

## JULES VERNE AND HIS STORIES.

Few, indeed, are the boys who have not revelled in the romances of Jules Verne. His life was a most interesting one, and nothing is more fascinating than the stories of his early struggles. At the age of sixteen he went up to Paris, studied law, and at nineteen became a duly qualified member of the French Bar. But he never practised. Literature was his bent. Life was a hand-to-mouth existence, till one day an old bookseller, who was reading one of Verne's tales of adventure in a popular paper of the day, gave him the idea of his life.

"If this man," remarked the bookseller, pointing to Verne's name, and altogether unaware that he was talking to him, "would read the books of 'Cyrano de Bergerac,' he would get a notion which he might put to profit."

Verne bought one or two of them for a few pence and read them. Then, after a few weeks' work, during which he hardly stopped for food or sleep, he finished "Five Weeks in a Balloon," and dropped his manuscript into the letter-box of Hetzel, the publisher. Some days later he saw Mr. Hetzel coming out, and, with the desperation hunger gives, for he had not a penny in his pocket, and had eaten nothing since the day before, he went up to him and began to talk.

"Go away," said the old gentleman, who was deep in a manuscript; and, when Jules Verne persisted, handed him a franc. Verne, furious at first and then amused, ran after Mr. Hetzel to return the money, and found him sitting on a bench in the Luxembourg Gardens, still reading the MSS. One of the sheets of the paper blew away. Verne caught it, gave it back to Mr. Hetzel, who remarked, "I am much obliged, but do leave me alone. I am wasting all my dinner-time over this story as it is. It is so terribly interesting." "I am glad of that," Verne said, "for I am its author."

"The author!" The old publisher dropped the MSS. into his hat, sprang from his seat, kissed the young man on both cheeks, and shook him warmly by the hand. Then the masterpiece flew away, and the two newly-made friends spent ten minutes chasing it. So began the friendship which ended only with old Mr. Hetzel's life, and was continued by his sons, who have published every book Jules Verne has written.

## WAITING.

By John Burroughs.

Serene I fold my hands and wait,  
Nor care for wind, or tide, or sea;  
I have no more 'gainst time or fate,  
For lo! my own shall come to me.

I stay my haste, I make delays,  
For what avails this eager pace?  
I stand amid the eternal ways,  
And what is mine shall know my face.

Asleep, awake, by night or day,  
The friends I seek are seeking me;  
No wind can drive my bark astray,  
Nor change the tide of destiny.

What matter if I stand alone?  
I wait with joy the coming years;  
My heart shall reap where it has sown,  
And garner up its fruit of tears.

The waters know their own, and draw  
The brooks that spring in yonder  
height;  
So flows the good with equal law  
Unto the soul of pure delight.

The stars come nightly to the sky;  
The tidal wave unto the sea;  
Nor time, nor space, nor deep, nor high,  
Can keep my own away from me.

Lies are like snakes: "wherever there  
is one there are two!"

## THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

The great languages of antiquity are dead. The Assyrian has been buried for ages. The Hebrew is the special possession of those who study the sacred books of a scattered nation; the Greek and Latin are within the reach of the learned, but the leading living tongue of the present hour seems to be the English. A hundred years ago perhaps fifteen million people spoke English. This was probably as great a number as ever spoke the Latin tongue, and three times as great as ever spoke Greek. The great work of dominant empires in the ancient time was subjugation, not education. Books were few, literature was limited. The whole mass of literature of all ages before the Christian era would be a mere trifle compared with the literature of to-day. There are doubtless a hundredfold more books written and published in the English tongue than Solomon ever saw, and each one of those books represents editions of hundreds, thousands, or even millions of copies which are sent forth to the world. The ancient peoples had no printing-press, no newspapers, no mailing facilities, and comparatively few could either write or read.

There are three prominent modern languages. There are, perhaps, forty millions of German-speaking people, with an extensive literature. There are between thirty and forty millions of French-speaking people; but to-day there are not less than one hundred and ten millions of English-speaking people; and besides this the British Empire and its dependencies have a population amounting to some two hundred and fifty-two millions of souls. Now, as a rule, conquerors do not learn the language of the conquered people. They give commands and leave it with the subject races to understand and obey them. Then Bible societies, missionary societies, and all civilizing agencies are instrumentalities for the diffusion of the English tongue, for though they develop the languages of the people among whom they labor, yet in all higher education and advancement they fall back upon the English language as the *via tresa-sure* house from which they are to draw.

Commerce is also a great instrumentality for the diffusion of language, and half the shipping of the world is controlled by the English-speaking people. As literature spreads and education extends, the English language must extend with it. It is an omnivorous language, gathering, borrowing, and creating words as they are needed. In North America the English-speaking people have a vast amount of territory into which an increasing population is rapidly pouring; and the common school, the spelling-book, the newspaper, lead these to a knowledge of the English tongue. English-speaking people have increased sevenfold within a century, and they are increasing now as rapidly as ever.

The greatest instrumentality for reaching the world with the gospel message seems to be the English language, and those who can command its resources should use them to the greatest possible extent to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom in all the world for a witness to all nations.—H. L. Hastings.

To pray for abundant blessings without putting forth our best efforts to obtain them by our labor, is like praying for plentiful harvests with the plow in the barn and the furrows unturned. God answers prayers for the harvest after the furrows are turned and the drill has done its work.

When God winnows the fields some men are as the chaff before the winds and some are as the golden grain at His feet.

## ADVICE TO MOTHERS.

If you have a baby or young children in the home always keep a box of Baby's Own Tablets on hand. Don't wait until the little one is sick, for sometimes an hour's delay may prove fatal. This medicine cures stomach trouble, constipation, diarrhoea, simple fevers and makes teething painless. If children are sick, Baby's Own Tablets make them well; and better still an occasional dose will keep them well. The Tablets are good for children of all ages and are guaranteed to contain no opiate or harmful drug. Mrs. Joseph Ross, Hawthorne, Ont., says: "I have used Baby's Own Tablets and find them just the thing to keep children well." These Tablets are sold by all medicine dealers or you can get them by mail at 25c. a box by writing The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

## A GREAT YEAR FOR DEER HUNTING.

From the latest returns received by the Grand Trunk Railway system whose lines tap the best territory in Ontario for fish and game, it appears in comparison with the season of 1905, the hunters of last fall had a full measure of success.

During the fifteen days open season of 1906 the Canadian Express Company alone transported 3,100 carcasses of deer with an aggregate weight of 318,215 pounds, all of these being shipped from points on the Northern division and Ottawa division of the Grand Trunk, against a total of 2,790 carcasses in 1905, or an increase of 394 deer with an increase in weight of 11,820 pounds.

The districts from which the largest numbers were shipped were the Magnetawan River (Burk's Falls), Trout Creek, South River, Lake of Bays (Huntsville), Kearney, Powlessen, and the Haliburton region. This number of carcasses cannot be taken as an estimate of the number killed as a large number are eaten by the hunters in camp, and a large number are transported home by the settlers. When it is considered that nearly 5,000 hunters were in the several districts during the open season and that each hunter is allowed by law two deer, it can be conservatively estimated that close upon 10,000 deer were killed during the fifteen days of the open season between November 1st and November 15th.

From other authentic information it is found that during the last seven or eight years deer have been seen from 150 to 200 miles further north than they were found before.

Instead of diminishing in numbers the deer in the "Highlands of Ontario" are increasing. The woods are full of them and the game laws are so well enforced by the Ontario Government that good hunting in that territory is assured for years to come.

Without a doubt the hunting season of 1906 in the Province of Ontario has seen the largest influx of hunters that has ever been. Not only from the towns and cities of Ontario have the Nimrods turned out in large numbers, but from the sister province of Quebec and from the United States many have taken advantage of the well known attractions that appeal to lovers of sport, and the life in the woods following the chase.

There has been some discussion in the newspapers to the effect that the large number of hunters who go in each year in quest of deer will eventually have a tendency to diminish the supply, but this has not been borne out by the facts and returns. This game is not on the decrease, but on the contrary, they seem to be multiplying in the several districts in which they are found, though in the regions where railway construction has been going on for some time it has had the effect of driving them further north, or to other parts of the province into more sparsely settled districts.

The efforts being put forth to prevent Sabbath desecration, and to secure a due recognition of the sanctity of the Lord's Day and its proper observance, are meeting with a hopeful degree of success both on this continent and in Europe. It will be gratifying to all lovers of the Sabbath to know that there was recently held in the city of Philadelphia a meeting of "The Philadelphia Woman's Association for the Better Observance of the Lord's Day," at which was inaugurated a movement which has proved a great blessing in England, the object of which is to influence leaders of society to set a worthy example and to desist from practices which turn the Holy Day into a holiday.