

Gems.

When Anacharsis, the Scythian, was travelling in Greece, he was reproached by an Athenian with the barbarity of his native land. "It is true," replied Anacharsis, "that my country is a disgrace to me, but you are a disgrace to your country."

At almost every step in life we meet with young men from whom we anticipate wonderful things, but of whom, after careful enquiry, we never hear another word. Like certain chintzes, calicoes, and gingham, they show finely on their first newness, but cannot stand the sun and rain, and assume a very sober aspect after washing-day. —NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE.

A man who knows the world will not only make the most of everything he does know, but of many things he does not know, and will gain more credit by his adroit mode of hiding his ignorance than the pedant by his awkward attempt to exhibit his erudition. —COTTON.

It is an excellent circumstance that hospitality grows best where it is most needed. In the thick of men it dwindles and disappears, like fruit in the thick of a wood; but where men are planted sparsely it blossoms and matures like apples on a standard or espalier. It flourishes where the inn and lodging-house cannot exist. —HUGH MILLER.

All pleasure must be bought at the price of pain. The difference between false pleasure and true pleasure is put thus: for the true, the price is paid before you enjoy it; for the false, after you enjoy it. —JOHN FOSTER.

Price is as cruel a beggar as want, and a great deal more saucy. When you have bought one fine thing you must buy ten more, that your appearance may be all of a piece. It is easier to suppress the first desire than to satisfy all that follows it. —BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

Troubles are usually the brooms and shovels that smooth the road to a good man's fortune, of which he little dreams; and many a man curses the rain that falls upon his head, and knows not that it brings abundance to drive away hunger.

Boast not the titles of your ancestors' brave youth;
They're their possessions, none of yours.
When your own virtues equal'd have their names
'Twill be but fair to lean upon their fames,
For they are strong supporters; but till then
The greatest are but growing gentlemen.

Many politicians are in the habit of laying it down as a self-evident proposition, that no people ought to be free till they are fit to use their freedom. The maxim is worthy of the fool in the old story, who resolved not to go into the water till he had learned to swim! —MACAULAY.

When thou art obliged to speak, be sure to speak the truth; for equivocation is half way to lying, and lying is the whole way to hell. —WILLIAM PENN.

Laziness grows on people: it begins in cobwebs and ends in iron chains. The more business a man has to do, the more he is able to accomplish, for he learns to economize his time. —JUDGE HALL.

Nothing is more silly than the pleasure some people take in "speaking their minds." A man of this make will say a rude thing, for the mere pleasure of saying it, when an opposite behaviour, full as innocent, might have preserved his friend, or made his fortune. —STEELE.

Curved is the line of Beauty;
Straight is the line of Duty;
Walk by the last, and thou wilt see
The other ever follow thee.

A good wife is Heaven's last, best gift to man, his gem of many virtues, his casket of jewels; her voice is sweet music, her smile his brightest day, her kiss the guardian of his innocence, her arms the pole of his safety, her industry his surest wealth, her economy his safest steward, her lips his faithful counsellors; her bosom the safest pillow of his cares. —JEREMY TAYLOR.

Women govern us; let us render them perfect; the more they are enlightened, so much the more shall we be. On the cultivation of the mind of woman depends the wisdom of men. It is by women that nature writes on the hearts of men. —SHERIDAN.

'Tis beauty that doth oft make women proud;
'Tis beauty that doth make them most admired;
'Tis modesty that makes them seem divine.

—SHAKESPEARE.

A woman has two smiles that an angel might envy: the smile that accepts a lover afore words are uttered, and the smile that lights on the first-born baby, and assures him of a mother's love. —HALLIBURTON.

Nothing is so contagious as enthusiasm; it is the real allegory of the tale of Orpheus; it moves stones; it charms brutes. Enthusiasm is the genius of sincerity, and truth accomplishes no victories without it. —BUTLER.

Experience keeps a dear school, but fools will learn in no other, and scarcely in that; for it is true we may give *advice*, but we cannot give *conduct*. Remember this: that they that will not be counselled cannot be helped. If you do not hear reason, she will rap your knuckles. —FRANKLIN.

WHY IS IT SO?

Some find work where others rest,
And so the weary world goes on;
I sometimes wonder what is best;
The answer comes when life is gone.
And so the dreary night hours go;
Some hearts beat where some hearts break,
Some eyes sleep when some hearts break,
I often wonder why 'tis so.
Some hands fold where other hands
Are lifted bravely in the strife;
And so thro' ages and thro' lands
Move on the two extremities of life.
Some feet halt while some feet tread,
In the tireless march, a thorny way;
Some struggle on where some have fled,
Some seek, where others shun the day.
Some sleep on while others keep
The vigils of the true and brave;
They will not rest till roses creep
Around their names above the grave.

—Father Ryan, in 'Detroit Free Press'

THE BIBLE IN THE SCHOOLS.

(DUNEDIN 'EVENING STAR'.)

The following fragment was picked up to day outside of the Stuart street Oddfellows' Hall, where the Educational Institute is to meet to-morrow. [We did not know till now that there were Seers amongst the Dominies. Ed. E.S.]

TIME, 1890.

Scene. State School, not a hundred miles from Dunedin. Bible Lessons being given by the Headmaster.

Pupil reads Matthew xxii., verse 21: "They say unto him 'Caesar's.' Then he saith unto them, 'Render therefore unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and God the things that are God's.'"

Master (examining the class): What is meant by Caesar, and Caesar's?

Pupil A: Caesar was a Roman Emperor.

Master: But what is meant by rendering unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's?

Pupil B: Giving to him all that belongs to him.

Master: What belonged to him?

Pupil A: A coin, with his head on it.

Master: That may have once belonged to him. But this verse has a particular meaning. Caesar here stands for Government, and in some things we must recognise the Government. What things do the Government do?

Pupil D: They look after the Railways.

Pupil E: They look after Schools.

Pupil F: The policemen are Government men.

Master: Can you tell me some things that we are not to look to Government for?

Pupil A: Food.

Pupil G: Religion. Government, papa says, should never meddle with Churches and Religion.

Master: Yes, boys, our Religion is a matter between us and God alone; and that is what is meant by rendering unto God the things that are God's.

Pupil G holds up his hand.

Master: Well, Gilbert, what is it?

Pupil G: Please, sir, is this a Government School?

Master: Of course it is.

Pupil G: Is the Bible a religious book?

Master: Profoundly so; but what makes you ask these questions?

Pupil G: Please, sir, papa says that the Government should not teach Religion.

Master: Well, boys, that is a question I cannot say anything about. All I know is that some years ago some people thought that folks would get mad if the Bible was not taught in schools.

Pupil G: Please sir is that fulfilling the verse?

Master: Well, boys, I cannot say.

Pupil H: Please, sir, why does Thomas Jones not come to Bible lesson? He is out in the shed now, and it is cold and wet.

Master: His papa objects.

Pupil H: Is it naughty not to read the Bible? We all like Thomas Jones, and his father is very good to us.

Master: Boys, it is time for writing lesson.