

BOOKSELLERS IN EARLY DAYS.

There were in the days of ancient Greece manuscript engrossers and sellers, to whom for many centuries the world was indebted for its best poetry, philosophy and wit, most of which has been lost because the art of printing was unknown; in consequence of which the Old World and the New are as far apart as the north and south poles. At the time of the Roman Empire it is supposed there were many publishing firms that issued books at least as cheaply as their modern brethren. To the Roman of the Augustan era literature was an essential, and the taste was gratified in various ways. There were public libraries and public recitations, over which, too, emperors presided, while poets with a world wide reputation read aloud their favourite verses. There were, too, newspapers compiled by the sanction of government, and hung up in some place of public resort for the benefit of the multitude, and which were copied for the private accommodation of the wealthy. All public events of importance had their places in these journals; the reporters, termed *actuarii*, gave abstracts of the proceedings of the law courts and public assemblies; there was a list of births, deaths and marriages, and particular attention was paid to reports of trials for divorce. Juvenal says that the women were all agog for everything horrible, and that the merchants and traders invented false news in order to affect their various markets. Every respectable house in Rome possessed a library, and among the richer classes the slave readers and the slave-transcribers were almost as independent as cooks and scullions. These slaves were at first employed in copying celebrated writings for their masters; but gradually the natural division of labour produced a separate class—publishers. Atticus employed a number of slaves to copy from dictation simultaneously, and was thus able to multiply books as quickly as they were demanded. Of course he found imitators, and thus publishing by written copies became a recognized trade. Martial, Ovid and Propertius mention that their works were known the world over; that young and old, women and girls, in Rome, in Britain and in Gaul read their verses. "Every one," says Martial, "has me in his pocket, every one has me in his hands." What a sight it must have been to see a Roman maiden with a copy of one of Martial's Epigrams, reading the obscenity and filth of that writer which is now to be found only in the "Index Expurgatorum," which has been consigned to the limbo of unclean things. Horace did not like this wholesale trade in his works, and speaks of his repugnance at seeing them in the hands of the vulgar—that is, the common people. School-books, too, were in great demand in Rome; Juvenal mentions that "the verses which the boy has just *comed over* at his desk, he stands up to repeat." Nero, who was of inordinate vanity, gave special command that his verses should be placed in the hands of the students. According to Martial, the first book of his epigrams could be bought, neatly bound, for five denarii (nearly seventy-five cents), but in a cheaper binding for the people for about twenty-five cents; his thirteenth book of Epigrams was sold for ten cents. By employing a number of transcribers simultaneously, it would be quite possible to produce a daily edition of five hundred and forty verses. By the employment of slave labour—and thousands of slaves were engaged in this work of transcribing—books were both plentiful and cheap in Rome.—*Boston Saturday Evening Gazette.*

MORNING COLD BATHS.

In the past few years several patients have come to me, says a medical writer in the *London Lancet*, complaining that they from time to time, especially in winter, in the early part of the day, have expectorated mucus tinged with blood. In each case there was no family history of phthisis, the temperature was normal, there were no bacilli discoverable in the sputa, there was no loss of strength or weight, and the chest-sounds were healthy. The men, however, were not of a vigorous type, and they were all accustomed to have a cold bath summer and winter. It seemed likely, especially in winter, that the sudden application of intensely cold water to the whole surface of the skin too suddenly raised the internal blood-pressure, and hence the oozing of the blood through the walls of the capillary vessels lying beneath the lining membrane of the throat or larynx, or possibly the lungs. In any case, whatever the true explanation may be, the fact stands out that the unpleasant symptom disappeared as soon as the temperature of the icy-cold water was reasonably increased. The practice of taking a cold bath is so universal nowadays that it is perhaps as well to know that although the strong man may indulge in it with unmixed benefit, it may cause in the weak man a symptom which fills him with anxiety.—*Science.*

TENNYSON'S BIRTHDAY.

Lord Tennyson's eighty-second birthday was celebrated at Freshwater, Isle of Wight. We need hardly say (writes the *Daily News*) that Freshwater is one of the poet's homes. The British excursionist and the American tourist know the place and love it "not wisely but too well." There is to be a concert in the Assembly Rooms, and the programme is to comprise various settings of Tennyson's words to music by Lady Tennyson. We are glad to hear that the poet is in excellent health, and has gone back from his short visit to London improved rather

than impaired in physical condition. We are all proud of the old age of our foremost living poet, and proud especially of the fact that years have in no way chilled or damped the youthful spirit of his song. Some of Lord Tennyson's latest poems, like some of Robert Browning's, have been among his very best. He has had lyrical command of England, and, indeed, of all English-speaking races, for a very long time. He is above all things the Poet Laureate of the Victorian age. For although Wordsworth, to whom he succeeded, lived well into the age of Queen Victoria, he was not of it, and before that day, and for some time before it, the Poet Laureate accepted by the Court was not always the Poet Laureate accepted by the people. All the men of Tennyson's prime in literature have passed away. Some of them, like Matthew Arnold, were much younger in years than he, and are not long gone. Browning is not yet two years dead, and he, too, was much younger when he died than Lord Tennyson is to-day. Like Lord Tennyson, Browning seemed to bow to no power of years, and kept up the freshness of youth in his poetry long after the time when in former days inspiration would have been expected to desert the soul of the singer. Dickens was one of the first among the outer literary public to recognize the genius of Tennyson, and Dickens has been twenty years a classic, and Tennyson remains a living author. Thackeray came into the literary field with his first novel after Tennyson had established his place and made sure his fame, and Thackeray has gone off among the immortals for more than a quarter of a century.

THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

THE RIOTS IN CHINA.

We have very little direct information from China as to the recent outbreaks of fanaticism and ill will against foreign residents. The daily press has anticipated most of what we have; but the following, from the pen of the Rev. W. Muirhead, of Shanghai, throws light on the probable cause of the riots. He says: "There will doubtless be much excitement at home on the receipt of intelligence from this place of trouble at Nanking, Wuhu, etc. The foreigners residing there have been compelled in large measure to leave and come for safety to Shanghai. The cause of the riots is altogether difficult to make out. Some allege it is owing to the Roman Catholic procedure in connection with their founding institutions, to which young children are brought in the last stages of disease, and, of course, soon die. The vilest rumours are circulated in consequence, and advantage is taken of these to stir up a riot and produce mischief. Others say the whole is a political move at the instance of secret societies, whose object is to upset the Government and bring about rebellion, while the opportunity is thought to be a good one for loot and plunder. Happily in the trouble that has occurred, at the above two places in particular, there has been no loss of foreign life, though a large amount of property has been destroyed. How long and how far this kind of thing will go on it is hard to tell. We are here well provided with means of defence, and it is not likely the rioters will attempt to disturb us, notwithstanding the threats reported at all hands. Other places not so well protected may be attacked by bands of marauders, which are well known to obtain largely in China, and are always ready for an outbreak when occasion offers."

To this we add a short paragraph from Dr. Cecil Davenport, who, writing from Chung King under date of May 10, says: "This city is in a very disturbed state just now. They do hate us and catch at all they can. A magistrate has died at one of the other missions and the whole city is talking about it. There, no doubt, has been some mistake made, and our friends have laid themselves open to attack. The friends of the man say they will charge them with murder. It has affected all our work. People come in and ask if it is I who has killed the man. One wants much caution here. Then one of the guilds to provide money for heathen rites has been pressing one of our converts for money. They came twenty to thirty strong demanding money of us insolently. Such are the rumours of wars. I can't write more of it now. We are all pretty well and have good encouragement in our work. Eighteen names are handed in for membership."

MADAGASCAR.

The capital of the great island of Madagascar is Antananarivo. Here the London Missionary Society has carried on its operations with great success ever since 1862. There are in the city eleven churches, four of which are built on spots where martyrs perished. Besides these churches there are in the capital four Roman Catholic and one Lutheran. The total number of Churches affiliated with the London Missionary Society Churches is 99. Every one of these has a school connected with it. In addition to these there are in the capital itself a college for training evangelists and pastors, three high schools for boys and two for girls, and two printing offices employing some fifty youths and men as printers and binders. For all this varied work there are belonging to the London Missionary Society thirteen ordained missionaries, three laymen and two ladies; while connected with the Friends' Foreign Mission Association there are seven laymen and three ladies. The Friends superintend 140 Churches, one printing office and two high schools of the above totals. The college has sent out 196 men and the normal school 400.

The London Society devotes about \$20,000 to the whole work on the island. One of the missionaries, writing to the *Independent*, says—

During the last six months the minds and consciences of the missionaries, male and female, have been much moved by the question, Are we really saving souls? We have had so much to do with numbers that we have not had time for individuals. Some of us, while seeing congregations moved by our sermons, and young men and women who had been trained in our college and schools, becoming useful workers in the Lord's vineyard, had never had the joy of hearing any individual say: "Twas you who led me to Christ." We have longed for it, we have prayed for it. It was so long coming, however, that we had begun to think

that the Malagasy were so reserved that they would not speak of such things. What poor, doubting mortals we were! Well might our Lord say of us: "O ye of little faith!" In my own school the work began in the early part of the year, and on May 5, the very first day I had set apart for any of my students who were wishing to serve the Lord to come to me, I had the unutterable joy of hearing that an address I had given one morning in the school in the early part of the year had been the means in God's hand of saving a soul. That month of May was a blessed time here. Special services were held for the young. One of our missionaries, the Rev. J. Peill, visited the college and the five high schools and addressed them on five mornings.

In the afternoon for a whole week united services were held in our two largest chapels, and addresses were given by Mr. Peill and other missionaries. The Spirit of the Lord was upon them truly. Numbers of youths rose and declared that they had found salvation. In one school 140 out of 200 openly declared for Christ. In each school numbers have received a fresh baptism of the Spirit, and in each Church in the capital there are large numbers of young men and women applying for Church membership. In one Church alone there are seventy applicants. We have heard from every side of the good that has been done. Some of our native Christians have rebuked us for our seeming want of faith. We have heard of sermons and addresses at Bible classes years and years ago, and which we thought had been water spilled upon the ground, that have been the good seed of the kingdom. The Lord has indeed opened "the windows of heaven," and poured upon us a great blessing. We who are engaged in education in the capital of Madagascar are like unto the psalmist who said: "We were like unto them that dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter and our tongue with singing."

KOREA.

How wonderfully the Gospel is spreading in this lonely and far away land—the last to open its gate to Christ! In 1887 the first Protestant Church was organized in Korea, by the Presbyterian mission, with twenty-three members. Since that time there has been very steady growth, and the openings for mission enterprise are simply marvellous, in view of the missionary forces at work in that field. Korea has a population of twelve millions. The evangelical force in Korea is thus enumerated by the Rev. H. G. Underwood in the *Church at Home and Abroad*:—

Two married physicians, three married and two single clerical missionaries, two unmarried laymen and five single ladies. One third of this number have but just arrived, many more have scarcely been on the field a year, and not a half yet consider themselves well equipped for the work. Moreover, it must be borne in mind that in the older mission lands there are a large number of well-trained native helpers, who are in many cases as effective in preaching the Gospel as the foreign missionary, if not more so, but that such cannot be found in a new field like Korea.

Results already attained are thus enumerated:—

Hospitals have been opened, schools and a theological training class established, two churches organized, Sunday schools instituted and a system of lesson leaves prepared. Portions of the Bible and tracts have been distributed in many parts of the country, itinerating trips for the healing of both body and soul repeatedly made, translation of tracts, hymns and parts of the Bible accomplished, and a Korean religious tract society organized. In these our varied labours, God has been with us and wonderfully blessed us.

The people have been found exceedingly hospitable, kind and truthful. They are ready to hear with candour and attention the words of the Lord Jesus. An addition of fourteen to the mission staff is earnestly pleaded for.

RECENT DISTURBANCES IN CHINA.

The *Chinese Recorder* thinks that the recent disturbances in China were caused by the Kolao Hui. It says: "The Kolao Hui, originally a benevolent military organization, is now thought to be a reproduction of the old Taiping rebellion, having for its prime object the expulsion of the Manchus. The programme called for a decisive movement against French Catholics as a means of arousing foreign complications; popular superstition and ignorance were skillfully played upon by designing men, and it is more and more evident that, on the part of many of the rioters, there has been only a pretended quarrel with Christian missions, their object being disorder and plunder. The emperor's edict is inspiration to all who believe in a providential ordering of events. It is a distinct recognition of Christianity; more than that, it gives assurance of protection to missionaries and native converts."

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MAN WANTS BUT LITTLE HERE BELOW.

This may be true, but the little he wants he desires to enjoy, and to enjoy things in this world he must have health. Without it, man can get no more pleasure out of life than can a graven image. With it the sun seems to shine perpetually, or, if it does ever get clouded over, he can see the silver lining to the cloud. When health is so essential to happiness it is strange that persons suffering from liver complaint, dyspepsia, low spirits, headache, or nausea, do not try Beecham's Pills. They can be had from your druggist, or by sending 25 cents to B. F. Allen Co., 365 and 367 Canal St., New York.

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