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MISCELLANY.

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Prohibition often creates eager and intemperate wishes towards objects; which we should otherwise seek after moderately, if at all."

IT is not an easy question to decide, whether it is a more common fault in education to indulge children too far in certain instances, or to restrict them too rigorously in others. If we take a critical view of human life, we shall probably find a considerable proportion of the most abandoned characters, that disturb and disgrace society, to have originated from parents of very scrupulous piety, and severe and exalted morality. Such over-exact people draw the cords of discipline so hard, that they must inevitably break asunder. They express the strongest detestation, and bear unrelenting testimony against many recreations and pastimes, which only cease to be innocent when carried to excess, and which would seldom be carried to excess, were a proper medium of indulgence seasonably observed.

The children of austere, unaccommodating parents discover a stronger inclination for some pleasures and amusements, which are prohibited, than they do for others, more tempting in themselves, which are not barred by such prohibitions. It is evident therefore that the prohibition itself gives the principal edge to the temptation.

There are two sources of inordinate love of pleasure that should be guarded against. One of them consists in indulging recreation to so great a degree, that we feel pain in refraining from it, because it has become so fixed an habit as not to be laid aside without reluctance. The habit of enjoying constitutes, in this instance, the principal stimulus to gratification. The other source depends on a cause exactly the reverse. Some youth, by being prohibited from diversions, affix an imaginary delight to the enjoyment so much greater than the reality would afford, that their desire to trespass becomes irresistible. They are tempted to taste what is forbidden. Had they been left free, it is ten chances to one, whether the object had contained charms sufficient to attract their attention.—Imagination is on the wing, stamps a value on what is indifferent, and creates a passion which runs into extremes. The ardor of inclination is heightened, by the satisfaction that is felt in violating an unreasonable command, and passing over restrictions that are founded in superstition or austerity.

But this is not the worst of it. When attempts are made to draw children into a belief that all pleasures are vices, and that all vices are equally abominable and injurious, they make no distinction between actions of moral demerit, and those which are only deemed wrong by the caprice, the ignorance or over-exact maxims of their parents. The consequence of such an error is dreadful to think of. A child of common sense may persuade himself that he is forbidden many gratifications which are not intrinsically wrong. From a sprightliness of imagination he will easily be enticed to break over parental authority in such things, as he sees other people practice without inconvenience or reproach. The effect of this disobedience is, that he gradually accustoms himself to disregard the admonitions of his parents, and is instigated into actions which he would never commit, had his parental restrictions been confined within reasonable limits.

The ideas suggested in this number deserve a more ample consideration than can be allowed in a single paper. In my next the subject shall be again introduced.

EXTRACT FROM "AMERICAN ESSAYS."

ON THE MANUFACTURE OF TOBACCO.

COMPARED with Great Britain, America justly claims the superiority in extent of territory and sea coast, multiplicity of safe harbours, variety of climates and productions, with many other natural advantages.

Among some of the powerfully active means now in her possession, may be primarily considered the article of TOBACCO, which is not only productive of immense revenue to some of the European States, but is become from habit, and a general faith in its virtues, of such importance throughout all Europe, that it may at this day with propriety be ranked among their necessities of life. In OSTEND, a free port in Austrian Flanders, where our American tobacco is manufactured in various ways for different markets, I have observed the manufacturers very careful to preserve all the dust, dirt, and sand that appeared to be considerably impregnated with particles of tobacco, to be sent to the British market, there to be further compounded with glass, and other stercoratives, and then sold for genuine pulverized tobacco, or snuff. This is probably the reason why the French manufacture of that article, though not always pure and unadulterated, is in much higher estimation in all countries except America, where I am told there are those who still prefer the British snuff.*

If the various modes of manufacturing tobacco, suitable to all the different markets in Europe were perfectly understood in America, and rigorously pursued in all its branches, vast numbers of now idle people might soon be profitably employed; workmen in every branch may be easily procured from Europe, with all the different machines, or the models—the business would occupy young and old in the various operations—it is less injurious to health than almost any other manufacture—it would open an extensive trade and correspondence, and draw large returns from almost every foreign country: It is the most simple of all arts, and therefore easily acquired at any age, and is probably one of the most important and lucrative objects, that at this particular period could possibly occupy the attention of the New England States.

In the town of DUNKIRK, another free port in French Flanders, large quantities of American tobacco are also manufactured, I have frequently seen Dutch ships loading there with the stalks and other ligneous parts of that weed to be carried to Holland, there to be manufactured into snuff for particular markets.—Sweet, precious, wonder-working weed! that hath the powerful charm to crown the zest of rich luxurious feasts, and to beguile the pangs of poverty! Tobacco is also supposed to possess great medicinal virtues, its anti-septic qualities were particularly remarked so early as the year 1665, when the plague raged in London and carried off near seventy thousand inhabitants: Various narrators of that melancholy event have observed, that the tobaccoists in general escaped the contagion, and that the remarkable preservation of the inhabitants in their neighbourhood could be attributed to no other cause but the virtues of tobacco. The Spaniards and Dutch, particularly those of their colonies smoke continually, believing it to be not only in itself salutary, but the most effectual preservative against the fatal effects of the humid vapours, and other noxious exhalations continually rising from the vast bodies of putrid stagnant waters, as also against all other baneful effluvia that commonly abound, and contaminate the air in all low, flat, and hot countries. And it is a well known fact that the Dutch in SURINAM, and the Spaniards in NEW-ORLEANS, are much less subject to the endemic diseases of those sub-aqueous torrid countries, than the most temperate of every other nation who reside there, and make less use of that weed. I knew two Spaniards in NEW-ORLEANS, who kept servants constantly in waiting in the night, for the sole purpose of lighting their segars as often as they waked, such was their faith in the virtues of tobacco. I do not recollect to have seen a Portuguese in Lisbon, male or female of any age make

* This has been the case—but the citizens of the United States have learnt better—the manufacture of snuff is now carried on so extensively, and it is made of so excellent a quality, that all importation of that article has entirely ceased for a long time—in the State of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, & N. York, such large works are erected, as to furnish sufficient quantities for home consumption, and a large surplus for exportation.—The snuff mills of Mr. ELLIOT in the neighborhood of Boston, are constructed upon a most ingenious and extensive plan—they attract the attention of all foreigners who visit that part of the Union—and are constantly resorted to as a great curiosity by the ingenious from all parts of the continent.—We promise ourselves the pleasure of giving some particulars of this manufactory, in some future number.

use of spectacles, but have often with surprize remarked in very old people the unfaded lustre of their eyes, and have not been able to assign a more probable cause of their preservation, than the universal custom of taking snuff, which prevails in no small degree of excess among all ranks, ages and sexes: It cannot fairly be imputed to any particular quality in the air or climate, as the many English who reside there, and who will not conform to the custom of taking snuff, particularly the ladies because they think it uncleanly, can boast no advantage in this particular over the inhabitants of the island of Great Britain. The French Snuff made of the tobacco from the United States, is greatly preferred by the Portuguese to the snuff manufactured in their own country of the Brazil tobacco, but it is prohibited, and therefore only to be obtained in small quantities by special indulgence. There is very little danger of the Portuguese being able to rival us at any market in that article—their tobacco for exportation is chiefly manufactured in one particular way, principally for the African trade, the privilege is farmed, and therefore exclusive; they use a vast quantity of molasses in the process, which is supposed to be a great preservative in hot climates; the common, and I believe almost invariable price, is two thousand, eight hundred and eighty reis for an arabe, which is about six pence sterling the pound.

A very extensive and lucrative trade with Portugal may be established, when a permanent peace with all the Barbary powers shall render the intercourse less dangerous. They are at present principally supplied by the English and Irish with fish, grain, pulse, pork, beef, butter, cheese, and many other articles, which with due care and attention, might be furnished as good and cheap, and some of them better and cheaper from America: It is found by an accurate investigation, that seven thousand, seven hundred bushels of wheat are consumed daily in the city of LISBON only, exclusive of barley, indian corn, and other grain, as also hard bread and pulse.

E. C.

SKETCH OF THE POLITICAL STATE OF AMERICA.

PERHAPS no country, pretending to understand so well the science of government, and other principles of political economy which tend to the prosperity and welfare of a nation, that practices so little upon them, as this.—It is high time that America should quit her leading strings, and feel the difference between her present situation and what it was when subject to a foreign yoke. It will not suffice that in unmeaning words we assert the importance of our independence; nor shall we be able to realize its just effects, or meet with that respect from other nations which is paid to the different sovereignties of the world, till we strive to conquer the inveterate habits and prejudices imbibed by our mode of education—no longer suffering our commercial concerns to be regulated by the caprice of a foreign power, and made alone subservient to her interest.—It is time that this country should begin to trade on its own capital, and not continue to be the slave or hireling of an imperious master.—It will be said that we are yet young and poor, wanting the aid of a borrowed capital.—I venture to assert that while we go on to borrow it on the present disadvantageous terms we shall be ever poor and helpless. There is no doubt under certain circumstances and conditions, that credit is of essential service in assisting the growth of a young country, and the progress of infant manufactures—but credit often holds out a specious benefit which is not in the end realized; therefore its nature & tendency ought to be carefully examined, before we can determine its benefit. Prior to the revolution, and while we were a component part of the British empire, our interests were united and such exclusive advantages given to the trade of this country, that the credit then had from their merchants, was doubtless serviceable in promoting our increase and strength.—It was then that we could discharge the loan by the product of the business in which the borrowed capital was employed—Our ships, fish, lumber and oil, the natural exports of the country formed our remittances, and the exchange was from 5 to 10 per cent. in our favor; but we are now totally excluded from the advantage of such returns, and compelled to seek other markets for these articles, paying repeated commissions on their negotiation, in order to avail ourselves of the solid coin which seems to be almost the only property receivable in payment for many luxuries, but ill suited to the consumption of a young country continually pleading its poverty, while the rate of exchange, generally the best criterion by which to determine the benefit of a trade, forms a deduction of