

## COURAGE AND CONQUEST.

General Grant stormed Vicksburg. But that stronghold of the Confederacy was well defended. The attack was with determination. Heavy columns of men moved up against the fortifications. They were mowed down by the well-directed fire of the rebels. Other troops followed to suffer in like manner. Onward still they rolled against the city breastworks, but in vain. At last the General saw it was an insurmountable task to take the city by assault. He had lost three thousand men already. The dead and dying lay covering the ground. He then withdrew his troops. The siege was next adopted. And the army invested the place, cutting it off from all communications with the world. The Confederates held out with great bravery. But their provisions grew scarce. Then their spirits sunk. As Grant was riding around his lines one day, he came up to an old house. The woman still occupied her home, though the hazard was great. As he came near he asked for a drink of water. She gave it to him. Then she tauntingly asked if he expected to get into Vicksburg.

"Certainly," he replied.

"But when are you going in?" said she, still reproaching him.

"I cannot tell exactly when," he answered. "But I mean to stay here till I take the town, if it takes me thirty years."

That is just the way to do it. Know that you are doing what is right and duty. Head your way against discouragements. Let reproach whet your determination. And stick to the work if it take thirty years. The fickle-minded are of little use. They lose every real victory by hurrying on after fantastical victories. And in the end nothing is accomplished. Let us take Vicksburg if it requires thirty years.

## HOW TO OBSERVE LENT.

## I. By Abstinence.

(a) From Sin—"especially the sin which doth so easily beset us." (Heb. xii: 1, 2)

(b) From Amusements and Social Enjoyments lawful and innocent in themselves, but entirely out of place during the Lenten season.

(c) From Luxuries—the price of which should be added to your Easter offering.

(d) From Food and Drink, to this extent, that the Spirit shall so have the mastery of the flesh that you may be strong to resist temptation.

Caution.—Do not attempt in this direction too much at first. Let not the forty days be strewn with broken vows. Use temperance and regularity even in abstinence: remembering that self-mastery is the object of the effort and discipline.

## II. By Activity.

For your own soul's sake determine to—

(a) Be present as often as possible at the Lenten Services.

(b) Use strict self-examination every evening before retiring. "Ye have not yet resisted unto blood striving against sin." (Heb. xii: 4.)

(c) Use daily the Collect for First Sunday in Lent, with the prayer for our own Church, and such other prayers as may be found best suited to your deepest needs.

(d) Read daily some portion of the Holy Gospel with meditation.

(e) Crowd out secular and light reading by strictly spiritual reading matter.

(f) Forgive, and seek reconciliation with your enemies. (Matthew v: 23, 24, and vi: 15.)

## ENGLISHMEN ON THE FIELD.

War brings many horrors in its train it is true, but it also brings to light the good and real stuff that often lies, as it were, hidden deep down in a man's heart.

It is not only soldiers who behave themselves bravely in the face of the enemy. The chaplains and surgeons are just as ready to do and dare at the cannon's mouth as any one else, when occasion requires. In the late war in Egypt a notable instance of coolness and bravery on the part of an army hospital corps deserves notice. Naturally

enough, this body of men are not supposed to occupy any exposed situation, their duties being entirely connected with the wounded. By some movement of the troops, however, the corps suddenly found itself left in a totally unprotected situation on the field. The fact was brought before the notice of the medical officer in charge, who was busy dressing the wounds of the fallen. He calmly continued his duties, bidding his forty men to fill their haversacks with sand, so as to form a rough shelter. It would create a certain loss of life among the wounded to move them before their injuries were attended to, and the corps itself must take its chances of a stray shot from the enemy.

The surgeon's cool courage inspired his men with confidence, and they bravely defended their helpless charges till their comrades came up to their relief.

## HOW CHINESE CHRISTIANS PRAY.

A missionary from one of the most fruitful fields in China—a field upon which there has been of late a very remarkable outpouring of God's Holy Spirit—tells us that the most striking feature among the converts is their prayerfulness. They accept the privilege as if freshly granted, and with them it is the constant, hourly necessity of their lives. "They spend," we are told, "hours in prayer. They pray about everything. They feel as if they could never sufficiently make use of permission to pray, almost as if time were lost when otherwise occupied."

And what is the result? The answers to prayers are so marked, so extraordinary, so definite, that the same missionary has stated that he almost fears to make them publicly known in England, lest we in this Christian country, professing to believe in prayer, should incredulously receive, as the report of an enthusiast, tidings of its having had the promised power with God, and prevailing. The heathen, however, realize that these converts from among them command a power to which they are strangers, bringing down visible and marked results which cannot be gainsaid; and a large number of inquirers after Christianity have first believed from seeing the answer given to the petitions offered up by these prayerful Christians.

## HOLYROOD PALACE TO BE OPENED.

Queen Victoria has given permission for the private apartments in Holyrood Palace to be opened to the public on certain days in each week, under similar regulations to those which are in force at Windsor Castle. These apartments are not only highly interesting from their historical associations, but during the last few years their attractions have been increased by the addition of several pictures and a quantity of china and tapestry from Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle. It was the Prince Consort who originally suggested that all pictures dealing with Scottish subjects which were in English palaces should be sent to Holyrood, and there was formerly a quantity of Scotch tapestry at Windsor which was also returned to Edinburgh.

## JAPAN'S FIRST PARLIAMENT.

The constitutional changes in Japan may appear somewhat obscure to the ordinary reader unversed in the mysteries of far Eastern politics, but they may be described in a few words. In 1890 the first Parliament of Japan is to be elected, and in order to prepare for representative government it has been necessary to sweep away the Supreme Council of State which has hitherto practically ruled the country under the Mikado himself. The heads of departments will now form a Cabinet, each member of which is directly and personally responsible to the sovereign. The German system is taken as the model to be followed as closely as possible, although it may be hoped that the Japanese Premier may get on better with his Parliament than Prince Bismarck does with the Reichstag.

## RESOURCES OF THE CONGO.

No one is better entitled to speak in regard to this river than its intrepid explorer. In recent addresses given in England concerning the political and commercial relations of the Congo valley, Mr. Stanley urges the recognition of the International Association as the supreme authority on the Congo, declaring that under its flag the commerce of this vast and open region would be free to all people. He affirms that the basin of the Congo might be made more valuable than India; that oil-palm and rubber trees cover the islands and mainland; that the gum-copal is so abundant that tons may be found among the boulders of the cataract region, and that the commerce in ivory and ground-nuts would be very valuable. He says that if every inhabitant of the Congo basin had one Sunday dress every year, not less than 320,000,000 yards of calico would be required. The 1,850 miles inland from the lower station on the Congo stretch through a region of 130,000,000 square miles, containing a population of 40,000,000 souls. He calls for a railway to be built from the Lower Congo to Stanley Pool, and affirms that, if this were done, a trade of \$180,000,000 annually could be developed in the Congo basin.

—Common sense does not ask an impossible chessboard, but takes the one before it and plays the game.

## HINTS TO HOUSEKEEPERS.

PRUNE PUDDING.—A delicious prune pudding is made by stewing a pound of prunes until they are soft, remove the stones, and sugar to your taste, add whites of three eggs beaten to a stiff froth. Make a puff paste for the bottom of pudding-dish. After beating the eggs and prunes together till they are thoroughly mixed, spread them on the crust. Bake for half an hour, or until you are sure the crust is done.

Clam broth is appetizing and is excellent for persons who, like Carlyle, know that they are the unhappy possessors of a stomach. Mince twenty-four hard-shell clams and simmer them for half an hour in a saucepan with a pint of hot water or clam juice, a piece of butter half the size of an egg and a few grains of cayenne pepper. At the end of this time add half a pint of scalded milk and strain before serving.

An authority in laundry matters says that borax is a valuable adjunct to the raw starch for collars and cuffs. Too much should not be used, as it has a tendency to make the linen yellow. Lump borax may be dissolved in hot water and bottled for future use. Perfectly clear gum-arabic water is also an excellent addition. It is well to bear in mind that the polish on cuffs and collars is the result of heat, friction and pressure.

Endive salad is wholesome and delicate. If the curled endive be preferred, use only the yellow leaves, removing the thick stalks and cutting the small ones in thin pieces. The smooth endive stalk as well must be cut fine. It may be mixed with oil, vinegar, salt, and pepper, and a potato mashed fine, or with sour cream mixed with oil, vinegar, and salt. When mixed with this last dressing it is usually served with hot potatoes.

An excellent rice pudding is made by this south German recipe: A quarter pound of rice, the same weight of sugar, one quart of milk, one pint of cream, half an ounce of gelatine. Parboil the rice in water and then cook it soft and thick in the milk, adding the sugar and some vanilla, and, when nearly done, add the gelatine, which has been dissolved in a little water. When done set it to become cold. Beat the cream to a stiff froth and mix it thoroughly with the cold rice. Put in a mold which has been moistened with cold water and set it on the ice. A liquor glass of Maraschino may be added to the whipped cream. This amount is sufficient for ten persons.