

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 "rick tea."

ESQUIMAUX DOG-TEAMS.

The dogs are attached to the sledge by harness made of either reindeer or seal skin. One loop passes around the neck, while each leg is lifted through a loop, all three loops joining over the back and fastened to a long seal-skin line. These lines are of different lengths, so as to allow the dogs to pull to a greater advantage than if all the traces were the same length, causing the dogs to spread out like a fan. At every few miles the traces have to be unloosed and extricated from the most abominable tangle that it is possible to conceive. This comes from a habit the dogs have of constantly running under and over the other traces to avoid the whip, or, in some cases, merely from a spirit of pure deviltry.

The leader of the team is a dog selected for his intelligence, and is one known as setting an example of constant industry under all circumstances. You will always see the leader of a team of dogs working as if the load was being drawn by him alone. He goes along, his head bent over, and tugging in his harness, his mouth open and his tongue lolling out, while his ears are ever ready to hear the word of command from the driver. To go to the left the command is given, "A-root," and to the right, "Why-ah-why-ha." Then he sometimes, to encourage or urge to greater exertion, says, "Ah-wah hagh-oo-ar." To stop the team, he says, "Whoah," as one says in driving horses. It is the noisiest method of travel yet invented, for the driver is always talking to his team, calling each by name, and usually following the word by a blow of the whip, so that the next time that dog is spoken to he will understand that it means to "hurry up." The work of the driver is not confined to his team. He has constantly to keep watch over the front of the sledge, to turn it to the right or left in order to avoid hummocks or stones that would upset the load or tear the ice from the bottom of the runners.

Innuos are fond of riding on a sledge while travelling, and as long as there is a spot that will hold them they will pile up there. But should there be no place for them, they will run alongside without any apparent discomfort for almost any length of time or distance. This is equally true of the children of both sex, and when any are compelled to walk for lack of dogs or room on the sledge, it is the women and girls who have to give way to the men and boys. With a light sled, and from nine to fifteen good strong dogs, the Esquimaux of Hudson's Bay will sometimes make a journey of from eighty to one hundred miles during the long days of spring.

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.

THE HIGHLAND TARGET.

Many readers will be surprised to learn how moderate were its dimensions. The specimens here figured are not more than twenty or twenty-one inches in diameter—somewhat about half the width of the great round shield borne by the Homeric heroes. Probably the Highlandmen were in the right of it; their target made up in handiness what it abandoned in area. Being of no great weight, it would be readily movable, and to a certain extent it could even be a weapon of offence, for in several of these examples a formidable spike may be affixed to the central boss. When this is not in use, a case is provided for it in the deerskin lining of the inner side. The material of the target is wood covered with leather; the metal-covered or metal shields are found

only as exceptions. Mr. Drummond has figured one bronze shield dug out of a marsh, and ornamented in a thoroughly archaic style, and one plain iron one, of whose date nothing is stated or conjectured. The regular covering of leather gave occasion for excellent ornamental work. It is best explained in bookbinder's language as blind tooling; and indeed there are many patterns on these targets from which the modern bookbinder might well take a hint. The flowing interlaced curves of some of them show a really admirable decorative taste and execution. We likewise find—sometimes together with this kind of ornament, sometimes instead of it—symmetrical arrangements of nail-heads and metal studs, and now and then of larger brass plates. These additions would to some extent increase the strength of the target, but their first purpose was evidently decoration. It was not until the seventeenth century that shields were fairly discarded in the rest of Europe. The swordsmen of Italy and France made the discovery, which at the time must have seemed a paradox, that the sword is stronger without the shield than with it. But the discovery was long in travelling northward; the Highlandman clung to his target for more than a century later, and its final disappearance from the Highland regiments is not much beyond living memory. Certainly one who possessed an ancestral target like those figured here might be excused for not willingly putting it aside as obsolete.—*The Saturday Review.*

THE BETTER LAND.

I know not where that city lifts
Its jasper walls in air,
I know not where the glory beams,
So marvellously fair;

I cannot see the waving hands
Upon that farther shore,
I cannot hear the rapture song
Of dear ones gone before;

But dimmed and blinded earthly eyes,
Washed clear by contrite tears,
Sometimes catch glimpses of the light
From the eternal years.

—L. M. Latimer.

IN THE MORNING SOW THY SEED.

Sow, though the rock repel thee
In its cold and sterile pride;
Some cleft then may be given
Where the little seed may hide.
Fear not for some will flourish:
And though the tares abound
Like the willows by the waters
Will the scattered grains be found.
Work while the daylight lasteth
Ere the shades of night come on,
Ere the Lord of the vineyard cometh,
And the labourer's work is done.

EFFECT OF THE BIBLE.

Taine's "English Literature" has a remarkable passage, with reference to the effect of the Bible on the English people, as read and learned for the first time from Tyndal's Translation:—

"One hid his book in a hollow tree; another learned by heart an epistle and a Gospel, so as to be able to ponder it to himself even in the presence of his accusers. When sure of his friend, he speaks with him in private; and peasant talking to peasant, labourer to labourer, you know what the effect could be. It was the yeoman's sons, as Latimer said, who, more than others, maintained the faith of Christ in England, and it was with the yeoman's sons that Cromwell afterward reaped his Puritan victories. When such words are whispered through a nation, all official voices clamour in vain. The nation has found its poem, it stops its ears to the troublesome would-be distractions, and presently sings it out with a full voice and from a full heart. But the contagion had even reached the men in office, and Henry VIII. at last permitted the English Bible to be published. England had her book. Everyone, says Strype, who could buy this book, either read it assiduously or had it read to him by others, and many well advanced in years learned to read with the same object."

DOMESTIC HABITS OF VARIOUS NATIONS.

When a Japanese woman reaches her house, she takes off her sandals, pushes aside the sliding doors of paper and enters in her stocking feet. The rooms are softly matted, but contain no furniture. The houses are built of wood, and among the poorer classes have but two or three rooms. In the kitchen is a large stone box with ashes and burning coals in it. This is called the hibachi, and over it the rice is cooked. There is no chimney in the kitchen, but the smoke goes out either through the broad open door or through an opening in the roof. After the rice is cooked, it is put into a small, unpainted wooden tub. At dinner-time, the mother brings out a little table, two feet square and one foot high, with dishes and food upon it. The family sit upon the mats, the tub of rice is in the centre, and each one dips into a bowl, rice sufficient for himself. They often pour cold tea over the rice, and always eat it with chop-sticks. Fish, sweet potatoes and pickle are sometimes served with a dinner.

Japanese houses often have but one sleeping-room, which is occupied by the entire family. When guests come they share it with them. The beds consist of heavy comforters. They are spread out on the mats at night, and put away in the closets during the day. Each person lays his head on a little wooden pillow, constructed with a hollow place in which the head rests. In some rooms in the house is a closet containing a shelf for gods, and upon this shelf stand all the household idols, which have come down as heirlooms of the family from generation to generation.

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.*

BE STUDIOUS.

Whitfield was poor, and in "service," but he managed to get education; and both England and America have felt his power for good. William Harvey did not find out the circulation of the human blood by a lucky accident. He was a hard student at home and abroad, and taught the doctrine to his classes for ten years before he published it to the world.

Young men ought to remember that there are still splendid services to be rendered. All the discoveries have not yet been made. The field is now the world, as it never was before. The best books can now be had, as never before. Education of the highest kind in physiology, mental philosophy, engineering, chemistry, is accessible as it never was before. An empire with an emperor has grown up on this continent, and much of the soil is yet without occupant and master. Other empires are open to educated ability, and will become more so every year. There is a legitimate sphere for splendid ambition.

Let our boys forego the cost of tobacco and catch inspiration from the best books. Let them turn their backs on the tempting glass, and spend their money in stimulating the mind. Even fashion "parties" and pleasure may be put in the background, that the time and thought required for them may be given to getting that mental habit and furniture that will make its possessor a helper to his race, and a capable servant of that Creator—the "Father of Lights"—who has given us brain and heart, with capabilities, that we may be lights, benefactors, and conquerors, on fields where no life is lost, and even the vanquished are gainers.—*Dr. John Hall.*

It is said that President Arthur weighs exactly 250 pounds.

The electric light has been introduced into Shanghai, China, and is exciting much enthusiasm among the Chinese.

The village of Grindelwald, in Switzerland, so familiar to tourists, has been almost entirely destroyed by a hurricane.

At Ayr hiring fair last week, some farmers offered an addition to the wages of men who promised to abstain from the use of strong drink for a year.

At a Stenographic Exhibition in Paris, twenty-four different systems of shorthand are on view. Among other curiosities, there is a post-card containing 44,000 words.

The Duke of Edinburgh is about to become a tenant of the home farm at Eastwell, Eng., and of the extensive pasturage of Eastwell Park, hitherto farmed by local agriculturists.

An English company offers to drain the waters of Lake Geneva, in Switzerland, into the River Rhone, and to pay \$1,000,000 for the privilege, provided they can have the land that will thus left dry.