terrors into this part of the country, till now the abode of peace; and the young were girding on their armour against their oppressors. It was when a troop was organizing in this hamlet, that General G. rode with his servant into the village to inspect this body of men. His war-worn features, and scarred brow told tales of hardship and of suffering; but still there were features which were immediately recognized as those of Paul Peters. All were ready to open their arms to him; little had they thought that the distinguished General, whose voice was so influential in the war councils of his country, was the merry, good humoured Paul Peters.

General G. followed by the same grey haired servant, paced quietly along the avenue, leading to the cottage of Lucy. When he arrived at the lattice window, he beheld the fair girl. The last time he had seen her, that kiss he had given her, came rushing up in his mind and the contending emotions of his soul almost overpowered him. The grey headed servant opened the door and announced "General G." The family rose to receive him. But Lucy recognized the chosen of her heart, rushed into his open arms, and gently sighed, "I knew you would return!"

IRVING'S COLUMBUS.

The following is the first chapter of the 2d book of the Life of Columbus, which is now in press. It relates an incident in the life of Columbus not to be found in the common biographies of that great man, and being told in the agreeable manner which is characteristic of Mr. Irving's writings, will be perused with pleasure by our readers.

First arrival of Columbus in Spain.—It is interesting to notice the first arrival of Columbus in that country, which was to become the scene of his glory, and which was to render so powerful and illustrious by his discoveries. In this we meet with one of those striking and instructive contrasts which occur in his eventful history. The first trace we have of him in Spain, is the testimony furnished a few years after his death, in the celebrated law suit between his son Don Diego and the crown, by Garcia Fernandez, a physician resident in the little seaport of Palos de Maguez, in Andalusia. About half a league from that town stood, and stands at the present day, an ancient convent of Franciscan friars, dedicated to Santa Maria de Rabida.

According to the testimony of the Physician, a stranger, on foot, accompanied by a small boy, stopped one day at the gate of the convent, and asked of the porter a little bread and water for his child.—While receiving this humble refreshment, the prior of the convent, Friar Juan Perez de Marchena, happening to pass by, was struck with the appearance of the stranger and observing from his air and accent that he was a foreigner, entered into conversation with him, and soon learnt the particulars of his story. That stranger was Columbus, accompanied by his young son Diego. Where he had come from does not clearly appear; that he was in destitute circumstances is evident from the mode of his way-faring; he was on his way to the neighboring town of Huelon to seek his brother-in-law, who had married a sister of his deceased wife.

The prior was a man of extensive information.—His attention had been turned in some measure to geographical and nautical science, probably from his vicinity to Palos, the inhabitants of which were among the most enterprising navigators of Spain, and made frequent voyages to the recent discovered islands and countries on the African coast. He was greatly interested by the conversation of Columbus, and struck with the grandeur of his views. It was a remarkable occurrence in the monotonous life of the cloister, to have a man of such singular character, intent on so extraordinary an enterprise, applying for bread and water at the gate of his convent. He detained him as his guest, and diffident of his own judgment, sent for a scientific friend to converse with him. That friend was Garcia Fernandez, the physician of Palos, the same who furnishes this interesting testimony. Fernandez was equally struck with the appearance and conversation of the stranger.—Several conferences took place at the old convent, and the project of Columbus was treated with a deference in the quiet cloister of La Rabida, which it had in vain sought amidst the bustle and pretension of court sages and philosophers. Hints too were gathered among the veteran mariners of Palos, which seemed to corroborate his theory. One Pedro de Velasco, an old and experienced pilot of the place, affirmed that nearly thirty years before, in the course of a voyage, he was carried by stress of weather so far to the northwest, that Cape Clear in Ireland lay to the east of him. Here, though there was a strong wind blowing from the west, the sea was perfectly smooth; a remarkable circumstance, which he supposed to be produced by land lying in that direction. It being late in August, however, he was fearful of the approach of winter, and did not venture to proceed on the discovery.

Fray Juan Perez possessed that hearty zeal in friendship which carries good wishes into good deeds: Being fully persuaded that the proposed enterprise would be of the utmost importance to the country, he offered to give Columbus a favorable introduction to Court, and he advised him by all means to repair thither, and make his propositions to the Spanish Sovereigns. Juan Perez was on intimate terms with Fernando de Talavera, prior of the monastery of Prado and confessor to the queen, a man high in royal confidence, and possessing great weight in public affairs. To him he gave Columbus a letter, strongly recommending himself and his enterprise to the patronage of Talavera, and requesting his

friendly intercession with the king and queen. As the influence of the church was paramount in the court of Castile, and as Talavera, from his situation communication with the queen, every thing was expected from his mediation. In the meantime Fray Jean Perez took charge of the youthful son of Columbus, to maintain and educate him at his convent.

The zeal of this worthy man, thus early unkindled, never cooled; and many years afterwards, in the day of his success, Columbus looked back, through the brilliant crowd of courtiers, prelates and Philosophers, who claimed the honor of having patronised enterprise, and points to this modest friar, as one who had been most effectually its friend. He remained in the convent until the spring of 1486, when the court arrived in the ancient city of Cordova, where the sovereigns intended to assemble their troops, and make preparations for a spring campaign against the Moorish kingdom of Grenada. Elated then with fresh hopes, and confident of a speedy audience, on the strength of the letter to Fernando de Talavera, Columbus bade farewell to the worthy Prior of La Rabida, leaving him his child, and set out, full of spirits, for the court of Castile.

JEREMY TAYLOR'S IDEA of an ATHEIST.

Who in the world is a verier fool, a more ignorant, wretched person, than he that is an atheist? A man may better believe that there is no such man as himself, and that he is not in being, than that there is no God: for himself can cease to be, and once was not, and shall be changed from what he is, and in very many periods of his life knows not that he is; and so it is every night with him when he sleeps: but none of these can happen to God: and if he knows it not, he is a fool. Can any thing in this world be more foolish, than to think that this fair fabric of heaven and earth can come by chance, when all the skill of art is not able to make an oyster! To see rare effects and no cause; an excellent government and no prince; a motion without an immoveable; a circle without a centre: a time without eternity; a second without a first; a thing that begins not from itself, and therefore not to perceive there is something from whence it does begin, which must be without beginning; these things are so against philosophy and natural reason, that he must needs be a beast in his understanding that does not assent to them. This is the atheist: the fool hath said in his heart there is no God; that is his character. The thing framed, says that nothing framed it; the tongue never made itself to speak, and yet talks against him that did; saying, that which is made, is, and that which made it, is not. But this folly is as infinite as hell, as much without light or bound as the chaos or the primitive nothing. But in this, the devil never prevailed very far; his schools were always thin at these lectures. Some few people have been witty against God, that taught them to speak, before they knew how to spell a syllable; but either they are monsters in their manners, or mad in their understandings, or ever find themselves confuted by a thunder or a plague, by danger or death.

Human Nature.—While some one was talking before Dr. Cheyne, an acute Scotsman, of the excellence of human nature, "Hoot, hoot, mon," says he, "human nature is a rogue and a scoundrel; or why would it perpetually stand in need of laws and of religion?"

Two Lawyers.—An opulent farmer applied about a lawsuit to an attorney, who told him he could not undertake it, being already engaged on the other side; at the same time he said, that he would give him a letter of recommendation to a professional friend, which he did. The farmer, out of curiosity, opened it, and read as follows:—

"Here's two fat wethers fallen out together, If you'll fleece one, I'll fleece the other, And make 'em agree like brother & brother."

The farmer carried this epistle to the person with whom he was at variance. Its perusal cured both parties, and terminated the dispute.

An Irish gentleman lately fought a duel with his intimate friend, because he jocosely asserted, "that he was born without a shirt to his back!"

Judicious Advice.—The best way to deal with most slanders is not to notice them. Nine times in ten they will die quicker than you can kill them.

The amount of Bank capital in New York is \$10,87,000.

STANZAS.

The loveliest flowers, that bless the spring,  
Fade earliest from the view;  
The happiest hours on swiftest wing,  
Their rapid flight pursue.

But, though the rose thus early die,  
Its fragrance may remain;  
And, though our hours thus swiftly fly,  
Their loss may be our gain.