

citizens, neither of whom was a printer, and of the "unknown printer" of much later days.

The German story centres in John Gutenberg, of the family called Gensfleisch—taking his mother's name in accordance with a German custom, because her family was dying out—as to whom there is a definite historical chain of evidence, including the records of two lawsuits. Nothing is certainly known of his first thirty years. He is supposed to have been born about 1399, at Mainz, whence his family were exiled, going to Strasburg. In 1439 he appears as a defendant in a lawsuit brought in Strasburg, by an heir of one Andrew Ditzehen, to compel Gutenberg to admit him to the secret and benefit of an art into which the deceased had bought by payment to Gutenberg. This art seems to have been printing, and the evidence in the suit shows that Gutenberg sent his servant to Ditzehen's house, immediately on his death to have a "form" of "four pieces," "lying in or about a press," separated by turning two buttons, "so that no one might know what it is." We do not know, for Gutenberg won the suit and kept the secret. Different modern scholars construe "it" to be parts of the press, pages of type, matrices, or a four-part type-mould, such as is known to have been used by early printers. It is not definitely known whether Gutenberg printed any books in Strasburg (some fragments of a type *Donatus* being most plausibly connected with him there), which caused a German critic to declare that if Strasburg is the cradle of printing, "it is a cradle without a baby." By 1448 Gutenberg had removed to Mainz, for there is record of his hiring money, and in 1450 he made a contract with John Fust, a money-lender, to provide money for "paper, vellum, ink, wages, and the other materials required," on half-profits, which contract was the basis of the second suit. In this suit, brought in 1455 Fust, who has been sadly confused with that later Dr. Faust, of Wittenberg, from whose wicked learning grew the Faust legend, foreclosed his mortgage, got possession of part of Gutenberg's implements and stock, and, by help of Gutenberg's apprentice, Peter Schoeffer, who afterward married Fust's daughter, Christina, took up the business of printing. There is a legend that this Schoeffer, and not Gutenberg, invented the type-mould; but recent investigators show that this invention was peculiarly Gutenberg's.

Gutenberg, who started a new printing office after the separation, by help of money from Conrad Humery, physician and town clerk, printed two editions of the Bible. He printed also an edition of the *Donatus*, several *Letters of Indulgence* (the earliest job work) a broad-side *Calendar of 1457*, a *Catholicism* of 1460, and many other things. He was alive in 1465, when Archbishop Adolph made him one of the gentlemen of his court, and was dead in 1468, for in that year Conrad Humery had succeeded to his effects.—*R. R. Bowker, in Harper's Magazine for July.*

SPORT AS A MEANS AND AS AN END.

At no time in the history of our country has more attention been given to the subject of physical training than is given to it at the present day.

Schools, colleges and Christian associations are building costly gymnasia, while athletic organizations, ball clubs, boat clubs, tennis clubs, etc., are forming in many of our towns and cities.

Fifteen thousand dollars are expended annually to bring the Yale and Harvard boat crews together at New London, and it is estimated that \$50,000 does not meet the yearly expenses of the athletic organizations of these two universities. Add to this sum the cost of the athletic sports to the smaller colleges and clubs, and the total would foot up in the millions.

The object of this outlay is to vanquish some rival club, to win a championship, to beat the record, or to furnish recreation and amusement to those who are willing to pay for it. With the representatives of our institutions of learning, and with a portion of the intelligent public, the object of the encouragement given to athletics is to counteract the enervating tendency of the times, and to improve the health, strength and vigour of our youth.

This being the fact, the questions at once arise, how large a proportion of the young men in the land systematically practise athletics? Probably less than one per cent. How large a proportion of those who are members of athletic organizations take an active part in the sports fostered and patronized by their respective clubs? Probably less than ten per cent. In the opinion of the writer the cause for so little active interest in athletics is an increasing tendency with us, as a people, to pursue sport as an end in itself, rather than as a means to an end. In making excellence in the achievement the primary object of athletic exercises, we rob them of half their value.—*D. A. Sargent, M.D., in Scribner's Magazine for July.*

THE CORSICAN UPSTART.

The French Revolution had not only shocked and horrified the sober-minded folk of Europe—and, we may say, of America also—by its atrocities and bloodshed, but it had brought about a state of things which was to the ruling classes of the Continent and England a standing outrage upon the fundamental principles of society and government. Here was a "Corsican upstart" at the head of France; his ministers were men risen from the ranks; his code, which he rigorously imposed on all the territories which he either conquered or annexed, made all men equal before the law, and rendered an aristocratic government impossible. The walks of life were thrown open to all; any man, no matter how humble his origin, might be an officer in the army, might even become a marshal of France. The spectacle which the Empire of Napoleon presented, moreover, was most encouraging to the growth and spread of the new ideas and the new system. France, Belgium, Holland, the German States on the Upper Rhine, Italy, had all adopted to a greater or less extent, the new doctrines, and they were all in a condition of unexampled prosperity, despite the wars of the last dozen years. The new monarch, too,

was plainly a restless, scheming, ambitious man. He and his system ought to be overthrown; the safety of society, the interests of public morals demanded it, to say nothing of the balance of power, which was greatly disturbed by the excessive preponderance of France.

The state of feeling at this time in Europe was, as respects this subject, wholly different from that which exists to-day. It has now been found, by experience, that these contrasts in the ideas and forms of government, existing in contiguous countries do not necessarily, or even generally, lead to war, or even to the introduction into the more conservative countries of the liberal notions of their next neighbours. But in the last years of the last century, and the first years of this, almost everybody in Europe thought differently.—*John C. Ropes, in Scribner's Magazine for June.*

A SONG OF FAILURE.

The weary hand I sing, and heart,
That never poet sang;
The silent song, the buried art,
The unknown martyr's pang.

A thousand paeans noise the deeds
Of men who fought and won;
I sing the hero masked in weeds,
And shrinking from the sun.

He fought as good and brave a fight
As ever mortal fought;
His eye was keen, his cause was right,
And all availed not.

I sing the men who did the right
When wrong was on the throne,
And fearless, in a world's despite,
Stood for the truth alone.

Tell me not he who fails will miss
The guerdon of his aim;
The life that crowns the hope of this
Will meet the soul's just claim.

A voice I hear—they only win
Who, brave and pure and true,
Discrown the foe that reigns within,
And self and sin subdue.

—Matthew Ritchey Knight.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN.

Seeing that the average brain weight of women is about five ounces less than that of men, on merely anatomical grounds we should be prepared to expect a marked inferiority of intellectual power in the former. Moreover as the general physique of women is less robust than that of men—and therefore less able to sustain the fatigue of serious or prolonged brain action—we should also on physiological grounds be prepared to entertain a similar anticipation. In actual fact we find that the inferiority displays itself most conspicuously in a comparative absence of originality, and this more especially in the higher levels of intellectual work. In her powers of acquisition the woman certainly stands nearer to the man than she does in her powers of creative thought, although even as regards the former there is a marked difference. The difference, however, is one which does not assert itself till the period of adolescence—young girls being, indeed, usually more acquisitive than boys of the same age, as is proved by recent educational experiences both in this country and in America. But as soon as the brain, and with it the organism as a whole, reaches the stage of full development, it becomes apparent that there is a greater power of amassing knowledge on the part of the male. Whether we look to the general average or to the intellectual giants of both sexes, we are similarly met with the general fact that a woman's information is less wide and deep and thorough than that of a man. What we regard as a highly-cultured woman is usually one who has read largely but superficially; and even in the few instances that can be quoted of extraordinary female industry—which on account of their rarity stand out as exceptions to prove the rule—we find a long distance between them and the much more numerous instances of profound erudition among men. As musical executants, however, I think that equality may be fairly asserted.—*The Nineteenth Century.*

THE Sunday morning service at the Presbyterian Church, Plymouth, is especially interesting and attractive, owing to the presence of a large body of the Cameron Highlanders. About 400 officers and men of this regiment, in their picturesque uniforms and kilts, etc., attend the service. The music also is greatly enlivened by select instruments of the regimental band assisting the congregational choir and organ.

THE commissioners to the General Assembly from Hamilton Presbytery complained loudly, when giving in their reports, of no opportunity being afforded to more than a few inside the Presbytery of Edinburgh to take part in the business of the Supreme Court. Mr. Morrison had noted that there were about 100 members who spoke—one twenty-three times, another twenty, a third sixteen, a fourth four times, and so on.

MR. ROBERT M'EWEN, formerly chairman of the Stock Exchange at Manchester, has died in his eighty-sixth year. A native of Ayr, he went to Manchester about 1824. He was closely associated with the Presbyterian cause in the city of his adoption, being one of the first members of the church erected in St. Peter's Square in 1832. For more than fifty years he was a superintendent of the schools, and his tenure of the elder's office extended over the same period.

British and Foreign.

THE Sustentation Fund of the Irish Presbyterian Church shows a decrease of \$2,000 this year.

CANON STOWELL, of Salford, is spoken of for the vacant bishopric of Suder and Man.

MR. W. GIBSON, sen., has given \$35,000 to the Baptist Union of Tasmania, in aid of new and weak churches.

PROFESSOR SALMOND, of Aberdeen, introduced Rev. W. B. Cooper, M.A., to the pastorate of the church at Durham.

ONE hundred and thirty six congregations of the Irish Presbyterian Church have no prayer meetings during the week.

SIR WILLIAM MUIR has selected a graduate of Edinburgh for the headmastership of the memorial school at Cawnpore.

AN overture on the adoption of the Parochial System in the Irish General Assembly was set aside by a large majority.

A MONTHLY review has been started at Calcutta, under the title of the *Concord*. It is edited by Kali Charan Banerji.

THE Rev. John F. Blair, of Gardentown, has accepted the call to the historic pulpit of John Street U. P. Church, Glasgow.

AN estimate made by the Rev. J. C. Gibson as to the reading population of China gives twelve and one-half millions out of a population of three hundred millions.

DR. THOMAS HAMILTON, of Belfast, editor of the *Witness*, has been elected Convener of the Continental Mission, in room of Rev. W. Park, transferred to the Foreign Mission.

IT is a fresh feather in the cap of Glasgow University that one of her alumni, Principal W. Ramsay, of University College, Bristol, succeeds so distinguished a man as Professor Williamson in the chair of chemistry at University College.

THE deputation to the Irish Assembly from the Church of Scotland stated their desire for union, but only on the condition of retaining the State connection and all the endowments.

THE Rev. W. Park, M.A., of Belfast, has attracted much attention by his visit to Sunderland. He conducted the Sunday services, and lectured the following evening on Rabbi Duncan.

THE Rev. W. Swanson, Moderator of the English Presbyterian Synod, gave a brilliant speech in the Irish General Assembly, on Missions and captivated the brethren by his fervent eloquence.

THE widow of Dr. Fleming Stevenson has presented 6,000 volumes to the Belfast College, in memory of her husband. The section of this library bearing on missions is of special value.

THE Revs. Dr. Fraser, Dr. Dykes, Dr. Edmund. Dr. Gibson and Dr. McEwan, and Mr. Wales were elected by ballot by the London Presbytery to represent the Church at the Jubilee service in Westminster Abbey.

PROFESSOR WALLACE has resigned the chair of Sacred Ethics in Belfast College on account of failing health. Dr. Todd Martin, of Newtownards, has been elected his assistant and successor, receiving 386 votes against 218 for Mr. Edgar, of Dublin.

TONGA now sees the first streaks of returning day. The plotting of Baker, the renegade missionary, is doomed to failure; "his descent," says the *Sydney Presbyterian*, "from the position of missionary and premier must be most humbling to himself and a warning to all tyrants."

REV. T. WHITEHEAD, of Leeds, was elected president at the sixty-eighth conference of the Primitive Connexion, opened last week at Scarborough. He received 113 votes, against fifty-eight recorded for Rev. T. Whittaker. This body has no fewer than 16,000 lay preachers.

THE Rev. A. MacGillivray, Partick, has been unanimously called to the pastorate of Hope Street Free Gaelic Church, Glasgow. He was a native of Inverness-shire. The congregation had previously called four ministers from parishes in the North, all of whom declined acceptance.

THE foundation stone of a Burns monument was recently laid at Dunedin, and now another statue of the Scottish bard has been unveiled at Ballarat in presence of 20,000 people. The statue has been executed by Signor Edny, of Carrara, according to a design approved by the committee.

THE Rev. John Fleming, A.M., late of Paisley, where he was prison chaplain, who died at Edinburgh lately, in his sixty-sixth year, was a native of Kilmarnock, and a nephew of the well-known Dr. Fleming, parish minister at Neilston, whose biography he published in an elaborate volume, containing much curious and interesting matter.

A STUDENT in Belfast College petitioned the Irish Assembly to be granted certain concessions with regard to his collegiate course. Mr. Magill said such cases were multiplying, and it was time to put a veto upon them; but a jocular reference by the Moderator to the fact that it was the year of the Queen's jubilee was followed by a majority granting the young man's prayer.

THE Duke of Norfolk's semi-official mission to the Vatican, which was expected by some to result in the resumption of diplomatic relations with the British Government has proved a failure. The Pope demands that he shall be treated in this matter as a sovereign prince, and with this no British Government will be allowed by the British people to comply.

THE Rev. Stewart Wright, of Blantyre, in the current number of his parish magazine, pleads earnestly for the establishment of a Scottish Miners' Permanent Relief Fund Society. The need for such an institution has been pressed upon his attention by the heartrending calamities which have happened at his own door, and in alleviating the distress caused by which he has taken such an active part.