

# Sunday Reading.

**PLAY AS A MEANS OF EDUCATION.**  
Man is an Animal With an Individual Nature.

It is gratifying to know that men interested in education are devoting their attention to an animal with an individual nature and with inherited capacities and tendencies that cannot be stifled, and that no one should attempt to mould into uniformity with all tendencies and capacities of the other members of the race. There was a time when the Chinese used to amuse themselves by putting infants into jars and allowing them to remain there till they had grown up to fill every curve and corner of the vessel. Then the jar was broken and the poor little distorted creature was released and taught to walk. He was a perfect reproduction of the form of the jar. He was a success as a monstrosity, but a miserable failure as a man. The Chinese jar method has been too common in our schools. The recent demand for larger play grounds attached to schools of Brooklyn and for a play ground for all the children in the city indicates the growth of a feeling that it is important that some attention shall be given to the development of the bodies of the children, and they should be allowed to develop in the way that Nature intended and not in some way that some man has ordered. The value of play in the system of modern education has attracted the attention of a writer in number of the Educational Review New York. He calls attention to the fact that play is the real work of childhood and that each child seeks expression of itself in the form of play which it selects. Education should foster this desire in the child and should strive to assist in all its effort of self-expression.

The play movement in Germany has attracted the attention of teachers. There was a time when the German schools made no allowance for the desire of the children to amuse themselves and there were prominent men connected with the school system who said that conditions of life were such in Germany that the time would never come when time would be allowed for play. This prophecy has proved false, for to-day the Germans are teaching the children through their games. When the nation concluded that it should change its methods the government appointed a committee to go to England where sport was popular and to watch the games of the people and select those which should be best adapted to Germany. As result of the work of the committee more than four hundred cities and towns of Germany have opened public play grounds in which games are provided for people of all ages. There are sand heaps in which the children shovel and grounds marked out for ball for the older boys and quieter games for the girls.

It is important that America should follow the example of the Germans. We devote too little time to play. We are nervous and spend all our energies in serious business. As children we did not play enough and as men we have forgotten how to play. Football may be brutal, but it is better that the young men in college should break one another's bones in that game than that they should spend their youth boring their eyes out over books. The race needs relaxation. It will last longer and be stronger and happier for it. If we teach the children how to play and if we encourage them in their sports by preparing grounds for them instead of shutting them in badly ventilated basements in the schoolhouses the next generation will be more joyous and healthier than the present one.

**PSEUDO-SCIENTIFIC LECTURERS.**  
The Athletic Hangers-on of Science who Give Popular Lectures.

Of the many pests of the times, one of the worst is the atheistic hanger-on of science who gives popular lectures. Ignorant of first principles, unscrupulous in his assertions, he will lose no time in attacking religion. He does not know whether there is a God or not; but he does know that man, body and soul, came from an ape. There is no certainty that our senses tell us the truth, yet there is no knowledge but from observation. The processes of life are but the action of mechanical forces. An idea is nothing but a glorified sensation. Idiocy is a reversion; free-will a delusion; crime, a disease; religion, an emotion.

Glib, brilliant, convincing, he speaks with the authority of a philosopher, the fire of the patriot, the constancy of the martyr. The average lecture-goer does not suspect that he is getting stones for bread. He sees the man petted and flattered. The plain fact that the hero is but a quack does not occur to him.

What are the logical consequences of this teaching? If there be neither God nor free-will, why waste our time in canting about the nobility of self-restraint? "Let us eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die." Let us deny ourselves nothing (for what is law but a tyranny?) and if society in self-defence rises against us, it is easy to put ourselves beyond its reach. There is no flaw in this argument if the premises be sound. The ghastly record of suicides shows how many already practice this doctrine in part. The time is

at hand when we shall have the whole programme carried out on a grand scale with logical cynicism.

## CHURCH NEWS.

**Episcopalian.**  
At the last meeting of the Clerical Association of this city a paper on theological study was read by Rev. George Schofield, upon which there was a very interesting discussion.

The ancient custom of evening communion was re-established in St. John's church in this city on the last Sunday of 1894, at the request of a large number of the parishioners. 63 communicants were present.

At Holbrook, England, on a recent Sabbath, the Wesleyans in a body went to the parish church, and their minister, Rev. Mr. Faraday, read the lessons for the day, the sermon being preached by the rector, Rev. Mr. Carruthers.

## Roman Catholic.

It is said that the decorations of St. Mary's Cathedral, Halifax, in connection with the funeral of the late Sir John Thomson cost \$10,000.

A silver headed cane and a gold watch furnished practical proof to the Rev. A. D. Cormier that his services were appreciated by his Dorchester friends.

While France is regarded as a Roman Catholic country, nearly 8,000,000 of the people at the last census "declined to make any declaration of religious belief."

Madame Regan, of Cole de Lac, province of Quebec, has recently abjured protestantism and been received into the church at that place. At midnight mass the new convert received her first communion.

The vacancy in the staff of St. Joseph's college, Memramcook, caused by the departure of Rev. Mr. Chabot has been filled by Rev. Mr. Dumas of Sherbrooke. The number of students has largely increased since the holiday vacation.

According to a Roman Catholic layman writing from England the members of his church are, in the United Kingdom, 1,500,000 fewer than they were fifty years ago. From twenty-six per cent. of the population they have fallen to sixteen.

The Pope's Encyclical about to be published will order the transference of all matters of internal interest in the United States from the control of the Propaganda in an American Ecclesiastical council of which Mgr. Satolli is to be the head. The document speaks very kindly of American institutions and of the form of government established in that country.

## Presbyterian.

The Presbyterians of Fairville and vicinity have Sabbath service in the Orange hall.

The Rev. Dr. Mathews, secretary of the Presbyterian alliance, England, has succeeded in bringing the scattered churches of South Africa into one synod.

It is proposed to establish a fire insurance company in connection with the Irish General Assembly with a guarantee fund of \$50,000, the profits to be devoted to church purposes.

The induction of the Rev. Mr. Fitzpatrick as pastor of the church at Kincairdine took place on the 9th inst. in the presence of a large congregation. Rev. Messrs. Pringle, Fiske and Whiteside took part in the exercises.

Rev. Dr. Talmage does not propose to be idle. He began with the New Year to hold service in the Academy of music on Fourteenth st., New York, and will continue to preach there on Sunday afternoons at four o'clock. He does not propose to organize a church but simply to preach at an hour that will not interfere with the regular services held in the neighborhood.

## Baptist.

An address and a handsome fur coat were presented to the Rev. Mr. Addison, by his Salisbury friends a few days ago.

Revivals are in progress at Weldon, Havelock, New Canaan, and sundry other places, and quite a number of persons have professed faith in Jesus.

Rev. A. Freeman is much pleased with the people of Sheffield and Mangerville, and among their many kindnesses to himself and family were recent donations which amounted to \$100.

On the 6th inst., the new church at Salmon Creek, Queen's county, was dedicated. The sermon was preached by the Rev. A. B. Macdonald, and Revs. Messrs. S. D. Ervin, Worden, Coombs, and Wiggins were also in attendance. The congregation was very large.

At the annual meeting of the Pastor's college connected with the church of which Rev. C. H. Spurgeon was so long the pastor, it was stated that since the college was started thirty-eight years ago, 737 men had been sent out and were now at work, of whom 658 were now Baptist pastors, missionaries and evangelists.

The Baptist Boys' brigade is assuming large proportions in Brooklyn, New York. In the Greenwood church battalion about 50 of the boys have been baptized, and

about 100 are in attendance at church on Sunday morning—and as they march to seats reserved for them they sing, "Onward, Christian Soldiers."

The annual report of the Main St. Baptist church, of which the Rev. Mr. Gordon is pastor, shows the affairs of the church to be in a very satisfactory condition. Over \$2,500 had been raised during the year and \$2,459 had been expended. The membership is 500, of whom 130 had been added during the year. The pastor had made 2000 pastoral calls and had spoken at 500 meetings. Arrangements have been made for the erection of a new church.

In the death of the Rev. Dr. Hopper, which occurred in this city on the evening of the 12th inst., the denomination has lost one of its ablest and most highly respected ministers. He has filled some of the most important positions in the gift of the church, and as editor of the Visitor, principal of the St. Martin's seminary and pastor of some of the leading churches commanded respect and confidence. He is thus spoken of by one of the daily papers: "He was an able writer, a good thinker, a logical speaker, a powerful and eloquent preacher, a kind friend, a dutiful husband and father and a model Christian in every respect. He was in the 64th year of his age, and leaves a widow and three sons and four daughters to mourn their loss."

## Methodist.

The Methodist year book gives the number of ministers as 43,503, and members as 6,456,902.

Rev. Mr. Mathews, of Petitoediac, has been presented by his friends with a handsome gold watch.

Rev. Dr. Kelly, of the M. E. church, south, recently delivered a thanksgiving address in the Hebrew temple in Nashville. This is said to be the first time that a Methodist minister has officiated in a Hebrew place of worship.

The mission fund of the Methodist Episcopal church has a falling off for the past year of over \$58,000. The committee however at its last meeting decided to make no deduction from the grants of the previous year, having faith in the ability and willingness of the people to raise the needed amount.

The English Wesleyans have a foreign missionary club room at Highbury, London, for foreign missionaries on furlough and their families. A large and well furnished room is set apart for the children, and at present there are nearly forty missionaries making the establishment their temporary home.

The new church at Fairville was dedicated on Sabbath last, and the day was one long to be remembered by the Methodists of the town. The officiating clergymen were the Rev. Mr. Chapman, D. D., of Woodstock, and Rev. Messrs. Corey and Marshall. The services were of a highly interesting character, and the sermons preached in the above order were excellent and appropriate. The church is 54 feet by 38, with a recess for the choir 18x15. The basement is 38x40 with five large class rooms, and the whole is heated with hot air furnaces. The pews are of white wood, run circularly and are of neat design, and the church is lighted with electric incandescents.

## General Religions.

Prayer meetings by the Stundists are forbidden under penalty by the Russian government.

The British museum has no less than 700 theological books written concerning the creation of the world.

The chief justice of the court of Japan is a Christian, and is president of the Y. M. C. association of Tokio.

Rev. Hudson Taylor, of the China inland mission, estimates that more than 100,000,000 of the Chinese are addicted to the use of opium.

The first book printed from movable types was a Latin copy of the bible, issued from the press of Faust and Gutenberg, at Mentz, between 1450 and 1455.

The Gilbert Islands, recently annexed to Great Britain, are the scene of a prosperous mission. Conversions are numerous, and old heathen cruelties are being vigorously prevented.

The American Board of Foreign Missions has received from the Spanish government the sum of some \$18,000 for the loss of property inflicted upon it by the authorities of the island of Ponce, some years ago.

The directors of the London Missionary society have 19 men and four women ready for mission work, but have no funds available for their support, and have issued an appeal to the friends of the society to help them out of this embarrassing position.

The late Dr. Goodell, son of a missionary to Turkey, left to the American Board of Foreign Missions the sum of \$50,000; the same amount to the Medical department of the university of Pennsylvania and \$10,000 to the College of Physicians, Philadelphia.

The 75th anniversary of the N. B. Branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society was held in St. David's Presbyterian church on the evening of the 10th inst. The chair was occupied by John E. Irvine, Esq., and the speakers were Revs. Dickey,

Bruce, Gordon and Marshall. From the report it was learned that about 4,000,000 copies of the bible had been circulated in over 300 languages. The addresses were brief, earnest and telling. The music was of a high order and the audience a very large and attentive one.

## Messages of Help for the Week.

"And they stood up in their place, and read in the book of the law of the Lord their God one fourth part of the day; and another fourth part they confessed, and worshipped the Lord their God." Nehemiah 9: 3.

"O God, be not far from me. O my God, make haste for my help." Psalm 71: 12.

"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." Psalm 103: 12.

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." Isaiah 9: 2.

"O Lord, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat." Isaiah 25: 1-4.

"The grave cannot praise thee, death cannot celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth. The living, the living, he shall praise thee." Isaiah 38: 18: 19.

"Blessed be the Lord God the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things, and blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory, amen, amen." Psalm 72: 18: 19.

## A Story of Mr. Gladstone.

This story of Mr. Gladstone and the crossing-sweeper was told to Dr. Hall by Francis Crossley who had it from the vicar of St. Martin's in the Fields, to which church Mr. Gladstone used to go when living in Carleton terrace. The incident occurred when Mr. Gladstone was chancellor of the Exchequer:

The vicar had recently been to see a crossing-sweeper in his parish who was ill. Asking him if anyone had been to see him the sweeper replied: "Yes, Mr. Gladstone." "Which Mr. Gladstone?" asked the vicar. "Mr. Gladstone," replied the poor invalid. "But how came he to see you?" enquired the vicar. "Well," answered the crossing-sweeper, "he always had a nice word for me when he passed my crossing, and when I was not there he missed me. He asked my mate who has taken my place, where I was, and when he heard I was ill he asked for my address, and when they told him he put it down on paper. So he called to see me." "And what did he do?" asked the vicar. "Why he read some Bible to me and prayed," was the reply.

## AM DYING.

I am dying, Edith, dying,  
Tints of crimson, bright and fast;  
Shades, too, dark as Pluto's regions,  
And they cannot help but last.  
Let me tell you how I do it,  
Let me whisper in your ear,  
Diamond Dyes is all my secret;  
You can do the same, my dear.

Though my clothes get worn and dingy  
And with stains are spotted o'er,  
Though they look as fit for nothing,  
I can make them good once more.  
Though I have not many dollars,  
To expend on garments new,  
I can dress as well as any,  
And I know that you can, too.

Let not fashion's servile mimos  
Scorn the garments thus made o'er;  
'Twas no dyer's hand that made them,  
I have done the same before.  
I, who took my last year's dresses,  
Washed and dyed, and pressed and turned,  
Made them o'er for this year's wearing—  
Gowns for which the heart had yearned.

Yes, I'm dying, Edith, dying;  
No, you do not need to go;  
You've not hindered me a moment;  
'Tis not hard to do, you know.  
Now, no more one needs to wonder  
How to make their dresses do;  
When with such a little trouble,  
'Diamond' makes them good as new.

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Naturally he consulted a medical man. Comparatively no relief was obtained. He changed his doctor, and did not stop with one, two or three physicians, but he got no better. Various proprietary medicines were recommended, and, as he says himself, "I tried them all, but got very little benefit. Last fall I was camping out, and I was feeling very ill. I happened to pick up a paper with the advertisement for South American Nerve. I determined to give it a trial, and procured a bottle from the local druggist. After having taken but a few doses I found very great relief. The severe pain that I had been suffering in the small of my back left me, and the nervousness that had rendered me, in a large measure, unfit for work, has as a result of the continued use of Nerve, become banished from my system. I am now able to enjoy refreshing sleep the night through. I keep South American Nerve always in the house, and I do not hesitate to say that it is the very best medicine I have ever taken, and most confidently recommend it to anyone troubled with nervousness of whatever form and the attendant diseases of the liver and stomach that follow this weakness."

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