

THE STAR AND BANNER.

BY D. A. & C. H. BUEHLER.

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"Honor Thy Parents,"

What can be more beautiful than the following simple and touching narrative: As a stranger went into the church yard of a pretty village, he beheld three children at a newly made grave. A boy of about ten years was busily engaged in planting plants of turf about it, whilst a girl, who appeared a year or two younger, held in her apron a few roots of wild flowers. The third child, still younger, was sitting on the grass, watching with thoughtful looks the movements of the other two. They were pieces of scraps on their straw hats, and a few other signs of mourning, such as are sometimes worn by the poor who struggle between poverty and affliction.

The girl soon began planting some of her wild flowers around the head of the grave, when the stranger thus addressed them: "Whose grave is this, children, about which you are so busily engaged?" "Mother's grave, sir," said the boy. "And did your father send you to place these flowers round your mother's grave?" "No, sir, father lies here too, and little Willie, and sister Jane."

"When did they die?" "Mother was buried a fortnight yesterday, sir, but father died last winter—they all lie here."

"Then who told you to do this?" "Nobody, sir," replied the girl. "Why, then, do you do it?" "They appeared at a loss for an answer; but the stranger looked so kindly at them, that at length the eldest replied, as the tears started out of his eyes: "O, we did love them, sir."

What can be more beautiful than such an exhibition of children honoring the memory of departed parents! Reader are you an orphan! Never forget the dear parents who loved and cherished you in your infant days. Ever remember your parental kindness. Honor their memory by doing those things which you know would please them if they were now alive; by a particular regard to their dying commands; and by carrying on their plans of usefulness. Ever treat them as you wish you had done, when you stand a lonely orphan at their graves. How will a remembrance of kind and affectionate conduct towards those departed friends, and help to soothe your grief and heal your wounded hearts. Honor thy parents!

CHINESE COSTUME.

A SHOOL EXERCISE, OF THE EIGHTH CENTURY.

In a recent article we collected for the entertainment of our young friends, out of Guizot's lectures, some of the holy legends which formed the delight and solace of the refined and educated in the fifth and sixth centuries. From the same author we will now give them a specimen of the school instruction, dispensed in the palace of Charlemagne, between the years 782 and 798, to a select class consisting of the young courtiers and relatives of that monarch, who was usually himself present at the exercises. This school, called the School of the Palace, was superintended by a learned philosopher, named Alcuin, who was born at the city of York in England, about the year 736, and being sent on a mission to Rome in 780, he met Charlemagne in Parma. The emperor at once pressed him to take up his abode in France, to which he consented, and presiding over the School of the Palace and his pupils always accompanied the emperor on his journeys. M. Guizot supposes that the instruction was conveyed principally in conversation, and among others Alcuin had for his auditors, Charles, Pepin, and Louis, the sons of Charlemagne, Gisela his daughter, and his sister the same name. Agobert and Adalhard, his private counsellors, with Gunrade the sister of Adalhard, and Eoltrude, a nun. A curious specimen of one of these school exercises has come down to the present day, which though periclit when considered as a means of education, deserves attention as an evidence of the eager curiosity with which the mind, in its rude infancy, ranges over the greatest variety of subjects, and delights to take in odd combinations and ingenious ideas. It is a conversation between Alcuin and Pepin, Charlemagne's second son, at that period a youth of fifteen or sixteen; parts of it here follow:

- Pepin. What is writing?
Alcuin. The keeper of history.
P. What is speaking?
A. The utterance of the soul.
P. What is the tongue?
A. The tongue.
P. What is the voice?
A. The voice of the heart.
P. What is life?
A. Happiness for the happy; misery for the miserable; the expectation of death.
P. What is death?
A. An inevitable event; a doubtful journey; a subject of tears for the living; a confirmation of wills; a robber of the living.
P. What is man?
A. The slave of death, a passing traffic, a guest in his abode.
P. How is man pleased?
A. As a traveller exposed to the world.
P. Where is he placed?
A. Between six walls.
P. What are they?
A. That above, that below, that on the right, that on the left, that in front, that behind.
P. What is the body?
A. The abode of the soul.
P. What is light?
A. The torch of all things.
P. What is the sun?
A. The splendor of the universe, the beauty of the firmament, the grace of nature, the glory of the day, the distributor of the hours.
P. What is the earth?
A. The mother of all that grows, the source of all that exists, the granary of life, the gulf which swallows up all things.
P. What is winter?
A. The exile of spring.
P. What is spring?
A. The painter of the earth.
P. What is summer?
A. The power which clothes the earth, and ripens fruits.
P. What is autumn?
A. The granary of the year.
P. What is the year?
A. The charter of the world.
P. What is a ship?
A. A ship is a wandering house, an inn ready in all places, a traveller who leaves no trace behind him.
P. What is it that renders better things sweet?
A. Hunger.
P. What is it of which men never grow weary?
A. Gain.
P. What is marvellous?
A. I saw the other day a man standing, a dead man walking, a man walking who never breathed.
P. How may that have been? Explain yourself.
A. It was an image reflected in the water.
P. How could I have failed to understand you? I who have so often seen the same thing.
A. As you are a youth of good disposition, and endowed with natural capacity, I will put to you several other unusual questions; endeavor to solve them.
P. I will do my best; if I make mistakes, you must correct them.
A. Doubtless. Some one who is unknown to me has conversed with me, having no tongue, and no voice; he was neither before, and will not be hereafter, and I neither know him, nor know him. What means this?
P. Perhaps you mean a dream, master.
A. Dreams are my son's enemies.
P. I have seen the dead engraver of the living, and the dead contained by the breath of the living.
P. How was produced by nothing to gather the dead branches, and then re-joined the branches.
A. You are quite accurate.
P. Wife, wife, what has become of the grapes?
A. I suppose, my dear, the hens have picked them off; I was the moderator reply. "Hence—hence—some two-legged beast, I guess," said the husband, with some impetuosity, to which she calmly replied, "My dear, did you ever see any other kind?"

A GREAT DISCOVERY.

The following paragraph from one of our exchanges communicates a discovery which promises "to take the shine off" of anything that has been found out lately, as well as from the hair of hoary-headed gentlemen:

"A distinguished General (Twiggs) returned from the Mexican war covered with glory." He had, however, two marks of hard service which laurels could not hide—as they did Caesar's baldness. One was a head as white as wool, and the other a cutaneous eruption on the forehead. For the latter he was advised to try a mixture of sulphur and sugar of lead, and rose water. In applying it, some of the mixture moistened the hair on the forehead, and after a while that part of his hair resumed the original color. He then applied the mixture to all his hair, and it became, and now is, of its primitive sandy blue. He communicated it to some friends in Washington, especially to some ex-members who are widowers, and seeking preferment—and it has been found efficacious in every instance. It does not dye the hair, but seems to operate upon the roots, and restore the original color.

"The receipt is as follows: I drachm Sac-Sulphur, 1 drachm Sugar of Lead, 3 oz. Rose Water, mix them and shake the phial on using the mixture, and bath the hair twice a day for a week, or longer if necessary."
The receipt is not correct. It should read, Lac Sulphur, not Sac Sulphur, and the proportions are not put down according to the original receipt. This was as follows: Sugar of Lead 1 drachm, Lac Sulphur 2 drachms, Rose Water four ounces.

The Lac Sulphur is almost insoluble, and the probability is, that the Sugar of Lead is the only potential ingredient. Of the effect of the mixture, if properly used, there can be no doubt. It will change gray hair to a brown, and its effect upon the growth and healthiness of the hair is decidedly beneficial. It cleanses the scalp, and we have observed, that during its use, the hair is not apt to come out.

We think the proportion of Sugar of Lead ought to be doubled. That is, to four ounces, apothecary weight or measure, of water, there should be of sugar of lead and lac sulphur, each, two drachms.

Rose Water is directed to be used, but it is not essential. Where much of the mixture is consumed, it makes it rather costly. Indeed, the Rose Water is the only expensive ingredient in it. Soft water will do as well, and wherever used, the mixture can be rendered sweet smelling, with cologne.

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS.

APPLE TREES.—A writer in one of the New England papers, on the subject of Fruit Trees, gives us the following hints, which are worthy the consideration of our farmers:

"A single lateral and over-topping branch, if of some size, is sure to cripple, to the injury of the growth of the one you engage; and the intensity of this effect, as seen all about the country, should think might correct the system of many set otherwise excellent operators. The remedy is to fill all the considerable topmost branches of such, and clip, at the season advances, the corresponding spits of those you leave as vigorous."

"Respecting the size and age of trees for planting, it is going to be known, that vigor, and all the turning point of practicability. No one has lived long enough in our country to see a well conditioned apple tree, we mean one in a moist and fertile soil, with a little road waste, and not having had too many of its top roots left off by the plough, die with age; and we would point to one of these, about twelve feet in diameter, and a hundred years old, a perfect model for planting; and, when done, an orchard in itself, and what is more, productive in three years. Another thing to be known is, that most any tree, hollow-hearted, can be regenerated by cutting it down, and having generally succeeded in reviving the most sickly. My plan is, to dig carefully about the roots, being careful not to scarify them, and to apply stimulating manure, or the wash from the highway. It is surprising, how quickly the trees will respond to this regimen. The effects of the remedy become almost immediately apparent; the foliage assumes a deeper and more luxuriant green, new sprouts are produced, and everything indicates an augmentation of vigor throughout the system. The new wood frequently forms around the old wound, and in this, I believe it is, leaving the outside of the trunk almost as smooth as though no wound had ever existed. In rejuvenating old apple trees, it is very important that the bark should be thoroughly and frequently cleaned of all parasites and impurities. We are told, by medical writers, that cleanliness is essential to the health of the human body; that dirt attracts the pores, prevents salubrity, and induces disease. By a series of experiments, we are warranted in supposing, the same to be the case in respect to trees. More on the subject of pruning, should be removed by careful and judicious pruning, and the surface purified by washing thoroughly with kerosene, or soap suds. White wash should never be applied to any living tree, but should be used directly and powerfully to cleanse the surface of a tree, and to prevent the growth of parasites, and opening, and keeping open the pores. Soap suds is equally as effective, and forms no coating upon the surface, and all things considered, is the best article that can be applied."

TRICKS UPON ANIMALS.—In breaking or managing a horse, however intractable or stubborn his temper may be, preserve your own. Almost every kind of trick is done from ignorance. Be patient with him, teach him and train him, and success will be certain. There are tricks, however, which are the result of cruel and malicious treatment, and these sometimes require a different treatment. A horse accustomed to staying and bawling away, may be effectually cured by putting him to the top of the spread on each side, and stopping him till pretty thoroughly exhausted.

SLAVE HUNTER KILLED BY A FORTYVYR.—John A. Butler, of Edgely, District No. 3, C., was killed on the 23d ult., by a runaway slave which he was in chase of, and was about to be shot for having fled from his grasp.

By six qualities a fool may be known: Anger without cause, without provocation, change without notice, inquiry without object, putting trust in a stranger, and wanting the capacity to discriminate a friend from a foe.

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