

Home Journal

People and Things the World Over

To the vocabulary of the airship Professor Alexander Graham Bell contributes the words drome and droming. The English favor the still simpler words flier and flying.

At 80 years of age, nearly blind, and worn with 65 years' beneficent toil, seldom equalled in the annals of humanity, General Wm. Booth, of the Salvation Army, has sat down to write his autobiography. The general has earned the undying gratitude of the world.

M. Paderewski has presented to the city of Cracow, Austrian Poland, a statue 40 feet high of King Ladislas Jagiello, the Polish monarch who defeated the Germans at Gdunwald in 1410. It is the work of the Polish sculptor, M. Wiwulski, and cost £12,000.

The Carnegie hero fund commission has announced that seventeen more heroes have been added to the list. There were five silver and twelve bronze medals awarded, and about \$19,000 in money. The acts of heroism cover rescues from drowning, electrocution, trains, fire and suffocation.

A despatch from Providence, Rhode Island, calls attention to the fact that Brown University provides special courses in preparation for public or government service, covering such subjects as international law; natural, industrial and commercial resources; history, government institutions, and modern languages. President Taft has ordered examinations now preparatory to diplomatic appointments. This ought to be an improvement on the "political pull."

At the Unionist meetings of the present election campaign in the Home Land one hears Canada described as enjoying splendid prosperity owing to the tariff. The same is claimed for every other protectionist country; while at Liberal meetings a picture quite the reverse is drawn. *The Stratford Express* says if the Canadian government should offer a free passage home to any Britishers wanting to return at least 100,000 would seize the chance.

According to the *Journal De Stamboul*, Sir William Wilcox, the British adviser to the minister of public works, thinks he has determined the exact site of the Garden of Eden. He places it at Hairlah, a flourishing oasis, some 250 kilometers northwest of Bagdad.

Through this site the Euphrates runs, and is divided into four arms, representing the four rivers of Eden. Sir William suggests that the deluge was merely the flooding of the entire plain between the Euphrates and the Tigris, owing to these rivers breaking down the irrigation dikes which had been built by the pastoral dwellers on the plain.

Fifty years ago Madame Adelina Patti made her debut at the New York Academy of Music in Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor. Though then only sixteen years of age, her voice already exhibited those marvelous qualities which have since won for its possessor the very highest place among the world's great singers. The reception accorded her that night well befitted the opening of that wonderful career in the course of which the great prima donna has earned well over a million pounds. Two years later, when her fame was already well established, the young soprano appeared in "La Sonnambula," at Covent Garden, and took the town by storm.

My Books

Ah! well I love those books of mine,
That stand so trimly on the shelves,
With here and there a broken line
(Fat "quartos" jostling modest "twelves")
A curious company I own;
The poorest ranking with their betters;
In brief—a thing almost unknown—
A Pure Democracy—of Letters.

A worthy gathering are they;
Some fairly worth their weight in gold;
Some just too good to throw away;
Some scarcely worth the place they hold,
Yet well I love them, one and all,
These friends so meek and unobtrusive,
Who never fail to come at call,
Nor (if I scold them) turn abusive.

If I have favorites here and there,
And, like a monarch, pick and choose,
I never meet an angry stare
That this I take and that refuse;
No discords rise my soul to vex,
Among these peaceful book relations,
No envious strife of age or sex
To mar my quiet lucubrations.

And they have still another merit,
Which otherwise one vainly seeks,
Whate'er may be an author's spirit,
He never uninvited speaks.
And should he prove a fool or clown,
Unworth the precious time you're spending,
How quickly you "can put him down."
Or "shut him up" without offending!

I call them friends, these quiet books,
And well the title they may claim,
Who always give me cheerful looks.
(What living friend has done the same?)
And, for companionship, how few,
As these, my cronies ever present,
Of all the friends I ever knew
Have been so useful and so pleasant?
—John G. Saxe.

The Crop of College Heads

In its New Year edition the *Halifax Chronicle* has a paragraph drawing attention to the output for which Nova Scotia is becoming increasingly remarkable—the production and export of college presidents. In its nurture of a high intellectuality that makes leaders in a plane above mere material things, the little province by the Atlantic can feel honest pride—New Scotland has kept and cultivated the great quality that has made auld Scotia a power in the earth. At the present time no less than five of the great and growing universities of America have as heads men who were trained and fitted for the post in Nova Scotia. The president of Toronto University, Dr. R. A. Falconer, got part of his schooling in Nova Scotia and much of his experience in the Presbyterian college at Halifax. Dr. D. M. Gordon, the present head of Queen's, is a Pictou man and spent most of his life in the province before succeeding Dr. Grant at Kingston. Dr. A. Ross Hill was born in Colchester county, and is one of the good men Canada has given to the States. He has done work in several American colleges, and is now head of the University of Missouri, with 200 professors and 3,000 students under him. Western Canada has been fortunate enough to get hold of two of these Nova Scotia intellectuals. Dr. Walter C. Murray, formerly of Dalhousie College, has undertaken as its first president to lay the foundations of the Saskatchewan University at Saskatoon. It is a great opportunity and only a great man can deal with it properly. A similar work is being carried on in Sunny Alberta by Dr. H. M. Tory, first president of the Alberta University. Dr. Tory is a native of Guysboro county, Nova Scotia.

Where Their Money Went

A Chicago paper has been making an estimate of the amount given for education and philanthropy in the United States during 1909. The total was \$150,641,253, which was ten millions more than the record of any previous year. About sixty-seven and a half millions of this tremendous sum went to charity; a little over forty-six to educational institutions; about half the latter amount went to religious organizations, nearly nine millions to art museums, and three millions to libraries. The donors of the largest sums were those who could best afford to give—Rockefeller, Carnegie, Frick, Charles Ellis, John S. Kennedy, Caroline Stokes and Elizabeth Bingham. One of the gifts of a million was made by Edward Ginn, of Boston, to the cause of universal peace. An unnamed donor gave over a million to the New York Teachers' College, and another similarly modest soul gave a million to charity.

Training the Memory

Unlike greatness, though some may be born with a retentive memory and some may achieve one, none ever have it thrust upon them. The number of those born with a good memory is not large. The great majority of human beings are in the class of those who by patience and perseverance achieve it or else, being too indolent or careless to do so, make a new class of themselves whose cry is "I have a wretched memory." This is delivered as if it were something to be almost proud of and as a good excuse for almost every neglect of duty.

Almost invariably the successful man in any walk of life has a memory that grasps and holds essentials and also seeming non-essentials. And in very few cases is it a natural gift, but it has been cultivated with great care with the knowledge of what its possession will mean to its owner.

Do you ever try at night to recall the events of the day: what you have done, seen, heard or thought since rising? The difficulty of correct recall will surprise you if you have not tried it before. But incompetent memory is not entirely to blame in every case, lack of observation and the dislike of the indolent mind to having a clear and deep impression made upon it, account for a good deal of the failure to recall distinctly at the end of the day. But practice is the great thing in memory cultivation. Learn short extracts from good writers and you will have gained two things—a helpful thought and a strengthened mind. Try to fix in your mind the exact words that your family and neighbors use in speaking to you. Endeavor to remember figures, sizes, distances. You may not ever need those particular numbers, but some day you will want your memory to grip on some important statistics.

There are some marvellous accounts of retentive memories preserved in historical records of various countries. Magliabechi, an Italian scholar of the 17th century, was lent a long manuscript to read and a day or two after he was able to repeat its contents word for word. Rev. John Wallis, an Englishman, worked out mentally in bed one sleepless night the square root of a number having fifty-three places to twenty-seven terms and repeated the result twenty days after. Pliny says that Cyrus the Great knew the names of all his soldiers. (Remembering names and faces is a prime necessity with statesmen and politicians.) Sophocles in his old age, to prove that his mind was still firm, recited to the Judges the *Oedipus at Colona*.