

sixteen pounds a year, to which add their proportion of the expenses of the establishment, the necessary repairs of building, their apprentice fees, &c. makes the total expense of each boy, as nearly as can be computed, about twenty four pounds per annum; the boys who are put in on this foundation are not the sons of freemen.

The guild of St. Ann support two boys in the hospital, for which they pay annually forty pounds; these boys are not the sons of freemen.

There are ten boys always in the hospital, who are nominated by the bishop of Meath (for the time being) for ever, as trustee under the will of the late Henry Osburn, of Dardistown in the county of Meath, who by deed of agreement with the governors, dated the 11th March 1697, paid over to them the sum of one thousand pounds on the foregoing conditions; these boys are not the sons of freemen.

There are two boys always in the hospital, who are nominated by the minister of St. Werburgh's parish (for the time being) for ever, under the will of Mr. James Southwell, who bequeathed a sum of four hundred pounds and upwards, on the foregoing condition; these boys are not the sons of freemen.

The remaining number are nominated and appointed by the governor of the hospital, and must be the sons or grand sons of reduced free citizens of Dublin; they are admitted only on board days, as vacancies occur, by apprenticing or otherwise; and the governor whose turn it is to nominate must be present; the certificate of the boy's father or grand father's freedom must be produced, and the parent, or some near friend, must swear that the boy so admitted is the reputed son or grandson of the person mentioned in the said certificate.

It was intended that the present building should contain 300 boys, but the funds were so exhausted in building, and no aid having been given by parliament, the governors were unable to complete more building than what accommodates the present number of 127 boys; another wing

was intended in the rear of the hospital, equal to the one at present built, which (if completed) would accommodate the remaining number, of 300; but the funds are inadequate to support that number: the governors, however, hope, in the course of another year (by which time they expect to be out of debt) to be able to add twenty boys more to the establishment from the present state of their funds.

£ 750 is the debt due by bond.

Number of boys in the school 19th April 1809—130 is the establishment;—127 were in the house.

(Signed) *Robt. Hart.*

*Note*—The boys get six ounces of bread at each meal, except 3 times a week, when they get meat, they then get but five ounces at dinner.

They get no bread when they get suabout, on Monday mornings; whenever they have meat for dinner, they get half a pint of beer after it.

The board ordered them to get meat for dinner *last year*, only from 1st February to 1st May, and half a pound of potatoes instead of bread; they never got potatoes before, except on one day in the year, and All Souls Eve. The boys rise at 6 in summer, and at 7 in winter, go to school at 7 in summer, and 8 in winter; leave school at 4 o'clock, and go to bed at 8 o'clock.

*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

THE SERVANT.

WITH the manners of the great, the bulk of mankind have little concern. Upon the feelings and conduct of the fashionable world, many romantic and novel productions are already in circulation. The subject of this paper was chosen with a view to correct some of the evils of real life, in its humblest walks. In attempting to do so, a liberty of occasional digressions will be taken, in making reflections and observations upon whatever direct delineation of character may be produced.

To the principal subject of the following plan and practical narrative is given the rustic and familiar name of Jack. He was a servant in a farmhouse situated in a rough part of the

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country, in one of the northern shires of Ulster. His master, employed in various avocations, found little time to attend to the concerns of his farm. He could scarcely be called a farmer, though he rented as many acres as fell to his average share in a populous district. The management and cultivation of the farm was of necessity principally left to Jack, with the help of a lad also hired, and two or three day-labourers occasionally engaged to assist in throng seasons. Jack was indisposed to subject his body to much fatigue, or depress his spirits with a load of cares in early life. At a beloved diversion, indeed, such as the races, a bullet-match, or a cock-fight, he did not spare himself, and could run as fast and as far as any of his fellows in a midnight excursion to a promiscuous and black-guard country dance: but was concerned to lose as little sweat as possible at his daily labour. Taking the advantage of his master's frequent absence and necessary inattentive, he stood idle during a large portion of that time in which he professed to be at work. If what he did should be examined, he well knew the difficulty of ascertaining, in many employments of husbandry, how much should be executed in a day. When tolerably accurate accounts of diligence or negligence could be taken, greater exertions were made; or, what was more common, the difficulty of the job, the unhandiness and other deficiency of farming utensils, put into his hands, the hindrances which happened to occur, and the like, were pleaded as an apology for the little that was performed. When occasionally under the eye of a superintendent, he artificially contrived to keep still moving without doing much; or, if he was active and diligent for a time, it was more to complete his scheme of premeditated deception, than to forward the business of his employer. That he might indulge his native, or, I should rather say, contracted indolence, and jog along in a *country step* at his usual *snail speed*, he endeavoured to fortify himself against the pinching blast of winter. In addition to a heavy coat that was seldom thrown off to work even in sum-

mer, he usually wore close woollen stockings, incased in old galligaskins, thick soled *brogues*, daily furnished inside with a hay or a straw wisp, strong breeches lined with padua, under a coarse pair of trowsers, a vest of home-made broad-cloth, with flannel sleeves, and, in cold weather, a surtout bound close about his middle with a belt. Let none conceive such multiplying of clothing as beyond the ability of those whom some are pleased to call poor servants. Many such, now-a-days, are richer in their station than their masters, and live better both in respect of drudgery and clothing, and perhaps we might also add, of diet. Time was, when a frieze jacket, and woollen hat, would have contented them; but nothing less than a fine beaver, and superfine coat will now suffice, to be of a piece with other affected elegancies of attire. Less blame, however, in this particular, attaches to them than to others, as they only ape the greater follies of their superiors in the article of dress. From the anxieties of providing for large families, from heavy taxes, and exorbitant rents, they are free; and frequently find ways and means of shunning a *dead lift*, and escaping the heaviest part of the job. The best portion of meals, and the best served up, is not unfrequently set before them for the sake of credit, as also to prevent the complainings of some, who, in unbecoming pride, pretend much niceness and delicacy of appetite, though they may be but upstarts from beggary. In Jack's garb, above described, it was impossible to work as he ought, had he been willing. The putting of it on by one who was seldom in a hurry, consumed no little time in a winter morning. A repast, best known in many parts of the country by the appellation of a *morning piece*, was to be taken, and after this, what will be best understood by the vulgar name of a *smoke*. Out of six or eight hours of a day, subtract also the time *leisurely* spent at a breakfast and a dinner, with the repetition at least of another whiff of the American plant at each, and little in the intervals could be done even by the industrious, but still less by indifferent Jack,

whose chief concern was to put in his time as easily as possible, and secure his wages. I mean not to condemn the use of tobacco, though many an unprofitable, slanderous and defaming hour has been spent at it, and many a nervous complaint has the excessive use of it tended to cherish: but it is become a valuable article in commerce; habit with many may have rendered that necessary, which was before a luxury: the duty upon it forms an important item in the revenue: it may be a means of preventing the spread of contagious disorders, and is no doubt medicinal in some cases. An inhabitant of the city of Glasgow, with a view perhaps to get rid of an expensive and growing habit, in the course of last year, resolved to relinquish the use of this plant, to which he had been long a slave. By degrees becoming blind, much medical skill for the restoration of his sight was tried in vain. A physician finding he had been a user of tobacco, advised him to resume his old custom. He did so, and his former good sight was gradually restored. Nor would I hint, that a working man should not have abundance of necessary and substantial food, yet there is a too frequent and gluttonous overloading of the stomach, that unqualifies even for the hard labours of the field. I do not pronounce Jack to be a glutton; yet, had he eaten more moderate quantities of bread and old bacon, his health might have been at times, better, and his services more profitable. In long days he was a scrupulous observer of hours. His attention, however, was more turned to the time of quitting, than of commencing his daily task: and it was no unusual thing to hear him charge the same regular time-keeper with being fast at six o'clock in the morning, and slow at the same hour in the evening. Owing to night-rambling, and consequent heaviness, pretence of not hearing, or disregard of the summons, he was seldom roused in the morning by a first call. Six o'clock frequently arrived, and found him in bed. He, nevertheless, generally rose in time to step forth and commence business with the occasional labourers, who,

before coming to a day's work, were alert at some job of their own, to which, taking care not to be jaded through the day, they would return as soon as possible in the evening. Some of the many homely maxims of these peasants were: "Let us take our time:" "we are not beasts," "no horse can still gallop," "it is a long day till night," "the master has provisions to sell, while we have nothing but as we buy," "his money is easily won, while ours is the scanty wages of hard labour," "to-morrow is a new day, and, what cannot be done this week, may be accomplished the next." To all these Jack gave his hearty consent, and, for mutual entertainment, to indulge sloth, divert fatigue, and pass the time, joined his companions in various and abundant conversation. The events of the neighbourhood, the fables of neighbours, the rate of markets, and dearth of victuals; the roguery of forestalers, and schemes of hoarding misers; the tyranny of the great, and oppressions of the poor; the reports in circulation, however wild and incredible, the politics of nations, law adages, rough stories, boasting lies, and coarse witticisms formed the ample field of their dialogues. The progress of the work in hand, not being an object of chief concern, was allowed to meet with many hindrances in the warmth of discussing the numerous topics which occurred. To converse much, and be diligent in business at the same time, is impossible. Contrary to what was intended, the heat of argumentation, or, rather of dogmatical assertion, the barefaced repartee, sometimes issued in unpleasant altercation and party bickerings: as did also their several endeavours to obtain the most handy implement, and the lightest part of the work. Differences of opinion, on what was to be done, and what might be the best mode of doing it, were often designedly the cause of delay. The more hands employed, the loss of time was the greater; as they frequently stood in the way of each other, while the opinionative, the knavish, and talkative prevented the exertions of their more industrious and pliant fellows. Listless endeavours and prevalent un-

concern produced little work; and that little imperfectly performed. Taking time is not always followed by doing well. Sluggish movements are often as incorrect as precipitate execution. These men, and such as they, by thus cheating their employers, labour under a sad mistake. In their catalogue of plain proverbs, they forget this: "the penny that is well won, wears well." That servant who works not in proportion to his wages, is dishonest to his master, as really as the thief who robs him of his property by night. His conduct may not be marked with the same palpable impropriety, but is not the less evil on that account. They do not consider their wilful trifling and negligence, as liable to grow into confirmed habits of sloth and carelessness, which will come to injure themselves and their own little domestic concerns. To these habits, thus acquired, may be often attributed the ragged coat and naked progeny, the garden grown over with weeds, the decayed and empty cabin, the abode of cheerless poverty. To the same source may, in part, be traced that larceny and pilfering, which have been mistakingly reckoned the justifiable concomitants of straitened circumstances: and which, in instances not a few, have led to burglary and shop lifting, with other gross immoralities, the forerunners of merited ignominy and condign punishment. The labouring peasant should reflect, that a good substantial day's work, regularly proceeded in, will do no injury to his bodily health; and is best calculated to promote his peace of mind. He ought to view his employer's business as his own. On him he has to depend for necessaries; to him he must go for relief, when providential misfortunes occur in his lot. The faithful and diligent will always find employment; while the knavish and slothful are only engaged in case of mere necessity. Should the honest and industrious be at any time reduced to poverty by accidents or infirmity, they will be provided for at home, where they are known. They have a fair claim upon the bounty of that parish where they have resided, and of those who have been benefited by

their services. Should they be so reduced, which is not common, they cannot be properly called beggars; and hence perhaps is the language of the ancient king of Israel: "I have been young, and now am old, yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." The unjust and idle, when a worse fate does not befall them, are often urged by their own conduct, to skulk from their native neighbourhood, and reduced to abject beggary, and a wretched exit amongst strangers.

If Jack had been only active and diligent, instead of idle and lazy, when he had company to assist him, his master's agricultural improvements would have been better forwarded, and he could have made a more confidential apology for occasional relaxation, when alone. The loss, however great, sustained by his mispent time, and puny exertions, was not equal to the detriment resulting from his carelessness. The farming utensils, as they had time to wear by moderate use, were impaired or lost by mismanagement. The shafts of two spades were broken in one season, not by diligent digging, but by the sudden jerk of the one in raising a stone, and a rash pressure of the other, by way of lever, in sinking a drain through tough clay. The face of the sledge was battered, both the cleaving and taper ends of the crow, and point of the pick were blunted by unskilful and heedless treatment. So many of the sickles in cutting grass for the cattle through the summer, were lost, one after another, as rendered a new set necessary on the approach of harvest. Horse shoes, not being observed when loose, were often lost. A tooth of a *grape* was broken between two stones, in cleaning the cow-house; and a pitch-fork shared the same fate in being thrown from the top of the hay-stack. At one time a car-shaft was nipped into two pieces by moving forward the horse before he was yoked to the car, and, at another, the same mischief was done by the failure of an unheeded weak tie of the draughts. A straddle, being ungirthed and left to fall from the horse's back on the pavement, was rendered useless.

By the leaving of a gate open, half a dozen of cows made sad destruction in a fine field of oats; and one of them, not allowed to depart by the gate, but hurried over the ditch, had her thigh-bone fractured. At a different time, another of these most useful animals, cast her calf, in consequence of unmerciful justling, and kicks at the stake. A young swine had nearly lost its life by the violent throw of a stone; and a promising colt was deprived of an eye by the unguarded stroke of a whip. How irrational, how vain, and unprofitable is it for man to get into a passion with a brute, and vent his rage like Balaam, in cruel abuse of a dumb animal, incapable of ceasing to exercise the instincts of its nature! Of two horses taken out to run races on rocky ground, while the owner was at a neighbouring fair, one by a fall, got a shoulder slip. A harrow being carelessly left in an entry from the stable to the barn, a young horse by trampling on one of the teeth, after much farmery with him, had his price reduced from twenty guineas to two. On the master's being abroad for a few weeks, a useful blood mare died of a farcy, for want of a seasonable remedy.

These and the like fruits of carelessness, with others more bitter that might have been mentioned, afford an important lesson to servants. Much must of necessity be trusted to them. By a little inattention they may do more damage in a short time, than they could repair for ~~life~~. Their capital is but small, and as ~~restitution~~, or indemnification is, to them, often impracticable, they should guard against injuring their masters by that remissness for which they can make little or no compensation.

It might be supposed to be unreasonable to charge all the evils mentioned above to the account of *one* Jack. To the reader it will appear somewhat paradoxical, to be told, that the mischief detailed was really done, and yet the greater part of it done by nobody. Jack like too many of his fellow servants, had learned the boldfaced art of demal. "Thy servant went no whither," said Gehazi to Elisha. They would not be witnesses

against him nor he against them; and so the guilty were concealed. Masters, on discovering the truth, would do well to guard against bitter chidings, severe correction, discharge, or whatever other proceeding might tempt servants to lie: and though servants ought to love each other, they should not be accomplices in vice.

It is for Jack's reformation, and with no design to offend or expose him, that his failings have been hitherto principally recorded. Amid all his blemishes he had perfections; though they were now and then sadly obscured by the predominance of evil propensities. To dwell on defects, and make no mention of good properties, would be doing injustice to his character, and defeating our endeavours to improve it. Due praise of virtues tends to cherish them, and virtues cherished may come to prevail over vicious habits. A perfect character, or one in all respects bad, is not to be found in the chequered variety of human life. In no characterizing of man should he be made a devil, nor an angel of heaven. The existence of universal imperfection furnishes no solid reason, why any should rest satisfied with that degree of moral excellence to which they may suppose they have advanced. Gradual improvements may still be made in a state, where absolute perfection is not attainable.

The skill and experience Jack had acquired were exerted in making those markets with which he was entrusted, as if they had been his own. In this particular he discovered a laudable integrity, and an inclination to improve. Punctual accounts of expenditure and gain were returned. Past mistakes served as a lesson for future caution. In two or three instances, indeed, he was known to take a glass too much; but that was more the fault of others than himself. If he did not well know how to husband his little stock or withstand temptation, wages should not have been given him at an unreasonable time, nor for improper purposes; nor should he have been treated with diamas at the different shops where he had occasion to call. Superiors are principally to blame, if inferiors contract those vices

which they, in their more exalted station, have a power to restrain or encourage. Exceeding the bounds of moderation and temperance at the proper times of taking a necessary glass, and drinking *any* at unseasonable hours, are the chief sources of those tipping habits which do so much mischief in society. In running on occasional errands, or in carrying an urgent express, the slothful habits, for which Jack has been so much blamed, appeared to be mastered: but resumed their native powers in the accomplishment of *stated* messages. The meeting of acquaintance, staring at strangers, and viewing the various objects that presented themselves on the way, mightily retarded that progress on which he was not very intent. Though he had little to bestow, and not much in his power, yet charity and friendship were prominent features of his character. His little purse was opened with more freedom and liberality than his master's larger one. Those who have but few pence set the least value upon trifles. He cast a mite into the *poor's box* oftener than many of his rich neighbours. In the exercise of filial duty he appropriated a portion of his annual earnings to the support of his aged parents. His master and family were once confined with a tedious fever. On this occasion he doubled his exertions, cheerfully exposed himself to all the dangers of infection, when it was necessary, and manifested his kindness and sympathies in paying what attention he could by day and by night. Such conduct is well worthy of imitation, and should not be left to pass unrewarded. It is the honour of many in low stations, that they sedulously attend, at the peril of their lives, upon those who labour under infectious and mortal diseases. No money consideration can be an adequate reward for those who faithfully discharge this important duty. What a pity is it, that medical gentlemen do not take more pains in endeavouring to teach servants how to attend the sick; more of whom are lost for want of care than of medicine. The physician's time of waiting on his patient is often limited to a few minutes. For the application of his prescriptions the apothecary's label or verbal di-

rection contains very imperfect instruction. In effecting cures, perhaps more depends upon the proper application of medicine than upon the medicine itself: and more than both these, upon assiduous and indefatigable attention to cleanliness, air, and regimen. A plain and persuasive inculcation of such attention would do infinitely more credit to a medical visitant, than an abstruse lecture in endeavouring to magnify the mysteries of his art.

In manners Jack was none of the most polite; nor did he abound in that rudeness which is indulged by many of his fellows. Respectful behaviour is the ornament of all; but it peculiarly becomes those who are dependants. Some haughty superiors demand an extreme of servile obedience, which begets hatred; while others, especially among the lower orders, admit their servants to familiarities with them that issue in unmannerliness and disobedience. Such frequent changing of servants, as exists, would not be requisite, did masters better keep their place, and more punctually discharge their magisterial duties. The difficulties so often complained of in keeping servants, are not all owing to that class of society. Jack had faults which rendered connection with him sometimes unpleasant; but the whole evil of those faults was not attributable to himself. His master gave too many and too peremptory orders, and thereby lessened his authority, and inadvertently promoted disobedience. He expected more care of the hireling than was reasonable; and therefore met with disappointment. He frequently laid the whole concern upon others, of which himself should have borne a share. He perhaps did not make sufficient allowance for casualties in the misfortunes that happened about his house. He might not possess skill in every department of rural business, and consequently in some cases, make false estimates of his workmen's labour. By grating and public chidings, for trifling mistakes, he chafed the spirits, and wounded the feelings of those subject to his authority, and thereby provoked dislike. If he was heated with unmannerly language, it was

partly provoked by passion or false blame. He was too niggardly of applause for well doing, not considering, that, though the hire is worthy of the labourer's faithful services, yet additional praise would be easily conferred: the love of it is natural, and the withholding of it tends to dishearten. He was rather jealous of his servants' honesty, over-prying into their trivial secrets, and too watchful of their mispendings of time. Were they addicted to diversion and idleness; he was a churl of an hour's innocent amusement.

To all these imperfections the reader will not attach the reproachful character of a bad master; especially when he is told, the servant had always plenty of wholesome food, was seldom disturbed in his rest, unless by his own folly, received no rigid correction, had never to keep the field on a wet day, or in severe weather, and got the full amount of his wages, with assistance in disposing of it to the best advantage. Jack grew fat, and might have been happy and contented: but man is fond of novelty and change, and never more so than when comfortably situated. After five year's service, he expressed an intention of choosing a new master: rather, however as a device for increasing his wages, and enhancing his value, than with a sincere desire to depart. To have flattered him to stay would have been attended with no good consequences. At the term he was allowed to depart, and obtained such a certificate, and only such, as he deserved. The too prevalent practice of giving a false testimonial with bad servants, is very improper. It is a means of cherishing those failings which, by giving a true character, might be corrected. It is an imposition on the next employer, a defeating of the design and advantage of certificates, and a perversion of the duty we owe to our neighbour. By the waste of war, male servants are drained from the country. The great number of bidders, and scarcity of the commodity always raise its price, and prevent the purchaser from rejecting an indifferent article, where a better cannot be had. Jack soon found an-

other place, where being a stranger, he was an excellent servant for a while. In process of time his evil habits began again to discover themselves: and his night raking and gallantry issued in the pregnancy of a neighbour's youthful maid. As many of his superiors have done, he did not act the part of a villain in abandoning the innocent dupe of his artifice to a ruined fortune and broken heart. He yoked himself with her for life, for better and for worse, in the sweet bands of matrimony, premeditating very little on where he should pitch his tent, or respecting the necessaries wherewithal he should furnish a cot and commence housekeeping. If "*multiply and replenish the earth*," is an injunction of the best political philosophy ever given to man," the poor obey this injunction more readily and more successfully than the rich.

Before we give Jack's history in this new relation, a brief sketch of the character of his yoke-fellow, as "in female servant station," might not be unacceptable.

*Bullyrulunch,*

S. E.

*To be Continued.*

*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

LUCY AND EMMA, A TALE.

LUCY and Emma were inhabitants of the same village, and their age was nearly the same. It is hard to say whether their natural dispositions were the same or not, because from the first dawn of childhood they were treated so differently. Lucy was judiciously treated, and Emma by improper management became a cross untractable child. Mrs. Smith, the mother of Lucy, was a woman of fine natural understanding; she thought she discerned the same qualities in her daughter, but she was aware that either fine taste, or strong understanding was insufficient to render her either truly amiable or happy: she considered that the one often promotes discontent with plain people and useful employments, and that the other, when not well directed, renders the possessor obstinate and unfeeling. From the time that Lucy's little hand was able to pull the tea-