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"Few men are fit for every part of education, and yet every sort of education is made in one instance or another to suit every sort of men."

In one of my former numbers it has been suggested that some men, from natural incapacity, are debarred from gaining any knowledge, that is just and useful. In another of my papers it has likewise been suggested, that many people fail of valuable attainments, by sacrificing their time upon studies that are of no kind of importance. But there is still another class of people, who do not miscarry from either of these causes, and yet whose most diligent pursuits realize very little advantage. They fail of arriving at any great degree of excellence from an inaptitude of talents to the objects about which they are employed. It falls to the lot of few to have extent of capacity to excel in more than one art or profession; and most people, though, in the first instance, they should be lucky enough to give their genius its true direction, and follow a right track closely through life, would nevertheless fall short of perfection in their particular employment. How unfortunate then must it be, when their abilities take a wrong turn and counteract their natural tendency! Still more unfortunate must it be, when men pursue many different objects, neither of which suit their capacity.

Parents too little consult the peculiar bent of genius in designating employments for their children. Before it is known what is best adapted to the talents of a child, the parent anticipates that knowledge, and determines at all events what profession he shall follow. This predisposition in favour of any calling so biases people, that they cannot judge with propriety, whether it is suitable or not. In making an experiment which does not prosper, they thwart the course of nature, damp the ardour for improvement, throw the mental faculties into confusion, produce sickleness of temper, and perhaps never ascertain the real propensity of genius, till it is too late to give it a proper direction. There is a most striking impropriety in gratifying such a predilection, before a child has given some symptoms of the peculiar cast of his talents. Though there may never be indications of such a temperament of mind, as will encompass, by the severest study, any general knowledge of the arts and sciences, he may still have ingenuity for some mechanical occupation, and may even so far excel in some branch, as to become useful to society and profitable to himself. But by mistaking his natural bias he blunders through life, always acting against the stream, and never gaining any honour or profit by his pursuits. It cannot be supposed that so great a proportion of mankind, from any natural defect of understanding, are inevitably doomed to such a series of hardships, disgraces, and disappointments, as seem so often to embitter human life. It saves the trouble of investigation, and is an easy solution of the matter, to charge the blame to nature, and to rest contented in the belief, that no institutions can be adopted for lessening the calamities and vices, of which so many ill-fated men participate. I have confessed, that some people can never be wrought into any character that is useful or respectable; but the number, who come within this description, is smaller perhaps than is usually imagined.

In most of the Universities or academies in this country there are certain classical studies, which are imposed as a task on each student, whether they are accommodated or not to his particular genius and inclination. The effect of this undistinguishing manner of instruction is, that a considerable proportion of the pupils derive little or no advantage from their education. It is beyond doubt, that no person can make proficiency in any study, which does not coincide with his wishes; and it is no less evident, that one cause of the indolence and aversion observable in so many students, is, that they are set about that kind of literature, for which they have not an aptitude of faculties. In thus counteracting the natural bent of their capacity they become disgusted and idle.

It deserves a serious enquiry, whether there can really be any reformation in the mode of academical education. If it is believed any remedy can be applied to remove the inconveniences, that result from a misapplication of faculties, it will be granted, that every attempt to introduce a more perfect plan should be applauded and patronized. I make even these desultory remarks with reluctance; and shall refrain from a minute investigation of the subject. This important task should be entered upon by those, whose profession and situation are adapted to disquisitions of this kind. Any sketches, however loose and immatured, on so interesting a matter, should be received with candour, and examined with attention.

Those who have the management of schools and Universities are in the habit of believing that the present regulations are judicious if not perfect. Few, if any, of those characters are willing to allow, that in the distribution of studies, any reference should be had to the difference of genius or inclination, in different students. Many reasons are offered why an uniform method should be observed in apportioning the task to each individual. In my next number these reasons shall be noticed and the subject further illustrated.

MR. FENNO,

AMERICANUS has again favoured the public in the XXIVth No. of your paper, with some of his observations relative to the Western country. I have read his remarks with great attention, but must candidly confess, that many of them, if they have any relation to that subject, are far beyond my comprehension. He makes mention of people "quitting habitations now unsettled;" which is the same thing as to say, EMIGRATING FROM AN UNSETTLED COUNTRY. I question much if this has ever been the case in any part of the world. This expression of our author puts me in mind of two acts of assembly—the one imposed a considerable penalty on any person, "who should alter the mark of an unmarked hog;"—the other ordered that a certain piece of ground, in the city of Philadelphia, should "be enclosed by a brick wall, and left open forever."

There are but two arguments brought forward by Americanus in the number alluded to, which in any measure apply to the subject of the Western country. The 1st, is, that when the territorial jurisdiction of a country is greatly extended, the emanations of power from its source become in the extremities proportionably weak and inefficient. This observation will generally hold good in monarchical governments; but is not the case in confederated republics; and the present general system has by guaranteeing a republican form of government to all the States, that may become members of the Union, left each individual State at liberty to enforce its own particular regulations, with all the energy necessary to ensure liberty, and render government respectable. By this truly valuable part of our general political system, it must be plain that all North America, might be brought into the same general union; and yet each State superintend its own particular concerns, with as much decision as if the confederacy had no existence. This writer might as well say, that it is impossible for the State of Georgia to be as efficiently governed as the State of New-York. In bringing forward this point, he has run into an error, by forgetting that the several States in the Union retain a very considerable part of their efficient jurisdiction. If the executive of the State of Georgia has equal powers with the executive of the State of New-York, it will be the fault of the State executive, and not owing to its distance from Congress, if the government of Georgia is not equally as efficient as the government of New-York. The same reasoning will apply with equal force to any part of the Western territory, great part of which is not more distant from the present seat of Congress than the State of Georgia. If Americanus will please to attend to these facts, his metaphorical adder, which has so much alarmed him, will be changed into an innocent and useful animal.

The 2d. argument, is contained in these words—"it is in the power of government to oppose the removal of the inhabitants of the Atlantic States, by making it their real interest to continue at home, it being a fancied interest which leads them abroad." This point is so far from being established, that it has no precise idea prefixed to it: It is one of those cases in which every man has a right to judge for himself, and in which government cannot be otherwise than silent. It would certainly be idle in the extreme, to undertake convincing a man who had been surrounded by a number of children, and unfortunate in his circumstances, and who by removing into the Western country had provided amply for himself and family, that he had not attended to his "real interest." Cases similar to this are innumerable.

Americanus is generally unfortunate when he brings the Western country before the public: He tells us that he does not expect "the concurrent opinions of land-jobbers, monopolizers of the hard-earned wages of the poor soldiers, and other harpies upon the public." This insinuation proceeds from a want of information, and is so far from being well founded, that some of the principal opposers of a land office for the Western country, and the most decided advocates for Americanus, are the very SPECULATORS he mentions. They are already supplied with land in abundance, and that at the expense of the United States, and would now, if possible, prevent the attention of Congress being directed to that country, until they had disposed of their speculations. I am well acquainted with many of the principal advocates for establishing a land office, for the disposal of the Western territory; but I do not know one of them, who has not uniformly distinguished himself as a friend to the liberty, and "real interests" of his fellow citizens, and however strange such disinterested conduct may appear to Americanus, he may rest assured, that they are not interested in the lands in the Western territory. A. E.

ANECDOTES of the DUCHESS of GLOUCESTER.

ABOUT the year 1730, Mr. Edward Walpole (afterwards Sir Edward, Knight of the Bath) returned from his travels on the continent, where the munificence of his father, the famous statesman, had enabled him to make a brilliant figure; and so very engaging was he found by the ladies, that he had no other appellation in Italy, than that of "the handsome Englishman." Amongst more transient connections with the lovely Signoras, he formed one tender one with a lady of the name of Laura; which name he afterwards (professedly for her sake) gave to his eldest daughter, the present Mrs. Keppel.

Mr. Walpole had lodgings taken for him, on his return, at a Mrs. Rennie's, a child's coat-maker, at the bottom of Pall Mall. On returning from visits, or public places, he often passed a quarter of an hour in chat with the young women of the shop. Amongst them was one who had it in her power to make him forget the fair Laura, and all the beauties of the English court; her name was Clement; her father was at that time, or soon after, postmaster at Darlington, a place of fifty pounds per annum, on which he subsisted a large family. This young woman had been bound apprentice to Mrs. Rennie, and was employed in the usual duties of such a situation, which she discharged (as the old lady used to do) honestly and soberly. Her parents, however, from their extreme poverty, could supply her but very sparingly with clothes or money. Mr. Walpole observed her wants, and had the address to make her little presents in a way not to alarm the vigilance of her mistress, who exacted the strictest morality from the young persons under her care. Miss Clement was beautiful as an angel, with good, though uncultivated, parts. Whatever sentiments or principles of virtue she might be supposed to bring with her from Darlington, it is no great wonder that they were a little shaken, when attacked by a man whose father was ruling Europe, and whose personal endowments were so great, that they

gave her for rivals every woman of birth and beauty in the kingdom. Whether her virtue had been subdued before her lover left his lodgings, is not known; the lodgings were only a transitory thing till his house could be prepared for him, to which he now removed, and about the same period received the honor of knighthood.

Mrs. Rennie had begun to suspect that a connection was forming, which would not be to the honor of her apprentice. She apprised Mr. Clement of her suspicions, who immediately came up to town to carry her out of the vortex of temptation. The good old man met his daughter with tears, he told her his suspicions; and that he should carry her home, where, by living with sobriety and prudence, she might chance to be married to some decent tradesman. The girl, in appearance, acquiesced, but whether her distaste to the dismal scenes at home gave her the resolution to sacrifice every thing rather than return, or whether she had before sacrificed so much that she thought character only not worth retaining, cannot be ascertained; this, however, is certain, that whilst her father and mistress were discoursing in a little dark parlour behind the shop, the object of their cares slipped out, and without hat or cloak ran directly through Pall Mall to Sir Edward's house at the top of it, (now inhabited by Mrs. Keppel) where, the porter knowing her, she was admitted, though his master was absent. She went into the parlour, where the table was covered for dinner, and impatiently waited his return. The moment came at last: Sir Edward entered, and was heard to exclaim with great joy, "You here." What explanations took place were of course in private; but the fair fugitive sat down that day at the head of his table, and never after left it.

The fruits of this connexion were Mrs. Keppel, the eldest; the Royal Dutchess, the second; lady Dyfart, the third; and Col. Walpole, the fourth, in the birth of whom, or soon after, the mother died. Never could fondness exceed that which Sir Edward always cherished for the lovely mother of his children; nor was it confined to her or them only, but extended itself to her relations, for all of whom he some way or other has provided. A sister he took into the house, and who still lives with him with unblemished reputation. His grief at the loss of his wife (for such in effect she was) was proportioned to his love: he constantly declined all overtures of marriage, and gave up his life to the education of his children. He had often been prompted to unite himself to Mrs. Clement by legal ties, and was prevented only by the reflection that the children he then had would, should he have others after marriage, be considered in a light so different from those others, that his strong parental affection could not bear to create the difference. Some have alleged, that the threats of his father, Sir Robert, prevented his marriage; who avowed, that if he married Mrs. Clement, he would not only deprive him of his political interest, but exert it against him. It has been, however, always said, by those who had access to know, that had Mrs. Clement survived Sir Robert to the age in which it might be expected she would cease to become a mother, that she would then have been certainly lady Walpole.

About the year 1758, his eldest daughter, Laura, became the wife of the Hon. Frederick Keppel, brother to the Earl of Albemarle, and afterwards Bishop of Exeter. His first passion was for Maria; but not making the progress in her affections which he expected, he transferred his vows to her sister, by whom they were instantly accepted. Though this was no great match in itself, considering the fortune which Sir Edward gave his daughters, (Mr. Keppel having at that time very little church provision, and no hereditary fortune) yet in its consequences it became highly important.

The Miss Walpoles now took a rank in society in which they had never before moved. The sisters of the Earl of Albemarle were their constant companions, and introduced them to people of quality and fashion; they constantly appeared at the first routs and balls; and, in a word, were received every where but at court. The stigma attending their birth shut them out from the drawing room, till marriage (as is the case of Mrs. Keppel) had covered the defect, and given them the rank of another family. No one watched their progress upwards with more anxiety than the Earl Waldegrave. This Nobleman (one of the proudest in the kingdom) had long cherished a passion for the all-conquering Maria; her education and manners made any idea of her being prevailed on to copy the false steps of her mother, on any terms, too improbable to be nourished; and he saw that the only terms on which he could hope to obtain a hearing from the lady, were those of marriage—and that she would hear him even on those terms was very doubtful, for his Lordship was above twenty years older than the object of his admiration. The struggle between his passion and his pride was not a short one, nor is it clear which of the two would have been victor in the contest, had not the marriage of Mrs. Keppel, and the subsequent importance of her sisters thrown the over-balance into the scale of love.

Having conquered his own difficulties, it now only remained to attack the lady's. The Peer made his approaches in form, and was flatteringly received. The lady had no prepossession; and Lord Waldegrave, though not young, was not disagreeable; his manners were polite, and his offers suited to his rank. A few months elevated the lady into a sphere which, looking back, must have astonished her. As a Countess, she had a more extended vortex, and of course the number of her admirers increased; and it is probable that many men of fashion now wondered that they let such a jewel escape them. Her very amiable conduct through the whole life of her Lord added respect and esteem to the warmest admiration. "Young, beautiful, an old husband and a Countess." What a constellation of temptations must she have been surrounded by? yet she retained, amidst them all, the purest manners and the purest name. Amongst others who fought for her in hopeless ardours, was the Prince of Mecklenburgh, brother to our gracious Queen. He made no secret of his passion; it was talked of every where; and Lord Waldegrave, in the triumph of his heart, used jestingly to entreat his lady to have compassion on the Prince.

About five years after their marriage, the small-pox attacked his Lordship, and proved fatal. His Lady found herself a young widow, and, what may appear strange, inconsolable! Had Lord Waldegrave possessed every advantage of youth and beauty, his death could not have been more sincerely regretted by his amiable relict. At length she emerged again into the world, and love and admiration every where followed her. She refused many offers; amongst others, the noble Duke lately at the head of administration loudly proclaimed his discontent at her refusal. But the daughter of Mary Clement was destined to royalty! Whether his Royal Highness first endeavoured to obtain her good wishes on easier terms than those of marriage, will always remain doubtful; but certain it is that the Duke of Gloucester and the Dowager of the Earl Waldegrave were married some years before he took the title of Prince, or their marriage was announced.

This alliance now is acknowledged in every court in Europe; many of which the royal pair have distinguished by their residence. Two children, a Prince and Princess, are the fruits of their marriage; and it is within the bounds of probability, that the descendants of the postmaster at Darlington may one day sway the British sceptre.

These authentic anecdotes may be important to the future historians of this country; and to them they are dedicated.

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