

FAMILIAR QUOTATIONS.

MANY familiar quotations are, in the majority of cases, ascribed to false sources, and we find the happy thoughts of gifted authors slipping readily from our tongue; but we have only a confused idea, if any, of whose wit we are borrowing. How many of the eager questioners who have been met with "Ask me no questions and I'll tell you no lies," know that the tantalizing response is a direct quotation from Goldsmith? To him we are also indebted for "These little things are great to little men." And in Goldsmith's "Hermit" we find, "Man wants but little here below, nor wants that little long;" but earlier than that, Dr. Young had said in his "Night Thoughts" "Man wants but little, nor that little long." "All that glitters is not gold," is from Shakspeare. A question arose at a small party as to the origin of a line familiar to nearly every one present, "What shades we are, what shadows we pursue!" And after great diversity of opinion and considerable search it was found that not one of the company had given the true source. It is from a speech of Edmund Burke's, delivered at Bristol, on declaring the poll in 1789. Pope is commonly, but unjustly, credited with the authorship of the popular quotation, "Immodest words admit of no defence, for want of decency is want of sense." It may be found in Lord Roscommon's essay on Translated Verses, which is also the source of "Choose an author as you choose a friend." Daniel Defoe is quoted as the author of the proverb, 'God no sooner builds a church than the devil puts up a chapel.' Defoe wrote a poem, one verse of which was as follows:—

Wherever God erects a house of prayer,
The devil is sure to build a chapel there:
And 'twill be found, upon examination,
The latter has the largest congregation.

But in writing this Defoe only versified a well-known proverb of his day. Burton, in his "Anatomy of Melancholy," says:—"Where God hath a temple, the devil will have a chapel;" and Herbert in his "Jacula Prudentum," expressed the same idea. "Though the mills of God grind slowly, yet they grind exceedingly small," may be found among Longfellow's "Poetic Aphorisms," and is a translation from Fredrick von Logan, a writer of the 17th century. From Pope's rich stores of thought we gather many popular maxims. "Pleased with a rattle, tickled with a straw;" "Whatever is, is right;" "Order is Heaven's first law;" "Honor and fame from no condition rise;" "An honest man's the noblest work of God;" may be found in Pope's "Essay on Man." In his "Essay on Criticism," "A little learning is a dangerous thing;" "To err is human, to forgive divine;" "Fools rush in where angels fear to tread;" "Your ease in writing comes from art, not chance—as those more easiest who have learned to dance." The well-known line, "Well should you practise who so well can preach;" occurs in his "Wife of Bath." There is an Italian proverb used in the extravagance of flattery expressive of this idea "When nature made thee she broke the mould." Byron uses it in the closing lines of his monody on the death of Sheridan:—

Sighing that nature formed but one such man,
And broke the die in moulding Sheridan.

"We live in deeds, not years," "Life is but a means unto an end," and "All up-hill work when we would do, all down-hill work when we would suffer," are quotations from Bailey's "Festus." For some time there was considerable perplexity as to the origin of the familiar line, "Though lost to sight to memory dear," but it has been finally settled that it originated with Ruthven Jenkynes, and was first published in the Greenwich Magazines for Mariners, in 1701. "Through thick and thin," "None but the brave deserve the fair," and "Death and death's half-brother sleep," are from Dryden. "Tis distance lends enchantment to the view," and "Like angels' visits, few and far between," are from Campbell's "Pleasures of Hope." In a collection of old songs, published in the sixteenth century, we find "The darkest hour is just before the dawn." To those great store-houses of wise sayings, Shakspeare's works, the following owe their origin: "Double, double, toil and trouble," "Curses not loud but deep," "Make assurance doubly sure," "We shall not look upon his like again," and so many others that we find it dangerous with our limited space to even make a commencement. But while we owe a large debt of gratitude to Shakspeare, he usurps the credit of many good things others have written; the line, "a fellow-feeling makes one wondrous kind," being one instance. This was written by Garrick in the occasional prologue spoken by him on leaving the stage. Scripture is often misquoted as Shakspeare, and vice versa, probably because Shakspeare was indebted to the Scriptures for many of his illustrations, and in reading his works we are frequently reminded of the Bible—not so much by a decided imitation of style as by an elevation of thought and simplicity of speech not found elsewhere. "The good die first, and they whose hearts are dry as summer dust burn to the socket," is from Wordsworth's "Excursion." "Blessings brighten as they take their flight," from Young's "Night Thoughts." God made the country and man made the town," from Cowper's "Task," which is also the source of "The cup that cheers, but not inebriates," and the oft-quoted line, "Not much the worse of wear." Congreve, in his play of the "Old Bachelor," gives us "Married in haste, we may repent at leisure;" and "Music bath charms to soothe the savage breast," is by the same author, and occurs in his "Mourning Bride." "Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise," is in Grey's Ode on Eton College. "Christmas comes but once a year," and "It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good," were written by Thomas Tusser in 1580. "Straws show which way the wind blows," by James Chatham, and "Out of sight out of mind," by Lord Brooke.

WAIFS AND STRAYS.

ENGLISH FACTORY CHILDREN.—The degeneration of the Manchester (England) factory children is attributed by Dr. Ferguson to the fact that, instead of being brought up on milk, as formerly, they are now reared on tea and coffee from the time they are weaned, which they imbibe, not only in the morning, but often three times a day. Dr. Ferguson has found that, when fed on milk twice a day, feeble children between 13 and 15 years grow nearly four times as fast as children fed on tea or coffee, whose growth between the years mentioned does not exceed four pounds a year, whereas the children fed on milk night and morning grow 15 pounds a year. At least one-half of the boys in the mills, from 12 to 20 years of age, either smoke or chew tobacco, or both; and this operates prejudicially to their growth.

THE NEWSPAPER BUSINESS.—The newspaper business is very exacting on all connected with it, and the pay is comparatively small; the proprietors risk more money for smaller profits, and the editors and reporters and printers work harder and cheaper than the same number of men in any other profession requiring the given amount of intelligence, training and drudgery. The life has its charms and pleasant associations, scarcely known to the outside world; but it has its earnest work and anxieties and hours of exhaustion, which also are not known to those who think the business all fun. The idea that newspaperdom is a charmed circle, where the favored members live a life of ease and free from care, and go to the circus at night on a free ticket and to the springs on a free pass in the summer, is an idea which we desire to explode practically and theoretically. Business is business, and the journal that succeeds is the one that is run on a square business footing, the same as banking or building bridges, keeping an hotel or running a livery stable.

EARLIEST EXPLORATIONS OF THE SEA BOTTOM.—So far as I have been able to discover, the first successful attempt to bring up from great depths more of the sea bottom than would adhere to a sounding-lead, was made by Sir John Ross, in the voyage to the arctic regions which he undertook in 1818. In the appendix to the narrative of that voyage, there will be found an account of a very ingenious apparatus called "chalmers"—a sort of double scoop—of his own contrivance, which Sir John Ross had made by the ship's armorer; and by which, being in Baffin's Bay, in 72° 30' north, and 77° 15' west, he succeeded in bringing up from 1,050 fathoms (or 6,300 feet) "several pounds" of a "fine green mud," which formed the bottom of the sea in this region. Captain (now Sir Edward) Sabine, who accompanied Sir John Ross on this cruise, says of this mud that it was "soft and greenish, and that the lead sunk several feet into it." A similar "fine green mud" was found to compose the sea bottom in Davis Straits by Goodsir in 1845. Nothing is certainly known of the exact nature of the mud thus obtained, but we shall see that the mud at the bottom of the antarctic seas is described in curiously similar terms by Dr. Hooker, and there is no doubt as to the composition of this deposit.—Professor Huxley, in "Popular Science Monthly" for May.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLE OF MAN.—Acts of the British Parliament do not affect the Isle of Man. The government consists of the House of Keys, the Council, and the governor. These three make the laws which govern the island, and their concurrence is essential to every legislative enactment. The House of Keys (the congress of the island) consists of twenty-four representatives, who are not elected by suffrage; they are selected by their own body. When a vacancy occurs, two names are presented to the governor, one of whom he nominates, who then takes his seat for life. The Council consists of the Bishop of Man, the attorney-general, the judges or deemsters, etc. It may be regarded as the House of Lords.

ESQUIMAUX DARING.—The roving and courageous habits of the Esquimaux are strikingly illustrated in the following passage from McLean's narrative of 'Service in Hudson's Bay Territories':—"A greater number of Esquimaux were assembled about the post on the south side of Hudson's Straits, than I had yet seen; and among them I was surprised to find a family from the north side of the Strait, and still more astonished when I learned the way they had crossed. A raft formed of pieces of drift wood picked up along the shore, afforded the means of effecting the hazardous enterprise. On questioning them what was their object in risking their lives in so extraordinary a manner, they replied that they wanted wood to make canoes, and visit the Esquimaux on the south side of the Strait. 'And what if you had been overtaken by a storm?' said I. 'We should have gone to the bottom,' was the cool reply. In fact they had had a very narrow escape, a storm having come on just as they landed. The fact of these people having crossed Hudson's Bay on so rude and frail a conveyance, strongly corroborates, I think, the idea that America was originally peopled from Asia. The Asiatic side of Behring Straits, affording timber sufficiently large for the purpose of building boats or canoes, there seems nothing improbable in supposing that, when once in possession of that wonderful and useful invention, a boat, they might be induced, even by curiosity, to visit the nearest island, and thence proceed to the Continent of America."

WHY SOME PEOPLE ARE POOR.—Silver spoons are used to scrape kettles. Coffee, tea, pepper and spices are left to stand open and lose their strength. Potatoes in the cellar grow, and the sprouts are not removed until the potatoes become worthless. Brooms are never hung up and are soon spoiled. Nice handled knives are thrown into hot water. The flour is sifted in a wasteful manner, and the bread-pan is left with the dough sticking to it. Clothes are left on the line to whip to pieces in the wind. Tubs and barrels are left in the sun to dry and fall apart. Dried fruits are not taken care of in season and become wormy. Rags, string and paper are thrown into the fire. Pork spoils for want of salt, and beef for want of scalding. Bits of meat, vegetables, bread and cold puddings are thrown away, when they might be warmed, steamed, and served as good as new.