

that above a million a year is spent in Glasgow on ardent spirits; and it has been recently asserted by a respectable and intelligent operative in Manchester, that, in that city, £750,000 more is annually spent on beer and spirits than on the purchase of provisions. Is it surprising that a large part of the progeny of a generation which has embraced such habits, should be sunk in sensuality and profligacy, and afford a never failing supply for the prisons and transport ships? It is the counterpart of the sudden corruption which invariably overtakes northern conqueror, when they settle in the regions of southern opulence.

Another powerful cause which promotes the corruption of men, when thus suddenly congregated together from different quarters in the manufacturing districts, is, that the restraints of character, relationship, are in a great measure lost in the crowd. Every body knows what powerful influence public opinion exerts on the opinion of their relations, friends and acquaintances, exercises on all men in their native seats, or when living for any length of time in one situation. It forms, in fact, next to religion, the most powerful restraint on vice, and excitement in virtue, that exists in the world. But when several hundred thousand of the working classes are suddenly huddled together in densely peopled localities, this invaluable check is wholly lost. Nay, what is worse, it is rolled over to the other side, and forms an additional incentive to licentiousness. The poor in these situations have no neighbours who care for them, or even know their names; but they are surrounded by multitudes who are willing to accompany them in the career of sensuality. They are unknown alike to each other, and to any persons of respectability or property in their vicinity. Philanthropy seeks in vain for virtue amidst thousands and tens of thousands of unknown names; charity itself is repelled by the helplessness of all attempts to relieve the stupendous mass of destitution which follows in the train of such enormous accumulation of numbers. Every individual or voluntary effort is overlooked amidst the prodigious multitude, as it was in the Moscow campaign of Napoleon. Thus the most powerful restraints on human conduct—character, relations, neighborhood—are lost upon mankind at the very time when their salutary influence is most required to enable them to withstand the increasing temptations arising from density of numbers and a vast increase of wages. Multitudes remove responsibility without weakening passion. Isolation ensures concealment without adding to resolution. This is the true cause of the more rapid deterioration of the character of the poor than the rich, when placed in such dense localities. The latter have a neighborhood to watch them, because their station renders them conspicuous—the former have none. Witness the rapid and general corruption of the higher ranks, when they get away from such restraint, amidst the profligacy of New South Wales.

In the foremost rank of the causes which demoralize the urban and mining population, we must place the frequency of those strikes which unhappily have now become so common as to be of mere frequent occurrence than a wet season, even in our humid climate. During the last twenty years there have been six great strikes: viz. in 1826, 1828, 1832, 1837, 1842, and 1844. All of these have kept multitudes of the labouring poor idle for months together. Incalculable is the demoralization thus produced upon the great masses of the working classes. We speak not of the actual increase of commitments during the continuance of a great strike, though that increase is so considerable that it in general augments them in a single year from thirty to fifty per cent. We allude to the far more general and lasting causes of demoralization which arise from the arraying of one portion of the community in fierce hostility against another, the wretchedness which is spread among multitudes by months of compulsory idleness, and the not less ruinous effect of depriving them of occupation during such protracted periods. When we recollect that such was the vehemence of party feeling produced by these disastrous combinations, that it so far obliterates all sense of right and wrong as generally to make their members countenance contumely and insult, sometimes even robbery, fire-raising and murder, committed on innocent persons who are only striving to earn an honest livelihood for themselves by hard labour, but in opposition to the strike; and that it induces twenty or thirty thousand persons to yield implicit obedience to the commands of an unknown committee, who have power to force them to do what the Sultan Mahmoud, or the Committee of Public Safety, never ventured to attempt—to abstain from labour, and endure want and starvation for months together, for an object which in secret they often disapprove—it may be conceived how wide spread and fatal is the confusion of moral principle, and habits of idleness and inabordination thus produced. Their effects invariably appear for a course of years afterwards, in the increased roll of criminal commitments, and the number of young persons, of both sexes, who loosened by these protracted periods of idleness, never afterwards regain habits of regularity and industry. Nor is the evil lessened by the blind infatuation with which it is uniformly regarded by the other classes of the community, and the obstinate resistance they make to all measures calculated to arrest the violence of these combinations, in consequence of the expense with which they would probably be attended—a supineness which, by leaving the coast constantly clear to the terrors of such associations, and promising impunity to their crimes, operates as a continual bounty on their recurrence.

Infant labour, unhappily now so frequent in

all kinds of factories, and the great prevalence of female workers, is another evil of a very serious kind in the manufacturing districts. We do not propose to enter into the question, recently so fiercely agitated in Parliament, as to the practicability of substituting a compulsory ten hours' bill for the twelve hours' at present in operation. Anxious to avoid all topics on which there is a difference of opinion among able and patriotic men, we merely state this prevalence and precocity of juvenile labour in the manufacturing and mining districts as a fact which all must deplore, and which is attended with the most unhappy effects on the rising generation. The great majority, probably nine-tenths, of all the workers in cotton mills or printfields, are females. We have heard much of the profligacy and licentiousness which pervades such establishments; but tho' that may be too true in some cases, it is far from being universal, or even general; and there are numerous instances of female virtue being as jealously guarded and effectually preserved in such establishments, as in the most secluded rural districts. The real evils—and they follow universally from such employment of juvenile females in great numbers in laborious but lucrative employment—are the emancipation of the young from parental control, the temptation held out to idleness in the parents from the possibility of living on their children, and the disqualifying the girls for the performing all the duties of wives and mothers in after life.

If the effect of such premature emancipation of the young is hurtful to them, it is, if possible, still more pernicious to their parents. Labour is generally irksome to man; it is seldom persevered in after the period of its necessity has passed. When parents find that by sending three or four children out into the mills or into the mines, they can get eighteen or twenty shillings a-week without doing any thing themselves, they soon come to abridge the duration and cost of education, in order to accelerate the arrival of the happy period when they may live on their offspring, not the offspring on them. Thus the purest and best affections of the heart are obliterated on the very threshold of life. That best school of disinterestedness and virtue the domestic hearth, where generosity and self control are called forth in the parents, and gratitude and affection in the children, from the very circumstance of the dependence of the latter on the former, is destroyed. It is worse than destroyed, it is worse than destroyed, it is made the parent of wickedness: it exists, but it exists only to nourish the selfish and debasing passions. Children come to be looked on, not as objects of affection, but as instruments of gain; not as forming the first duty of life and calling forth its highest energies, but as affording the first means of relaxing from labour, and permitting a relapse into indolence and sensuality. The children are, practically speaking, sold for slaves, and—oh! unutterable horror!—the sellers are their own parents! Unbounded is the demoralization produced by this monstrous perversion of the first principles of nature. Hence it is that it is generally found, that all the beneficent provisions of the legislature for the protection of infant labour, are so generally evaded, as to render it doubtful whether any law, how stringent soever, could protect them. The reason is apparent. The parents of the children are the chief violators of the law; for the sake of profit they send them out the instant they can work, to the mills or mines. Those whom nature has made their protectors, have become their oppressors. The thirst for idleness, intoxication, or sensuality, has turned the strongest of the generous, into the most malignant of the selfish passions.

The habits acquired by such precocious employment of young women, are not less destructive of their ultimate utility and respectability in life. Habituated from their earliest years to one undeviating mechanical employment, they acquire great skill in it, but grow up utterly ignorant of any thing else. We speak not of ignorance of reading or writing, but of ignorance in still more momentous particulars, with reference to their usefulness in life as wives and mothers. They can neither bake nor brew, wash nor iron, sew nor knit. The finest London Lady is not more utterly inefficient than they are, for any other object but the one mechanical occupation to which they have been habituated. They can neither darn a stocking nor sew on a button. As to making porridge or washing a handkerchief, the thing is out of the question. Their food is cooked out by persons who provide the lodging houses in which they dwell—they are clothed from head to foot, like fine ladies, by milliners and dressmakers. This is not the result of fashion, caprice, or idleness, but of the concentration of their faculties, mental and corporeal, from their earliest years, in one limited mechanical object. They are unfit to be any man's wife—still more unfit to be any child's mother. We hear little of this from philanthropists or education-mongers; but it is, nevertheless, not the least, because the most generally diffused, evil connected with our manufacturing industry.

Dublin University Magazine.

THE RAINBOW.

Bow of the clouds! Fair daughter of the sun!
Bright arc of heaven of ever-varying hue!
Above those threatening clouds I view thy throne,
And hail an image of bright hope in you!
In thousand varying colours now appears
The broken sunbeam's bright and glancing ray,
Wrapped in a veil of gently falling tears
Where these dark clouds are softening into grey.

And far and wide thy noble arch's span
Is stretching, till remoter distance shroud;
And on the horizon's distant verge we see
Thy stable pillars on the driving cloud.

Alas! alas! too short thy empire reigns—
Dim, pale, and changed, thy colours swiftly fade;
Of these bright pillars nothing now remains
Save one bright cloud fast melting into shade.

But lo! once more we hail a calmer sky:
The vault of heaven assumes its azure hue,
The sun shines forth in all its majesty,
And the moist meads exhale their fragrant dew!

Away! away! aye perish every one
Fair floating visions seen in youthful dreams;
Away! away! but let the noontide sun
Rise on my soul, and bathe me in its beams

Bright hues of hope! all lovely though ye be,
Still ye are but the sunbeam's broken ray.
Children of Tears! to Truth I turn from ye,
And hail in her the sunlight of our days!

Blackwood's Magazine.

EARTHQUAKE AT LISBON.

[The following brief account of the disastrous Earthquake which nearly destroyed this city in 1755, we take from an article entitled, "Portugal," being a review of "the Memoirs of the Marquis of Pombal," by J. Smith.]

On the morning of All-Saints' day, the 1st of November, 1755, Lisbon was almost torn up from the foundations, by the most terrible earthquake on European record. As it was a high Romish festival, the population were crowding to their chapels, which were lighted up in honour of the day. About a quarter before ten the first shock was felt, which lasted the extraordinary length of six or seven minutes; then followed an interval of about five minutes after which the shock was renewed, lasting about three minutes. The convulsions were so violent in both instances, that nearly all the solid buildings were dashed to the ground, and the principal part of the city almost wholly ruined. The terror of the population, rushing through the falling streets, gathered in the churches, or madly attempting to escape into the fields, may be imagined; but the whole scene of horror, death, and ruin, exceeds all description. The ground split into chasms, into which the people were plunged in their fright. Crowds fled to the water, but the Tagus, agitated like the land, suddenly rose to an extraordinary height, burst upon the land, and swept away all within its reach. It was said to have risen to the height of five-and-twenty or thirty feet above its usual level, and to have sunk again as much below it. And this phenomenon occurred four times.

The despatch from the British consul stated, that the especial force of the earthquake seemed to be directed under the city; for while Lisbon was lifted from the ground, as if by the explosion of a gunpowder mine, the damage either above or below was not so considerable. One of the principal quays, to which it was said that many people had crowded for safety, was plunged under the Tagus, and totally disappeared. Ships were carried down by the shock of the river, dashed to pieces against each other, or flung upon the shore. To complete the catastrophe, fires broke out in the ruins, which spread over the face of the city, burned for five or six days, and reduced all the goods and property of the people to ashes. For forty days the shocks continued with more or less violence, but they had now nothing left to destroy. The people were thus kept in a constant state of alarm, and forced to encamp in the open fields, though it was now winter. The royal family were encamped in the gardens of the palace; and as it all the elements of society had been shaken together, Lisbon and its vicinity became the place of gathering for banditti from all quarters in the kingdom. A number of Spanish deserters made their way to the city, and robberies and murders of the most desperate kind were constantly perpetrated.

During this awful period, the whole weight of government fell upon the shoulder of the minister; and he bore it well. He adopted the most active measures for provisioning the city, for repressing plunder and violence, and for enabling the population to support themselves during this period of suffering. It was calculated that seven millions sterling could scarcely repair the damage of the city, and that not less than eighty thousand lives had been lost, either crushed by the earth or swallowed up by the waters. Some conception of the native mortality may be formed from that of the English, of the comparatively small number of whom resident at that time in Lisbon, no less than twenty eight men and fifty women were among the sufferers.

Anecdotes of Actors; with other desultory recollections. By Mrs. Mathews.

MR. KNIGHT, TRAVELLING.

Mr. Knight finding it expedient to secure his property from any accidental exchange with any other traveller of a similar name upon the road, caused to be engraved upon a brass plate affixed to each of his trunks his name, Mr Edward Knight, written in full, followed by the Roman capitals—'T. R. D. L.' the initials of the theatre to which he belonged in London. The guard of the coach, who had travelled all the way, was very assiduous in handing from the roof of the vehicle the several trunks belonging to Mr. Knight, and as he did so, inspected with minute attention, the inscription on the brass

plates, and having deposited the property at the feet of its owner, the man, hat in hand, awaited his fee with more than customary deference and respect, while Mr. Knight deliberately took from his purse what he deemed a sufficient remuneration for his services, and placed it in the hand of the expectant guard, who bowed his thanks; but the next moment, looking at the amount of the gratuity which lay exposed in his open hand, and then at Mr. Knight, he turned from him, as he pecketed the money—evidently less than expected—with an evident scowl, and a significant glance at the brass plates (which no doubt conveyed to him an idea of some honorary title of distinction) he walked away, loudly uttering in a contemptuous tone, and with a binding oath, the galling sneer of, "You a T. R. D. L. You're as much a T. R. D. L. as I am!"

DEATH SCENES OF REMARKABLE PERSONS.

Sir Thomas More remarked to the executioner, by whose hands he was to perish, that the scaffold was extremely weak. "I pray you see me up safe," said he; "and for my coming down, let me shift for myself!"... Chaucer breathed his last when composing a ballad. His last production is called "A ballad made by Geoffrey Chaucer, on his death bed, lying in great pain."... "I could wish this tragic scene were over," said Quin the actor; but I hope to go through it with becoming dignity.... Petrarch was found dead in his library, leaning on a book.... Rosseau, when dying, ordered his attendants to remove him, and place him before the window, that he might look upon his garden, and gladden his eyes with a sight of nature.... Pope tells us he found Sir Godfrey Kneller (when he visited him a few days prior to his end) sitting up, and forming plans for the erection of his own monument. His vanity was conspicuous even in death.... Chesterfield's good breeding only left him with death. "Give Drysdale a chair, said he to his valet, when that person was announced.... Bayle, when dying, pointed to where his proof sheet was deposited.... Clarendon's pen dropped from his hand when seized with a palsy which put an end to his existence.... Bede died in the act of dictating.... Haller, feeling his pulse said, "The artery ceases to beat," and immediately died.... Nelson's last words were, "Tell Collingwood to bring the first fleet to an anchor."

From Laing's Tour in Sweden.

DEMORALIZATION OF SWEDEN.

It is a singular and embarrassing fact, that the Swedish nation, isolated from the mass of the European people, and almost entirely agricultural or pastoral, having, in about 3,000,000 of individuals, only 14,925 employed in manufacturing, and these not congregated in two places, but scattered among 2,037 factories; having no great standing army or navy; no extended commerce; no influx of strangers; no considerable city but one; and having schools and universities in a fair proportion; and a powerful and complete church establishment undisturbed in its labors by sect or schism—is, notwithstanding, in a more demoralized state than any nation in Europe—more demoralized even than any equal portion of the dense manufacturing population of Great Britain. This is a very curious fact in moral statistics. It is so directly opposed to all received opinions and long established theories of the superior moral condition, greater innocence, purity of manners, and exemption from vice or crime of the pastoral or agricultural state of society, compared to the commercial and manufacturing, that, if it rested merely on the traveller's own impressions, observations, and experience, it would not be entitled to any credit. According to the official returns published in the Swedish State Gazette, in March, 1837, 1837, the number of persons prosecuted for criminal offences before all the Swedish courts in the year 1835, was 29,275, of whom 21,292 were convicted, 4,915 acquitted, and 98 remained under examination. In 1835, the total population of Sweden was 2,983, 144 individuals. In this year, therefore, one person of every 114 of the whole nation had been accused, and one in every 140 persons convicted of criminal offences.

By the same official returns it appears that, in the five years from 1830 to 1834, inclusive, one person in every 46 of the inhabitants of the towns, and one in every 179 of the rural population, had, on an average, been punished each year for criminal offences. In 1836, the number of persons tried for criminal offences in all the courts of the Kingdom was 26,925, of whom 22,292 were condemned, 3,688 acquitted, and 945 under trial or committal. The criminal lists of this year are stated to be unusually light, yet they give a result of one person in every 112, of the whole population accused, and one in about every 131 convicted of criminal offences, and taking the population of the towns, and the rural population separately, one person in every 174 individuals of the latter, have been convicted within the year 1836 for criminal offences. * * The proportion, also, of illegitimate to legitimate births in this country leads to the same conclusion. It is as one to 2310ths in Stockholm. In no other Christian country is there a state of female morals approaching to this. In Paris, the illegitimate are reckoned by Fuchet to be one in five births and in other towns of France one in 7½. In England and Wales it is reckoned there is one illegitimate to 19 legitimate, and in London and Middlesex one to 38 legitimate births. * * Figures do not bring home to our imaginations the moral condition of a population so depraved as that of Stockholm. In such a society, the offspring of secret adultery, and the births merely saved from illegitimacy by the tardy marriage of parents, must be numerous in proportion to the general profligacy.