

5. It hardens the heart, by inflicting unnecessary pain and death upon animals.

It is unexampled in civilized society, where animal food may be obtained from domestic animals, with greater civility.

3. It consumes a great deal of time, and creates habits of idleness.

4. It so easily leads young men into low and bad company.

5. By impeding long abstinence from food, it leads to intemperance in eating, which naturally leads to intemperance in drinking.

6. It exposes to fevers, and accidents. The newspapers are filled with melancholy accounts of the latter, and every physician must have met with frequent instances of the former, in the course of his practice.

I know the early use of a gun is recommended in our country, to teach our young men the use of arms, and thereby to prepare them for war and battle. But why should we inspire our youth, by such exercises, with hostile ideas towards their fellow creatures?—Let us rather instill into their minds sentiments of universal benevolence to men, of all nations and colours. War originates in error and vice. Let us eradicate these by proper modes of education, and wars will cease to be necessary in our country. The divine author and lover of peace "will then suffer no man to do us wrong; ye who will reprove kings for our sake, saying, touch not my anointed, and do me no harm." Should the nation with whom war is at trade, approach our coasts, they will return from us, as Satan did from our Saviour, when he came to assault him; and for the same reason, because they will find nothing in us congenial to their malignant dispositions; for the flames of war can be spread from one nation to another, only by the conducting medium of vice and error.

I have hinted at the injury which is done to the health of young people by some of their amusements; but there is a practice common in all schools, which does more harm to their bodies than all the amusements that can be named, and that is obliging them to sit too long in one place, or crowding too many of them together in one room. By means of the former, the growth and shape of the body have been impaired; and by the means of the latter, the seeds of fevers have often been engendered in schools. In the course of my business, I have been called to many hundred children who have been frittered, with indispositions in school, which evidently arose from the action of morbid effluvia produced by the confined breath and perspiration of so great a number of children in one room.

To obviate these evils, children should be permitted, after they have said their lessons, to amuse themselves in the open air, in some of the useful and agreeable exercises which have been mentioned. Their minds will be strengthened, as well as their bodies relieved by them.

To oblige a frank boy to sit seven hours in a day, with his little arms pinched to his sides, and his neck unnaturally bent towards his book; and for no cause!—What cruelty and folly are manifested, by such an absurd mode of instructing or governing young people!

[To be continued.]

From the LONDON MAGAZINE.
HARLEQUIN, No. IV.
TO WAR, OR NOT TO WAR?

THAT IS THE QUESTION.

AND a puzzling question it is too. I have heard of a man connected with the navy, who happened to be down at Portsmouth lately upon business; when the first rumour of war arrived there. Before he had got his buckles half finished, the express from the Admiralty, all sweat and dust up to his eyes, arrived with orders to fit out a fleet for immediate war.—The man, knowing that in case of an approaching war his office rendered his presence very necessary in town, left his unfinished buckles, and set off in great haste on his return. He had rode just 40 miles on his way to town when he met another hasty messenger from the Admiralty: he accosted, and assured him, that if he was going to Portsmouth to make the naval preparations, to his knowledge they were already busy, as if the Spanish fleet was in the Downs; so that he need not run so fast!—“Ay,” replied the messenger, “that is the very reason why I ran so fast; for I am going to set them at rest again—there is to be no war.”—“No?” (answered the man) “then I may as well go back again to Portsmouth and finish my business at my leisure.”

Well, he took the route once more to Portsmouth, and had slowly rode about twenty to三十 miles back, when another messenger overtook him. He accosted him, with some surprise, where he was going with such speed? “Oh, (answered the messenger) I am going to see if the Spanish fleet was to be at sea on the 1st of the present month; the intelligence on Friday last, confirmed that information, by certain a decree communicated by Capt. Hopkins, of the brig Hope, arrived at Dover, of the fleet of Spain having sailed in lat. 23° 30' north, long. 17° west, steering before a brisk gale for Cape Finisterre. Their force consisted of thirty-seven sail, including frigates, two of which were of 42 guns, and the other 36, with a brig mounting 18 guns; and a reinforcement from Ferrol, they said, was expected to join them, of five or six ships.

The intent of this fleet was probably to effect a junction in the Bay of Biscay with the French squadrons, at this time supposed to be hovering at the mouth of Brest harbour; for they certainly will be too timid to leave their own coast, unless the powerful success of an ally incites such a measure.

It is not chimical to adduce, that the English fleet have fallen, before this time, in with the Spanish squadron! Should such an interview have taken place, and Lord Howe have been enabled to bring on an action, nothing like a desponding thought must he allowed to possess an English mind! We think the day will prove a glorious one for this country. [See page 11.]

We are not however hurried into a belief, that the Spaniards have ventured so far into the Bay of Biscay, as to give out their a chace for that same sad misfortune.

It really puzzled many people; and even I, Harlequin did not well know what to make of it. If you went to the Secretary of State's office, they told you they knew nothing about it; if you went to the Privy Council, they peeped in vain, for “all the intelligence was at the Treasury.” Well, now I am at the Treasury, what will you tell me? “O nothing; it does not belong to us; you must go to the Admiralty.” Why them, to the Admiralty I will go.

I flew across the parapet as nimbly as if I had fifty wings, & reached the Admiralty—I waved my sword, and the doors of the several offices flew open. I turned to the right, and saw several clerks busily employed in

writing. I selected one of these, and inquired what was the subject of his employment? “ Dispatches, Sir.”

“Whether are they to be sent out?” “To Portsmouth, to order the fleet to be fitted out.” “Good—(said I myself)—now I know on what side the tide stands.

Quitting this apartment, the open door of that left seemed to invite me to enter it. I did so, and here I found several clerks writing with great speed.

“Ay, (said I in a low voice again) this looks like war; they go on as holy here as they do in the other room.” “There you happen to be mistaken indeed gentleman” (answered one of the clerks, looking over his shoulder.) “How do you mean, young man? (said I, a little surprised.) “Explain yourself.” “O replied he) I can explain nothing about it, but that we are writing dispatches to Plymouth to bid them bid them not fit a fleet.”

A plague overtake you all; is it possible that in one end of the house ye are writing dispatches to Portsmouth to bid them arm, and in the other writing to Plymouth to bid them disarm? What can be the meaning of this? What the meaning of it, is (answered the clerk) I neither know nor care. We act according to orders.”

By St. George! (said I to myself) what a whimsical world do we live in! Here stand I, when I thought all my doubts were solved, plunged into deeper mystery than ever. Is thot, to reach the true state of affairs, and to explain this mystery, I found it was necessary to ascend a flight still higher.

The contradictory orders that so greatly puzzled me had been just issued, and the august board of Admiralty were still sitting. Touching the double door with my sword, it opened, & I entered unperturbed—for no *Surprised* people were there!

From their conversation I made the discovery I wanted, and this it was: It seems the news of the Spanish armament had arrived some days before at the Admiralty; in consequence of which the naval preparations at Portsmouth and Plymouth were ordered. On the 6th of that same month the most pacific promises from the Spanish court; and these were closely followed by assurances from another quarter, that the fleet at Cadiz was in great forwardness. Puzzled, confounded, perplexed, the august board of Admiralty knew not what to do. Whether to arm or to disarm, to rendez for war or to lumber in peace, they knew not.

It was in this dilemma that the sagacious Mr. —— arose, told them he had hit it, and spoke to the following effect:

MY BROTHER LORD,

“IT is very true, as ye have told me a thousand times, particularly the Lord who presides at the board; it is very true, I say, that tho I am a Lord of Admiralty I never was upon so little water in my life (and if I can help it, never will); and therefore I know what to do.

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“The moment he had done it, the idea of his impudence, and its probable consequences to himself and his friend rushed upon his mind; he sat stupefied with shame and remorse; his eyes riveted on the ground regardless of what the other's remonstrance might prompt him to act.

Douglas, after a short pause, turned round to the spectators:—You think, (said he) that I am now ready to cut the throat of that unfortunate young man; but know that, at this moment, he feels anguish a thousand times more keen than any my sword could inflict.

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