

ated. He was constitutionally a man of one idea; "one thing at a time," was his maxim, and to that one thing he devoted all his energies of body and mind. His ability to concentrate was almost frightful. To that he owed his financial success, and to that I owed my present unwilling vassalage.

It had come to be always and altogether "we," and not "I," till I began in an absurd and unaccountable way to feel at times that somehow I shared his guilt, and to be oppressed by the burden a thousand times more than he. For in fact he did not feel it at all, or if he did could not be induced to recognize it for what it was; to him it was an abnormal condition he called disease.

Soon a change for the better was apparent in Mr. Dyer's physical condition. He was attaining a reasonable degree of health. The motive for living increased daily, and I knew that he would live till that man was found, dead or alive, if it took twenty years. Scarcely a day passed that he did not send for or come to me to tell something he had heard, or propose a different plan of action, for our search was in vigorous progress. That was bad enough, a daily nightmare, but there was something worse as I soon began to realize.

Agnes possessed in an unusual degree that faculty or instinct that lies at the root of a woman's wisdom, a keen and accurate intuition. She knew immediately that I was concealing something from her; she divined that it was the very thing in which I had promised my aid;—and she felt that somehow there was a breach of trust upon my part. She was acutely hurt, and the more so that her father evaded her and sought me. I could not explain and at first avoided her, for I knew that if she asked me a direct question I could not tell her a direct falsehood. If I had known Agnes Dyer as well then as I knew her afterward I should not have made that mistake, and she would never have so misunderstood me. I should have known that she was too proud to ask what she thought I was unwilling to tell.

Directly there was a change in her manner. She became less frank and confiding and more strictly courteous, and this increased. I had nothing to complain of; she was always a lady and treated me with the greatest deference; but she no longer told me her perplexities or asked my counsel with that trustfulness which, now that I had it no more, I found had been grateful. I could not endure that she should think meanly of me, and writhed under her implied distrust.

But of course there are two sides to everything. I must admit that Joel Dyer's keen interest was infectious, and I found myself going into details with a sort of satisfaction scarcely to be accounted for. It proved as I surmised, that thus far he had unconsciously followed Tom's track in his search for the same man. I went over it again, and all three ended together at Mauna Loa.

This much was proved: that in company with an American sailor an English tourist and a guide he ascended the volcano for a view of the crater. They all went down within the old crater and walked about on the hardened lava, a not dangerous feat. Lyon, however, pushed on through smoke and steam, and over insecure footing to obtain a near view of the living fire. In vain the guide warned, called, and followed, till half-stified by sulphurous fumes, and notified by repeated sounds of coming danger, he hastily clambered back to a place of safety, and none to soon. All three waited breathlessly till the smoke and steam, lagging off, showed that the crust over which Lyon had gone and from which the guide retreated had disappeared, falling into the liquid lava, just then boiling with renewed activity in that portion of the crater. Alarmed for their safety they withdrew, still calling and searching for Lyon. They remained in the vicinity till night without finding any trace of him, and at last descended the mountain with the conviction that he had been swallowed up in the crater. It was a horrible fate, but one that he appeared to court. In fact, it would seem that he had repeatedly tried to give away the life he no longer valued. This recklessness passed for bravery. He was reported to have entered a burning building in San Francisco, despite efforts to prevent him, saving a child in an upper room by letting it down from a spot inaccessible to the firemen, and then flinging himself down, and, to the astonishment of all present, escaping with only a few bruises and a broken arm.

At another time during a storm he threw himself into the sea, in mid-ocean to rescue a drowning sailor,—the same man who accompanied him to Mauna Loa. Now, however, the life he held so cheap he had succeeded in throwing away. At least that was the opinion of those who knew most about the affair. Two years had passed, leaving no evidence to the contrary, and I should have been quite content to acquiesce in the general opinion, only that neither Tom nor Mr. Dyer were quite satisfied with the proofs, and had pre-sentiments, born, as I thought, of their hope, that he was still alive. To make a certainty of the matter, a man was found who for a considerable sum engaged to go to Hawaii, and search the affair to the bottom.

(To be continued.)

A WORD FOR ROMPING GIRLS.

Most women have a dread of them. Mothers would rather their little daughters were called anything else than romps. They say to them, "Be very quiet now, my dears; don't run or jump, and be little ladies." As if a healthy child could be still; as if it could take time to walk, or step over what came in its way; as if it could fold its hands in its lap, when its little heart is so brimful of tickle. It is absurd and wrong, because it is unnatural. Children, girls as well as boys, need exercise; indeed, they must have it, to keep in a healthy condition. They need it to expand their chests, strengthen their muscles, tone their nerves, develop themselves generally.

And this exercise must be out-of-doors, too. It is not enough to have calisthenics in the nursery or parlor. They need to be out in the sunshine, out in the wind, out in the grass, out in the woods, out-of-doors somewhere, if it be no bigger than the common park. Suppose they do tan their pretty faces. Better be brown as a berry, and have pulse quick and strong, than white as a lily and complain of

cold feet and headache. Suppose they do tear their clothes; suppose they do wear out their shoes; it don't try a mother's patience and strength half so much to watch and mend as it does to watch night after night a querulous sick child, and it don't drain a father's pocket-book half as quick to buy shoes as it does to pay doctor's bills.

Indeed, we don't believe there is a prettier picture in all the wide world than that of a little girl balancing herself on the topmost rail of an old zig-zag fence, her bonnet on one arm and a basket of blackberries on the other, her curls streaming out in the wind, or rippling over her flushed cheeks, her apron half torn from her waist, and dangling to her feet, her fingers stained with the berries she had picked, and her lips with those she had eaten. Mother, mother, don't scold that little creature when she comes and puts her basket on the table and looks ruefully at the rent in the new gingham apron, and at the little bare toes sticking out of the last pair of shoes. Wash off her hot face and soiled hands, and give her a bowl of cool milk and light bread, and when she has eaten her fill and got rested, make her sit down beside you and tell what she has seen off in those meadows and woods.

Her heart will be full of beautiful things—the sound of the wind, the fall of the leaves, the music of the wild birds and the laugh of wild flowers, the rippling of streams and the color of pebbles, the shade of the clouds and the hue of the sunbeams—all those will have woven their spell over her innocent thoughts, and made her a poet in feeling, if not in expression.

No, mothers, don't nurse up your little girls like house plants. The daughters of this generation are to be the mothers of the next, and if you would have them healthy in body and gentle in temper, free from nervous affections, fidgets and blues; if you would fit them for life—its joys, its cares and its trials—let them have a good romp every day while they are growing. It is Nature's own specific, and, if taken in season, warranted to cure ails of the girl and the woman.—*Brooklyn Monthly.*

NINEVEH AND BABYLON.

It is singular that Herodotus, in speaking of "the many sovereigns who had ruled over Babylon, and lent their aid to the building of its walls and the adornment of its temples," does not even incidentally refer to Nebuchadnezzar, whose name was stamped upon the bricks of every important structure. What is styled the "standard inscription" of Nebuchadnezzar is a document of high interest. In this the great monarch gives a minute account of his principal works. He tells how, "with bricks made as hard as stones, I made a way for the branch of the Shitani to the waters of the Yapur-Shapu, the great reservoir of Babylon. With two long embankments of brick and mortar, I built the sides of the ditch. Across the river, to the west, I built the wall of Babylon with brick. The reservoir I filled completely with water. Besides the outer wall, I constructed inside of Babylon a fortification such as no king had ever made before me, namely, a long rampart five miles square, as an extra defense against presumptuous enemies. Great waters I made use of continually. I did not allow the waters to overflow; but the fulness of the floods I caused to flow on, restraining them with a brick embankment. Thus I completely made strong the defences of Babylon. May it stand forever."

This fortress, we imagine, stood not upon the Euphrates itself, but upon both sides of a bayou, or comparatively shallow side branch, running from it. This supposition enables us to comprehend the manner in which this strong citadel was captured by Cyrus. Herodotus, indeed, says Cyrus turned the course of the Euphrates itself into a huge artificial reservoir, 420 stadia in extent. But Sir Henry Rawlinson is confident that no such reservoir was ever practicable. If it had existed it is scarcely possible that all traces of it should have vanished, the more especially as it is said to have been faced throughout with stone, and that, too, in a region where, for a hundred miles, not even a pebble is to be found. Xenophon, who, in such a matter, is much better authority than Herodotus, says that Cyrus drained the river by two cuttings, one above and the other below the city, and thus was able to enter the town by the dry bed of the stream. If we suppose that this stream was a bayou or side-channel, the operation is comprehensible. He had only to dam up the mouth of the bayou above the fortress, and deepen its channel below, by which it entered the Euphrates, and in a few hours the bed would be left dry.

This, as we learn from the Book of Daniel, was done in the dead of night. The defenders were so confident in the strength of their fortress, that they even neglected to close the water-gates which fronted the stream at the foot of each street; and so, when the water was drawn off, there was nothing to prevent the entrance of the besiegers into every part of the fortress.

Babylon, after its capture (B.C. 538), was made a royal residence of the Persian kings. But after two unsuccessful attempts at revolt, its fortifications were partly thrown down. It ceased to be a royal city; its walls and palaces, mainly of unburnt brick, fell into decay, and in the time of Alexander the Great (B.C. 323) it was mostly a ruin. He had it in mind to restore Babylon, and make it the metropolis of his Asiatic dominions; but his death prevented the execution of the project. Four centuries later, according to St. Jerome, the site had been turned into a hunting-park for the sport of the Persian kings, who partially restored the walls in order to preserve the game. From that time it passed more and more out of the memory of man, until its very site was forgotten; and it was not again positively identified until 1847.—*Sunday Magazine for August.*

THE Rev. M. M. G. Dana, of Plymouth Church, St. Paul, Minn., has adopted the custom of preaching a five minutes' sermon every Sabbath morning to the children.

THE ever watchful eye of the Papacy is upon Central Africa, and twelve missionaries of the Roman Catholic Church have already left for Zanzibar to establish missions throughout the interior.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

THE Cumberland Presbyterians report 125,000 communicants and 1,500 preachers.

A BILL for the abolition of bull-fights was recently defeated in the Spanish Cortes. The minister of Public Works spoke against it.

THE latest letters from the English Universities' Mission in Central Africa, state that the Zanzibar slave-trade has virtually ceased.

THE Rome correspondent of the London "Times" says that there is no truth in the reports of the Pope's failing health or of his intended abdication.

THE demand for the five cent Testaments issued by the American Bible Society is so great that it has led to the issue of 1,000 copies a day.

DR. WALKER gives the name of "Grasshopper Christians" to those who are active during revivals, and seem to be asleep in ordinary times.

DURING the recent revival at Scottsville, Va., it is said that there was not a household in the town or vicinity that had not been seriously impressed.

A CHURCH clock, presented by Mr. Wesley when in America, is still doing good service in the main audience room of Old John Street Church, New York city.

THERE has been an increase of 470 Roman Catholic priests in England and Scotland since 1867, and convents, monasteries and religious orders have multiplied rapidly.

"My belief is," said Monsignor Capel lately, "that Catholics are not relatively more numerous in England now than they were some years ago. In some places we have gained, in others we have lost."

A NUMBER of gentlemen in London have united to raise not less than \$300,000 to build and endow a suitable place of worship in that city in connection with the Church of Scotland. The site is said to be already secured.

CHIEF JOSEPH declines the proposition of George W. McCrary to send twelve of his young braves to college. He fears that at college they will learn to fight and shoot at sophomores and thus become bloodthirsty.

FATHER HYACINTHE, in a lecture at Paris a fortnight ago, advocated a reform of Roman Catholicism by means of a popular election and a restriction of the papacy to a simple presidency over all Episcopal churches.

THE colored Baptists of the South are trying to help themselves to a better education. They are making efforts to establish a school to educate their preachers in Louisville, Ky., and a theological seminary in Alabama.

AN English clergyman in preaching last month for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, stated the fact that the total incomes of all their missionary societies is less than the amount the Government collects from the dog-tax.

THERE are now twenty Baptist churches in the Republic of Liberia. About five thousand Congoes were rescued from slave ships by American men-of-war, and they were landed and cared for in Liberia. Not one relapsed into heathenism.

DR. MILNE, the excellent missionary to China, said that to acquire the Chinese language "is a work for men with bodies of brass, lungs of steel, heads of oak, hands of spring-steel, eyes of eagles, hearts of apostles, memories of angels, and lives of Methuselahs."

DURING the meeting of the Congress at Berlin Dr. Joseph P. Thompson had an interview with Prince Bismarck, and presented a petition in behalf of the religious equality of Turks and Christians. The Congress seems to have satisfactorily settled that matter.

A TELEGRAM has been received in London to the effect that Monday, June 10th, was observed throughout the diocese of Madras as a day of thanksgiving for the religious movement in Tinnivally, where 18,000 natives are under instruction for baptism.

A CONFERENCE of pastors of the Reformed Church of France, held at Paris, recently, protested against the attempt of the government to reorganize the Lutheran Church, as an invasion of the rights of the church and as a menace of the liberty of the Reformed Church.

In Jerusalem there are about 13,000 Jews, being about one-third the whole population of the city. In the other cities and towns of Palestine there are in all about 12,000 Jews. There are a great many more Jews in Philadelphia than in the whole land of Palestine.

MR. WILLIAM ROPER, of Patricott Church, near Manchester, Eng., must be the patriarch of Sunday-school teachers. At the age of seventy-six years, he recently resigned the superintendence of the school with which he has been connected as scholar or teacher for sixty-six years.

SOME members of the sect of Standists, or Bible-readers, in Russia—an honest, evangelistic body—have been tried at Rischeneff for holding conventicles and teaching doctrines contrary to the Orthodox Church. The trial was before a jury composed entirely of Greek Christians; but the testimony of the 100 or more witnesses was so favorable that the accused were acquitted.

THE English Ritualists make no abatement in their offensive practices. On June 17th they observed the feast of the dedication at St. Alban's, Holborn, when there were several celebrations of the Holy Communion before breakfast. The preacher, Rev. Dr. West, urged his hearers to present a united front, and show that they were not contending for a posture or vesture, but for great principles.

MANY interesting documents have been found among the papers left sealed by Pius IX. to be transmitted to his successor; among others: letters from Victor Emmanuel and Napoleon III., showing that a *modus vivendi* would have been established between the Pontiff and the Italian Government and a Concordat signed had it not been for the events of 1870; which seems to substantiate the assertions made by Prince Louis Napoleon in a recent article in a French magazine.