

bestowed on him the title of *Doctor Evangelicus*. But the translation of the Bible into English was undertaken by Wyclif for the people at large, which at this time was without any version of the Scriptures intelligible to it. The work was accomplished by him and his Oxford helpers by the year 1382; and whatever may have been the influence of his labours upon Wyclif himself, their result can not but have helped to incline his followers toward the principle by which he was afterward content to abide: that the Bible is the solitary and sufficient rule of faith, and that this rule is to be interpreted with the help of God alone.

Again, Wyclif's interest in his itinerant preachers must have intensified his hostility toward the existing monastic orders, more especially the mendicants. It still remains an open question when this hostility first publicly declared itself; nor will it be possible to decide the point till, in course of time, all the writings of Wyclif shall have been made accessible, and their dates have been ascertained.—A. W. Ward, *Harper's Magazine* for January.

THE HISTORY OF PUNCTUATION.

Punctuation is peculiar to the modern languages of Europe. It was wholly unknown to the Greeks and Romans, and the languages of the East, although they have certain marks or signs to indicate tones, have no regular system of punctuation. The Romans and the Greeks also, it is true, had certain points which, like those of the languages of the E. were confined to the delivery and pronunciation of words; but the pauses were indicated by breaking up the written matter into lines or paragraphs, not by marks resembling those in the modern system of punctuation. Hence in the responses of the ancient oracles, which were generally written down by the priests and delivered to the inquirers, the ambiguity—doubtless intentional—which the want of punctuation caused, saved the credit of the oracle, whether the expected event was favourable or unfavourable. As an instance of this kind may be cited that remarkable response which was given on a well known occasion when the oracle was consulted with regard to the success of a certain military expedition: "Ibis et, redibis nunquam peribis in bello." Written, as it was without being pointed, it might be translated either, "Thou shalt go, and shalt never return, thou shalt perish in battle," or "Thou shalt go and shalt return, thou shalt never perish in battle." The correct translation depends on the placing of a comma after the word *nunquam*, or after *redibis*. The invention of the modern system of punctuation has been attributed to the Alexandrian grammarian Aristophanes, after whom it was improved by succeeding grammarians; but it was so entirely lost in the time of Charlemagne that he found it necessary to have it restored by Warnefried and Alcuin. It consisted at first of only one point, used in three ways, and sometimes of a stroke formed in several ways. But as no particular rules were followed in the use of these signs punctuation was exceedingly uncertain, until the end of the fifteenth century, when the learned Venetian printers, the Manutii increased the number of the signs and established some fixed rules for their application. These were so generally adopted that we may consider the Manutii as the inventors of the present method of punctuation; and although modern grammarians have introduced some improvements, nothing but a few particular rules have been added since their time.—*Castell's Popular Educator*.

SAILORS' WORK IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

In weather of all sorts there were dead-eyes to turn in, there were chafing gear to look after, reef points to knot, masts to stay, studding-sail gear to reeve, and the like. Then the wild excitement of going aloft to shorten sail in stormy weather! The old songs at the reef tackles, the flapping of the canvas, the springing into the shrouds, and the helter-skelter race for the weather earing, unless, indeed, the iron-hard pressure of the gale pinned you against the shrouds as if you had been a spread-eagle. In work of this sort the English tars were always pre-eminent, and one can easily believe that the Admiral accordingly had a thoroughly hearty contempt for the unsailor-like character of the French crews. Of one he said he never saw so bad a crew on salt water before; there were not twenty men on board who could go aloft. Those, too, were days not only of rough work, but also of the rough-and-ready fighting; and Bosawen's motto, like that of Hawke, his illustrious contemporary and rival, was always, Strike! One night Bosawen's lieutenant came to him and awoke him, saying that they had fallen in with three ships of the enemy. "What shall we do?" "Why, fight 'em, to be sure!" said Bosawen; and, dashing up on deck in his night-shirt, he soon compelled the enemy to sheer off. It was from this action that he is said to have acquired the name of Old Dreadnought. On another occasion he took off his wig, and with it stopped a leak in his boat, which was rapidly sinking.—*"Cornish Worthies," by Walter H. Tregellar.*

A BATTLE OF GIANTS.

Marignana (1515), according to Swiss accounts, was a battle of giants. The Swiss began, as usual, with prayer; and then the Ammann of Zug flung over their heads three handfuls of earth, crying: "In the name of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Confederates, forget your homes; here shall be our churchyard or victory. Think on your forefathers. Onward fearlessly." Then they marched on with their pikes eighteen feet long, the French trying thirty times to break their columns. Even Bayard lost his helmet and fled for the first time in his life. The Swiss forlorn hope, a band of wild young fellows from every canton, actually took a French battery and turned the guns on Francis' troops. The fight went on by moonlight till almost midnight, and then the armies lay down side by side. During the hours of rest the Swiss leaders held a council; Schinnerer advised falling back on Milan, and awaiting the Papal reinforcements; but he was overruled, and at dawn

the Forest horn rang out and the fight began again. At last the French began to give way on all points; one of the Guises fell, the Prince of Talmont was down, and all Francis' efforts to keep his men from wavering, when, about midday, in the rear of the Confederates was heard the Venetian war cry, "St. Mark! St. Mark!" For now, in the strange and rapid changes of Italian politics, the Venetians had got round to the French side, or rather against the Pope's, and their coming decided the day. The Swiss formed in square, taking their wounded and guns into the middle, and slowly made their way towards Milan. The French were too exhausted to march in pursuit. But the banner of Basel was taken, that of Appenzell, the standard-bearer tore off and tied round his body, the great silver mounted horn of Uri was lost, and 6,000 Confederates (with at least as many French) had fallen. "I've been in eighteen battles," said Trivulzio, one of Francis' generals, "but I never saw a battle like this." *H. S. Pagan, in Good Words.*

ONE DAY AT A TIME.

One day at a time! That's all it can be;
No faster than that in the hardest fate.
And days have their limits, however we
Begin them too early and stretch them late.

One day at a time!
It's a wholesome rhyme;
A good one to live by—
A day at a time.

One day at a time! Every heart that aches
Knows only too well how long that can seem;
But it's never to day which the spirit breaks,
Its darkened future without a gleam.

One day at a time!
It's a wholesome rhyme;
A good one to live by—
A day at a time.

One day at a time! A burden too great
To be borne for two can be borne for one;
Who knows what will enter to-morrow's gate?
While yet we are speaking all may be done.

One day at a time!
It's a wholesome rhyme;
A good one to live by—
A day at a time.

One day at a time! When joy is at height—
Such joy as the heart can never forget—
And pulses are throbbing with wild delight,
How hard to remember that suns must set.

One day at a time!
It's a wholesome rhyme;
A good one to live by—
A day at a time.

One day at a time! But a single day,
Whatever its load, whatever its length;
And there's a bit of precious Scripture to say
That, according to each, shall be our strength.

One day at a time!
It's a wholesome rhyme;
A good one to live by—
A day at a time.

One day at a time! 'Tis the whole of life!
All sorrow, all joy are measured therein;
The bound of our purpose, our noblest strife,
The one only countersign, sure to win!

One day at a time!
It's a wholesome rhyme;
A good one to live by—
A day at a time.

—*The Independent.*

THE OLDEST LITURGY EXTANT.

The Sun Prayer, "We meditate on Thee, the desirable light," etc., is probably the oldest extant prayer in the world. Centuries of oral tradition may have preceded the written Vedas; but, roughly speaking, we may believe that about the time that Agamemnon was celebrating his nuptials with Cassandra, the daughter of Priam, and quaffing the loving cup perchance one of these golden goblets unearthed by Dr. Schliemann, and exposed to our nineteenth century gaze at the South Kensington Museum; about the time that Gideon was girding on his sword to go up against the Midianites, the Brahmin priest was formulating his solemn liturgy on the banks of the Ganges, spreading his prayer carpet towards the rising sun, and pouring forth that ancient hymn, "We meditate on Thee, the desirable light!" *H. R. Haweis, in Good Words.*

A DESPERADO in Allapaha, Ga., a few days ago took refuge in the chimney to elude arrest by a posse of officers who were making a search of the premises for him. The officers, however, bound not to be foiled, started a fire, when the prisoner, half smothered, dropped to the hearth and was captured.

It has been decided to light the Imperial Palace, the Court Opera House and the Burg Theatre of Vienna with electric light. The Palace will be illuminated with 5,000 lights, the Opera House with 4,000 and the Burg Theatre with 3,000. The system to be employed is the Turettini patent and the contractors are the Vienna Gas Company.

In the lead production of different countries Spain holds the first place, the amount reaching some 120,000 tons in one year, or one-sixth more than America, which comes next on the list while Germany follows with 90,000. Of Spain's total production some 67,000 tons are derived from one district, that of Linars, in which more than 800 mines are registered.

British and Foreign.

THE Sultan has given \$2,500 to the fund for the relief of the earthquake sufferers in Andalusia.

WHILE boring an artesian well on the Koscrans tract, near Los Angeles, the workmen discovered a deposit of conch shells at a depth of 160 feet.

SEVERAL Western railways which have hitherto carried clergymen regularly settled over congregations in towns on their lines for half fare, have put up the rate this year to two-thirds fare.

KING ALFONSO paid a visit to the ruins of Alhama lately, and disbursed large sums of money among the sufferers. He had an enthusiastic reception, the whole population of the town turning out to greet him.

STEARING of Dr. Richardson's process for the painless killing of animals, the *Lancet* says that science scores in it a magnificent success; it gives inferior creation a blessing it dare not give to man—painless death.

A CIPHERMAN in Wisconsin helped to defeat a candidate for public office by asserting that his business—that of rum-selling was disreputable. A jury will now decide whether the reverend gentleman's remarks were libellous.

ONLY four out of the forty-six States and Territories are now trying to prohibit strong drink. Five others have made the effort and abandoned it. Eleven have stringent license laws, and fourteen have never legislated on the subject.

AN effort is being made in Pittsburg to raise money for the purpose of having Francis Murphy, the temperance agitator, locate permanently in that city as the head of a church to be known as the Church of Gospel Temperance.

THE accepted memorial to Gambetta is the joint work of the Sculptor Aube and the Architect Boileau. It consists of an imposing obelisk springing from a massive pedestal, on two sides of which are allegorical figures representing strength and truth.

SHIP fires, so common an occurrence at the port of New Orleans in the past, rarely happen there now. The prohibition of smoking near cotton on the wharves and on ship-board and a strict watch kept over it have almost entirely eliminated this evil.

THE various shipbuilding firms on the Clyde launched last year 319 vessels of an aggregate tonnage of 296,854 tons, being a falling off in tonnage of 122,810, as against 1883, of 95,080 tons as compared with 1882, and of 44,168 tons as compared with 1881.

DR. CUYLER accords to the Baptists "the book which, next to God's own book has had more readers than any in the English tongue," meaning the "Pilgrim's Progress," and the preacher who has reached more hearers than any man since the Apostles, in the person of Spurgeon.

DURING the last two years Prince Ibrahim Hilmy, son of Ismail Pasha, well known for his extensive knowledge of the language and literature of England, has busied himself in the accumulation of the record of works, manuscripts as well as printed, and of all countries, relating to Egypt and the Soudan.

RESEARCHES lately made by English explorers in regard to deep-sea beds have led to the belief that there are no rough ridges, abrupt chasms, nor bare rock, and that the sea bottom at great depths is not affected by currents or streams. Its general appearance rather resembling that of the American prairies.

MR. FROUDE is going round the world, partly for the sake of his health, and partly because, as he says, "I have grown tired of the chatter which my last volume on Carlyle has brought forth, and I thought that in six months, at any rate, the world would forget the existence of so unlucky a person as the biographer of Carlyle."

JOSEPHINE MILLER writes that she has found in New Orleans the noblest woman she ever saw, and she professes to have "seen the world well." She was born to wealth, received a careful education, travelled extensively in Europe, and at length became poor. She now keeps a little shoe store and works with her father and sister at making the stock.

THE sea coast of California has been visited this season by several varieties of birds which have never before been known to leave the mountains. This has generally been supposed to indicate a severe winter, but, according to science, the migration is more probably due to the prevailing scarcity of all kinds of seed in the mountains this season.

MANY will hear with deep regret of the bereavement which has come to the sweet singer of the Presbyterian Church, Dr. Horatius Bonar, by the death of his wife, who entered into rest on the 3rd ult., after a short and sudden illness. Mrs. Bonar was sister to Mary Lundy Duncan, the memoir of whom has been a source of spiritual blessing to so many.

PROF. FISCHER, of Munich, has obtained from distilled coal a white crystalline powder which, in its action on the system, cannot be distinguished from quinine. Its efficacy in reducing fever heat is thought to be remarkable, though the amount of the drug required to produce this effect is so large as to preclude any rivalry between it and genuine quinine.

THE Marquis of Ripon is about the only Governor-General of India to whom that office was not more or less an object from a pecuniary standpoint. He is a very rich man, with a beautiful house in Carlton Gardens, London, a splendid villa in Putney, a grand seat in Yorkshire, and another in Lincolnshire. Lady Ripon has an independent fortune of \$30,000 a year, and they have only one child.

THE committees appointed by the three Scottish Presbyterian Churches to arrange for the celebration in Edinburgh of the quinqucentenary of Wyclif agreed to hold a joint meeting in the Free Assembly Hall on the last Monday of last year. The following ministers were asked to take part: Dean Montgomery, Episcopal; Mr. Sturrock, Original Secession; Dr. Landels, Baptist; and Mr. Gregory, Congregational.