

you know what it means by doing just as it would have you. Will you, dear?"

The little girl stood a moment with the pipe still held up high in her hand; the red lips pouted a little, and the blue eyes filled with tears. She looked strongly inclined to contest the question and keep the pipe, by dint of superior height, if not right. Only for a moment: the pouting lips dimpled into smiles, the lifted arm was gently lowered.

"Here, Ronald, you take it now," she said, sweetly. "Is that what it means, Helen?"

But Helen only clasped her in her arms and kissed her, and Sibyl wondered why her eyes were so full of tears as she let her go. We cannot follow Helen Humphrey step by step through all her busy day. It was a day full of tiresome, often distasteful labour; full of mind-hunger and heart-loneliness; and feet, and head, and heart were all alike aching as it drew near its close.

Just at the hour of sunset the snow ceased falling, the cheerless clouds parted, and one bright ray of golden light illuminated for an instant the cold, white landscape.

"What matter what the path shall be?"

The end is clear and bright to view.

We know that we a strength shall see

Whate'er the day may bring to do.

We see the end, the house of God,

But not the way to that abode;

For God, through ways they have not known,

Will lead His own."

(To be continued.)

TEA.

It is estimated that tea is habitually consumed by not less than 500,000,000 people, or about one-half of the human race. Amongst the Chinese and the inhabitants of Japan, Thibet and Nepal it is drunk by all classes three or four times a day. In Asiatic Russia, in a large portion of Europe, in North America and in Australia it is a favourite beverage. In China tea has been used as an article of diet from a very remote period of antiquity. Curious enough they have no record or tradition respecting its first introduction. The Japanese, however, tell us that in the year 519 a holy man named Darma, the son of an Indian monarch, took refuge in China, and publicly taught that the only way to obtain happiness was to eat nothing but vegetables and go without sleep. This enthusiastic vegetarian and antimorpheusian was, however, on a hot summer's day, overcome by drowsiness, and fairly nodded before his congregation. When he awoke to a knowledge of his violation of his own precept, great was his self-reproach, and being determined that he would not transgress the second time, he cut off his eye-lids and threw them on the ground. In due time they took root, and gradually developed into the plant now known as tea. Tea was probably first introduced into Europe about the middle of the seventeenth century, for in 1661 Pepys writes in his Diary: "I sent for a cup of tea (a Chinese drink), of which I had never heard before." At first its use was not very common, as in the same century the East India Company considered it a rare gift to present the King of England with two pounds two ounces of tea. The plant which yields the tea leaves is a native of China, and still grows wild on the hills both of that country and Japan. The tea plants are raised from seed, which is sown in March. When a year old the young bushes are planted out, and when placed in rows three or four feet apart have some resemblance to gooseberry bushes. The season for gathering varies in different districts, but the principal leaf harvest is in May or June. The leaves are plucked by women, and are usually gathered at three successive periods. The youngest and earliest leaves are the most tender and delicate, and gives the highest flavoured tea. The second and third gatherings are more bitter and woody, and yield less soluble matter to water. The refuse and decayed leaves and twigs are sold under the name of "brick tea."

FAMILY LIBRARIES.

Every family should be supplied with books, and each household should, as far as their ability will allow, procure a family library. There is no estimating the value of a few well-selected books. Children should be induced to begin early to improve their minds, and nothing draws them more to study than good, sound periodical literature, and well-selected books—books adapted to their age and progress in their education. Money cannot be better expended. Instead of toys and perishable gifts, purchase books for your children. Every few months add something new to the library, and be sure to preserve the old works. Let there be in the house a book-case, shelves, some place where the books and papers are deposited; have them carefully preserved, and soon a little handful will swell into armfuls, and the minds of the children will expand with the increase of the library, until a good store will be found in the house, and much knowledge will be gained by the growing children.

Good books, a taste for reading, will keep the children at home and make them happy in the family circle, when otherwise they will be straying off, hunting society, looking for something to engage the mind and satisfy the cravings of a hungry intellect. Games and worldly amusements are substituted for books and intellectual culture, where there is no library at home, no food for the inquiring mind. Let parents think of these things. Much, very much, depends on the early training of the child in regard to study, as well as other things.

MACAULAY.

As soon as he had got into his head any particular episode of his history, he would sit down and write off the whole story at a headlong pace, sketching in the outlines under the genial and audacious impulse of a first conception, and securing in black and white each idea and epithet and turn of phrase, as it flowed straight from his busy brain to his busy fingers. His manuscript, at this stage, to the eyes of anyone

but himself, appeared to consist of column after column of dashes and flourishes, in which a straight line with a half-formed letter at each end and another in the middle did duty for a word.

As soon as Macaulay had finished his rough draft, he began to fill it in at the rate of six sides of foolscap every morning; written in so large a hand, and with such a multitude of erasures, that the whole six pages were on an average composed into two pages of print. This portion he called his "task," and he never was quite easy unless he completed it daily. More he seldom sought to accomplish; for he had learned by long experience that this was as much as he could do at his best; and except at his best he never could write at all. He never wrote except he was in the humour, and stopped as soon as his thoughts ceased to flow fast. He never allowed a sentence to pass until it was as good as he could make it. He would recast a chapter to obtain a more lucid arrangement, and reconstruct a paragraph for the sake of one happy stroke or apt illustration. He spent nineteen days over his description of the Massacre of Glencoe, and then expressed dissatisfaction at the result. —*Youth's Companion.*

A LAY FOR THE TIMES.

(Psalm lxxvi.)

By REV. WILLIAM WYE SMITH.

The Lord is known in Judah's land,
Great is His name in Israel;
His temple doth in Salem stand,
He doth in Zion dwell.

There brake He arrows of the bow,
The raging thunderbolts of war,
He shield and sword in dust laid low—
The battle turned from far.

More excellent art Thou by far,
O Lord, and glorious in Thy way,
Than all the mighty mountains are
Of robbery and prey.

The stout of heart are spoiled amain;
They sleep their sleep, in death lie low;
Nor men of might shall find again
The power to work us woe.

Thy dread rebuke, O Jacob's God,
Strikes horse and chariot helpless down.
Thou only feared! who e'er hath stood
Before thine anger's frown?

Thou didst from heaven in judgment speak,
The trembling earth in fear was still,
When God arose to judge the meek,
And save the poor from ill.

The wrath of man shall praise Thee, Lord,
The residue shalt Thou restrain,
Vow ye unto your God adored,
Nor let your vows be vain.

Let all that stand before the Lord,
And round His throne, draw humbly near:
Bring gifts to Him with one accord,
Whom all should fear!

He shall rebellious princes quell,
And show His might and glory forth:
To wicked kings how terrible,
And tyrants of the earth!

HELEN CHALMERS.

Helen Chalmers, the daughter of the great Free Church leader, sacrificed the bloom of her life and her womanly hopes to care for her venerable father in his declining years—a care which she continued until his death. Subsequent to this she took quarters in the worst district known in Edinburgh, and devoted her life and being to the reformation and salvation of the masses around her, who had been, to human appearance, ruined for both worlds by the demon of strong drink and accompanying vices. On her way to her temperance meeting one evening, she called upon a family to persuade the intemperate husband and father to accompany her to the place referred to. She found there a visitant deeply intoxicated. As soon as he saw her, he began of course "to talk religion," ending with the complacent remark, "Well, it will all come out right at last, and I shall find myself in the better land, as well off as any of you. Wont it be so, Miss Chalmers?" She promptly opened her Bible, and with an emphasis peculiar to herself, read the passage, "No drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of God." The man was sobered in a moment, accompanied her to the meeting, signed the pledge, and was saved. Many have been and are living thus saved through the prayers and influence of this saint of God. The life of even Florence Nightingale waxes dim when compared with that of Helen Chalmers.

ENGLISH temperance men celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the total abstinence pledge by the seven men of Preston, September 1st, 1832, by a monster jubilee fête at the Crystal Palace, at which over 50,000 people were present.

In number of students the seminary at Romapatan, in India, among the Telugus, outranks any other Baptist theological seminary in the world, while in the importance and usefulness of its work it is perhaps second to none. Thirty-one out of forty-seven of the senior class a year ago remained for a fourth year's study, and a new class of forty-five entered. During the Christmas vacation the students visited many villages, and preached and talked to a great number of people. This Telugu field has been blessed with a multitude of conversions within a few years.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

THE hospital for sick and homeless animals at Bombay covers several acres.

IN Great Britain there is a sheep on every acre and one-third of cultivated land.

THERE are in the German Empire 629,987 individuals bearing the name of Muller.

THE total quantity of wine made in France during last year was 911,000,000 gallons, the value of which is estimated at £64,000,000.

THE census of Victoria, Australia, for 1881, shows the total population to be 862,364; of these 12,128 are Chinese and 780 aborigines.

AFRICA is computed to have a total area of 18,364,275 square miles, of which rather more than a third are desert, and only a fifth under cultivation.

SYDNEY, New South Wales, is to have in its lighthouse an electric light, the merging beam of which is to possess a luminous intensity of more than 12,000,000 candles.

PROF. STOKER, a blind musician of North Adams, Mass., has been appointed a teacher in the Royal College for the Blind at London, and goes soon to his new position.

THE largest diamond-cutting house is in Amsterdam, where they employ 400 men. The famous Kohinoor diamond was cut there. The cutters make from \$7 to \$12, and even \$14 a day.

A GERMAN chemist has invented a humanitarian bullet. It is filled with powerful anæsthetics, and breaks on striking the person, who is made unconscious for twelve hours, and may be captured while in that condition.

DOM PEDRO, the Emperor of Brazil, has been on the throne longer than any other living monarch, and his reign exceeds by six years that of Queen Victoria. His father abdicated in his favour on the 7th of April, 1831.

A NEW resting place for the statue of Wellington must be found when they have removed the arch at Hyde Park Corner, in London, it having been decided that his grace and his horse shall not be replaced upon the arch.

MR. GLADSTONE is still guarded by special officers, two of them accompanying him whenever he walks or rides out. Hitherto they have carried only batons, but now they have been furnished with revolvers and twenty rounds of ammunition each.

IN Europe electric railways are growing rapidly in public estimation, not only on the Continent, but in Great Britain. Already 100 miles of electric transit are in operation, and there is every probability of the total mileage being considerably increased before the end of the present year.

THE most marked of the personal habits of the successful and able British General Wolseley is his abstinence from intoxicating drinks. Besides, he has more than once, when arduous and important work was to be done, required his troops to become temporarily total abstainers.

AT a special meeting of the representatives of the Society of Friends in England, which is to held shortly, the question will be discussed whether the rule of the Society against "the unnecessary use of intoxicating liquors," will not be changed so as to be directed against "all use of intoxicating liquors as beverages."

THERE was a grand review of the British troops at Cairo. The Khedive and his ministers and many of the notables were present, and the streets were crowded with natives. The Indian contingent and the naval brigade were warmly applauded. The strength of the force evidently made a great impression upon the Egyptians.

DURING the past fiscal year there were 1,563 seizures of goods smuggled into the United Kingdom. Only 134 instances were of other goods than tobacco, cigars, and spirits. The last named item amounted to but 373 gallons, while the tobacco and cigars smuggled into the country weighed 23,695 pounds. There were \$15,975 in penalties recovered in the same year.

THE largest empire in the world is that of Great Britain, comprising 8,557,658 square miles, more than a sixth part of the globe, and embracing under its rule nearly a sixth part of the population of the world. In territorial extent the United States ranks third, containing 3,500,242 square miles including Alaska; in population it ranks fourth with its 50,000,000 people. Russia ranks second, 8,352,940 square miles.

THE housekeeping of Queen Victoria's establishment is cared for by a butler, who has a salary of \$3,500 a year. He has four assistants who do the purchasing and see that good measures are given by the tradesmen. The chief cook has a salary of \$3,500, and the two pastry cooks have \$1,500 each. The gold and silver plate, valued at fifteen millions of dollars, is cared for by three special servants. The number of household servants is ninety-four.

THE largest inland sea is the Caspian, lying between Europe and Asia. Its greatest length is 700 miles, its greatest breadth 270 miles, and its area 180,000 square miles. Great Salt Lake, in Utah, which may be properly termed an inland sea, is about ninety miles long, and has a varying breadth of from twenty to twenty-five miles. Its surface is 4,200 feet above the sea, whereas the surface of the Caspian is eighty-four feet below the ocean level.

SCOTLAND has been startled by an extraordinary decision of Lord Young in two murder cases. His Lordship, perhaps the most eminent lawyer Scotland has produced this century, was holding circuit at Glasgow last month, and when a murder case in which it was shown the murderer committed the crime while drunk was brought before him, he reduced the charge to one of culpable homicide or manslaughter on the ground that "it was not in accordance with common sense to presume that a man intended to commit murder when he was so drunk that he scarcely knew what he was doing." A few days later his lordship gave a similar decision in a brutal murder case in Argyllshire.