

such occasions as these. It may possibly be objected that such exhibitions are too costly. They need not be so. There are ways and means of setting to work, by which their usual costliness may be very considerably diminished. The last sentence of my friend Darwin's most interesting "Journal of the Voyage of the Beagle," contains the results of a traveller's experience through every degree of longitude. The spirit of it is well worthy our attention, even as regards such little matters as those we are now speaking of. "In a moral point of view the effect (of travelling) ought to be, to teach him (the traveller) good humoured patience, freedom from selfishness, the habit of acting for himself, and of making the best of everything, or, in other words, contentment. Travelling ought also to teach him distrust: but at the same time he will discover, *how many truly good-natured people there are, with whom he never before had, or ever again will have any further communication, who yet are ready to offer him the most disinterested assistance.*" What is true of the world will be found true of England. There are "many truly good-natured people," whom it needs very little searching after to find them out. Only tell them your purpose is to amuse your neighbours and they have real delight in helping you. I am treated "as one of the trade," by a maker of fireworks, as well as by a toy-merchant, and one or two others in London, who furnish me in a wholesale way, at very considerable discount, with sundry articles for our little annual exhibitions, and the school children's festivals. I was a perfect stranger to these parties, but had no sooner explained my object than they offered to oblige me. It cannot be expected that these sort of recreations should be everywhere introduced at the expense of single individuals. We have our different opportunities in these respects. Where a village or a neighbourhood may happen to possess a taste for them, a very trifling subscription from the pockets of the public-spirited will furnish sufficient funds for the articles that are required (in a rough state), and which a little ingenuity will soon arrange in a manner to afford a good display. I never recommend any one to compound the ingredients for fireworks, which is a dirty as well as rather dangerous employment. The great saving of expense consists in procuring certain "cases" ready charged, but unarranged. These may then be arranged in pleasing forms and devices. I am myself pretty expert in arranging "fixes," attaching "turning cases," and most of my family have tolerable skill in "clothing speckies!"

I cannot understand why people need ever find the country dull. Let them only give their thoughts, at leisure moments, to the several opportunities which the country affords for studying the works of the creation, and for devising plans for the innocent recreations of their neighbours, and depend upon it, all who have complained of weary days from want of resources how to kill time, will find the weeks much too short for the full enjoyment of "the promise of the life that now is," in that way which is the best earnest of "the promise of the life that is to come." I do not mean to say, that the former promise may not be kept to us, even in a work-house. I think I have seen it kept there. But it would need far stronger faith than (I fear) most men can lay claim to, for very many of us to feel quite content with nothing but that bare "sufficiency of food and raiment" which a public charity provides, and which is, perhaps, as much as it ought to provide for the destitute. We shall not, therefore, be fulfilling all the duties of our more fortunate position in society, if we neglect things necessary for the bodily recreations of the poorer classes, any more than if we refuse to secure to them some means of putting out their only capital, their labour, to lawful usury. We ask of God weekly for "those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the *body* as the *soul*," and we are bound to remember that it is not by "bread alone that man lives," as God would have him live, with a rational soul, and a quickened spirit.

J. S. HENSLOW.

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