

Religious Intelligencer.

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

FREDERICTON, N. B., FEBRUARY 21, 1894.

WHOLE No. 2088

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

age at which marriage may be legally contracted: Austria, 14; Germany, France and Belgium, 18 and 15; Spain and Portugal, 14; Hungary for Catholics, 15 and 12; for Protestants, 15 and 12; Greece and Switzerland, 15 and 12; Russia and Saxony, 18 and 15.

the largest standing army is that of Russia, 800,000 men; the next in size, that of Germany, 592,000; the third, that of France, 555,000; the fourth, Austria, 323,000; after which come Italy, with 255,000; Great Britain with 210,000; Turkey, with 160,000; Spain with 145,000.

by a new plan of railway tickets adopted in Hungary in December, the railways will make out their own ticket. The government will sell stamps and supply blank cards. The passenger will, when he desires to take a journey, write on a card the name of his starting point and destination, and affix as many stamps as the published list of fares calls for.

Hawaii is so much talked of these days that the following facts and figures will be read with some interest. The Hawaiian Annual and Almanac for the first of last July at 97,554. The number of natives in 1890 was 34,436, while in 1884 this population was set down at 40,014. The half-castes increased during that time from 4,218 to 12,866. The Chinese fell off from 17,000 to 15,301. The Americans numbered 1,929; in 1884, 2,066. Hawaiian born of foreign parents increased from 2,040 to 7,495 in 1890. Japanese men was from 116 to 12,350—Norwegians decreased from 392 to 227, Britains increased from 1,282 to 1,344. The Portuguese decreased from 3,778,602; the Germans receded from 300 to 1,034, the French from 192 to 70. The decrease of the native population is said to be going on rapidly.

A remarkable instance of longevity comes from the little village of Ranworth, in Norfolk, England, which has a population of barely three hundred. In this salubrious spot there are no less than fifteen residents over ninety years of age. In order to show the vigour of these patriarchs, a correspondent narrates that an old gentleman of 97 walked over five miles to the railway station the other day, and, on arriving at his destination, took a three-mile stroll.

Of all the foolish fads in the world the wearing of live lizards is the last which one would expect to be taken up by wealthy ladies. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in New York has happily taken the matter up. The names of dealers from whom chameleons are purchased are taken, and the fad will probably be given up, as people do not like to let themselves under police supervision.

The world's submarine cables now measure about 143,011 nautical miles, or 1,168 sections. Different governments control 833 sections, or 13,383 miles. France claiming 3,269 miles, Great Britain 1,599, Germany 1,579, and Italy 1,027 miles. The remaining 25 cables, aggregate 129,628 miles, are owned by private companies. This great length of cable has been nearly all made on the banks of the Thames, but Italy now has a cable factory, and France will soon have two. To lay and repair the cable requires the constant service of a specially equipped fleet of thirty-seven vessels of 56,955 tons.

A letter from Cairo says that the Khedive's outbursts of temper terrify his Ministers. He takes offence in matters where none is intended. His chief interest is in horses and the building of palaces. As long as he can go about in great pomp and see the people clear the road and salute him in awe he cares very little for public questions. The police recently arrested a tourist because he did not salute the Khedive quickly enough.

"My good woman" said the learned judge, "you must give an answer in the fewest possible words of which you are capable, to the plain and simple question whether when you were cross-

ing the street with the baby on your arm, and the omnibus was coming down on the right side and the cab on the left and the brougham was trying to pass the omnibus, you saw the plaintiff between the brougham and the cab, or whether, and when you saw him at all, and whether or not near the brougham, cab and omnibus, or either, or any two, and which of them respectively, or how it was!"

Japan has no poverty problem, which the Fortnightly Review accounts for thus: One reason is probably to be found in the land system, which has given to every worker a holding and encouraged him to supply his wants by his own labor. Another reason lies in the national taste for country beauty. Nowhere else are parties formed to visit the blossom trees, and nowhere else are pilgrimages simply for the sake of natural beauty. A country life, has, therefore, its own interest and men do not crowd cities for the sake of excitement. There is, too, in Japan, a curious absence of ostentatious luxury. The habits of living are in all classes much the same, and the rich do not outshine the poor by carriages, palaces and jewelry. The rich spend their money on curios, which, if costly, are limited. Rich and poor are alike courteous. It is not possible to distinguish employer from laborer by their behavior; all are clean, all are easy, all are restrained.

Rational Memory Training.

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CHAPTER III.

PHENOMENAL MEMORIES.
"The importance of cultivating a faculty that plays such an essential part in our mental progress can scarcely be exaggerated."—DR. WATTS.

Nature shows her accustomed partiality in the bestowal of memory. Some few have really great memories, others feeble memories, while most men have good native powers in this regard. But, as in the case of the talents, five gained other five, and two, other two, when employed, and the one talent hid, remained one talent, so the native powers of memory may, by exercise and training, be increased even many fold. The main differences between men, so far as the practical value of memory is concerned, depends much more on the way in which they have developed their memories, than upon the greatness of their natural powers.

In this chapter, we direct attention to certain persons of ancient and others of modern times, who were doubtless endowed with more than average powers of memory, and whose training had fortunately been favorable to its higher development. It may be that none of our readers will ever possess similar powers to those about to be recounted, yet the recital may serve to show the truth of a statement already made: that there is really no limit to the development of memory. If this be true, it should encourage every one, however moderate his native powers of memory, to persist in regular and systematic efforts for the strengthening of this faculty.

Lord Macaulay had a phenomenally powerful memory. When only three or four years of age he took in whole pages of what he read. His maid said he "talked printed words." Once when a child, when making an afternoon call with his father, he picked up Scott's "Lay of the Last Minstrel," for the first time. While his seniors were conversing he quietly devoured the treasure. When they returned home the boy went to his mother, who, at the time, was confined to her bed, and seating himself beside her, repeated what he had read by the canto, until she was tired. In after life, one day at a board meeting at the British Museum, Macaulay wrote down from memory, in three parallel columns on each side of four pages of foolscap, a complete list of the Cambridge senior wranglers with dates and Colleges attached, for the 100 years during which a record of the names had been kept in the university calendar. Many other examples of this kind, showing his wonderful memory, might be presented; he once said, if all existing copies of "Paradise Lost" and "Pil-

grim's Progress" were destroyed, he could restore them from memory.

Magliabechi, court librarian at Florence, was the literary prodigy of his times. He had crammed into his head the contents of an immense library. He could, upon demand, not only supply any quotation desired, but was also able to give page and paragraph.

Jedediah Buxton, who died in 1774, possessed a remarkable memory. Although a schoolmaster, he was so illiterate he could scarcely scrawl his own name. On one occasion he mentioned the quantity of ale he had drunk since he was twelve years old, and the names of the gentlemen who had given it to him. Although he had received very little instruction in arithmetic, and had never been assisted in his youth, beyond learning the multiplication table, yet, without the aid of pen or pencil, he could multiply five or six figures by so many, and in a much shorter time than it could be done by the most expert arithmetician. The product of the sum, which in his memory he had worked, he would repeat, if it were required, a month afterward. He could, moreover, leave off the operation, and, without the slightest error, resume it at the end of a week or a month, or even after several months.

Mr. Stanton, Secretary of War during the Rebellion, had a fine memory. One evening, in the early part of 1863, Dickens, then on a reading tour in this country, was dining with Charles Sumner, Stanton being present. To the surprise of Dickens, Mr. Stanton was able to repeat from memory a chapter from any of the novelist's works.

It is related of Dr. John Leyden "that after he had gone to Calcutta, a case occurred where a great deal turned on the exact wording of an Act of Parliament, of which, however, a copy was not to be found. Leyden, undertook to supply it from memory; and when, nearly a year after, a printed copy was obtained from England, it was found to be identical with what Leyden had dictated."

John Fuller, a land agent of the county of Norfolk, could correctly write out a sermon or lecture after hearing it once; and one Robert Dillon could, in the morning repeat six columns of a newspaper which he had had read the preceding evening. More wonderful still was George Watson, who, while in other respects the type of the hobbledohy, could tell the date of every day since his childhood and how he had occupied himself on that day.

Richard Porson, professor in the University of Cambridge, was alike distinguished for his learning and his memory. He had the Greek authors, book, chapter, verse and line at the tip of his tongue. When a lad at Eton, as he was going to his Latin lesson, one of the boys, wishing to play him a trick, took his Latin *Horace*, from him, and slipped into his hand some English book. Porson, however, who had learned *Horace* by heart before he went to Eton, was nothing disconcerted at the trick, but when called to begin, opened the English book which had been placed in his hand, and without hesitation commenced, and went on regularly, construing the Latin into English with the greatest ease. The tutor, perceiving some signs of amusement and mirth among the boys, and, suspecting there was something uncommon in the affair, asked Porson what edition of *Horace* he had in his hand. "I learned the lesson from the Delphin edition," replied the pupil, avoiding a direct reply. "That is very odd," said the master, "for you seem to be reading on a different page from myself. Let me see the book." The truth, of course, came out, and the master said he would be happy to find other pupils acquitting themselves as well under similar circumstances.

Mezzofanti is said to have known seventy different languages and dialects, and upon one occasion to have succeeded, after twenty-four hours' study, in readily conversing in a language which before was entirely unknown to him, and which seemed totally different from all he knew. An old beggar of Stirling, some years ago, yecked Blind Aleck, knew the whole of the Bible by heart, so that he could give verse, chapter and book for any quotation, or vice versa, correctly give the language of any given verse.

Charles Dickens, it is said, could, after passing down a street for the first time, tell you the names of the shop-keepers in order, and the kind of business in which each was engaged.

It is said, the Athenian Themistocles, knew the name of every one of the 20,000 citizens of Athens. Morphy, the celebrated chess player, could play several games of chess simultaneously, without seeing any of the boards on which the various games were being conducted. The great thinker, Pascal, is said never to have forgotten anything he had ever known or read, and the same is told of Hugo, Grotius, Leibnitz, and Euler. All knew the whole of Virgil's "Æneid" by heart. The great critic, Joseph Scaliger, used to say of himself that he had a bad memory. Yet this good man, with his bad memory, complains that it took him twenty-one days to learn the whole of Homer by heart; he had to devote three months to learning in like manner the whole of the Greek poets, and in two years he succeeded in getting by heart the whole range of classical authors.

Sir Benjamin Brodie, in his "Psychological Inquiry," cites the instance of the celebrated Jesuit, Suarez, who is said to have known by heart the whole of the works of St. Augustine. As these consist of eleven huge folio volumes they give some idea of the capacity of the memory that was able to take them all in and retain the whole; for it is said that if ever any one misquoted St. Augustine, Suarez would at once correct the quotation, and give it with literal accuracy.

Ben Jonson said of himself: "I can repeat whole books that I have read, and poems of some selected friends, which I have liked to charge my memory with." Avicenna repeated by rote the entire *Coran* when he was only ten years old. Justus Lipsius, on one occasion, offered to repeat all the "History" of Tacitus without a mistake, on forfeit of his life.

The following is a quotation from Monte Christo, by Alexander Dumas. Dantea and the learned and shrewd Abbe Faria have been conversing, and the latter remarks: "I possessed nearly 5,000 volumes in my library at Rome, but after reading them over many times I found out that with 150 well chosen books a man possesses a complete analysis of all human knowledge, or at least of all that is either useful or desirable to be acquainted with. I devoted three years of my life to reading and studying these 150 volumes, till I knew them nearly by heart. So that, since I have been in prison, a very slight effort of memory has enabled me to recall the contents as readily as though the papers were open before me."

Nor are these powers confined to gifted individuals. They are possessed by ordinary individuals, and manifested often under what is called by physicians, Hypermnnesia, or exaltation of memory, due to some change in the physical condition. This occurs frequently in fevers, in mania, ecstasy, hypnotism and hysteria. It is also frequently present in case of imminent death, when the whole life passes in review in a few seconds, facts and events long forgotten rushing with incalculable speed through the consciousness. During fever, the language of childhood, long disused and forgotten, has been recalled. A man of remarkably clear head was crossing a railway in the country, when an express train, at full speed, appeared closely approaching him. He had just time to throw himself down in the centre of the road between the two lines of rails, and as the train passed over him the sentiment of impending danger to his very existence, brought vividly to his recollection every incident of his former life in such an array as that which is suggested by the promised opening of "The Great Book at the last great day."

Nor are these phenomenal powers of memory confined to gifted individuals and persons in abnormal condition. They are often possessed by entire classes and races as the direct result of memory training. The natives of India have remarkable memories. It is a well known fact that an Indian druggist may have hundreds of jars, one above the other from floor to ceiling, not one containing a label, yet he never hesitates placing his hand on

the right vessel when a drug is required. The ordinary washermen go round to houses with their donkeys and collect clothes, some from one house, some from another. These they carry to the river and wash, and in returning with the huge pile never fail to deliver each article to the rightful owner.

In Brittany, the peasants still recite the ancient oral traditions of their race. They will repeat a legend or story with scrupulous fidelity to the established form in which they have always heard the incidents related. They will instantly check a stranger who attempts to deviate from the orthodox version with "Nay, the story should begin thus," repeating the regular formula of the tale.

During the persecution of the Waldenses, in the thirteenth century, when their version of the Scriptures was prohibited and destroyed wherever found, their ministers committed whole books of the sacred volume to memory, and repeated chapters at their religious meetings. Even the lay members could repeat passage after passage with the utmost facility and accuracy.

There is good reason for believing that it is clearly, within the compass of the average memory to master and recall at will every syllable of the Holy Scriptures. "It is recorded of a Slavonic Oriental Sect called the Bogomiles, which spread over Europe during the middle ages, that its members were required to memorize the Bible verbatim. Their latest historian Dragomanoff, declares that there were none of them who did not memorize the New Testament at least, one of their bishops publicly proclaimed that, in his own diocese of four thousand communicants, there was one unable to repeat the entire scriptures without an error."

As an illustration of great powers of memory, often found in common life, we insert the following interesting article from *The Call of San Francisco*:
In an Italian restaurant on O'Farrell street, there is a waiter who has a memory greater than that possessed by Memnon, or by a disappointed office seeker. Better still, his bank account is longer than his wonderful memory.

A wonder in many things is Mariani for that is the name of the little man with the big memory. Many were the stories related in reference to the food bearer's incomprehensible brain faculties, before I decided to test them for myself. "Why said a Bohemian friend while relating some of Mariani's performances, there is less likelihood of his forgetting a face or dish, than of Chris Buckley, 'the blind devil' failing to remember a voice. He will not only recognize one after a year's absence, but will also remember what your last meal consisted of. Don't believe it, eh? Well you can put him to a test and decide for yourself."

So it was agreed to put the little waiter's memory to a most rigid test. It was on Christmas eve, 1891, that two weary, hungry reporters entered the restaurant where Mariani is employed. Hundreds of persons were dining there and scarcely two ordered the same dishes.

"Hello, Shortpencil!" was Mariani's greeting as he quickly appeared by my friend's side, "regular dinner to night, or the same as you had last time?"

In order that there might be a fair test Shortpencil insisted that I should do the ordering. I did so, and the meal was a most satisfactory one. The circumstance had almost entirely escaped my memory, and I had forgotten there was such a person in the world as a disciple of the great Memnon, in the person of the modest little waiter, and was wondering where to dine when Shortpencil accosted me. This was Christmas eve, 1892, just one year after our dinner was served by Mariani. "Been to dinner? No, well, let's go to see Mariani. I'll wager you that he can repeat the dinner, dish for dish, without a single order."

The wager was accepted and half an hour later we were seated in the O'Farrell street restaurant. Mariani was soon before us.

"Good evening," said he to Shortpencil, and turning to me he added, and how are you? It must be nearly a year since you were last here?"

Already his memory was beginning to assert itself. "Now then gentlemen, he continued, will you have a regular dinner or the same as last time?"

Same, said Shortpencil. Then my own memory of the meal twelve months before was revived as each delicacy appeared in the same order as before. You had Oregon cheese last time for dessert, but we have a new brand which you will find even nicer. "Give us the same as before," was the order, and the first dinner was entirely duplicated. I learned more about that, for thirty years Mariani has worked in the same restaurant, and judiciously invested his savings. In addition to several houses and lots he owns a big factory in South San Francisco that supplies many of the delicacies he daily serves to patrons of the restaurant.

"Yes, he is a wonder," said the proprietor of the restaurant, when

asked about Mariani, and although he has accumulated a fortune, you could not hire him to quit his occupation as a waiter. As he declares himself, he was born to be a waiter, and a waiter he will be till called to that land where edibles are not required."

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. Jos. McLeod, Fredericton.]

A Call to Prayer.

Our sisters of the Free Baptist Woman's Missionary Society in the United States have issued a request to all the auxiliary societies to observe a day of special prayer in this month. They set forth the reasons for such a day, thus:

Because we believe it to be pleasing to God to be "inquired of" concerning work for him.

Because we are weak and need his strength. We are ignorant and need his wisdom.

Because it involves unity of purpose. We can claim the promise that "if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven."

Our missionaries in India will not only receive the blessing asked upon their work ("Ask and ye shall receive.") but inspiration and new hope will come to them as they know that the prayers of hundreds are ascending for them.

Every worker will be better fitted to go on with the work, will find it easier to sacrifice for it, and will have a deepened interest in it.

Our treasury needs that we call upon Him for help whose are the gold and silver and the cattle upon a thousand hills.

The day of the monthly meeting of each society is suggested as the day for special supplication.

There can be no doubt that a blessing will come not only to the mission and the missionaries for whom prayer is offered, but also to those who engage in such prayer.

Would not it be well for each auxiliary in this province and Nova Scotia to make its next monthly meeting a season of special prayer for their new missionaries—so lately arrived in the field where they hope to do their life work.

We are sure they are often in the thoughts of our sisters, and mentioned in their prayers. But just now, amidst new and strange surroundings, face to face with the toils and difficulties of the great work to which they have devoted themselves, feeling at times, perhaps, lonely and homesick, they may well be made the subjects of special prayer—that the Lord will strengthen and comfort them, and give them the fullest baptism of power for faithful and effective service.

IN BALASORE.

Balasore, India,
January 15th, 1894.

Dear Mrs. McLeod: I regret that I am unable to send a letter this mail. I thought to have written from Calcutta, but there were callers, shopping, sightseeing etc., occupying all the time, so that writing was laid aside.

Arrived her Saturday evening, 13th, inst. After dinner a reception was given by the natives. I cannot tell you how grateful I was for the warm welcome given us.

Baggage arrived today, and the unpacking has begun. The mail for home closes today at 4 p. m.

To-morrow Miss Coombs, one of the missionaries, leaves here for America.

Yours,
LIZZIE E. GAUNCE.

MISS GAUNCE'S many friends will be glad to know that she has arrived at her destination. On the 4th November she sailed from Boston, arriving at Balasore, on January 13th, having spent about ten weeks in the journey.

She has already, of course, made some progress in the study of the Oriya language, as well as having been a great comfort and encouragement to the missionaries there. To Mrs. Boyer especially, her arrival must have been one of the most pleasant, having come directly from the home land, and having so lately seen and talked with Bessie and Rilla, and her grandmother. She can tell her, too, of the deep sympathy all the people here have with her, and the constant interest in her work. Each one of us can imagine, in parts, at least, what a joy, mingled with sadness, must have been to dear Mrs. Boyer.