

CHILDREN whose brain development is unusually large in comparison with the body, are most frequently singled for a premature final resting place. Why is this? Simply because the functions of the body are too frail to supply the waste going on in the brain consequent upon active intelligence. Fellows Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites is so prepared that it imparts the vital principle directly to the brain, whilst it assists in developing a vigorous brain and robust body

Missionary Intelligence.

The following notice was received a day or two since:—

THE AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSIONARY UNION, on the first of January will remove from 12 Bedford St., to spacious and convenient rooms in Tremont Temple. The encroachments of business in the vicinity of the Mission House in Bedford St., have hastened this step, which has long been under consideration. The Temple is so centrally located, so accessible, and so well known, that our friends will have no difficulty in finding us. It is the most eligible place for us in the city. Our officers will be on the second floor. Please take notice, after January 1st our address will be, MISSIONARY ROOMS, Tremont Temple, Boston. GEO. W. GARDNER, Cor. Sec'y. Boston, Dec. 23rd, 1872.

BURMAH.

From Henthada we learn that Mr. Crawley of the Burmese Department, has recently made a tour of nearly two months through a part of his district, of unusual interest. He found at one point, busy in his work, a native preacher of much intelligence and efficiency. This man during all the dry season was moving about actively from village to village, preaching the gospel of the kingdom. In the course of the tour, at one place thirteen applied for baptism, some of them living in places impossible to be visited. Seven of them were baptized; inquirers were heard of in many places, and there is reason to hope soon for a large ingathering of souls. At another place four were ready for baptism, and at another seven. In all, eighteen new converts from heathenism were added to the church, and the last year Messrs. Crawley and George together baptized thirty-six. Two missionaries for the Burmese work in Henthada district are much needed.

In Maulmain, nine pupils in Miss Haswell's school give evidence of conversion. One of the number is under age, and her father on that account did not consent to her being admitted to the church; but she is a convert of more than two years' standing, and, it is believed, will adhere to her Christian profession. At a recent missionary meeting, twenty-three males and two females, all Talings, were present, who had never heard the name of Christ. They listened with deep interest to the reading of a tract in their own language, scrambling to get as near as possible to the reader, and after the missionary left them, late at night, they continued the reading through one of their own number.

Among the Shans at Toungoo, Mr. Cushing reports that the recent death of a child had been sanctified as the means of bringing back to the church the father, an excluded member, who manifested sincere penitence. Two pupils in the Shan school have asked for baptism. The church favors self-support. There are but nine resident members, but they signed a subscription paper to aid in the sustentation of the ordinance of the gospel.

Mr. Kelley reports that he is able to talk more or less in Shan, to conduct religious exercises, and to aid in the school. This number from ten to sixteen pupils, and besides secular knowledge, they are introduced to a familiar acquaintance with the truths of the gospel. Two pupils, living five or six miles away, were baptized Aug. 31, and there are several other Shan inquirers.

RUSSIA—A Russian Association, embracing all the Baptist churches in Russia and Turkey, has been formed. The meetings of delegates were held at Alt-Dansig, in a spacious school house, and continued for five days. The Association is to hold its sessions annually. The brethren were exhorted in regard to the duty of systema-

tic giving. The last service of the session was a love-feast which continued till midnight.

Many recent cases of baptism are reported in Russia, and the truth in that empire is making progress. Among the converts are persons of note, as an elder, a judge, and more than one schoolmaster. Among the Lettish brethren, it is said the wonders of Divine grace in the conversion of sinners exceed all conception. There are about 100 Baptist members in Riga, and thirteen in St. Petersburg. The work of grace in Courland is of wide proportions. In that province and Livonia, including Riga, there are more than 2,000 members. Occasionally persecution seems to ready to burst upon the little flock; but with a few exceptions it has been averted.

TURKEY—Great changes are going on in Turkey, indicating the pulsations of a new life. In connection with improvements in the conveniences of living, the gospel also meets a warmer reception. A village has been recently heard from, in which fifteen men had come out as Protestants, and raised money enough among themselves for a chapel and rooms for a native helper, asking no pecuniary aid. At another village the native assistant walked twenty miles to procure a supply of Bibles and Testaments, and reported that persecution had ceased, and that he was often kept talking till past midnight by persons anxious to learn about the great salvation. Some of the former persecutors were among the most eager listeners. Some of the people carry their elementary books with them into the field, that in the intervals of farm-work they may learn the alphabet, or read in easy lessons, of Jesus and his love. In another part of Turkey the missionaries received a pressing request to visit a certain village. They declined to do so, suspecting the motives of the people. But a delegation from the village followed them a day's journey, bearing a written petition, signed by twenty-two heads of families, begging us to visit them and give them a preacher and books.—Ex. & Chronicle.

THE BIBLE IN ROME.—Rev. W. C. Van Meter worked a hand-press himself, to print the first 10,000 Testaments in Rome, for which American Sunday-schools provided the means. The work is just completed, and now they need funds to print 40,000 more at once.

FROM CHICAGO.—A correspondent of the Zion's Advocate writes:—Building operations to a large extent have been suspended because of a cold snap. Quite a number of men have gone into the woods for the winter. There will be a great pressure upon the Bureau for employment, as well as charitable institutions, as we have a vast host of foreigners. The law and order party of the city have gained some advantage; saloon keepers that violate the Sabbath law are prosecuted, and we have less public drinking and quarreling. Public meetings have been numerous in favor of enforcing the law. Earnest speakers have sought to tone up public opinion.

Miss Sarah Smiley, (the baptized Quakeress) has been attracting large crowds evening after evening in various churches in the city. I was much pleased with her quiet, unassuming manner in the pulpit, and greatly charmed with the precious truths that she presented in a very pleasing manner. The contrast between her and sister Van Cott, of the Methodist church, is great. The latter is more dogmatic and active in the pulpit, and apt to use slang words and imapt figures; but the former is lady like, winning and impressive. One is like the rushing river, the other like the gentle stream. If they have a work to do in awakening and leading precious souls to Jesus, may the great Head of the church be with them.

Some of the churches in the city (of different denominations) have made some additions to their numbers. Western avenue Baptist church have quite an interest; several of the Sabbath scholars are inquiring. The 25th Street and South Baptist church Sabbath school have increased in numbers. The 1st Baptist church have rejoiced over several baptisms of late. But, alas! the progress of Zion is not what it might be. While our city is assuming beautiful proportions externally, the moral condition is lamentably sad; but we think there is some slight improvement. The Y. M. C. Association are contemplating a good thing—having a list of churches and time of services and pastor's name printed in an attractive form, and framed, to be hung up in our city hotels and other public buildings.

MARY SOMERVILLE.

BY GEORGE M. TOWLE.

Mary Somerville, whose death, at the advanced age of ninety-two, has recently been announced, holds a unique place in the history of English letters. She was the only English writer of her sex who has attained to fame by works of philosophy and science. Through a period of more than sixty years she has enjoyed this solitary eminence, recognized as a compeer by the best writers and minds of three generations, exercising her genius upon subjects the most profound, and not ceasing in her philosophical labors until within a very short period of her death. Sir Henry Holland, who knew her well for more than half a century, and who, in his "Recollections," ventures to describe her though still living, speaks of her gentle and pleasing conversation, and says that a stranger, sitting at table with her, would never suspect that she was a profound scholar, absorbed in the most perplexing problems of science and mathematics. Her manners were peculiarly soft, feminine, modest; no woman less betrayed the strong mind manerism which is popularly supposed to accompany ladies of extensive erudition.

Mrs. Somerville was a Scotchwoman, and was born at Jedburgh in 1780, the daughter of Vice Admiral Sir William Fairfax. This is an old and, in one of its branches, a noble family, and Mrs. Somerville could claim relationship with more than one historical character of the name. In the twenty-fourth year of her age—in 1804—she married Captain Greig, who belonged to the Russian Navy, a union which lasted but three years. After a widowhood of three years, she again married; this time Dr. William Somerville, a man of learning and therefore a congenial spirit. In the years of her girlhood she had attended a private school at Musselburgh, a few miles from Edinburgh, and here was first developed her passion for study, especially for the study of those exact sciences which are the dreaded *l'été noir* of most school girls, and boys too, for that matter. At the same time the modesty and gentleness of her demeanor, her fondness for solitude, her docility and sweetness, won upon both teachers and scholars, and she is described as having been alike the foremost pupil and the pet of the Musselburgh school. Soon after leaving it, her marriage with Captain Greig gave her leisure to pursue her studies, and fortunately her husband not only sympathized with her peculiar tastes, but was himself a proficient in the branches of learning for which she had so remarkable an aptitude. Captain Greig instructed her in abstruse mathematics and in natural philosophy, encouraging her to renewed perseverance and interest. Nor did she neglect more especially literary topics; indeed there has been scarcely a writer during the century more familiar with French and English letters. Before she had published anything, she was recognized in London circles as a person of rare endowments and of attractive social graces; and we hear of her association, very early in the century, with such people as Lord and Lady Holland, Erskine, Mackintosh, Joanna Baillie, Sir Samuel Romilly, Lady Bessington, Miss Edgeworth, and Mrs. Barbauld. It is probable, too, that she knew the poets, and must have met Coleridge and Southey, seen Byron at Roger's table, and talked with Campbell and Wordsworth. Lord Brougham was one of her earliest and most devoted friends; and it is said that he urged her to enter upon her first work. This was her English summarized translation of the "Mécanique Céleste" of Laplace, and was published in the series of the "Library of Useful Knowledge," with the anglicized title of "Mechanism of the Heavens." While this was written early in her career, it was not published till 1831, when Mrs. Somerville was in her fifteenth year. Her next effort was an original philosophical treatise, "The Connection of the Physical Sciences," in which her wonderful power of generalization was exhibited. She explained her first sketch of the plan of this book to Sir Henry Holland, and at first only contemplated a description of the connection between astronomy and the phenomena of light. Sir Henry suggested its amplification to all the physical sciences, which she afterwards adopted. This friend relates that he corrected the proofs of the ninth edition of this great work on the journey from Florence, where Mrs. Somerville long resided, to London; and speaks of it as an authority of the highest value. The "Quarterly Review," a periodical seldom entangled in reviewing the books of women, says of

"The Connection of the Physical Sciences." "It is so original in design and perfect in execution as fully to merit the success of eight editions. . . . Her work, indeed, is a true Kosmos in the nature of its design, and in the multitude of materials collected and condensed into the history it affords of the physical phenomena of the universe." Her next production was her "Physical Geography," in two volumes, which was most favorably reviewed in the "Quarterly" by Sir H. Holland, who says of it and the previous work, "Less ambitious in title and form than the 'Cosmos' of Humboldt, the works of Mrs. Somerville embrace really the whole scope of his design, and, as I think, with a more lucid definition and arrangement of the subjects it includes."

The "Physical Geography," which was published in 1849, is designed to present the material history of the earth, and to group all the branches of physical science into a cosmic and harmonious whole. The tone is clear and simple, the style easy and confident, and the erudition displayed amazing. It is distinguished, too, for the steadfast faith which it breathes throughout; for Mrs. Somerville never wandered from philosophical speculation into religious scepticism. The last of her works was published in 1868, when the venerable authoress was in her eighty-eighth year, and treats of the latest results of physiological study under the head of "Molecular Science." This book exhibits all the vigor and studious pertinacity of her earlier years, and was the result of long and patient examination into the molecular discoveries which had so astonished the world in the previous decade; nor are there in its pages any traces of the mental decrepitude of age, but every evidence that the fire of the love of knowledge still burned brightly in her mind.

Sir Henry Holland gives an account of the last time he ever saw Mrs. Somerville. It was at Florence, in 1858; she was then seventy-eight. He dined with her upon the evening of the day, memorable to astronomical science, when the great comet of that year, named after the Florentine astronomer, Donati, approached nearest to the earth. "She was," he says, "probably the only woman in Europe capable of calculating the orbit of a comet from the elements given by observation. While other ladies at Florence as I had occasion to know, were purchasing tickets in the State Lottery, on some whimsical fancy of numbers connected with the aspects and periods of the comet, Mrs. Somerville was contemplating it with the eye and knowledge of a philosopher. We looked at this wonderful object together the last evening I spent in Florence. I have never seen Mrs. Somerville since."

This eminent lady received many proofs of the high appreciation in which she was held by the learned and official world. She was chosen an honorary member of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1835, being the only woman upon its records. More recently, she was placed upon the civil list of Great Britain for a pension of £300 a year, which she accepted and enjoyed till her decease, though happily she had inherited sufficient to maintain her in elegant comfort in her beautiful Tuscan home. For many years she has resided at Florence, where her house has been the familiar resort of a polite, learned, and artistic circle. With occasional journeys to Rome and Naples, and visits at rare intervals to her native country, with a library replete with works of science, philosophy, art, and belles lettres, with ample leisure and excellent health, with the companionship of a circle of friends which included many of the most noted men and women of the day, not confined to any one nationality, Mrs. Somerville's Italian residence must have been a happy and tranquil one, and was admirably propitious for the indulgence of profound thought and the production of thoroughly digested works. She is described, at ninety-two, as being still vigorous of body and industrious of mind, laboring assiduously at her mathematical experiments, and contemplating with pleasure their very highest refinements. A slight deafness alone betrayed the presence of extreme age, her eyesight being as perfect as ever, and her apprehension as quick. Her daughters lived with her at Florence, and aided her in her tasks, as well as comforting her last years with a cheerful and affectionate presence. Mrs. Somerville was a true Scotchwoman in physique, being tall and angular, with a face rather long than oval, and features strongly marked, and indicating unusual intellectual strength. Her gray eyes, positive nose and mouth, and well shaped forehead, were never been

noted anywhere: while her soft voice and amiable smile have been more than once celebrated in the literature of her time, and gave a rare grace to her learning and authority.

LETTER FROM ITALY.

According to a letter from Rev. P. Beneman, a very interesting work is going on in his orphanage at Vallecrosia, in the north of Italy. He writes that every Lord's day about twenty brethren and sisters assemble for worship, and when the weather permits, they come also from Ventimiglia, Bordighera, and other villages. At Vallecrosia, fully half the inhabitants possess the Bible, and if it were not for fear of the priests, not many would be absent from the service. He has had to erect a tent outside, where often more than thirty persons listen with the greatest respect, and in profound silence to the Word of Truth. Two members of the church have been removed by death. One of them was a poor stone breaker, whose eye was injured four years ago, by a splinter. Mr. Beneman gave him a pair of spectacles to assist his sight, and passing from his bodily eyes he asked him to attend the service. The man came, and was never absent afterwards from the meeting, which he edified by a Christian life, and a death in the peace of his Saviour. He resisted the most urgent entreaties of his friends to return to the Romish Church; and to the priest, who tried to persuade him to confess, he said: "You are foolish; do you wish me to take myself out of the hands of my Saviour, to put myself in those of men?"

That which gives to Vallecrosia its highest importance is the asylum for orphan children, entirely founded and maintained by the benevolent exertions of Mrs. Henry Byce. The statute regarding asylums was scarcely published, when it was seen how necessary such an institution was for all Italy. In a few months, twenty five boys and as many girls were sent to it. Some of these had not, up to that time, enjoyed the beneficial discipline of family life, and were mere vagabonds, with savage and stubborn countenances. But, like snow before the sun, this hardness of character disappeared very quickly.

Under the influence of a kind but firm treatment, the very expression of the countenance became changed, and one could read in those eyes, no longer sullen and suspicious, but frank and cheerful, that the child had recovered itself. Some who had come from Roman Catholic families, trembled at the idea of being made Protestants; now these are by no means the last in love for the Gospel. Thus in the case of three children of Maltese parents, natives of Alexandria, in Egypt, they declared frankly they wished to remain Roman Catholics. They were told that in no way would they be forced to become Protestants. They were allowed to make the sign of the cross, and were given a separate room, that they might not be laughed at. They were left free to come to family worship or not yet—they always came—and became very anxious to procure a hymn-book. At last they came and asked for a Bible, and to be admitted as Bible-scholars, Mr. Beneman reminded them that he had left them free as to religion. "Yes," they said "but we did not then know the Gospel; now we like it." These same boys, on the occasion of Mrs. Byce's birthday, promoted the idea of offering her a fine gilt Bible, as being the best gift that could be found. This placed on a cushion embroidered by the girls, and covered with flowers, was offered with a short speech to their benefactress, who was so much touched to reply except by tears.

This orphanage has four teachers. The infant school is directed by Miss Lorenzi, of Mentone, assisted by a pupil of the upper class, to which she gives lessons after dinner. Miss Cardani, of Milan, conducts the girls' school, and gives lessons in the morning to the third Elementary Class, and after dinner to the fourth. The one class in the morning, and the other in the afternoon, work with their needles, also in the kitchen, the laundry, etc., under the direction of Miss Barchetta, also of Milan. All the serving needed in the establishment is done by the girls themselves. The boys' school has for three years been conducted by Signor Billour, who has charge of the housekeeping as steward, and exercises special superintendence over the boys. In this department of special importance, he is assisted by several work teachers attached to the Institution. Four boys have wrought for some years with a shoemaker. A tailor, a Prussian by birth, has under his care six boys who are learning his trade with zeal and success.