

this statement is true we do not pretend to say, but an old friend of the family has repeatedly told us that during the saddest time that Germany has witnessed for the last fifty years, when Bismarck, disheartened and dispirited, retired to his small property of Schönhausen, there to vegetate as a small Prussian landowner, while brooding moodily over all his grand political schemes, his wife never for a moment lost heart, but was able to inspire her husband with ever fresh courage and hope. A number of old friends and acquaintances quickly surrounded the noble hostess, while the remainder of the guests streamed on toward the billiard room to the right, the windows of which look out on the street. In front of one of the sofas lies a handsome bearskin—the animal was slain by Bismarck's own hand; and on a bracket stands the magnificent vase, with the king's portrait and a view of his castle, which King William presented to the Prince after the wars of 1866. The crowd and the heat increased every moment. The Prince, we were told, was in the big saloon. Hurrying thither, we saw our noble host, standing just inside the door, in animated converse with some earlier arrivals, yet, notwithstanding, quite ready to greet every newcomer—sometimes even stretching out both hands to right and left with hearty welcome. How well and bright he looked? That was always the first thing that struck one on seeing this man. His face, from his long country sojourn at Varzin, has regained its healthy colouring, the eyes are no longer so deeply shadowed by the overhanging brows or the furrowed forehead of last year, his hair is of that light Saxon hue which defies both time and impertinent curiosity, and the figure is as firm and upright as the youngest man there present. On this evening he also wore his favourite and most comfortable dress—that is, uniform. But not in strict accordance with regulation.—*Chambers' Journal*.

WASHINGTON'S RULES OF CONDUCT.

One of George Washington's early copy books contains a list of a hundred and ten "Rules of Civility and Decent Behaviour in Company and Conversation." Here are a few of them:

"Every action in company ought to be with some sign of respect to those present.

"When you meet with one of greater quality than yourself, stop and retire, especially if it be at a door or any strait place, to give way for him to pass.

"They that are in dignity or in office have in all places precedence; but whilst they are young, they ought to respect those that are their equals in birth or other qualities, though they have no public charge.

"Strive not with your superiors in argument, but always submit your judgment to others with modesty.

"Be not hasty to believe flying reports to the disparagement of any.

"Take all admonitions thankfully, in what time or place soever given; but afterwards, not being culpable, take a time or place convenient to let him know it that gave them.

"Think before you speak; pronounce not imperfectly, nor bring out your words too hastily, but orderly and distinctly.

"Speak not evil of the absent, for it is unjust.

"Make no show of taking great delight in your victuals; feed not with greediness; cut your bread with a knife; lean not on the table; neither find fault with what you eat.

"Be not angry at table, whatever happens, and if you have reason to be so, show it not; put on a cheerful countenance, especially if there be strangers, for good humour makes one dish of meat a feast.

"Let your recreation be manful, not sinful.

"Labour to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire called conscience."

These are not unwise rules; they touch on things great and small. The difficulty with most boys would be to follow a hundred and ten of them. They serve, however, to show what was the standard of good manners and morals among those who had the training of George Washington.—*From "George Washington," by Horae E. Scudder, in St. Nicholas for February.*

THE WITTIEST OF IRISHMEN.

To the Bench Curran could be at times unceremonious. In his early days Judge Robinson made an attempt to extinguish the rising advocate. Robinson, it was currently reported, owed his elevation to the publication of political pamphlets, remarkable only for their slavish meanness and scurrility. In arguing his case Curran said he had consulted all his law books and could not find the principle contended for. "I suspect, sir," said Robinson, "that your law library is rather scanty." "It is very true, my lord," said Curran, "that my books are not numerous; but I have prepared myself for this high profession rather by the study of a few good books than by the composition of a great many bad ones." Curran was occasionally nonplussed by a witness. Inquiring his master's age from a horse trainer's servant, he could get no satisfactory answer. "Come, come, friend," urged Curran, "has he not lost his teeth?" "Do you think," retorted the servant, "that I know his age as he does his horses?—by the mark of the mouth." Once foiled by a Limerick banker with an iron leg, Curran in his address to the jury said that his leg was the softest part about him. In a debate in the House of Commons he stated that he needed no aid from any one, that he was proud to be "the guardian of his own honour." "Indeed," exclaimed Sir Boyle Roche, "I congratulate Mr. Curran on his holding a sinecure." Lord Clare was a determined enemy of Curran while he was at the Bar. The Lord Chancellor ruined his practice at the Chancery Court, and his clients were always sufferers. Indeed Curran stated that the losses in his professional income from the animosity of Lord Clare amounted to no less than £50,000. The incidents in court in consequence of this disagreement were sometimes ludicrous. On one occasion when it was known that the advocate was about to make an elaborate argument in Chancery, Lord Clare brought a Newfoundland dog upon the bench with him, and paid much more attention to the dog

than to the barrister, and the fact was commented on by the profession. At a material point in the argument the Chancellor lost all decency, and turned quite aside to fondle the dog. Curran stopped at once. "Go on, go on," said Lord Clare. "Oh, I beg a thousand pardons, my lord!" was the ready reply. "I really took it for granted your lordship was engaged in consultation."—*Temple Bar*.

BETTER THINGS.

Better to smell the violet cool than sip the glowing wine;
Better to hark a hidden brook than watch a diamond shine.

Better the love of a gentle heart than beauty's favour proud;
Better the rose's living seed than roses in a crowd.

Better to love in loneliness than to bask in love all day;
Better the fountain in the heart than the fountain by the way.

Better be fed by a mother's hand than eat alone at will;
Better to trust in God than say: "My goods my storehouse fill."

Better to be a little wise than in knowledge to abound;
Better to teach a child than toil to fill perfection's round.

Better to sit at a master's feet than thrill a listening State;
Better suspect that thou art proud than be sure that thou art great.

Better to walk the real unseen than watch the hour's event;
Better the "Well done!" at the last than the air with shouting rent.

Better to have a quiet grief than a hurrying delight;
Better the twilight of the dawn than the noonday burning bright.

Better a death when work is done than earth's most favoured birth;

Better a child in God's great house than the king of all the earth.

—George MacDonald, LL.D.

A KING'S FUNERAL.

I went to the late King's funeral (William IV. of Prussia), who was buried with just the same ceremonial as his predecessor this time seven years. It is a wretched mockery after all, and if I were king the first thing I would do should be to provide for being committed to the earth with more decency and less pomp. A host of persons of all ranks and stations were congregated, who "loitered through the lofty halls, chattering and laughing," and with nothing of woe about them but the garb. I saw two men in an animated conversation, and one laughing heartily at the very foot of the coffin as it was lying in state. The chamber of death in which the body lay all hung with black and adorned with scutcheons and every sort of funeral finery—was like a scene in a play; and as we passed through it, and looked at the scaffolding and rough work behind, it was just like going behind the scenes of a theatre. A soldier's funeral, which I met in the morning—the plain coffin slowly borne along by his comrades, with the cap and helmet and sword of the dead placed upon it,—was more impressive, more decent, more affecting than all this pomp with pasteboard crowns and heralds scampering about, while idleness and indifference were gossiping round about the royal remains. I would rather be quietly consigned in the grave by a few who cared for me (if any such there might be) than be the object of all this parade and extravagance.—*The Greville Memoirs*.

TREE PLANTING IN THE UNITED STATES.

From a paper on the woods of the United States and their destruction, in the February Century, Mr. J. E. Chamberlain sums up as follows: "The reasonable conclusion of the whole matter would seem to be that while there is no serious menace to the eastern half of the United States through the loss of forests, there is good reason to urge the preservation of as much of them as possible, and the encouragement of new plantations; while in the western half of the country the immediate withdrawal from sale of the whole body of forests belonging to the Government is highly desirable. There should be an exhaustive inquiry at the hands of a competent Government commission, into the subject of the extent of forests belonging to the Government, their location, value, character, etc., the proportion of private lands now wooded, and the apparent dependence or independence, as the case may be, of all sections of the country upon the modifying effects of forests. Exact information is now needed, which could scarcely be obtained except through the efforts of such a commission.

"Sentimental considerations, I suppose, are to be held secondary to the practical in the matter; but they are powerful, and should be aroused in behalf of no object more readily than the woods, which have occupied so large a place in the sentimental life of man from the earliest times."

THE services of sacred song, now all but universal in the Presbyterian churches of Scotland, used to be called "demonstrations," and were first begun by the choir of the Pollok Street Church, Glasgow some twenty years ago. They have been most useful in raising the standard of congregational music.

THE Municipal Council of Paris have legalized cremation—having adopted the plan of a mortuary furnace, and granted a site in Père la Chaise, where it is expected operations will be begun next month. It has been settled that the expense of cremation will not exceed \$3, and it is estimated that the time required for the combustion of an adult will be two hours.

British and Foreign.

* THE Rev. Dr. Cradock, Principal of Brasenose College, Oxford, died lately.

THE Kentucky Senate has passed a bill prohibiting the sale of pistols and bowie knives.

A CONFERENCE to consider the federation of the Australasian Colonies has been held at Hobart Town.

A RUSSIAN Arctic expedition starts this spring for New Siberia, in order to study the natural history of the islands.

SEVERAL Protestants in France have received the Cross of the Legion of Honour. One of these is M. Cazalis, the founder of the Basile French Mission.

THE Japanese Mail gives currency to a rumour that the Russian Government has resolved on setting apart a sum of 100,000 roubles every year for missionary work in Corea.

THE Emperor of China has formally invited the Pope to open direct relations between the Holy See and the Chinese Empire by the establishment of a Papal embassy at Peking.

THE death is announced of Rev. John Tulloch, D.D., Principal of St. Andrew's University. The deceased, who was born in Tibbermuir, Perthshire, was sixty-three years of age.

A BILL to propagate a contagious disease among rabbits, with a view to exterminate them, is to be introduced into the South Australian Assembly. The experiment is to be tried on Torrens' Island.

THE Sustentation Fund of the Presbyterian Church of England closed the year satisfactorily, a sufficient sum having been subscribed to raise the salaries of the ministers of weak congregations to \$1,500.

PRINCE JEROME BONAPARTE is to visit Rome soon, partly to assist Signor Chiala, the editor of the forthcoming Cavour correspondence, in preparing the letters that passed between himself and Cavour for several years.

DR. SCOTT, of Rutherglen, has handed over a sum of above \$60,000 to the Foreign Mission Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, the annual interest of which is to be used in support of their missions in India and Africa.

A LADY in France has bequeathed 300,000 francs to the Caisse de Retraite, a retiring fund for superannuated Protestant pastors. This will prove an immense boon, and will enable a welcome increase to be made in their small annuities.

A SOCIETY with 1,800 members, each of whom is pledged "to read a portion of the Scripture daily," has been formed in Japan, where English is fast becoming what French is—an accomplishment of the educated—and the Bible is being studied by many of the Japanese.

THE heirs of Barmy Parish, Glasgow, have agreed to a voluntary assessment in aid of the building fund of the new church. The kirk session and congregation have raised \$20,000, while other heritors and friends have promised \$30,000, leaving about \$25,000 still to be raised.

THE Rev. Thomas C. Green, who on Sunday resigned the pastorate of the Eighth Presbyterian Church of Chicago, greatly surprised his congregation, by whom he was thought to be one of the rising lights of Presbyterianism. He resigned that he might enter the Episcopal Church.

A NORWICH (Conn.) man, excavating for a new cellar, found a small walnut coffin, which he opened. Within was the body of a black and tan terrier, well preserved. The dog wore a shroud of white satin, trimmed with lace, and around its neck was a handsome collar of buff leather and gold.

THE work of drilling a hole through the hill directly over where the lost Nanticoke miners are supposed to be is progressing fast. On Saturday night 110 feet of six-inch pipe had been put down. There then remained 185 feet to be drilled. The superintendent thought bottom would be reached in about ten days.

A CURIOUS story is related of the fate of a large mass of unpublished manuscript sermons by Robertson of Brighton. They were mislaid on the platform of a railway station, and in spite of diligent search and a reward of some hundred pounds being offered, the parcel has never since been heard of. These lost sermons would have sufficed to fill two volumes.

MANY who have read the charming and edifying books by A. L. O. E., and who have followed with profound interest her recent career as a zenana missionary in India, will be grieved to hear that Miss C. M. Tucker was, in Christmas week, lying dangerously ill at Batala, so much so that a special request for prayer on her account had been made in the churches.

A NEW boy evangelist has appeared in St. Louis. His name is Louis Mysonheimer, and his age is twenty-two. His pulpit manners are described as unique, not to say ludicrous. One moment he is calmly reading a passage of Scripture and the next will be upon a seat out in the body of the church exhorting the people to turn from their evil ways and be saved ere it is too late.

THE Rev. Dr. Chalmers, Principal of the London Presbyterian College, who has entered on the jubilee year of his ministry, is the only Disruption minister in England. Ordained at Aberdeen in 1836, he was translated to Dailly, Ayrshire, in 1841, and to Edward Street, Portman Square, in 1845. Last week he completed forty-one years of service in the Presbyterian Church of England.

THE Young Men's Christian Association in Paris began the year by making a new attempt to reach the lower classes, whom they invited to come in and partake of hot soup or coffee, after which short Gospel addresses were delivered and hymns were sung. At first, the invitations were treated as a hoax; but when those who first ventured in found that they were genuine, they spread the report and the numbers have considerably increased.