

of reading before the academy of sciences, a memoir on certain geometrical curves, invented by himself.

Berkley's *Analyst*, was written with the avowed design, of proving the fallacy of certain parts of mathematics, and that mathematicians are as liable to give credence to as incomprehensible doctrines, as are to be met with in Christianity; the design took its rise from the account of Garth's last conversation with Addison, wherein the former avowed his utter disbelief of the tenets of Christianity, on the authority of Halley, who, he asserted, declared the Christian religion to be incapable of demonstration.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ACCOUNT OF THE LATE MELANCHOLY SHIPWRECK AT BALLYCASTLE.

(Communicated by the Rev. L. A. Conolly.)

ON Saturday the 9th of October, about four o'clock, P. M. a large brig appeared in the dangerous channel between Rathlin and the Irish Coast; a signal of distress waved from her topmast, her sails were rent in several places, and her whole appearance indicated the injuries she had already suffered, and her apprehension of dangers, still greater. At five o'clock the storm became more violent, the waves broke furiously against the steep cliffs, that rise along this bold shore, the brig became unmanageable, she approached a projecting precipice (called from a ruin on its summit the Castle Point) and destruction appeared inevitable. In this deplorable condition the master and crew, amounting in all to nine persons, launched the boat and got in, although the immense breakers around them afforded but a slender hope of their ever reaching the shore. In a few minutes after the departure of the crew, the brig struck on a rock near the base of the Castle Point.

There is a secret sympathy in every heart, that unites man to man, and that, when strongly excited, shows human nature in its most engaging light, and few have been the instan-

ces in which that amiable principle has appeared more lively than in the present; nearly two hundred persons who had collected on the strand, with mournful anxiety, turned their eyes to the crew, to whose perilous situation, from the height of the surges and the want of a life-boat, they could not possibly render any assistance. For twenty minutes did the little boat alternately rise on the billows, and again sink on the view; at length after many an arduous struggle, she approached the strand. The spectators anxiously strove, by acclamations and huzzas, to animate the exertions of the almost exhausted seamen. An immense breaker now rapidly pursued them, it rose above them, it covered them; but scarcely had the crowd on shore expressed their anguish by a groan, when the boat again safely rose with all her crew! tenfold acclamations of friendly encouragement burst from those on shore! The boat was gaining the strand, hope seemed as if to renovate the strength of the weary seamen, and joyful satisfaction was felt by all the multitude, when another violent breaker appeared tumbling to the shore. The sailors redoubled their exertions, the crowd for a few moments were silent, it was an instant of dreadful suspense to all! The breaker overlooked them, it raised them for a moment, then dashed the bow of their boat against the sand (for they were now within a few fathoms of land) the boat overset, and without a moment to supplicate the mercy of that God into whose presence they were hurried, all sunk to eternity, save one Swedish lad, who clung to an oar, from which he was extricated by the laudable humanity of Mr. James M'Allister, Mr. Hugh Hill, son of the Rev. Mr. Hill, and Alexander Weir, who at the risk of their lives swam out to save him. Too much praise cannot be given to the spirited exertions of E. D. Boyd, esq. who immediately had a guard of his corps placed on the wreck, and who promptly used every method to save the cargo. Alexander M'Neile, esq. exerted himself in every attempt to save the lives of the unfortunate crew; but his benevolence was only rewarded by its own intent. Edmund M'Gildowney esq. the young gentle-

men of his family, and Mr. Sampson were also on the beach, with several other respectable inhabitants, who could only evince their humanity by deploring a misfortune which it was not in their power to alleviate. From the account of the person preserved, the brig proved to be the Comet of Mary-port, J. Nicholson, master, bound from Nova Scotia to Belfast, with oak-staves and deal planks.

Since commencing the above, two of the bodies have been washed on shore, to whom Captain Boyd had the rites of burial decently administered.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

POPICOLA TO THE INHABITANTS OF
IRELAND, ON THE EDUCATION OF
HIS COUNTRYMEN.

FEELING the sensations of a Patriot, the island that gave me birth appears peculiarly beautiful in my eyes. Her fields green, her climate salubrious, her ports hospitable, inviting the commerce of the ocean; her daughters fair, and her sons rudely brave and generous; but liable to imposition from her more polished and intriguing neighbours. I see the culture of a more improved education necessary to refine her children, and render them capable of enjoying the advantages of her situation, her climate, and her soil.

This necessity has been seen, lamented, and by patriotic men, urged on the attention of the English Government in this country from time to time, and plans of education yet in embryo, are said to have occupied the attention of several of the former, as well as the present administration. If ever such a plan shall see the light, breathing a universal spirit, few of Ireland's sons will hail its birth, and bid it welcome with more unfeigned joy than Poplicola.

Waiting with moderated expectation the appearance of such a plan, permit me in the mean time to excite that *national spirit*, which, if aroused to its genuine height, can alone give effect to such a plan, and communicate energy to its execution.

With this view, I call first upon my fair country-women to lend their

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gentle hands in modelling the young mind. Infantine days, by a judicious allotment, are committed to female care. It is your pleasing task to excite their first smiles....to make the first impressions on their hearts, and teach them to prattle forth their first words; remember they will blaspheme or praise by imitation. To you it belongs, to administer equal laws amidst the nursery groupe....to detect the growing inclination to knavish tricks....to quell the rising passion in the little tyrant breast....to inculcate equal *rigids*, regard to *honour*, and a love of *truth*. Early lessons impressed with steady moderation, will prevent parental solicitude in advancing years; act as an antidote to female *pertness prudery*, and *coquetry*, and prevent in young men, the sneer, the taunt sarcastic, and invective rudely uncontrouled.

But in the realization of a hoped-for reform in youthful education, my countrymen must not be idle spectators; your manly avocations admit of less frequent, though occasional intercourse with the growing youth. With them you join in the domestic circle; with them you mingle in the social throng: for their sakes let no word drop from your lips, let no action be performed in their presence that may lead them astray. The nearer they approach you in the line of affinity, the greater will be their proneness to imitate your example. They lisp forth paternal words; they imitate paternal actions. If parents indulge in the cup of drunkenness, or in licentiousness; if they profane God's name, or his sabbaths; if they quarrel, lie, or are unjust, their children will plead their example after they have mouldered in the dust. Irishmen, let your conversation be pure, and your example spotless, that the rising generation may be edified, and your memories unblamed.

Impelled by the purest and most patriotic sentiments, let both sexes emulate each other, in forming the young mind, in leading youth into virtue's pleasing path. This is equally your duty, whether you move in the sphere of a private family, disinterestedly engage in a Sunday School, or hold an office in a place

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