

HOME JOURNAL

Life, Literature and Education

IN THE WORLD OF LITERATURE AND ART.

The smallest book known to be in existence has just been published in Padua, Italy. It consists of eighty pages, each of which is ten by six millimeters in size and contains nine lines. The lettering is clearly visible, and reproduces a letter of Galileo to Christina of Lorena.

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A statue of Joseph Jefferson, as he appeared when representing Rip Van Winkle, is to be placed in Central Park, New York.

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Old-fashioned papyrus, such as Greeks and Romans used for manuscript writing centuries ago, is to be cultivated and used by the Italian Government, for bank notes. They say it can not be counterfeited.

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Fifty-eight languages at the end of his tongue was the number of which the Cardinal Mezzofanti was a thorough master, and the most wonderful thing about it was that nearly all of these different languages had several separate dialects. Mezzofanti was probably the greatest linguist the world has ever known. To hear a language was with him to speak it. He was a man with three score words for every idea, and he laid his great attainments to his excellent memory and to the fact that once hearing a word he never forgot it.

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An almost priceless collection of Lincoln relics, including the library of the Martyred President and several hundred manuscripts written by him, belonging to Major William H. Lambert, of Germantown, Pa., was destroyed by fire last week. The relics included 1,000 volumes of Lincoln's own library, his private desk, three office chairs once belonging to him, and 5,000 books treating of his whole career. There was also a number of oil paintings, pictures, etchings, etc., all of real historical value, as well as a collection of original manuscripts written by Thackeray.

SELF-RELIANCE.

Healthful physical and moral environment is not only the desirable heritage, it is the right of every child, a right of which too often he is deprived. Proper environment is a support for the tender human plant until it is strong enough to stand alone, the protection of the sapling against the jolts and blows of the life around it.

But one day the props should be removed, when childish things are put away, and then the child grown to manhood must be a man, no longer needing to be upheld and protected and thought for by his fellows, no longer a leaner but one who has courage and strength enough to live his life unhampered by an unworthy regard for how that life will appear in the eyes of his neighbor; not only strength and courage enough for that, but enough to provide a leaning place, a strong sure refuge, to some little child.

No man liveth to himself is the statement of Holy Writ, and in seeming paradox the life which most influences others is the one that follows the straight course approved by his Creator and his own conscience, drawn neither to right nor left by the magnetism of another's views. It is not selfishness. It is better for all concerned that you make a straight path of your own than that you follow a winding one laid out by some one else. As the wise Polonius said to Laertes:

"To thine own self be true,
And it must follow as the day the night,
Thou canst not then be false to any man."

In the minds of many people the phrase "a law unto himself" is synonymous with "lawless-

ness." To be one's own law-maker requires all the manly qualities of wisdom and judgment in the making and determination in the carrying of them out, but when with the use of all these qualities a code of life has been worked out that satisfies not one's instincts or tastes or desires, but one's soul, it must be a course worth following, even if it wins disapproval.

"By thine own soul's law learn to live;
And if men thwart thee, take no heed;
And if men hate thee, have no care.
Sing thou thy song, and do thy deed;
Hope thou thy hope, and pray thy prayer,
And claim no crown they will not give."

AN OUTGROWTH OF THE JAMAICA DISASTER.

Great crises are often instrumental in bringing to the front the finest qualities a man possesses, and are equally effective in exposing the weak points that have lain hidden in the soul unknown to the man himself. The latter is a pitiable thing, for the greater the event which laid bare the weakness, the greater publicity it receives, and a man's whole career is wrecked through a moment's indecision or rash judgment.

To Governor Swettenham of Jamaica the critical moment came in the earthquake which destroyed the city of Kingston and its environs. At the time of the disaster two American warships floated off the shores of the island. Immediately Rear-Admiral Davis landed his troops and started to aid in keeping order and rescuing the wounded without the formality of offering his assistance or having it accepted. The population of Jamaica, which is largely black, became panic stricken at sight of the awful destruction, and their natural fears increased by superstitious terror and the madness induced by the rum which many obtained. For a short time excess ran riot and the garrison of British soldiers was not of sufficient strength to cover effectually the large area in need of their ministrations. All witnesses of the event agree that in this time of extreme peril the services of the bluejackets of the republic were deserving of Britain's gratitude. It is highly improbable that Admiral Davis played the good Samaritan with a view to receiving gratitude, but he can scarcely have looked for the censure rudely expressed that fell upon him from Governor Swettenham. He was asked to re-embark his troops at once, as their presence was not only unnecessary but savored of ill-advised interference in a situation which the home forces could easily control. Admiral Davis and his men were not the only people to be amazed at this summary dismissal. Wherever the news has gone it has caused indignation and surprise. Granted that it was not the most satisfactory arrangement to have the armed forces of another nation actively engaged yet entirely independent of the power in possession of the territory. Granted, also, that the representative of British authority was incapable through nervous strain and excitement of considering how uncalled for this abrupt dismissal would appear to the world at large. Still after every argument in its favor has been brought forward, it remains an ungracious, discourteous act in return for kindly assistance, whose only motive as far as can be discovered, was to lend a helping hand in time of need. Courtesy which cannot stand the stress of disaster is only an imitation, not the genuine article.

I like your paper and its independence of tone, and general principles. One may safely rely upon the sentiments contained, as being unbiased and free from partyism.

Alta.

A. C. HARE.

THE ANTI-SUICIDE BUREAU.

However prejudiced the unreflecting mind may be against the methods of the Salvation Army, thoughtful persons recognize the fact that this body of devoted, earnest men and women is doing a work in the world—work sorely needed work—with a success that no other institution has approached. They carry the message to those who need it but do not feel their need.

The latest branch of the great work making the great world happier is the establishment of the Anti-suicide Bureau in London, England. The idea can be placed to the credit of the London *Daily Express*, but the Army is doing the work. Opened but a few weeks ago, this unique bureau has already handled several hundred cases, with at least temporary success.

It is a mistake to suppose that only weak-minded people commit suicide and that the world is better off without these mentally unhealthy citizens. Sudden clouds of darkness and sorrow overwhelm a normal minded man and he yields to the temptation of the moment as naturally as another man yields to the temptation of the moment and swears at his oxen or kicks the dog. If the critical point when death looks better than life can be passed the life goes on to its destined end; and death never looks better than life when the hand is grasped in the warm clasp of a friend and the ears filled with the music of cheerful speech. There is the opportunity to tell someone—to unburden the mind of the load which weighed upon it in secret until too heavy to endure. To voice a woe is to lose the half of it.

The establishment of this haven for the mentally distressed is being widely made known throughout London, and branches are being opened in other large cities. Charity, in the limited sense of the word, is not dispensed to the applicants directly, though indirectly steps are taken to relieve the want that in many cases brings the sufferer to the brink of despair. But it is the encouragement, the sincere interest, the assurance of having found a friend that draws him back, that takes him up out of the miry pit of hopelessness and plants his feet upon the solid rock again.

This new form of philanthropic effort is arousing much interest among the city people. Cases where help can be given are reported daily; employers offer positions to those out of work; physicians give free treatment where physical weakness has preyed upon the will. Many have offered assistance who refuse the ordinary appeals for charity.

A PROPHECY OF LORD DUFFERIN.

"She (Canada) knows that he (the United States) is stronger and more muscular than herself; has lots of pocket-money, can smoke cigars and loaf around in public places in an ostentatious manner forbidden to the decorum of her own situation. She admires him for his bigness, strength and prosperity. She likes to hear of his punching the head of other boys. She anticipates, and will be proud of his future success in life, and both likes and laughs at him for his affectionate, loyal, though somewhat patronizing friendship for herself. But of no nearer connection does she dream, nor does his bulky image for a moment disturb her virginal meditations. In a world apart, secluded from all extraneous influences, nestling at the feet of her majestic mother, Canada dreams her dream and forbodes her destiny—a dream of ever-broadening harvests, multiplying towns and villages, and expanding pastures; of constitutional self-government and a confederated empire; of a perpetuation for all time upon this continent of that temperate and well-balanced system of government which combines in one mighty whole as the eternal possession of all Englishmen, the brilliant history and traditions of the past, with the freest and most untrammelled liberty of action in the future."

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