

circling commerce and indomitable spirit, he saw too well, if not checked, would be the most formidable barriers to his ambitious designs. The disasters at Trafalgar and Waterloo from the hands of his rival, the first of which utterly demolished his naval authority, and the other his power on land, eventually proved the sagacity of his views. With his characteristic energy, he determined to bring the whole strength of his kingdom to bear upon its coasts, and accordingly made the most gigantic preparations on the shores of the channel. The French soldiers, animated by their hereditary hostility to the conquerors of Cressy and Agincourt, and an enthusiastic admiration of their victorious leader, flocked to their standards in numbers which had never been seen in Europe since the time of the far famed legions of Rome; and gained there, under such marshals as Ney and Murat, a degree of skill and discipline alike unprecedented. More than two thousand small vessels were built in the different harbors for transporting the soldiers, and then taken to Bologne the principal rendezvous. The powers of Napoleon's mind were never perhaps more astonishingly shown, than in the preparation and management of this formidable force. He caused the army to be disciplined in the most admirable order, commenced immense naval works in the harbors along the coast, especially at Antwerp, and took the most effective means to supply his numerous troops with provisions. Even amid the fetes and constant occupation which accompanied a journey into Italy, his despatches, containing the most minute directions, daily reached the minister of marine. Almost every harbor in Holland, France, Spain, and Italy, received a portion of his care; and so particular were his inquiries and so extensive his oversight, that any captain, who had a difficult task to perform, imagined that the attention of his general was fixed exclusively upon himself, instead of being occupied as it was with a hundred or perhaps a thousand in similar circumstances throughout the wide extent of his armies. The troops had been so skilfully appointed and practiced that, in some places, in the short space of *ten minutes*, they could all embark on board of their vessels.

Never before had such a formidable invasion threatened the liberties of Great Britain. The Spanish Armada was nothing in comparison. But England equipped herself, and boldly prepared for the contest. An universal enthusiasm, as well as dread, reigned throughout the kingdom; and thousands of every rank and condition volunteered into the service, so as almost to make a conscription unnecessary. But her main strength was on the sea. With Nelson at the head of a large navy, who had already defeated the French in the famous battle of the Nile, she had nothing to fear in that quarter. The British seamen were as brave and skilful on the sea as the French soldiers on the land, and their leaders were equally unrivaled on their own element. Napoleon well knew this, and laid a deep scheme to render their naval superiority useless. He armed with cannon the small vessels which he had in such numbers at Boulogne, without ever intending to fire a shot from them, but merely to deceive the English into the supposition that these were the only ships with which he meant to attack them. At the same time he caused large ships of the line to be built in the western and southern harbors of France and of Spain, which, at an appointed time, were to unite and proceed to the West Indies. After the English had started thither in search of them, they were to return rapidly to the British Channel. Having by this means undisputed control of the passage, Napoleon expected to transport his 150,000 men to the shores of Kent, reach London in five days, and then revolutionize the kingdom. Not a person in England had the least suspicion of this profound design, except Admiral Collingwood, and he not till the moment of its execution. The fleets from Toulon, in the south of France; Cadiz, in Spain; and Rochefort, on the Bay of Biscay; actually reached the West Indies, whither Nelson, who was on the look out in the Mediterranean, pursued them with far inferior forces. However, they anticipated him and gained nearly *three weeks* sail in advance of him on their return. Suspecting some ulterior design, Nelson sent a swift sailing vessel to Portsmouth to announce the enemy's movements. By good fortune and skill it outstripped the French fleet, and saved the liberties of Eng-

land. A squadron under Sir Robert Calder was immediately sent out to seek the returning fleet, which it met off Cape Finistere, and, in an indecisive engagement, forced to retire into a Spanish port. England was now on the alert, and Napoleon's profoundly conceived project unmasked and defeated. But like a fierce lion repulsed in one quarter, he dashed on to another; and the immense army, which was destined to overthrow England, rapidly marched into the dominions of Austria, and totally crushed that power in the battle of Austerlitz.

The French and Spanish fleets at length took refuge in the harbor of Cadiz; from which, having been decoyed by Nelson, they were routed in the memorable battle of Trafalgar, which "forever took Ships, Colonies, and Commerce from Napoleon, and spread them with the British Colonial Empire over half the globe." Thus at the very time that the French were treading down the power of Austria, the English gained a victory, dearly bought as it was by the death of their brave Admiral, which made them forever "secure in their seagirt isle," and the invincible rulers of the main.

A. B.

How to keep off Old Age.

A SUGGESTION TO YOUNG LADIES.

INTELLECTUAL culture is no doubt the best and the strongest barrier which the young can rear against the insidious advances of premature old age. Mental discipline is eminently healthful and life-sustaining. We speak not of excessive application, but of diligent and preserving culture and exercise of mind. The following remarks on the subject, by the Revd. Mr. Winslow, are commended to the consideration of all concerned, and especially to young ladies.

The premature old age observed in the appearances and infirmities of many young ladies in our country is not the result of too much study. We do not begin to study in this country as they do in Germany, nor as many do in England and France. It is a common thing among the educated ladies of Germany, to find those who can read and speak three or four different languages, and are extensively versed in mathematics and natural philosophy.

It is clearly proved that the high cultivation of the intellect is favourable to protracted usefulness and long life. Highly educated men and women on an average, live longer, and enjoy more even and purer health, than those of little or no culture. The mind is life—the very essence of life, and where there is most of mind, other things equal, there is most of that which imparts life and vigor to the body. It is believed that thousands in this country annually die some twenty years sooner than they would, had they bestowed a higher cultivation upon their intellect. We must be more intellectual and less sensual—more of that which dies not, and less of that which dies—if we would invigorate and prolong whatever of us is immortal. It is said to be better to wear out than rust out. The truth is, after all, very few in this country can claim the honor of wearing out, intellectually; but hundreds are dying daily through mental rust.

Why does the man of business languish and die so soon on retiring to enjoy in idleness his gains? Just because the life giving power, the mind, ceases to act. Rust, stagnation, disease, gloomy spirit, and death must inevitably come. The perpetual tug and excitement of business, as it is done in this country, frequently overtakes and breaks down the mind; not so much by the excitement attending it. Now, the study of languages, sciences, &c., and the putting forth of the mental energies in the form of written thoughts for the world, afford just that kind of mental effort which is most favourable to long and vigorous life. Accordingly literary and scientific men are, as a class, long lived. If our families would give up their dissipations, renounce their novels and their indolence, put away their inglorious rust, and their vain-glorious excitements together—and rise higher on the scale of intellectual, thinking, spiritual beings, they might secure to themselves and to their children a far more healthy, youthful, prolonged existence, than most of them now enjoy.