Literature, &c.

The British Magazines FOR AUGUST.

From Chambers's Journal. SCORN NOT THE VILEST. SCORN no one, even the vilest. Who art thou That, with sour purity, dost proudly mouth And look contempt on folly or on vice? Even that loath'd outcast, shameless though she

That wears the highway through the darksome

Polluted and pollnting, even she-She is thy sister. He whom thou callest Father,

Is he not hers? The balmy influence Of sunshine and of shower, of light and heat, Distils around for her as well as thee, Her sin hath not yet quenched her Maker's love,

Let it not thine, nor even in thought disown The sisterhood of her whom God calls child. Pure as thou art, she once was pure as thou, Purer than thou art now. There was a time In her sad history, when, a beauteous babe, She nestled in a mother's loving arms, Guileless as innocence. Ah, let her fall Arouse thy deepest fears and humblest thoughts!

Perchance thy virtue is indebted more To weak temptation than to strong resistance, And snares like those that hedged about her

Had sapped thy purity and stained thy name. Nor is thy history ended; what hath been May be again. Be humble; in her fall Read, trembling, thine own weakness, lest thy feet

Slide down the smooth and slippery paths of

Fear for thyself, lest thou shouldst live to be The wretched thing thou loath'st to contem-

And hope for her, that she may yet repent, And live again to virtue and to God.

From the same. THE PATH OF DUTY-A TALE. BY ANNA MARIA SARGEANT.

THE little town of B-could not boast of THE little town of B—could not boast of a more worthy regard against than that of a retail trader. His wife had, according to the judgment of her family, degraded herself by the union. She was a gentlewoman by birth and education, and, though without fortune. might have looked for a higher match; yet she was never known to regret the choice she had made. Mr Harley, on the other hand, had no reason to repeat having selected her for a part reason to repent having selected her for a part-ner; for to her fady-like accomplishments she added those domestic virtues which can alone make the married life happy. A numerous family sprung up around them, and as the profits of the business were not great, they were consequently obliged to live in even a less expensive style than that in which they commenpensive style than that in which they commenced their conjugal career. This course was, however, cheerfully embraced by Mrs Harley, as well as by her husband, notwithstanding that she had always been accustomed to what might comparatively be deemed profusion. Her firm and well-balanced mind rose superior to the paltry pride of station, and she dared to act in accordance with the dictates of prudence however liable she thereby became to fall out of the notice of those with whom she associated. Death having degrived them of two of their

Death having deprived them of two of their children, the family, at the period at which we introduce them, consisted of two sons and four daughters. Edmund, the eldest, who was just verging on twenty, had from his early youth been distinguished for his studious habits, and, as he grew older, displayed talents which attracted the attention of the pastor of the religious community of which his parents were members. Mr Harley's circumstances not allowing him to give his son an education which would fit him for the clerical profession, Mr Morland generously offered to become his instructor, till he should attain the age at which she might be admitted to one of the colleges. This offer had been accounted with gratitized by the father. had been accepted with gratitude by the father, as well as by the youth himself; and had not some untoward circumstances occurred to throw a temporary barrier in the way, he would have earlier removed to one of those seats of learning to which his wishes had long been earnest-To do justice to the young stuly directed. dent, it must be told that ambition had no share in his choice of a profession. He would have been satisfied to tread in the same path which his father was pursuing, deeming it to be no less truly respectable; but he was at the same time conscious of powers which, if rightly directed, might enable him to be more extensively useful. He was far from despising the calling of the tradesman, yet shrnnk from the idea of spending hts days with no higher aim than that of realising an income or amassing a fortune.
Widely different were the feelings of his brother Richard, who, though possessed of his father's name, unhappily did not inherit his virtues. This youth entertained the same repug-nance to the pursuit of trade, but from motives as low and false as those of Edmund were ele-vated. His dislike arose from the application and confinement it necessarily demanded, to which his indolent habits were opposed. He had, moreover, become acquainted with a set of dissolute young men, who were his superi-ers in station, and who encouraged the notions he had adopted—that it was derogatory to a youth of spirit to be chained behind a counter, and that a living might be earned in a much more genteel, and, at the same time, easy manner.
Richard was angry that the leisure was affor-

Richard was angry that the lessure was anor-ded his brother for study, and jealous of his prospect of occupying a higher position in soci-ety, yet had neither the desire to improve his own education, nor the talent to fit him for any profession. He vehemently opposed the plan marked out by his father, which was to bind him as an apprentice to his own business: but Mr Harley, though a kind and fond parent, was peremptory when prompted by a sense of duty, and he would not suffer the futile objections of from his purpose. The education of the girls wholly devolved en Mrs Harley; and, with this exception, that her health was delicate, never was mother better suited for the task She herself exemplified how possible it is to unite the taste and refinement of a polished mind with the homely offices of domestic life; and under the tuition of such a woman, her daughters promised to become all that an ami-able and right-minded parent could desire. Elizabeth, the oldest, though only seventeen, was already a considerable assistance both in the domestic economy and in the education of her younger sisters. The misconduct of Richard, who, on being opposed in his wiskes, grew even more self-willed and ungot ernable, was for many years the only disturbance to the was for many years the only disturbance to the peace of this otherwise happy family: but a trial awaited them at this period which was altogether unlooked for, and consequently harder to endure. This was the serious illness, and subsequent death, of the beloved and venerated father. Mr Harley, a short time prior to his decease, foresaw the fatal termination of his malady, and felt it right to prepare, as far as possible against the ills it would bring upon his hitherto dependant family. He professed not the ladifference of the Stoic, and he was not without anxieties on their account; but calling to his aid that fortitude which seldom forsakes the Christian in his hour of extremest need, he resolved to advise them for their welfare, and then leave the event in the hands of Him who has promised to be a father to the fatherless, and a husband to the widow.

and a husband to the widow.

Owing to the extreme youth and unsteady condact of his youngest son, Mr Harley could not leave his business to his care; yet it was the only means of support to his family. All his hopes, therefore, rested on Edmund, who, in order to provide for his mother and sisters, a sacrifice of no ordinary kind; but such was his confidence in the affection and principle of the young man, that he did not doubt he would the young man, that he did not doubt he would unhesitatingly make it. He one evening communicated his thoughts on the subject to his gentle partner, who occupied her accustomed seat by his bed-side. 'Heaven only knows whether, my death may produce a change in Richard,' he added with emotion; 'but we must not build upon so insecure a foundation: Yeu do not speak, my love. What am I to infer from your silence?'

Mrs Harley's tears flowed fact as she carlied.

Mrs Harley's tears flowed fast as she replied that she had formed a project, in the event of his death, to commence, with Elizabeth's as-

sistance, an establishment for tuition.'

'Such a plan bespeaks my own right-hearted Clara,' said the husband, pressing the hand he held more closely between his own; 'but there are objections to it. Your health is delicate; our three youngest children are not of an age to render any assistance; and the expenses of such an establishment as you are capable of undertaking would be considerable What, then, will become of the business which has afforded us a competence for one-and-twenty years? No, my love, I see but one clear and pradent path It will be a sacrifice to our feelings as parents, as well as those of our son; but I am consident I have only to point out to him the path of duty, and he will, for your sake, up even this long and fondly-cherished

And you have rightly judged, my father!' exclaimed the young man, who had entered the room unperceived, and thus become an unintentional listener to the latter part of the conversation. 'It is true,' he pursued, throwing himself on his knees beside the bed, and devantly pressing the hands of his arrest to he voutly pressing the hands of his parent to his lips—'it is true that I have long cherished the idea of adopting another calling, and it requires a strong effort of self denial to yield it up; but what course can be so acceptable to God, as that which is undertaken against our inclination from a sense of duty?"

Mr Harley did not survive many days; but the promise of his high principled son was a source of unspeakable satisfaction to his dying hours. Death is at all times solemn, and when it takes the father from the midst of his children, and makes the wife a widow, it causes a chasm which cannot easily be filled up. Mr Harley's loss was, however, felt beyond his family eircle; for though his sphere of action was not large, his Christian philanthropy had extended to its utmost bound.

When the opening of the will disclosed that the business was made over to Edmund, Rich-ard, notwithstanding the dislike he so often expressed to what he termed the degradation of a

retail shop, manifested the most violent anger. One clause in particular offended his pride and aroused his indignation. This was an injunction for him to fulfil the term of his apprenticeship to his brother, and to act in such a manner that his brother wight, at the expira-tion of that term, be justified, by prudence, in receiving him as a partner. 'My father has receiving him as a partner. 'My father has always treated me with injustice, and preferred my brother,' he passionately exclaimed; 'and now he has carried his injustice with him to the

'Oh, Richard, yours are the first lips that ever coupled your father's name with that term, and you will live to repent it,' cried Mrs Harley, casting on the youth a look of mingled tenderness and pity.

Be calm, my brother,' Edmund gently interposed; you are not at present in a state of mind to see how much you wrong both the living and the dead. This arrangement was intended for the general welfare of the family, and as you value our peace, and, above all, the peace of our dear remaining parent, I beseech of you not to add to our affliction by expres-

or you not to add to our affection by expressing dissatisfaction.'

'It is well for you to talk of peace and satisfaction,' Richard sneeringly observed; 'you in whom all the power is vested. But I tell you, Edmund, that though I served my father, I have no inclination to serve a brother—a brothe ther scarcely three years my senior; nor will I

'We will not dispute the matter now; only let me beg of you to do nothing rashly,' Edmund quietly rejoined, and Richard, turning abruptly from him, hastily quitted the parlour. Mr Morland, who was present, now came forward to offer consolation to the afflicted mother. 'We will hope, dear madam,' he said, 'that, the first ebullation of anger over, this refractory youth will not persist in his rash determination take comfort from the dutiful and affectionate conduct of your other children. Edmund has risen tenfold in the esteem of every right thinking person by the noble part he has acted. My dear young friend,' he pursued, taking the hand of the young man, 'I congratulate you on the conquest you have made over self-congra-tulate you with greater pleasure than I should feel had you attained the object of your most ardent wishes. I can fully appreciate the sacrifice you have made, for in my youth I endured a somewhat similar trial. Providence afterwards cleared my way, and yours may possibly, at some future period, be in like man-ner opened. But if it should not be so, be-lieve me that you will enjoy more real satisfaction whilst pursuing the strait path of duty, however opposed it be to your habits and incli-nations, and however humble, than even the gratification of laudable desires can afford if lying out of that path.'

'If,' Mr Morland proceeded, 'your conduct towards your brother be marked by as much wisdom and forbearance as that towards your mother and sisters is by generosity; we he is not, I hope, wholly lost to fueling, and kindness may overcome when the state of the state kindness may overcome where harshness would fail. But I have no need,' he added, to show the means to be pursued to those whose hearts are already willing to overlook offences. I have reason to believe that one is beforehand with me, and is even now endeavouring to act the part of a peace-maker.

The moment after Richard had quitted the room, Elizabeth had quietly left the place which she had before occupied by her mother's side, to follow the youth, and her errand had been rightly surmised by the good pasto. If any member of the family could subdue the violent spirit of Richard Harley, it was his affactions were collected. twin sister, for whom his affections were called twin sister, for whom his affections were called forth in a stronger degree than for any other being on earth. They had been playfellows in childhood; for Edmund had always been too studious a companion for his brother, and the other children were many years younger, though a greater contrast could scarcely be imagined than that which existed in their dispositions. Elizabeth being as gentle and yielding imagined than that which existed in their dispo-sitions—Elizabeth being as gentle and yielding as Richard was exacting and self-willed—that very circumstance tended to unite them in a closer bond. It gave occasion for forbearance in the former which the latter could not but admire; though he made no effort to imitate it, and frequently taxed it beyond all reasonable

The affectionate sister found, however, that to soothe the youth under his present imaginary injury, was the most difficult task she had undertaken, he having predetermined not to sleep under the parental roof another night, but she would not quit his side till she had won a promise from him that he would not act precipi-tately in the affair, and at least wait the event of a few days, till he saw the course Edmund intended to pursue.

Though Elizabeth was tenderly attached to her younger brother, she entertained a still warmer affection for the elder, towards whom she felt a kind of love bordering on veneration. She had ever looked up to him as to some su-perior being, whose counse! she could ask in every difficulty, and whose decisions were She now confidently hoped that the lenity of the one would effectually overcome the anger of the of the other; and with this comforting assurance in her own bosom, she sought her widowed parent, and strove to con-sole her under her aggravated griefs. One of the greatest trials which human nature is calthe greatest trials which human nature is called upon to endure, is to have our motives questioned, and our good evil-spoken of. Thus Edmund suffered more from being taunted with selfishness when he had really exercised the most noble generosity, than he did from the sacrifice he had made. But a still severer pang yet awaited him.

Our hero's frequent visits to the house of Mr Morland had brought him into constant and familiar intercourse with that gentleman's only daughter, a lovely girl of nearly his own age. They had been associated in study; for her father was of opinion that women are born for nobler purposes than either to be mere domestic drudges or puppets for exhibition, and had consequently resolved to train her in a manner which would really fit her to become the companion of a man of education. He was at the same time solicitous that she should lose none of the truly feminine characteristics of her sex; and had Mrs Morland co-operated in his laudable undertaking, it is most probable that he would have accomplished the desirable end he

But unhappily for the domestic peace of the good pastor, as well as for the formation of the character of his daughter, that lady studied rather how her beautiful child might obtain admiration, than how she might become worthy of it, and thus counteracted the good effects which her father's example and instructions might otherwise have wrought. To the eyes of the young student, however, Ellen Morland appearance of the students of the ed faultless; and he, with the evident sanction of her parents, as well as with the approbation of the young lady herself, bestowed on her the warmest affections of his ardent nature. To the good pastor the union appeared desirable, from his knowledge of the character of the young man. Mrs Morland did not oppose it, because she was of opinion that his talents would raise him to distinction in the profession he had made choice of; and Ellen was flattered and gratified with the devotion of one possessed of so superior a mind, combined with a person far from disagreeable. Under such errormstances, it is not surprising that the intelligence that Edsnurd had relinquished the idea of enterior that the intelligence that Edsnurd had relinquished the idea of enterior that Edsnurd had relinquished the idea of enterior that Edsnurd had relinquished the idea of enterior that the interior that the idea of enterior tering the ministry, in order to provide for his mother and sisters from his late father's business, had a very different effect upon the minds of the mother and daughter to that which it created in the father. The former were inca-pable of appreciating the generosity of the act, and only saw in it the blighted prospects of the young man. Ellen, however, said not a word in her father's presence; and Mrs Morland, finding that her husband's views of the subject were not in accordance with her own, forbore to make any remark, though she secretly determined that the acquaintance between the young people should be speedily brought to a close. 'That moment in which Mr Edmund Harley

'That moment in which Mr Edmund Harley ties on a canvas apron, and appears in his shop, he breaks every tie between us,' the young lady exclaimed as the pastor quitted the room; and as she spoke, she scornfully tossed her pretty head, and indignantly threw down a silken watch-chain which her fair fingers had for some time been busily occupied in weaving for the youth. the youth.

the youth.

'I am happy to find that your feelings correspond with my own, my dear Ellen,' the mother observed. 'I was afraid that your affection Everhina might induce you to 'Affection might have induced me,' said the daughter, to overlook his station in society, had the business he is about to engage in been almost any other than what it is: but to stand almost any other than what it is; but to stand behind a counter with that odious apron—oh! I could not endure it. You need not entertain the least apprehension on that head, mamma."

'And what will avail all the pains your papa

has taken to teach him Hebrew and Greek, if he is to spend his days in weighing butter and think it is very ungrateful in him to throw away such advantages on such a protence; for I can't give him credit for disinterestedness, when a profitable business is to be the reward of his self-sacifice.'

'The sacrifice would not be to him alone, if I were to share his fortunes, Ellen quickly re-joined; ' for the change would be far greater to me, who have always moved in a different sphere, than it can be to him. I think that he ought to have consulted me on the subject before he gave such a promise to his father.

Well, my love, it is not a matter for very deep regret. I hope you have a higher destiny marked out than that of a cheesemonger's son; and I am glad that you have sufficient prudence to see it in the right light.

Though the young lady affected so much in-ifference at the prospect of yielding up her lover, she could not really resign him without a pang. She was angry that his affection for his parent and sisters had superseded what she considered to be due to herself; but could not help calling to mind his many virtues, as well as occasionally contemplating his personal and mental endowments. 'Mamma thinks I bear it more heroically than I really do,' she mentally said as she retired to the privacy of her own chamber to shed a few tears of regret.

Unsuspicious of what was passing at the house at which he had hitherto been a welcome guest, Edmund repaired thither as soon as the funeral obsequies of his departed parent were over. His warm heart anticipated sympathy from these his dearest friends. How great, therefore, were his surprise and disappointment when, instead of the customary affectionate when, instead of the customary affectionate greeting, he was received in a scold and distant a manner as though he had been a perfect stranger! As no reference was made to the new position which he was likely to hold, he never for a moment conjectured the cause of the altered behaviour of the ladies towards him; but on Mrs Morland being called from the room, he availed himself of the opportunity to seek an explana ion. 'What can I have done to merit this treatment at your lands, dearest Ellen?' this treatment at your hands, dearest Ellen?

the tenderly asked, as he drew his chair beside
hers, and looked earnestly in her face.

'You must be aware, Mr Harley, that we