

"Saved? Happy? What do you mean? What false hopes thus deceive you?"

"Not deceived. Oh no. Good kind Arthur Stanley, he will tell you all. He it is whose hand is now stretched for to save us. He is below waiting to know if you will see him."

"See him? Generous kind Arthur! Yes admit him, and in a few moments the two friends were clasped in each other's arms."

As soon as Arthur could recover from the shock, caused by the altered appearance of George, he informed him that a friend had loaned him money to take up the forged check.

"Here it is George," he added, "and here is also two hundred dollars from the same generous source for your present necessities. A passage is already provided for you in a vessel to New Orleans. Which sails with the dawn."

And now, continued Arthur his features glowing with the earnestness with which he felt and spoke; "I cannot doubt, no I will not doubt your future character! You have drunk the cup of vice to the dregs and find its bitterness; you have found the path of folly pleasing at the outset, but every moment leading you farther and farther astray from rectitude and virtue, and where has it ended? Alas! my dear George into what an abyss of wretchedness it has plunged you. May the terrible lesson you have received set be in vain. May God move your heart to seek his holy aid, that you may henceforth lead a life of usefulness and virtue."

George grasped the hand of his friend, and in a voice choked by his emotion, said:

"Arthur—my poor Fanny!"

"George is she your wife?" said Arthur.

"She is not, but, so help me God, I will make her mine as soon as we reach New Orleans."

"She shall be yours before you sail," and, whispering to the jailor, Arthur left the cell.

Within the half hour he returned accompanied by a clergyman, and in that gloomy abode of guilt and misery, poor Fanny Blakely became the wife of her repentant lover.

During the few brief hours which remained to them ere they left the prison, Arthur strove to comfort and sustain the wretched girl (yet happy to be allowed to follow her more wretched husband) by assurances of being himself the bearer of her last farewell and penitent sighs of her almost heart broken parents, and encouraged George with promises of assistance and support in the new life he had marked out for him.

At day break a carriage was at the prison gates to convey them on board the vessel. Arthur did not forsake them, but remained consoling cheering and encouraging their drooping hearts until the vessel was under way, when bidding an affectionate farewell they separated—Arthur, to reap the reward of industry and virtue—George, now reaping the bitter harvest of folly and crime.

PROGRESS AND DISCOVERY IN CENTRAL AFRICA.

While more than one government is blundering away at measures of proved uselessness to mitigate the horrors of barbarity on the seaboard of Western Africa, a Liverpool merchant and a sea captain have penetrated to the interior, and have surveyed the highway not only to that inner region but to the civilization of Africa. Mr. Robert Jameson, of Liverpool, has collected the means and planned the enterprise, with a disinterested perseverance and zeal for discovery far above the mere trading spirit of the time. Mr. Becroft has immortalised himself as one of the most daring, most discreet, and most intelligent of English discoverers. In spite of the obstacles aggravated rather than removed by the proceedings of the English Government—in spite of the most disastrous mischances—Mr. Becroft has succeeded in establishing the fact that the interior is accessible for navigation and trade; he has thrown light on the interior navigation up to Timbucto, inasmuch that only 40 miles of the river remains to be explored—the part between Lever, his highest point, and Boussah, Park's lowest; the great waterway being the key to several regions of beautiful and fertile country, peopled by divers races, and affording opportunities for legitimate commerce of indefinite extension. The lower Niger and its branches permeate an immense delta, containing thousands of miles of richly fertile and wooded country. The unhealthy climate extends only for a limited space inwards, and as you ascend the river the healthiness becomes equal to that of the tropics generally. This region is inhabited by negro races, warlike, rude, yet destitute of civilisation, and eager for trade. On the middle Niger above Iddah, the inhabitants assume more of the Arab aspect—are more civilised—congregate in towns so large that one is mentioned which is computed to contain 20,000 inhabitants, but the people are less eager for trade. They are prejudiced against strangers from the West by the Arab dealers who come to them in caravans across the continent and strive to exclude rivals from the market. This prejudice, however, does not seem to be very powerful; and the trade which can repay the toilsome transit across the continent by land, is sure to remunerate traders who come by the comparatively short and easy path of the river. The requisites for a successful trade with the inhabitants of the Niger are now well ascertained by the experiences of Mr. Becroft and his fellow voyagers in the *Ethiopia* steamer. First, you want iron steamers of less draught and greater engine power; for by such vessels not only the Niger but its Tshaddah branch might be na-

vigated at almost all seasons of the year. You want officers like Mr Becroft, of hardy constitutions, inured to the climate, of brave spirit, discreet, and shrewd. You want trading managers capable of accommodating their manners to the wayward dealings of a rude people, and able to estimate the value of produce little known. You want crews mostly of African blood, and at all events of sufficient stamina to bear the climate. It is obvious that efficiency of navigation, the power to move rapidly, and tact in dealing with the natives, are requisites far more important than mere armed force. Ivory, vegetable tallow, peppers, indigo, cotton wool, palm oil, a sort of caravances or haricot beans, dye woods, timber woods, skins, and a great variety of produce that is but slightly known, invite the trader. The desideratum is through efficiency in the means of navigating the river; and it is evident that a commerce of indefinite extension will repay sums laid out in thoroughly establishing that efficiency of navigation. Of course, the free blacks educated in the West Indian trade will become useful workmen in penetrating the native land of their race. We must depend, for generations to come, on the black race to supply the bulk of the crew. It is, however, doubtful how far these legitimate trading measures can be carried on conjointly with the armed measures on the coast. The cruising system not only keeps up the jealousy and shyness of the native tribes, but fosters all sorts of jealousy among the rival cruisers. Mr. Becroft encountered some impediments to his exploration of the Gaboon River from a French commandant, who suspected of territorial objects, and had been making 'treaties' with the native chiefs conferring some kind of territorial right on the French. All this is very idle. The natives are too rude to make treaties worth any European consideration; but they have a productive country, and perfect freedom of commerce will soon instil ideas into their minds which they can never derive from treaty-making mummeries or forcible interference with their trade, in slaves.—*Spectator*.

New Works.

THE OLIVE TREE OF SCRIPTURE.

To the olive tree the sacred writings abound in reference; it has been from the earliest ages the emblem of peace, and the bounteous gifts of Heaven. In the garden of the Horticultural society at Chiswick, and in several parts of Devonshire, it grows as a standard, and survives the severest winters. In other countries, therefore, it may be made to flourish with the aid of shelter. This tree rose plentifully all over Judea, and so viewed, excites a crowd of interesting reflections in every well disposed mind. Thus it is often figuratively used in the poetical diction of the East. Speaking of the righteous man it is said:—

"His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree." The most distinguished, and to many the most endearing reflection suggested by this tree, arises from its giving the name to that mount (the Mount of Olives) so famous in the history of the Saviour. This mountain lay a little out of the city of Jerusalem, towards the east, commanding a full view of the metropolis, from which it was separated by the valley of Jehosaphat and the brook Kedron. To it the Redeemer of the world went to retire in the evening, after he had spent a laborious day in teaching the multitudes that attended His ministry in Jerusalem; from it He gazed upon the city, wept over it, and predicted its final overthrow. In the garden which lay at the bottom of the hill, he commenced the scene of his last sufferings; and from the highest or central elevation he ascended into Heaven. The olive crown the top of the hill till this day; and from it being so remarkably long lived, it is thought by many that the vicissitudes of eighteen hundred years have not yet swept away the identical objects under which our Redeemer wandered. To many superficial readers of the Bible, and especially to those who rest implicitly on our translation of it, the olive tree forms a stumbling block not easily removed. The plant, as is easily known, does not produce leaves of a deep green colour, though properly enough classed among evergreens. The leaves resemble those of the willow, are of a light or yellowish green, and sometimes rusty underneath, and do not equal the expectations of travellers.

Thus Mr. Sharp who in the East, observes—"The fields are in a manner covered with olive trees; but the tree does not answer the character I conceived of it; the royal Psalmist and some of the sacred writers speak with rapture of the green olive tree, so that I expected a beautiful green; and I confess that I was wretchedly disappointed to find its hue resembling that of our hedges when they are covered with dust. The olive tree may possibly delight in Judea, but undoubtedly will disgust a man accustomed to English verdure." Now it so happens, that the word green translated, means freshness and vigour; and every one must know that exuberant vegetation is not necessarily of a green colour, but frequently of a red or pinkish tinge. In Daniel, the seventy translators rendered the same word flourishing, for it is absurd to suppose that when Nebuchadnezzar said; "I was at rest, in my house and green in my palace" (as it is in Hebrew), he referred to colour. The passage in the Bible, therefore, should be rendered, "I am like a vigorous olive tree in the house of God." Rich harvests of this tree waved over the plains of Greece, and it is yet an inhabitant of that highly favoured country. It presents no-

thing magnificent—nothing solemn, for it never exceeds fifty feet in height; yet its loveliness and sunniness amply compensate for its shrub like size. A warm, dry air seems to suit it best, hence it was found in greatest perfection in Attica and Cilicia. In those countries, when regularly propagated for its oil, it was the practice to plant the trees thirty feet apart, so as to allow the air to circulate freely between them on all sides. This tree forms a favourite haunt for singing birds, having a thin shade, sufficient to shelter them from the excessive heat, yet not excluding much light.—*Annals of Horticulture*.

PERSEVERANCE OVERCOMETH DIFFICULTIES.

There are few difficulties that hold out against real attacks; they fly, like the visible horizon before those who advance. A passionate desire and unwearied will, can perform impossibilities, or what seem to be such to the dull and the feeble. If we do but go on, some unseen path will soon open the hills. We must not allow ourselves to be discouraged by the apparent disproportion of the result of the report of a single effort and the magnitude of the obstacles to be encountered. Nothing good or great is to be obtained without courage; and industry might have sunk in despair and the world must have remained unornamented and unimproved, if men had nicely compared the effect of a single stroke of the pyramid to be raised, or of a single impression of the spade with the mountain to be levelled. All exertion too, is in itself delightful and active amusement seldom tire us. Helvetius owns that he could hardly listen to a concert for two hours, though he could play on an instrument all day long. The chase we know has always been the favourite amusement of kings and nobles. Not only fame and fortune but pleasure is to be earned; efforts it must not be forgotten are as indispensable as desires. The globe is not to be circumnavigated by one wind. We should never do nothing. It is better to wear out says Bishop Cumberland. There will be time enough to repose in the grave, said Nicole to Pascal. In truth the proper rest for man is change of occupation. As a young man you should be mindful of the irrevocable importance of early industry; since in youth habits are easily formed and there is time to recover from defects. An Italian sonnet justly as elegantly compares procrastination to the folly of a traveller who pursues a brook till it widens into a river and is lost in the sea. The toils as well as the risks of an active life are commonly overrated, so much may be done by the diligent use of ordinary opportunities, but they must not always be waited for. We must only strike the iron while it is hot. Herschel the great astronomer, declares that 90 or 100 hours clear enough for observation cannot be called an unproductive year. The lazy the fearful should patiently see the active and the bold pass them in the course. They must bring down their pretensions to the level of their talents. Those who have not energy to work must learn to be humble and should not vainly hope to unite their incompatible enjoyments of indolence and enterprise of ambition and self-indulgence. I trust my young friends will never attempt to reconcile them.

SATURDAY NIGHT.

How many associations sweet and hallowed crowd around that short sentence, 'Saturday night.' It is but a prelude to more pure, more heavenly associations which the tired frame and thankful soul hail with renewed joy at each succeeding return. 'Tis then the busy din of life ceases; that cares and anxieties are forgotten; and the worn out frame seeks its needed repose, and the mind its relaxation from earth and its concerns with joy looking for the coming day of rest so wisely and beneficially set apart for man's peace and happiness by his Creator.

The tired labourer seeks his own cottage, to which perhaps he has been a stranger the past week, where a loving wife and smiling children meet him with smiles and caresses. Here he realizes the bliss of hard earned comforts and, at this time perhaps more than any other, the happiness of domestic life and its attendant blessings.

Released from the disturbed cares of the week, the professional man beholds the return of Saturday night and he gladly seeks the clustering vine nourished by his paternal care, the reality of those joys which are only his own to know at their peculiar seasons and under these congenial circumstances, so faithfully and vividly evinced by this periodical scene of enjoyment and repose.

The lone widow too, has toiled on day after day, to support her little charge; how gratefully does she resign her cares at her return of Saturday night, and thank her God for these kind resting places on the way by which she is encouraged from week to week to hold on her way.

LAND LEECHES OF CEYLON.

On one occasion in an excursion into an interior we had to let the horses be led forward, and to slip the slippery path on foot; a process which here was particularly welcome to us, since their bleeding fetlocks gave signs of unusual numbers of land leeches—that terrible plague of Ceylon. Besides the natural dampness of the spot, it had also been raining the day before which had brought these little creatures out by millions. They very soon were swarming all over us and infallibly spied out every opening in our dress, were it even the smallest crevice possible,—by which they were enabled to torment us in a frightful way. The most vigilant precautions to defend our

feet and legs were quite useless. As many of these little brutes are no thicker than a common pin they work their way through any clothes or even creep up them as high as the neck: where their presence is still more annoying. Our Cingalese had less to suffer from them than we had, in spite of their going barefooted as they have a way of stripping them off very dexterously.

A LAPLAND WEDDING.

The following account of the method of deciding on marriage between young persons in Lapland, is extracted from Fuller's Worthies of England:—

"Here let me insert a fashion of a custom in this barbarous country, from the mouths of creditable merchants whose eyes beheld it. It is death in Lapland to marry a maid without her parent's consent; wherefore if one bear an affection for a maid, upon breaking there of to her friends, the fashion is that a day is appointed for her friends to behold the two parties run a race together. The maid is allowed in starting the advantage of a third part of the race, so that it is impossible, except willing to herself that she should be overtaken. If the maid outrun her suitor, the matter is ended, it being penal for the man to renew the mention marriage. But if the virgin hath an affection for him, though at first running hard to try the truth of his love, she will (without Aialanta's golden ball to retard her speed) pretend some casualty and halt before she comes to the mark or end of the race. Taps soon are compelled to marry against their own will; and this is the cause that in this country the married people are riches in their own contentment than in other lands where so many forced matches make feigned love and real unhappiness.

GOOD ADVICE TO BOYS.

Be brisk, energetic and prompt! The world is full of boys, (and men too), who drawl through life, and never decide on anything for themselves, but just draggle one leg after the other, and let things take their own way. Such people are the dull stuff of the earth. They hardly deserve as much credit as the wooden trees; for trees do all the good they can, in merely growing, and bearing leaves and seeds. But these drawling, dragging boys do not turn their capacities to profit, half as far as they might be turned; they are unprofitable, like a rainy day in harvest time. Now the brisk, energetic boy, will be constantly awake, not merely with his bodily eyes, but with his mind and attention—during the hours of business. After he learns what he has to do, he will take a pride in doing it punctually and well—and would feel ashamed to be told what he ought to do without telling. The drawling boy loses in five minutes the most important advice; the prompt, wide awake boy never had to be taught twice—but strains hard to make himself up to the mark, as far as possible, out of his own energies. Third rate boys are always depending upon others; but first rate boys depend upon themselves, and after a little teaching, just enough to know what is to be done, they ask no further favours of any body. Besides, it is a glorious thing for a boy to get this noble way of self reliance, activity, and energy. Such an one is worth an hundred of the poor dragging creatures, who can hardly wash their own hands without being told, each time, now give me the boy who does his work promptly, and well, without asking (except once for all, at the beginning), any questions; the boy who has his wits about him, is never behind hand, and doesn't let the grass grow under his heels.

WONDERS OF GEOLOGY.

More than nine thousand of different kinds of animals have been changed into stone. The races of genera of more than half of these are now extinct, not being at present known in a living state upon the earth. From the remains of some ancient animals, they must have been larger than any living animals upon the earth. The Megatherium, (Great Bear) says Buckland, from a skeleton seen, was perfectly colossal. With a head like that of a stork, its legs and feet exhibit the character of the Arma dillo and the Antester. Its thigh bone was nearly three times as thick as that of the elephant, and its tusks were admirably adapted for cutting vegetable substance, and its general structure and strength were intended to fit it for digging in the ground for roots, on which it principally fed.—*Buckland's Treatise*.

THE SIBERIAN EXILES.

Many of the exiles are now men of large income. 'The dwelling at which we breakfasted to day,' says a traveller, 'was that of a person who had been sent to Siberia against his will. Finding that there was but the way of bettering his condition, he worked hard and behaved well. He had now a comfortable furnished house, and a well cultivated farm, while a stout wife and a plenty of servants bustled about the premises. His sons had just arrived from St. Petersburg, to visit his exiled father, and had the pleasure of seeing him, amid all the comforts of life, reaping an abundant harvest, and with one hundred and forty persons in his pay?'—*Blackwood's Magazine*.

PAINFUL DUTIES OF THE SCHOOL-MASTER.

There is neither fortune nor fame to be acquired in fulfilling the laborious duties of a village schoolmaster. Doomed to a life of monotonous labour, sometimes required with