

Religious Intelligencer.

THAT GOD IN ALL THINGS MAY BE GLORIFIED THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.—Peter

FREDERICTON, N. B., APRIL 25, 1894.

WHOLE No. 2092

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

The Massachusetts Senate has refused to grant to woman the municipal franchise. Zion's Herald suggests that the liquor interest, whose business is our greatest curse, is responsible for this defeat. This interest was fully alive to the fact that the ballot in woman's hand would prove its foe.

The Maryland Legislature has passed a law providing for the compulsory treatment of confirmed drunkards. The inebriates are to be sent to the institutes of cure upon the order of some court; and properly guarded such a law may be of much benefit—at least to the institutes. If we license drunkard factories something of this sort is necessary.

A recent convention at Birmingham Georgia, where three thousand negro delegates were in attendance, declared unanimously in favor of inaugurating a great colonization scheme in Africa. Hitherto the colored people have not taken kindly to such suggestions, but they seem to give them more consideration now. Some Southern papers warmly endorse the movement.

France dominates all North-western Africa, with the exception of the despotism of Morocco, the republican failure of Liberia, and a few British posts on the Gulf of Guinea. All Africa west of Tripoli, Fezzan, Lake Tchad and the Bight of Biafra is French. The African possessions of the Republic have more than 3,000,000 square miles and 30,000,000 inhabitants.

The smallest, simplest, and best protected post office in the world is in the Straits of Magellan, and has been there for many years. It consists of a small painted keg or cask, and is chained to the rocks of the extreme cape in a manner so that it floats free, opposite Terro del Fuego. Each passing ship sends a boat to take letters out and put others in. This curious post office is unprovided with a postmaster, and is therefore under the protection of all the navies of the world.

In 1890 New York had over thirty-seven thousand tenement houses, in which more than two-thirds of the population of the city lived. Sixty-six and three-fourths per cent. of the people lived over twenty to a dwelling, while eighty-three and a half per cent. lived ten persons or more to a dwelling. Dr. Lyman Abbott says that there are wards in our great cities where "there are actually more men, women, and children to the square foot of land than there are bodies in any cemetery in the country." Homes cannot exist under such conditions.

Permission has just been asked from the Swiss Government to build an electric railroad to the summit of the Jungfrau, one of the highest of the Alps. Until recently the ascent of this mountain was deemed impossible, and many lives were lost in the attempt. Even now it is attempted only by expert climbers and occupies two days. Almost the entire lince will be within the zone of perpetual snow, and much of it, therefore, must be tunnelled or protected from the frequent avalanches. An isolated rocky prominence, 200 feet below the top and free from snow, will form the terminus, the rest of the journey being made by electric elevators, probably through a shaft.

A number of village clergymen acquainted with the dogmas of the Russian Church have been selected to visit portions of the provinces of Kief and Kherson where the Stundists are most numerous, and to hold public discussion with those brethren on the points of difference between Orthodoxy and Stundism. It is hardly likely that any judicious Stundist will be found to enter the lists against these redoubtable priests. They know it is a trap. They know that many of their brethren are in gaol or in banishment for words twisted by these 'missionaries' into blasphemy against the Church. A dodge previously practised by the missionaries is to set up a dummy Stundist who travesties the Stundist doctrines before the assembled people, and is then willing to be vanquished in argument by the champion of Orthodoxy.

Among other efforts to regulate the exorbitant charges of some of its citizens, the Russian Government has published a regulation fixing the fees to be claimed by doctors. The cities are divided into three classes—those with more than 50,000, those between 5,000 and 50,000, and those under 5,000 inhabitants. The patients, also, are divided into three classes, the first including capitalists, proprietors, etc., the second members of the liberal professions, and the third the rest of the population. The fees are of three grades—five roubles for the first class, three roubles for the second, and thirty kopeks for the third.

An exchange speaks of railroad corporations as "stupendous temperance organizations," giving a number of instances in which engineers, trainmen, and other employees have lost their places because it was discovered that they bought and drank intoxicating liquors. The fact that a man indulges, however moderately, in intoxicants, is a serious objection to him in any business in which he seeks employment. The farmer prefers a ploughman and the merchant a clerk who does not drink. Every branch of legitimate business is a temperance society. The young man who frequents the dram-shop or drinks at home, or in the club-house or in secret, forfeits or greatly diminishes his chances for promotion and success in any calling.

Bishop Birth of the Roman Catholic Mission in Uganda is finding it desirable to circulate the Scriptures. He writes: "After much hesitation, I have concluded that it is necessary for us to print the New Testament, which the Protestants are spreading everywhere. The chief reason is that we cannot prevent our people from reading it—everybody wishes to know how to read for baptism—except women and old men. We are therefore preparing an edition with Notes from the Holy Fathers." One can appreciate the bishop's trouble when one hears that in June last eighty-nine boxes were despatched from London containing 1,511 complete copies of the New Testament, 5,170 volumes containing the four Gospels and the Acts, 490 books containing St. Paul's Epistles, and 25,880 separate copies of the Gospels and Acts.

Rational Memory Training.

Written for the INTELLIGENCER by Principal Austin, A. M., B. D., of Alma College, St. Thomas, Ont.

CHAPTER VI.

How to Train and Strengthen the Memory.

"Surely an art of memory may be made no more destructive to natural memory than spectacles are to eyes."—THOMAS FULLER.

"The extent of the memory depends: first, on the daily use we make of it; secondly, on the attention with which we consider the objects we would impress upon it, and thirdly, on the order in which we arrange our ideas."—HELVETIUS.

"If any one ask me what is the only and greatest art of memory, I shall say that it is exercise and labor. To learn much by heart, to meditate much, and, if possible, daily, are the most efficacious of all methods. Nothing is so much strengthened by practice or weakened by neglect as memory."—QUINTILIAN.

The second step is to find out as far as possible one's own strength and weakness in regard to memory, and in what way the memory works with most ease and wherein it experiences most difficulty. One should find out which he most easily recalls, the "images of sight" or the "sound images," not only as a guide to the easiest method of memory, but also that he may cultivate the memory by appropriate exercises along the line of its deficiency. To determine whether you remember more easily the sight or sound of images, we recommend the following test: get a friend to write down for you three lists of words—say 6 to 8 in each—familiar words of one syllable, each word representing a distinct idea, but having no relation in sense with any of the others. Let these be marked, 1a, 2a, 3a. Let the same person write three other lists of the same words as in the preceding, each one in order different from the corresponding first list, and marked respectively, 1b, 2b, 3b, these lists to be entirely unknown to you until the experiment is made. Now, take 1a and read it slowly once only in perfect silence, and then write down as many

words of this list as you can from memory on a slip of paper marked 1a, the same with 2a and 3a, marking answers 2aa and 3aa.

In the second series, get your friend to read to you once clearly, at an ordinary rate, the words of 1b, after which immediately write as many as you can on a slip of paper marking it 1bb, and so with 2b, and 3b, marking answers 2bb and 3bb. Sum up the correct answers of the first series and also of the second. The list showing the highest percentage of correct answers will show whether the sight or sound images are more easily received by you. But this is by no means the only point to be investigated.

The taking in of new ideas is one thing; the storing and retaining them is another. In order to test the retentive power of the mind upon each class of mental images, it will be desirable to repeat the experiment with new word materials, and allow an interval, say of an hour, to lapse between the reading and the writing in the case of the first list, and the same time between the dictation and the writing in the other. Care must be taken that in the intervals the mind should not be unevenly taxed or distracted.

The next step in improving the memory is most careful attention to the method of receiving ideas. The "taking in" process, as already pointed out, has very much to do with the "keeping" process and the "getting out" process in regard to ideas. In our opening chapters we laid down four great principles of true memory training, viz., careful observation, thorough comprehension, methodical arrangement and frequent reproduction. The first three refer particularly to the "taking in" process, and may be regarded as preparatory and as aids to recollection, while the last has reference particularly to the daily and appropriate discipline which alone will strengthen the memory. It is now generally agreed that most of the errors that prevail in the world spring not so much from illogical reasoning as from inaccurate observation. And it may be stated, with little fear of contradiction, that imperfect comprehension of a subject is ever the chief difficulty in memorizing it.

The student should next select for daily practice in memorizing and reviewing such exercises as may be adapted to his needs and the special objects he has in view. Two or three qualities may be pointed out which should always characterize these memory tasks. In the first place they should be brief and easy rather than long and difficult. The mind develops strength, not so much by occasional and severe efforts as by easy and regular exercise. Not many years since it was considered essential in physical training to use the heaviest dumbbells and weights, and violent straining of the muscles was supposed to largely increase the strength. To day heavy weights are generally discarded, and reliance is placed rather on natural and unrestrained movements of the various parts of the body, pursued with regularity and under right conditions. So in training any mental faculty, it is not the severity of the effort so much as its suitability and regularity that promotes intellectual vigor.

Another quality of these memory tasks should be simplicity. Every selection of prose or poetry should be one capable of easy and thorough comprehension. A subject thoroughly understood is not only more easily memorized than one not fully comprehended, but the chances are decidedly in favor of its being the better retained.

The selection should be one capable of easy and natural division, so that the mind may master it by easy steps. It should be chosen for its beauty, sublimity or utility.

All of these qualities, it seems to me, are abundantly supplied in the literature of the Bible. The division into chapters and verses, while sometimes arbitrary, is, on the whole, suited to the thought, while the simplicity, beauty and utility of much of the Bible history, the Book of Job, the Psalms, Proverbs, parts of the Prophets, the Gospels and most of

the Pauline Epistles, will be readily admitted by all. Let us suppose our student to have made his selection—say the Book of Luke or a poem from one of our English authors. The next step is a carefully prepared plan of daily memorizing and review. The morning, if at all practicable, should be chosen as the time for memory drill, and with this chosen hour no other engagement should be allowed to interfere. The work—and here is the kernel of the whole matter—consists in daily memorizing a limited amount of new matter and daily reviewing entirely from memory the parts already memorized. Let us suppose that Luke has been chosen and the limits of daily memorizing fixed at five verses. This, for some who possess little time or little ability, would be too many, and in some cases three verses would be quite sufficient. The ability to memorize will develop steadily if the practice be regular, and in a few weeks the student will commit ten verses as quickly and as easily as he at first committed five verses. This may suggest to many the desirability of increasing the number of verses to be committed daily. It must be borne in mind, however, that as the work of committing grows easier, the work of reviewing will grow a little more difficult every day, because the amount to be reviewed increases daily, and as the first lessons recede from the present hour it will naturally be a little more difficult to recall them.

Of the two exercises, that of committing and that of reviewing, while both may be regarded as highly important, if either must be, for lack of time or other cause, omitted the reviewing from memory should not be left out. It is doubtful if any other form of mental activity will so surely and speedily invigorate the memory as this act of reviewing.

With five verses committed daily, Luke's gospel could be memorized in less than seven months. Aside from the advantages to be derived by the memory, daily mental exercises similar to the above have so much to recommend them in the general increase of knowledge and growth of intellectuality, as well as in the addition to one's sources of enjoyment, that it is quite wonderful multitudes do not put them into faithful practice.

In addition to these exercises suggested, which are suitable to everyone, the student may do well to devise a series of tasks to overcome any special deficiencies or weaknesses he may have discovered in his own case. Let us suppose, for example, he finds it very difficult to recall names. He should form the habit of recalling names and devote some attention to this daily until his memory executes faithfully and readily every suggestion of the will. He should accustom himself to address people invariably by name, to call up in thought, and better still, utter in speech, the names of people he may see. Names that are especially difficult to remember should be frequently recalled. Names of this character may often, with great advantage, be written, and the eye accustomed to the form, the ear to the sound, until at the faintest suggestion the memory reproduces the mental image. Or, if he finds it difficult to remember faces let him make a study of faces, putting thought and will power into the study. Let him note the peculiarities of each face, the striking features of each individual he would remember and let him frequently recall these as vividly as possible to his consciousness. The two things that will help him most in overcoming this memory defect, are, first, a feeling of interest in the person whose face he would remember and frequent practice of the vivid recall of the mental image. Memory power will grow in the direction of the exercises taken and the student who faithfully practices every day the appropriate exercises will soon perceive an increase of ability to recall those mental images that were once so difficult to recollect.

There are certain habits which students should form which would have an excellent effect on the general memory. For example, a mental review each evening of the work and engagements of the day—the persons met, (names and faces recalled), the business, the conversations held,

the details of the work, one's failures and omissions as well as transgressions, may all be recalled, not only with profit to the memory but also with advantage to the morals.

As the memory grows in ability to recall fully and minutely the work of the day, it may be given a wider range, and a half-hour devoted on Saturday evening to the review of the week, will prove an excellent tonic to the memory.

There is another practice to be highly commended for its beneficial effect on the memory, viz.: that of giving in conversation a full account of our experiences—the more of detail the better—such as a description of trip to England, impressions of the World's Fair, an account of a concert, recalling and criticising the various numbers, or an outline of the minister's sermon or a popular lecture with the line of argument pursued and the illustrations given. This practice, requiring as it does the exercise of attention and interest on our part during the recollection of the ideas and recall of these ideas after a lapse of time, cannot but exercise a most excellent effect on the recollective powers.

Akin to this, and of even greater advantage because it suggests methodical accurate expression, is the practice of writing out from memory an account of some of our experiences. Let the student, for example, write out each Monday in a book kept for the purpose an outline of the Sunday evening sermon, giving as faithful and accurate an account as possible in three to five hundred words of the line of argument pursued and the points made. It is doubtful if any more invigorating exercise for the memory can be devised than the above.

Recently the writer heard of a recreation for young people, which is to be highly commended. The company assembled in a drawing room are led out in order past a table upon which is placed a great variety of miscellaneous articles. Each one is supposed to make in leisurely passing the table a mental inventory of the articles upon it, and on returning to the drawing room to write out on a slip prepared for the purpose, as full a list of the articles as possible. The person who has written the largest number of the articles, has, of course, won the game. This recreation it would seem should afford much amusement as well as profit.

WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSION SOCIETY.

"Rise up ye women that are at ease." Isaiah 32: 9.

[All contributions for this column should be addressed to Mrs. J. M. McLeod, Fredericton.]

Selections from India Letters.

A private letter received by the treasurer in November, from Mrs. Boyer, is interesting—too good to keep all to ourselves. So, because there are so many in our little Auxiliaries who have not the chance of getting word direct from India, we have transcribed a portion of the letter.

Mrs. G. A. HARTLEY.

Mrs. Boyer says: "It is very hot yet in the day time, but gets nice and cool during the night and the early mornings are delightful. We will soon have it cool. I have just sown a few flower seeds hoping to have a garden this cold season.

Two boys have been ill with fever, one very ill. The fever did not break for twenty-one days. God raised him up, I hope, to serve Him. It is an anxious time when they are ill.

One of my boys seemed backsliding for some time and I could not get hold of him. To-day, we had a long talk. He confessed his fault, and with me, prayed for forgiveness. How my heart goes out for the true conversion of these boys. This is such a wicked place. People are so corrupt that they cannot imagine purity and justice in any one. The rains have been very heavy this year, and for some time communication with Ujarda has been about shut off.

Next month our yearly meeting is held here; after that, comes all the boys sewing for Christmas. It is the custom for all the Christians to wear new clothes that day. The Hindus

have many such festivals but the Christians only one, and they plan all the year for a joyful time and for new clothes at Christmas. I like to give my boys new print jackets. They do for Sundays all the year. Miss Coombs is sitting near writing her home letters. She just came and gave me a kiss and it almost made me cry. I do miss the kisses and caresses of my little ones. God is good and raises up warm friends for me everywhere. I am able to pass it on sometimes, I mean this kindness. Last week, a lighthouse keeper and his wife from an island, near the Balasore coast, came here and remained eight days. They have no regular communication with the mainland. They seemed to enjoy themselves here so much, and were so grateful that I was glad of the opportunity of entertaining them. When she left, she gave me ten rupees to buy blankets for the boys, saying, she "did not give enough and she wanted to begin."

Intemperance rages here. Saturday night we had a big temperance meeting in the church. Both Oriya and English were used, and both races were well represented.

In a letter to a friend in Carleton Mrs. Boyer says: "That good box has been opened and its contents duly admired and appreciated. The print cambrie you sent me, was just lovely. It is not necessary always to buy new on purpose; pieces, from a yard upwards, left over from other things will do nicely. I never had such pretty print sent, as this year. The dolls are all that could be wished. Miss Coombs apron came just in time; she left for America, via, Midnapore the next morning. I want you to thank the Bands very very much for me. Every thing sent was good and useful. The twins are having clothes made today from some of the cloth sent. The boys are using the thread in their morning sewing, and like it, it is so strong. The boys stood around with admiring eyes while the things were being unpacked. I gave each of the large boys a lead pencil, but the most of the things are put away, for the many special times which occur.

They all had new jackets Christmas, made of the print Mrs. Smith brought out last year. I called them my flower garden, they looked so gay.

The money you sent me the second time through Mrs. Smith, I put into my Singla work. I think, I wrote you I have a colporteur, and a Bible woman there, supported by faith. There was awhile no money came for him. I told him I was afraid he had been neglecting his duty or God would not have let the funds stop. With tears in his eyes, he said he had been neglectful, and promised to do better. When I told him some money had come again, his face brightened, and he said, "Thank God, I had been praying for it and been faithful to my work."

Please write again and ask lots of questions."

Mrs. Shea, mother of Mrs. Boyer, in a letter to the President, says: "Although this has been a very sickly winter, neither myself or the children, have had a day's illness. I had felt rather anxious, as it was their first winter in a cold climate, but they have been out to play every fine day, for a short time at least, and have not missed a S. S. Session this winter. They enjoy going very much. They like the sliding etc., but, with all of us, will be glad to have spring again. They have grown very stout and strong, I often wish their mother could see them.

She enjoys the companionship of the new missionaries very much, and says, Miss Gaunce is hard at work at the language.

Her own health is much better and she is as much interested in her boys as ever. She is very grateful to the kind friends who contributed to the "trunk."

Among Exchanges.

THE PRESENT DUTY.

This vote (the prohibitionist) is unorganized. It is like the wild horses of the prairie, lassoed, but not trained to harness. There is an immense amount of work yet to be done. Organization throughout the country is now as imperative on prohibition lines as establishing divisions, councils and lodges were on moral lines twenty years ago. The next move should be a coalition of Prohibitionists bound for Ottawa with prohibition as its chief plank.—The Citizen.