

solicitor's office, and to the intense amusement of his companions he used to say, "I intend to be Prime Minister of England," and in spite of scorn he became Prime Minister, and his name was Benjamin Disraeli. Ninety years ago there was a boy in Staffordshire who had been told exactly what I am telling you—that any boy who determined to be this or that could be, and he said, "If that be true, I will test it; and I am determined that I will be Prime Minister of England." That boy became Prime Minister, and his name was Robert Peel. Some fifty years ago there was a very rude and ungainly-looking boy, who seemed as if all his limbs were out of joint; when seven years old he was shoeless and penniless, who at seventeen was driving a canal boat, at twenty was a rail-splitter, at twenty-two was at the head of a small shop which was very unsuccessful, but who used to amuse his comrades by saying, "Never mind; I intend to become President of the United States." His name was Abraham Lincoln. It is doggedness that does it, and it is thoroughness that does it. After all his failures, Lincoln thought he would take to the law. He bought a law book, and after breakfast he used to go out and sit under a tree, and with his legs higher than his head, move round the tree in the shade from morn to dewy eve. In that way he mastered the law book, and in time became one of the greatest of the modern Presidents of America.—*Archdeacon Farrar.*

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LANGUAGE STATISTICS.—The language in which Shakespeare and Milton wrote was the language of less

than 6,000,000 human beings, and when Washington was President less than 16,000,000 of people used the English tongue. At this latter time French was the mother tongue of at least 30,000,000 of people; and by some writers it is said that 50,000,000 of French-speaking people were living at the time of the Revolution of 1789. Between forty and fifty years ago the English language equalled the German in the number of those who spoke it, and now the latter is left far behind in the race. German is now spoken by 10,000,000 persons in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, by 46,000,000 in the German Empire, by 40,000 in Belgium, and by about 2,000,000 in the little Alpine country of Switzerland. Besides the countries mentioned, in which German is usually classed as the native tongue, it is spoken by about 2,000,000 persons in the United States and Canada, giving a total of about 60,000,000 who use the German language. With French the case is much the same. That language is now spoken by the 38,000,000 inhabitants of France, by 2,250,000 people in Belgium, by 200,000 in Alsace-Lorraine, by 600,000 in Switzerland, by 1,500,000 in the United States and Canada, by 600,000 in Hayti, and by 1,500,000 in Algiers, India, the West Indies and Africa; in all 45,000,000. English is spoken by all but less than 1,000,000 of the 38,000,000 in the British Isles, by probably 57,000,000 of the 60,000,000 inhabitants now believed to be in the United States, by 4,000,000 persons in Canada, by 3,000,000 in Australia, by 3,700,000 West Indians, and perhaps by 1,000,000 in India and other British colonies, bringing the total to over 100,000,000.—*Chicago Times.*