

FATHER PROUT.

In deep dejection, but with affection,
I often think of those pleasant times,
In the days of Fraser, ere I touched a razor,
How I read and revelled in thy racy rhymes;
When in wine and wassail we to thee were vassal,
Of Water-grass hill, O renowned "F. P."—
May the bells of Shandon
Toll blythe and bland on
The pleasant waters of thy memory.
Full many a ditty both wise and witty,
In this social city have I heard since then—
(With the glass before me, now the dreams come o'er me,
Of those attic suppers and these vanished men!)
But no song hath woken, whether sung or spoken,
Or hath left a token of such joy in me,
As the bells of Shandon
That sound so grand on
The pleasant waters of the River Lee.
The songs melodious, which a new Harmonious—
"Young Ireland" wreathed around its rebel sword,
With their deep vibrations and aspirations,
Flung a glorious madness o'er the festive board.
But to me seems sweeter, the melodious metre
Of the simplest lyric that we owed to thee—
Of the bells of Shandon
That sound so grand on
The pleasant waters of the River Lee.
There's a grave that rises on thy sward, Devizes,
Where Moore lies sleeping from this land afar,
And a white stone flashes o'er Goldsmith's ashes
In the quiet cloister by Temple Bar;
So where'er thou sleepest, with a love that's deepest
Shall thy land remember thy sweet song and thee,
While the bells of Shandon
Shall sound so grand on
The pleasant waters of the River Lee.

WAIFS AND STRAYS.

THE COMPLEXITY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS.—In his "Study of Sociology," Mr Herbert Spencer, by the following petty illustrations, rebukes the folly of the political quacks who believe that the evils of society are to be remedied by some cheap specific they have invented:—"You see that this wrought-iron plate is not quite flat; it sticks up a little here towards the left—'cockles,' as we say. How shall we flatten it? Obviously, you reply, by hitting down on the part that is prominent. Well, here is a hammer, and I give the plate a blow as you advise. Harder, you say? Still no effect. Another stroke? Well, there is one, and another, and another. The prominence remains, you see; the evil is as great as ever—greater, indeed. But that is not all. Look at the warp which the plate has got near the opposite edge. Where it was flat it is now curved. A pretty bungle we have made of it. Instead of curing the original defect, we have produced a second. Had we asked an artisan practised in 'planishing,' as it is called, he would have told us that no good was to be done, but only mischief by hitting down on the projecting part. He would have taught us how to give variously-directed and specially adjusted blows with a hammer elsewhere; so attacking the evil not by direct but by indirect actions. The required process is less simple than you thought. Even a sheet of iron is not to be successfully dealt with after those common-sense methods in which you have so much confidence. What, then, shall we say about society? 'Do you think I am easier to be played on than a pipe?' asks Hamlet. Is humanity more readily straightened than an iron plate?"

RELATIVE SIZES OF COUNTRIES AND SEAS.—The 'Country Gentleman' lately gave the comparative latitudes of some prominent places on the globe. It may be well now to furnish some comparative sizes, in round numbers:—The Red Sea would reach from Washington to Colorado, and it is three times as wide as Lake Ontario. Madagascar is as large as New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina, all put together. Palestine is one-fourth the size of New York. Hindostan is more than a hundred times as large as Palestine. Great Britain is two-thirds the size of Japan, one-twelfth the size of Hindostan, one-twentieth of China, and one-twenty-fifth of the United States. Greece is about the size of Vermont. The English Channel is nearly as large as Lake Superior, and Lake Huron as large as the Sea of Azof. The great Desert of Africa has nearly the present dimensions of the United States. The Caspian Sea would stretch from New York to St. Augustine, and it is as wide as from New York to Rochester. The following bodies of water are nearly equal in size: German Ocean, Black Sea, Yellow Sea; Hudson's Bay is rather larger; the Baltic, Adriatic, Persian Gulf, and Egean Sea, about half as large, and somewhat larger than Lake Superior. The Mediterranean, if placed across North America, would make sea navigation from San Diego to Baltimore. The Gulf of Mexico is about ten times the size of Lake Superior, and about as large as the Sea of Kamchatka, Bay of Bengal, China Sea, Okhotsk Sea, or Japan Sea. Lake Ontario would go into either of them more than fifty times. Great Britain and Ireland are about as large as New Mexico, but not as large as Iowa and Nebraska. They are less than New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

LAUGHTER ANALYSED.—Most of the philosophers who have set to work to define mental sensations insists that laughter supposes a feeling of superiority in the laughter over the laughed at; but they seem to overlook the great distinction between laughing at and laughing with any one. Doubtless a feeling of contempt often raises a laugh, and the absurdities of men and women are a constant food for

laughter; but humorists often laugh at themselves. Nothing will illustrate better the absurdity of the wholesale statement that laughter implies contempt than Charles Lamb's relation to Coleridge. He constantly laughed and joked at the preaching of the philosopher, but he revered his friend of fifty years, and looked up to him with childish love. A 'Westminster Reviewer' defines the cause of laughter as the representation of objects with qualities opposite to their own; but all incongruities do not cause laughter. Ludicrous incongruity is opposed to dignity, and this is why those who have little wisdom to fall back upon hate a laugh. Lord Bolingbroke said that gravity is the very essence of imposture; and Joe Miller is the authority for the assertion that as the gravest beast is the ass, the gravest bird is an owl, and the gravest fish is an oyster, so that the gravest man is a fool. If any one is inclined to doubt Joe Miller's dictum, we can corroborate it by the authority of Plato, who, when indulging in the gaiety of his heart, used some times to say, "Silence, my friends! let us be wise now; here is a fool coming." Lord Chesterfield was no fool, and he disapproved of laughter; but he allowed his son to smile, for he did not advocate gravity. He considered laughter as ill-bred, not only on account of the disagreeable noise, but because of the "shocking distortion of the face that it occasioned!"

A MISUSED TITLE.—The title of esquire (with us frequently abbreviated squire) originated in chivalric times, when sons of gentlemen, from the age of seven years, were brought up in the castles of superior lords—which was an inestimable advantage to the poorer nobility, who could not otherwise have given their children the accomplishments of their station. From seven to fourteen these boys were called pages, or valets; at fourteen, they bore the name of esquire. They were instructed in the management of arms, in the art of horsemanship, in exercises of strength and activity, so as to fit them for tournament and battle, and the milder glories of chivalrous gallantry. Long after the decline of chivalry the word was only used in a limited sense for the sons of peers and knights, or such as obtained the title by creation or some other legal means. Blackstone defines esquire to be all who bear office of trust under the crown, and who are styled esquires by the king in their commissions and appointment; and being once honored by the king with the title of esquire, they, and only they, have a right to that distinction for life.

USES OF WASTE PAPER.—Few housekeepers are aware of the many uses to which waste paper may be put. After a stove has been blacked, it can be kept looking well for a long time by rubbing it with paper every morning. Rubbing it with paper is a much nicer way of keeping the outside of a tea kettle clean than the old way of washing it in suds. Rubbing them with paper is also the best way of polishing knives and tinware after scouring them. If a little soap be held on the paper in rubbing tinware and spoons, they shine like new silver. For polishing mirrors, windows, lamp chimneys, etc., paper is better than dry cloth. Preserves and pickles keep better if brown paper instead of cloth is tied over the jar. Canned fruit is not apt to mould in a piece of writing paper, cut to fit each can, if laid directly upon the fruit. Paper is much better to put under carpets than straw. It is thinner, warmer and makes less noise when one walks over it. Two thicknesses of paper placed between the other coverings on a bed are as warm as a quilt. If it is necessary to step upon a chair, always lay a paper upon it, and thus save the paint and wood-work from damage.

SKIN-GRAFTING.—Dr. Bell's method of skin-grafting, as performed in numerous cases at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, has proved very successful. In procuring portions of skin for this purpose he takes them from some sound portion of the patient's body, preferably from the arm. A piece of skin is pinched up by a pair of common catch-forceps, and cut off to the required size with a pair of scissors. This piece is divided into smaller pieces about the size of a grain of rice, and is planted among the granulations of the ulcer by means of a probe, one small piece being sufficient for about a square inch of surface. Over each of the grafts is laid a gutta-percha tissue, half a square inch in size, previously dipped in some antiseptic solution. The ulcer is then covered by two layers of similar pieces of gutta-percha tissue, placed on each other in an imbricated manner, and over these a dressing of antiseptic gauze and a bandage; this dressing is not removed for two or three days, when it is replaced as at first. To insure success, before grafting the ulcers should be free from fetor, and the dressing changed under spray.

EXERTION.—Exertion is the price of a noble life. The pursuit of a noble object adorns and elevates and ennobles and revives life. Without a definite aim, life is like a rudderless ship drifting about between life and death, buffeted by the winds of circumstances, and entirely at the mercy of the waves. While one with folded arms waits for future opportunities, another makes the meanest occurrences subservient to a golden result. One labors to find something to do; the other labors to do something. When the Alps intercepted his line of march, Napoleon said, "There shall be no Alps!" When difficulties from poverty and difficulties from opposition of friends beset him, Franklin resolutely determined there shall be no difficulties. Greatness has in its vocabulary no such words as fail. Happy is he who, at the sunset of life, can recall the years that have gone swift-footed by without bringing before him a fearful array of squandered opportunities.

PREVENTING FLIES FROM ANNOYING HORSES.—According to Rochard, a French veterinary surgeon, a simple method of preventing flies from annoying horses consists in painting the inside of the ears, or any other part especially troubled, with a few drops of empyreumatic oil of juniper. It is said that the odour of this substance is unendurable to flies, and that they will keep at a distance from the parts so anointed. If this treatment should accomplish the alleged result, it may perhaps be equally applicable in repelling mosquitoes from the faces and hands of tourists and sportsmen, when passing through woods and meadows.

Only seven Popes have lived beyond the age of his present Holiness—eighty-three.

Eighteen thousand English women attached their signatures to the memorial for woman's suffrages presented to Mr Disraeli.