

instead of the slang which he hears; to form his tastes from the best speakers and poets of the country; to treasure up choice phrases in his memory, and habituate himself to their use, avoiding at the same time, that pedantic precision and bombast which show the weakness of vain ambition rather than the polish of an educated mind.

5. THE TALK OF AUTHORS AND SOUND MEN.

Bulwer, in one of his late publications, has the following:—

Every man of sound brain whom you meet knows something worth knowing better than yourself. A man, on the whole, is a better preceptor than a book. But what scholar does not allow that the dullest book can suggest to him a new and sound idea? Take a dull man and a dull book; if you have any brains of your own, the dull man is more instructive than the dull book. Take a great book, and its great author; how immeasurably above his book is the author, if you can coax him to confide his mind to you, and let himself out.

What would you not give to have an hour's frank talk with Shakespeare if Shakespeare were now living? You cannot think of yourself so poorly as not to feel sure that, at the end of the hour, you would have got something out of him which fifty years' study would not suffice to let you get out of his plays. Goldsmith was said by Garrick to "write like an angel, and talk like poor Poll." But what does that prove? Nothing more than this, that the player could not fathom the poet. A man who writes like an angel cannot always talk like poor Poll. That Goldsmith, in his peach-colored coat, awed by a Johnson, bullied by a Boswell, talked very foolishly I can well understand; but let any gentle reader of human brains and human hearts have got Goldsmith all to himself over a bottle of Madeira, in Goldsmith's own lodging—talked to Goldsmith lovingly and reverentially about "The Traveller," and "The Vicar of Wakefield," and sure I am that he would have gone away with the conviction that there was something in the well-spring of so much genius more marvellous than its diamond-like spray—something in poor Oliver Goldsmith immeasurably greater than those faint and fragmentary expressions of the man which yet survive in the exquisite poem, incomparable novel.

6. THE NAME OF THE DEITY

Is spelled with four letters in almost every language. In Latin, Deus; French, Dieu; Greek, Theos; German, Gott; Scandinavian, Odin; Swedish, Codd; Hebrew, Aden; Syrian, Adad; Persian, Syra; Tartarian, Idgy; Spanish, Dias; East-Indian, Esgi or Zeni; Peruvian, Lian; Wallachian, Zene; Etrurian, Chur; Irish, Dieh; Arabian, Alla.

V. Education in Foreign Countries.

1. EDUCATION IN FRANCE.

M. Renan, having declined the post offered him, on the 1st of June, in the Imperial Library, his nomination to it was cancelled, and his removal from the Hebrew Chair in the College of France confirmed on the 11th of the same month. It seems to be admitted on all hands that, in the first and only lecture which M. Renan delivered from the above chair, he transgressed the instructions which accompanied his appointment to it on the 11th January, 1862. From these instructions the following is an important extract:—"The professor, like all the citizens, is bound to observe the caution and respect which are due to the sacred character of the Bible; he will leave to the theologian his proper field, confining his own inquiries to literary and philological subjects; keeping aloof from religious discussions, he will devote himself entirely to researches that may promote enlightenment, and a science so important as the comparative study of the Semitic languages."

The heads of the Imperial Lyceum are henceforth to enjoy a little more freedom in the selection of prize books. Whilst the Government list of prize books is still to be kept in view, should any book, not in the list, be preferred, its substitution is allowed, provided always the proper authority be communicated with, and its sanction obtained.

The *Courier des Ardennes* reports the continued prosperity of classes for adults in the north-eastern provinces, adding that the classes best attended are those of drawing, hygiene, singing, and French. The Minister of Public Instruction, in congratulating the promoters of these classes on their success, thus defines their place: "After the elementary school there is nothing for our whole working population, and from twelve to twenty years of age most of them forget the little they have learned. Something must be placed along

their route; for the less ignorance the more morality, and the more knowledge the more wealth even."

The following is a vidimus of the Government schools in Algeria:—

- 3 Boys' elementary schools, taught by laymen.
- 4 Boys' elementary schools, taught by friars.
- 1 Protestant boys' elementary school.
- 1 Protestant girls' elementary school.
- 1 Girls' elementary school, taught by a lay female teacher.
- 5 Girls' elementary schools, taught by nuns.
- 2 Jewish boys' elementary schools.
- 1 Jewish girls' elementary school.
- 3 Infant schools, superintended by nuns.
- 1 Jewish infant school.

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In some of these schools there are evening classes for adults, which are well attended both by work people and by soldiers.

According to statistics obtained by a special inquiry in 1860, there were then in Paris of workmen able to read and write, 344,500; to read only, 5,000; to neither read nor write, 47,500. At this rate one eighth of the total number could neither read nor write; and of this eighth by far the greater part belonged to the building and clothing trades.—*English Museum*.

2. LIBRARIES AND EDUCATION IN RUSSIA.

Moscow is at present the centre of an enthusiastic movement for the establishment of public libraries, and galleries of painting and sculpture. The rich are vying with each other in the contribution of books and works of art from their private collections, as well as of money, and in some places they have even given up their houses for the temporary accommodation of the articles contributed.

On the 20th November, 1863, the six universities of Russia counted nearly 5,000 students, distributed as follows:—St. Petersburg, 672; Moscow, 1,892; Vladimir, 647; Kasan, 413; Charkov, 703; Dorpat, 568.

VI. Papers on Colonial Subjects.

1. NOBLE DEVOTION OF A CANADIAN WOMAN IN THE WAR OF 1812.*

Nor was this all. One bold and successful feat of arms infused *morale*, and inspired another. On the retreat of the American force, Vincent had been followed up, and established his outposts at his old position, Beaver Dam. Decau's house was occupied as a depot for stores. It was guarded by a small detachment of the 49th, about 30 men, under Lieut. Fitzgibbon. Fitzgibbon was one of the paladins of the war, a man of nerve and enterprise, of much vigor of character, and great personal strength. An incident characteristic of the man had occurred on the spot. On taking up his ground at the Beaver Dam, he had driven out the American pickets. Attempting to intercept them, he encountered alone at the back door of Decau's house two of the enemy, each armed with a musket and bayonet. Both charged upon him. Fitzgibbon grasped the musket of the more advanced man, and by main strength threw him upon his fellow, whose musket he also grappled with the other hand, and although both struggled desperately, he as resolutely held on until his men came to his aid, and his antagonists surrendered.

Such was the man to whom on the night of the 23rd June there came a warning inspired by woman's wit, and conveyed with more than female energy. The commandant of Niagara, chagrined by reverses, and anxious to reassure his own people, resolved to beat up the British quarters, to attack Decau's house, and destroy the depot of stores. The surprise of this outpost would have led to further surprises, and to an officer inspired with half the enterprise of Harvey, would have opened the way to Burlington Heights. The outpost was within striking distance, and exposed. The adventure was promising. He ordered, therefore, Lieut.-Col. Boerstler of the United States Army to prepare for this service, rapidly and secretly. He was in command of the 14th United States Infantry, one 12 and one 6-pounder field gun, with ammunition waggons, &c., a few cavalry and volunteers—amounting altogether to 673 men.

In despite of all precautions, rumours of the intended expedition eked out, and reached the ears of one James Secord, a British militia soldier, who resided at Queenston, then within the American lines. He had been badly wounded the preceding autumn at Queenston Heights, and was a cripple. He hobbled home to his house

* From "The War and its Moral." By Colonel Coffin. Published at Montreal by John Lovell.