

HOMER'S SCHOOL.

Vol. IV.]

TORONTO, APRIL 10, 1886.

[No. 8.]

Procrastination.

PROCRASTINATION is a long word, but it is one most of us know something about. It has, you know, a connection with the Latin word *cras*, which means to-morrow; and the boy or girl who is fond of procrastination is the boy or girl who thinks to-morrow, or presently, is the proper time for everything. hapless mistake! There is danger in it.

A noble ship had sprung a leak, and lay upon the ocean with a signal of distress flying. To the joy of all, a ship drew near, and at last came within hail.

"What's amiss?" called the strange captain through his speaking-trumpet.

"We are in bad repair, and are going down. Lie by till morning," was the answer from the sinking ship.

"Let me take your passengers on board now," called back the ready helper.

"Lie by till morning," was the only answer.

Morning came at last, but the *Central America* went down within an hour and a half of the refusal; and passengers, and crew, and procrastinating captain, went down with her.

"I am going to turn out at six to-morrow," says Tom, with an air of most thorough determination. At half past five the next morning Tom awoke with a feeling of having something on his mind.

"Halloo! it's time to get up. Stay a minute, though; I can dress in less than half an hour."

Tom accordingly lies upon his back and follows the movement of an early fly, which now and then makes a dash at his face. This position not being satisfactory for long, he turns upon his side, and, while experiencing a sensation of relief, his eyes show a tendency to close.

"This will not do!" cries Tom, arousing himself with a jerk. "But they say it is bad to jump out of bed in a hurry."

Acting upon this caution, Tom's head once more returns to the pillow; and he is hardly surprised that the next time he thinks of turning out it is because there is a loud knocking at the

door, and somebody calling out: "It's half-past eight, Master Tom, and breakfast is begun!"

So Master Tom's procrastination ends in his coming down to breakfast an hour late, with a sleepy face and a bad temper for the rest of the day. If Master Tom goes on through his life like this in every matter, we know well enough there is but little success awaiting him. This is a busy world, and while one is

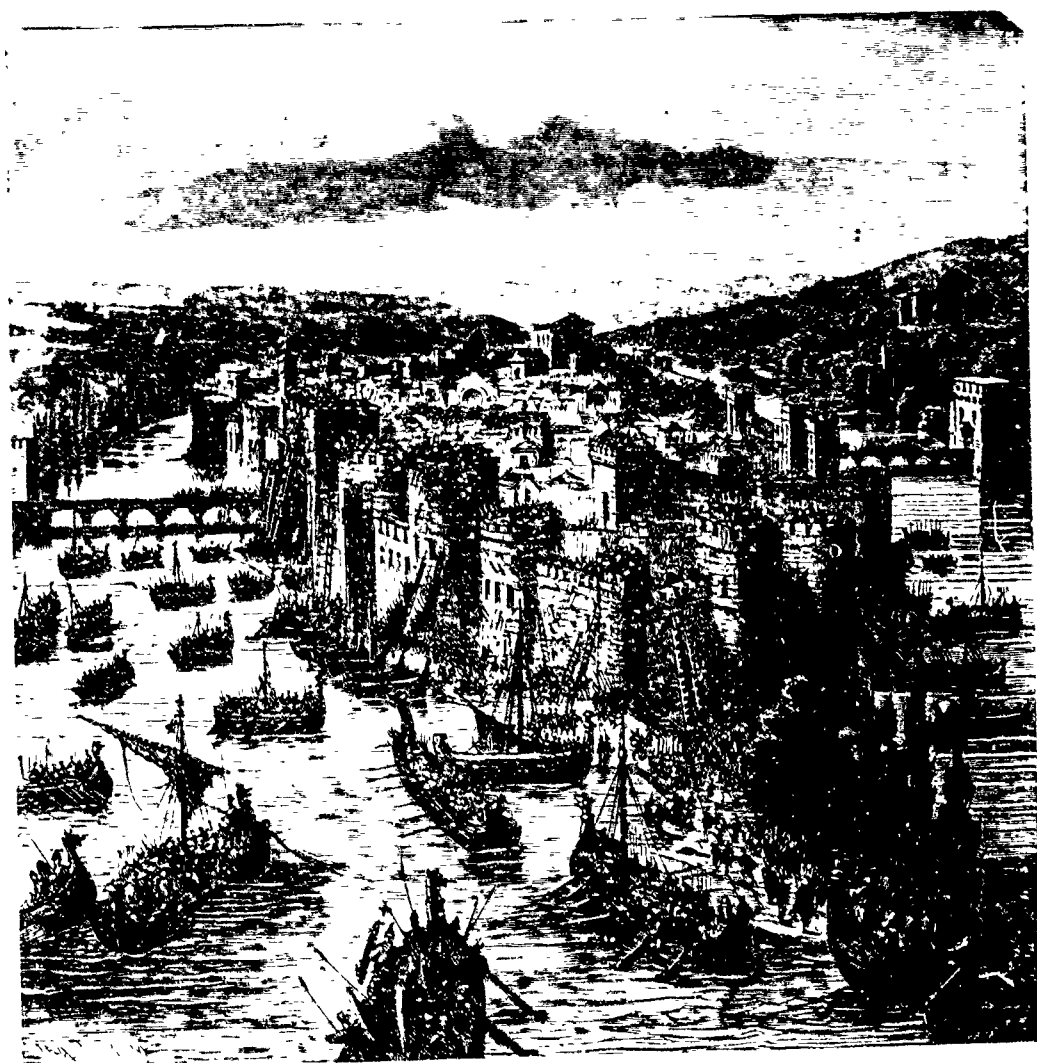
The Normans on the Seine.

It is a curious fact that in conflicts between Northern and Southern nations the men of the north are almost always victorious. It seems as if the milder climate and luxuries of the south enervate both the body and the mind. A striking illustration of this is shown in the invasion of France by the Northmen, under Rolf or Rollo, in the ninth century. The degenerate successors of

situated the great cathedral of Notre-Dame. This the Northmen besieged for thirteen months, and were hought off only with large ransom. Eventually they settled in the country, gave it the name of Normandy, and became under William the Conqueror, the eighth in descent from Rollo or Rolf, the Norman conquerors of Britain.

This striking engraving is taken from Dr. Ridpath's "History of the World,"* and is a specimen of over 1,200 contained in that great work. The study of history both sacred and secular—the study of God's dealings with our race—is, we think, the most interesting and instructive pursuit that can engage the human mind. It is also one of the most essential. History, it is well said, is philosophy teaching by example. The great problems of the ages repeat themselves. He who would understand the urgent questions of to-day and the best mode of their solution must know how these questions have been met and answered in the past. No one can pass muster as well informed who has not some adequate conception of the past record of our race. Yet many are deterred from this task by its seemingly hopeless magnitude, by the vast number of volumes to be mastered. And this is a real difficulty. To master the works of the great historians who have written in detail the annals of the nations is the work of a life time.

We venture to say that the careful study of these volumes is, in a very important sense, a liberal education. The reader is made acquainted with the chief actors in the great drama of time, with the nature of their work and with its influence on the world.



THE NORMANS ON THE SEINE—SIEGE OF OLD PARIS.

thinking of doing something "presently," another comes up and does it at once.—*Chatterbox.*

"Why did you learn to smoke, my boy?" "For the reason you did, I suppose." "Well, I want you to stop smoking." "Won't you give me the reason for stopping that I had for learning, father?" After a moment, "Yes, I will." Both stopped.

Charlemagne—Charles the Fat, Charles the Simple, Charles the Bald—by their wealth and cowardice offered a tempting prey to the bold Norse pirates, who pillaged the coasts of Europe as far as Sicily. In the days of Charles the Fat they swarmed up the Seine as far as Paris, with 30,000 warriors and 700 war galleys, and laid siege to the city—even then a great feudal stronghold. There is an island in the Seine known as the "Old City," on which is now

* *Cyclopaedia of Universal History.* Being an account of the principal events in the career of the human race from the beginnings of civilizations to the present time. From recent and authentic sources. Complete in three volumes. Imp. 8vo, 2,364 pages. By John Clark Ridpath, LL.D., Professor of History in DePauw University; author of a *History of the United States, a Life and Work of Garfield, etc.* Profusely illustrated with maps, charts, sketches, portraits, and diagrams. The Jones Brothers Publishing Co., Cincinnati. The Balch Brothers, 10¹/₂ Adelaide St. East, Toronto.