



Die Köhlerhütte.

„Wie aus Wenigem es Viel
gehalte,
Wie es Schwerbewegliches
bewalte,
Wie im Unsichtbar'n oft
Licht'ges lebe;
Mutter, wig' d. zu ihm Dein
Kinn erhebe.“

By using his hands, the child learns how much may be done with the few things within his grasp, or, in other words, how much he may accomplish without reaching beyond the narrow boundaries of his own little life. That Englishman was perfectly right who wrote a whole book to prove that the hand is a witness of God's fatherly love and goodness.* Mother, seek to form in your child the habit of looking at his hand from this point of view, in order that he may never injure either it or himself by its misuse, but may through productive and creative activity rise into the image of God.

And as you teach your child to respect his own hand, teach him also to respect those who work with their hands. Waken his gratitude towards, and consideration for, those through whose labour he is blessed with food, clothing, and shelter. Teach him to honour each "toil-worn craftsman," however humble his calling, who wards off danger from individuals and communities, and whose labour directly furthers the welfare of mankind.

Without the charcoal burner, where were most of our technical arts? Without his patient labour, where were those chemical researches

* The book to which Froebel refers is presumably *The Hand: Its Mechanism and Vital Endowments, as evincing Design, and Illustrating the Power, Wisdom, and Goodness of God*, by Sir Charles Bell. Published as one of the *Bridgewater Treatises*, 1832; ninth edition, 1874 (George Bell & Sons, Covent Garden). (From Miss Lord's note to this commentary.)

which have solved so many of the secrets of Nature?*

* At the close of his commentary on this game, Froebel suggests that older children be told how charcoal burners saved little German princes from death, or from a captivity worse than death. From Miss Lord's notes to the Mother Play I borrow the following account of the story which Froebel had in mind:

"Frederick, Elector of Saxony, had two sons. Always at war, his enemies at length sent Kunz von Kauflingen with other soldiers to the Castle of Altenburg, July 7, 1455, to carry the two boys away. Kunz went off with Albert, Mosen with Ernest. Kunz neared the Bohemian border by noon on July 8th, but, as Albert was thirsty, stopped to pick bilberries in the wood. A charcoal burner suddenly appeared, and at once guessed this was the boy about whom alarm-bells were ringing throughout Saxony. He fought Kunz with his long poking pole (Schürbaum) till help came, or, as he expressed it to the Electress, when she thanked him, "Hab ihn weidlich getrillt"; and he is called merely "Triller" in the legal documents conveying to him and his heirs rights in the Saxon forest for ever. This Albert is ancestor of the present Saxon house. Prince Ernest was rescued on July 11th. Twelfth in direct descent from him was Albert, the late Prince Consort; the Prince of Wales is thus thirteenth.

"See (brief account) Aunt Charlotte's Stories of German History, by Charlotte M. Yonge (Marcus Ward, 1878), p. 182; (most lively account) Thomas Carlyle (Works) an essay, The Prinzenraub: A Glimpse of Saxon History, in the Westminster Review, January, 1855."