

1163 and 1181, King Henry II. of England paid two visits to Cherbourg. St. Louis honored the town with his presence in the early part of April, 1256. He passed the *fêtes* of Easter at Avranches and at Mont Saint Michel. In 1278 it was visited by Philippe-le-Hardi. Edward III. of England presented himself before Cherbourg in 1345 to lay a siege to it, but he did not enter the place. Charles the Bad, King of Navarre, who had the province of Normandy as his apanage, visited the place twice—in 1303, remaining there two months, and in 1366, to relieve the inhabitants from feudal servitude in giving them the title of *pair à baron*. During his first residence he was visited by Peter I. of Lusignan, King of Cyprus. Henry V. of England landed at Cherbourg in 1420. This strong place, which was long in the possession of the English, was taken from them on the 12th of August, 1450, and has remained ever since under the authority of the crown of France. Francis I., accompanied by the Dauphin, afterwards Henry II., visited it in 1532, and remained there three days. Joseph II., Emperor of Germany, and brother of Marie Antoinette, going through France incognito, under the name of Count de Falckenstein, visited Cherbourg in September, 1781.

It is stated, says Madame de Geulis, that in walking in the port of Cherbourg, one of the officers who accompanied him was pushing the people aside, when the Emperor said, "Be quiet, sir; it does not require so much room for a man to pass." The formation of the breakwater was decided on in 1781. Louis XVI. visited the works in 1786; he arrived on the 22nd June, and left on the 26th. Another great work, the establishment of a military port, consisting of vast docks cut in the rock to a depth of 18 metres, was decreed in 1803. Napoleon, having resolved to inspect this colossal enterprise, entered Cherbourg on the 26th May, 1811, accompanied by the Empress Maria Louisa, Prince Eugene, and a numerous suite. He remained there till the 30th. The Empress Maria Louisa, Regent of the Empire, returned to Cherbourg in 1813 to preside over the inauguration of the military port. Her Majesty arrived on the 25th August and staid till the 1st of September. Charles X. and all the royal family, banished from France by the revolution of July, embarked with their suite at Cherbourg on the 16th August, 1830, in two American packet boats, the *Great Britain* and the *Charles Carroll*, which were freighted at Havre. Don Pedro I., Emperor of Brazil, and the Empress his consort, daughter of Prince Eugene Beauharnois, being expelled from their states by a revolution, were taken to Cherbourg in the English frigate *Volage*. They landed on the 10th June, 1831, with a small suite. Their daughter Donna Maria, who died Queen of Portugal, having been brought to Brest by the state vessel the *Seine*, rejoined them on the 23rd July. Don Pedro afterwards proceeded to Paris with his family, and thence to London. Louis Philippe visited Cherbourg on the 1st September, 1833, with his sons the Duke de Nemours and the Prince de Joinville, accompanied by Marshals Soult and Gérard, and Admiral de Rigny. Queen Maria Amelie, the Dukes d'Aumale and de Montpensier, the Princesses Marie and Clementine, and Madame Adelaide, the King's sister, arrived there the same night. The royal family remained at Cherbourg four days. Lastly the Emperor, when President of the Republic, honored the town with a first visit in 1850. He made his entry the first September, in the evening, and remained until the morning of the 9th, after having examined the breakwater and arsenal."

5. ENGLAND'S STRENGTH.

England is not quite so unprotected as some may think, and as many say she is. In one week we might assemble at Spithead or in Cherbourg roads, fifteen sail of powerful screw ships of the line, including some of the most powerful now afloat, and in a fortnight twenty-five sail of the line, with large frigates and steamships. These ships would all be in efficient fighting condition, and would speedily be fully manned. They are now, in part, distributed along our sea coasts, but the electric telegraph would in a short space of time concentrate the whole at any given point. Independent of our war ships, we have some hundreds of merchant steamers calculated to bear an effective armament; and as we have often stated, an unprovoked and aggressive movement on the part of an enemy, would be sufficient to kindle a flame of patriotism in the breasts of thousands of the Queen's subjects now engaged in peaceful occupations, and stimulate them to volunteer their services to fight for their homes and firesides. We repeat, therefore, that Cherbourg is not an object calculated to occasion any unpleasant feeling in the breasts of the subjects of Queen Victoria.—*United Service Gazette*.

6. TEACH CHILDREN TO PRAY.

If you love your children do all that lies in your power to train them to a habit of prayer. Show them how to begin. Tell them what to say. Encourage them to persevere. Remind them if they become careless and slack about it. Let it not be your fault, if they

never call on the name of the Lord. This is the first step in religion which a child is to take. Long before he can read, you can teach him to kneel by his mother's side, and repeat the simple words of prayer and praise which he puts in his mouth. If there is any habit which your own hand and eyes should help in forming, it is the habit of prayer. Many a grey-haired man could tell you how his mother used to teach him to pray, where he knelt, and what he was taught to say. It will come up as fresh before him as if it were but yesterday.—*Ryle*.

7. SHALL WE TEACH OUR CHILDREN TO REPEAT PRAYERS?

I have heard mothers express doubts with regard to the propriety of teaching their young children to repeat a form of prayer. Some have said they should not be taught to pray, until they can understand and use their own language; that the duty of prayer should be inculcated, and they left to do it voluntarily, and in their own words. But I have thought and practised otherwise. I have taught my children to say, "Now I lay me," etc., as soon as they could lip it, and the Lord's Prayer as soon as they could speak intelligibly; and as soon as they are old enough, I encourage them to add a prayer in their own language.

To me this habit of prayer seems invaluable. True they may not always understand or think what they are repeating; yet I am inclined to the idea that they think of it oftener than we imagine. Often, when I have thought that my children were saying their prayers carelessly, they have surprised me, by asking the meaning of some petition.

A circumstance recently occurred in my family, which has led me to think more than usual on the subject. My little boy, who is in his fifth year, was dangerously ill. Though affectionate in his disposition, he is naturally impetuous, and has caused me considerable anxiety in his training. His disease produced slight congestion of the brain, which caused him to lie in a torpor, as if asleep, a large part of the time. He had been consecrated to God, and instructed in the nature of his duties to God and his fellow-creatures. His understanding being good, I felt that his accountability, as a moral being, might have already commenced. I knew not how to part with my dear child, without something upon which to rest my faith that God had accepted my consecration, and taken him to Himself. I prayed earnestly; not for his life, no—I could not offer one petition for this, for I had given up the temporal interests and lives of my children unreservedly into his hands, and I could submissively say, "Thy will be done;"—but I prayed most earnestly that He would give me some token on which I might rest my hope of his being redeemed by the blood of Christ.

One Sabbath afternoon I left him, as I thought, to take tea in an adjoining room. Hearing him speak, I immediately went in to attend him. He lay with his eyes closed, repeating the Lord's Prayer, after which he said, "Now I lay me down to sleep," etc., as he usually does when he goes to sleep for the night. I thought he might be asleep, and said to him, "Henry, are you saying your prayers?" He said, "Yes, mother." I asked him again, "Did you think it was night?" He said, "Yes, and now I will go to sleep; God will keep me, won't He, mother?" I told him, "Yes, if you commit yourself to his care." Then he turned his head over a little, and seemed to sink into a quiet and peaceful sleep, while I sat down by his side, and wept tears of joy, although I then thought that perhaps God was intending to remove my dear child, and, in answer to my prayer, had given me this token. And had he that night slept the sleep of death, I should think that his last prayer—

"If I should die before I wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take,
And this I ask for Jesus' sake!"

had been heard and answered. It seemed to me an infinite reward for all my labours to teach my child to pray. God taught me also, during the sickness of my dear boy, that religious instruction is not forgotten. Very often, when we thought him asleep, he would break out and speak of things that had been taught in his Sabbath-school lessons. But God dealt very, very kindly with me. He gave me this encouragement to persevere in training my children for Him, and having taught me this lesson, He gave me the life of my child. The Lord grant that his life may have been spared to love and serve Him on the earth, and that he may be a co-worker with Him in the conversion of the world. Christian parent, who can tell the influence this habit of prayer may have upon your child, when he shall have gone from under your immediate supervision and instruction?

Perhaps in the turmoil and bustle of life's day he may have forgotten his God, and sought only the honour, fame, and riches of this world; but when night's curtain closes around him, and he seeks his bed to rest his weary body and spirit, this early habit will throw its influence around him. He hears, as it were, his mother's subdued voice, as she taught him to say, "Our Father, which art in heaven,