

simple trust in a superior power. So I enquired what religious ideas he entertained.

"None whatever," replied the interpreter. "He seems to have absolutely no religious feelings or beliefs."

"But what do the funeral ceremonies of the Zulus indicate?"

"They have no funeral ceremonies of any significance."

"Has he no idea of a Supreme Being?"

"Well, he sometimes refers in an unintelligible way to something he calls 'the great.' But it seems to be a mere word. I can't find that he associates any definite idea with it."

He was then told that his visitors were from America.

"We have heard of you in America," said I, thinking of that prince of Ashantee whose first question of a civilized visitor was whether they talked much about him in England.

"I have heard that America is a very large country, the other side of Europe," he replied.

Nothing in his countenance indicated that the subject of his renown in America excited any emotion whatever. The interpreter explained that the royal ideas of the figure of the earth were rather confused.

"Is it any use to tell him that these Americans have come here to measure the distance of the sun by the transit of Venus?" inquired the astronomer.

"I fear there is no way to give him an idea of great distance. Even in the Transvaal all the Boers can tell you of any considerable distance is that it is so many hours on horse-back. But perhaps we might give him some idea by a railroad train, the speed of which he knows. How long would it be to the sun by rail?"

"Tell him that if the swiftest train were to set out to the sun with a baby, the baby would die an old man long before the train got to the sun."

When this was translated to him his hands were raised in astonishment, and wonder was unmistakably depicted in his countenance. I looked for an expression of incredulity, but saw none. To tell him of the transit was hopeless. More than once we had been greeted by the intelligent inhabitants of the village where our observations had been made with the remark, "I hear you have come to see a star in the sun."

"What did he think of London? and what impression did the sight of its activity make upon him?"

He was simply bewildered, sir; so struck with wonder he could not take in the relations of things."

"Let him tell us what he will say about London and England when he gets back to his people."

"The first year I am at home I shall say nothing at all about it. After I have been a year among my people I can begin now and then telling them what I saw, a little at a time."

"Did you see anything in London which you would like to introduce into your own country?"

"When I get back I want to build myself a few houses. But I shall not give up my old kraal. I should only like to have some houses besides."—*Simon Newcomb, in Harper's Magazine for April.*

AMERICA IN 1784.

The following extract is taken from "A History of the People of the United States from the Revolution to the Civil War," by John Bach McMaster.

Of the inventions and discoveries which abridge distance, which annihilate time, which extend commerce, which aid agriculture, which save labour, which transmit speech, which turn the darkness of night into the brilliancy of day, which alleviate pain, which destroy disease, which lighten even the infirmities of age, not one existed. Fulton was still a portrait-painter, Fitch and Rumsey had not yet begun to study the steam-engine, Whitney had not yet gone up to college, Howe and Morse, McCormick and Fairbanks, Goodyear and Colt, Dr. Morton and Dr. Bell were yet to be born.

The furniture in these dwellings (in Boston) was often imported from England. The sideboards were heavy with articles of porcelain and china, many of them of the celebrated Wedgwood ware, whereon blue lovers walked by the side of blue waters, and blue deer lay down to rest, in the shade of blue trees. . . . In the corners of the rooms, or on the landing of the stairs, stood the high clocks of English make, many of which remain yet to attest the excellence of the manufacture. Some were surmounted by an allegorical representation of Time. . . . The library was a strange assortment of good books, and books so gone out of fashion that no second-hand dealer will buy them. Huge volumes, long since out of print, and now to be found covered with dust, on the back shelves of public libraries, were then high in favour. Among the sober and sedate readers, of Boston the Puntanical taste was yet strong. The delightful novels of Richardson, of Fielding, of Smollet and of Sterne found no place on their shelves. Reading was a more serious business. Many a young damsel passed from girlhood to womanhood without ever having looked within the covers of Shakespeare or Shendan, without ever having attended a dance, and could not tell whether the ace of spades was black or white, or if the king outranked the knave.

On the stalls on a market day we would miss, again, many of the fruits and vegetables now considered not as luxuries, but as essentials. The tomato was not only uncultivated, but almost unknown. Apples and pears were to be had in abundance, but none of those exquisite varieties—the result of long and assiduous nursing, grafting and transplanting—which are now to be had of every green-grocer. The whortemberries and strawberries were such as grew wild on the hills, and the best of them could bear comparison neither in flavour nor in size with the poorest that are often to be seen at country fairs. Oranges and bananas were the luxury of the rich, and were, with all the tropical fruits, rarely seen, for few packets could then make the voyage from the West Indies under several weeks. Since that day our dinner-tables have been enriched by the cauliflower and egg-plant.

No great companies existed as yet for the distribution of ice. Every thunder storm curdled the milk.

The new England farmer held it an abomination to read a novel, to see a play, to go to a dance, to make a jest, to sing a comic song, to eat a dinner cooked on Sunday, or to give a present on Christmas day. Yet he would at times so far forget his austerity as to play a game of draughts with his wife, or have a romp of fox-and-geese with his children. His conscience did not smite him when he drank palm-tea at a quilting bee or listened to the achievements of his better half at the spinning match. He drank ale and cider at the apple-paring bees, and laughed as loudly as any one when at the corn-husking the lucky finder of the red ear kissed his favourite daughter. But the moment the fiddles were produced he went home to his pipe and sermons, or to a long talk with the schoolmaster.

YE PURITAN MAID.

Ye Puritan maid, with gentle pride,
Her snowy kerchief neatly tied,
In woollen gown of sombre hue,
Demurely dropped her eyes of blue,
And sober seemed, in bonnet wide.

And yet, with roguish glance aside,
Her beauty's power she slyly tried,
And suitors prim oft came to woo
Ye Puritan maid.

But though with down-cast face she sighed,
The smiles about her mouth they spied;
The little witch her power well knew,
Which many a youth precise did rue,
And matrons oft did sternly chide
Ye Puritan maid.

—*Florence S. Brown*

SOMETIME, SOMEWHERE.

Unanswered yet? the prayers your lips have pleaded.

In agony of heart these many years?
Does faith begin to fail? Is hope departing,
And think you all in vain those falling tears?
Say not, the Father hath not heard your prayer;
You shall have your desire sometime, somewhere.

Unanswered yet? tho' when you first presented
This one petition at the Father's throne
It seemed you could not wait the time of asking,
So urgent was your heart to make it known.
Tho' years have passed since then, do not despair;
The Lord will answer you sometime, somewhere.

Unanswered yet? nay, do not say ungranted,
Perhaps your part is not yet wholly done.
The work began when first your prayer was uttered,
And God will finish what he has begun;
If you will keep the incense burning there,
His glory you shall see sometime, somewhere.

Unanswered yet? Faith cannot be unanswered,
Her feet were firmly planted on the Rock;
Amid the wildest storms she stands undaunted,
Nor quails before the loudest thunder shock.
She knows Omnipotence has heard her prayer,
And cries, "It shall be done," sometime, somewhere!

—*Robert Browning.*

A LONDON weekly says that the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill will be dropped for this session.

An effort is being made to raise some memorial to John Milton in the village of Horton, in Buckinghamshire, where he lived with his father and mother, and in the church of which village his mother, Sarah Hilton, is buried.

PRESIDENT ELIOT, of Harvard, says that the "seminaries bid against each other for young mendicants, who think that the community owes them a theological education," and that "the clerical profession has been deeply injured by beneficial endowments."

THE United States National Board of Health is informed that a terrible plague has appeared in some Persian villages near the town of Suleimania, Turkey. Physicians sent there by the Turkish Government have been driven away by the excited mob.

THE Lord Chief Justice has rendered a decision in favour of Bradlaugh in his action against Mr. Newdegate, M.P., for maintaining the suit of Clarke against Bradlaugh in regard to the latter's sitting and voting in the House of Commons without taking the oath.

EX-EMPRESS EUGENIE is going to build a church at Flamborough, Eng., in memory of her son. Its estimated cost will be about £70,000. The coffin of Napoleon the III., and of the Prince Imperial will be transferred thither as soon as the building is fit to receive them.

IN the Binghamton Inebriate Asylum there were at one time eighteen cases of persons whose condition was directly traceable to Black Friday. Political failures are also accountable for many cases. Political campaigns always send a considerable contribution to the asylums.

THE old Barony Church, Glasgow, so long associated with the ministry of Dr. Norman Macleod, is becoming unsafe, and may soon disappear. So threatening have the galleries grown that it has been found necessary to discontinue the evening services which were largely attended.

THE Presbyterian Synod of Kentucky proposes to raise \$15,000 by next October to erect a dormitory and boarding hall as an addition to the buildings of the Central University, to be called the Centennial Memorial Hall, and to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Presbyterianism in the State, which will occur in October next.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

TWELVE rabbis have been invited to the Czar's coronation.

THERE are nearly 6,000 claims before the Alabama Claims Commission.

A COPYRIGHT convention between Germany and France has been signed.

THE coronation of the Czar now seems definitely fixed for the 27th May.

HERR FIEBES, a well known German naturalist and traveller, is dead.

MINNESOTA reports one of the worst snow storms of the season on the 11th April.

ABOUT £25,000 have been subscribed towards a memorial of the late Dr. Pusey.

THE "Newfield," with the Canadian Fishery Exhibit, arrived at London last week.

SILIMAN PASHA, defender of the Shipka Pass during the Russo-Turkish war, is dead.

ENGLAND, like Belgium, will soon have a uniform minimum telegraphic rate of sixpence.

BISHOP KICHLER has been consecrated as Bishop of the new diocese of Grand Rapids, Mich.

THE Right Rev. George Richard Mackarness, bishop of the Scotch Episcopal Church, is dead.

TWO handsome summer houses constructed of iron have been shipped at Glasgow for Nova Scotia.

MR. D. FEARON RANKING, LL.B., has been appointed Principal of Morningside College, Edinburgh.

DR. J. A. McWILLIAM has been appointed Demonstrator of Physiology in University College, London.

THE Berlin Museum has purchased at the Narishkine sale a celebrated painting by Albert Durer for \$150,000.

THE children at the English Zoo have transferred their elephantine affections to Jingo, Jumbo's attractive successor.

The Delaware House of Representatives has passed a Bill appropriating \$5,000 for schools for coloured children.

IT is estimated that there are twelve hundred towns west of the Mississippi River without churches or regular preaching of any kind.

A NEW English magazine will be started in London about the 1st of May under Catholic auspices. Its title will be "Merry England."

MR. GLAUSTONE has forwarded £25 to the Lord Mayor for the London Mansion House Fund for the relief of the distress in the Western Highlands.

THE widow of Prof. Henry Draper has given \$6,000 to the National Academy of Sciences, to be used in conferring medals for discoveries in astronomy.

A PETITION against the introduction of instrumental music into public worship has been signed by 355 of the Free Church congregation of Fort William.

SERIOUS fighting is reported among the tribes in the interior of Zululand. The revolt is caused by the restoration of Cetewayo, which is resisted by influential chiefs.

REV. DR. NEWMAN says; "Voting is just as sacred a duty as prayer. You say the politician is dirty; then clean him up. If the caucus is low, elevate it; purify it."

A LITTLE boy in South Carolina has sent \$100 to the Southern Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, the proceeds of the sale of canary birds raised by himself.

MR. JOHN RICHARD GREEN, the lamented author of "A Short History of the English People," has left a second volume of the "Making of England" almost complete.

KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH & CO., of London, are printing on vellum six copies of their "Parchment Library Shakespeare." The price of each set, in twelve volumes, is 144 guineas.

JAPANESE investigations in Corea fix the population of that kingdom at 7,294,367. The majority of females is about 200,000. The capital, with suburbs, contains 200,000 persons.

MRS. CRAYCROFT, sister of Sir John Franklin, has died at Larking at the age of ninety. She spent the greater part of her fortune on the expeditions which were sent to the Arctic regions in search of the famous explorer.

THERE is a strong feeling in support of Stanley in England, and the aggressive policy of the French in south-western Africa is regarded with great hostility. A serious conflict is imminent between De Brazza and Stanley.

IT is stated that the object of the alliance between Germany, Austria and Italy is to secure the isolation of France in order to effect a simultaneous disarmament which Bismarck intends to propose at the European congress.

THE United States Commissioner of Internal Revenue reports that from July, 1870, to March, 1883, 6,372 illicit stills were seized, 8,620 persons arrested, 32 officers and employees of the revenue service killed and 50 wounded.

IT is stated that 706 miles of new American railways were laid in the months of January, February, and March last, as against 1,200 miles in the corresponding period of last year, and that an aggregate of 8,000 miles will be constructed this year.

TWO ladies, officers of the Salvation Army, who recently went over H. M. S. Britannia in Dartmouth Harbour, duly entered their rank and names in the book kept on board for visitors, adding, in the column for residence: "Bound for glory."

M. FLOURENS, the Director of Public Worship in France, has caused a statistical account to be prepared, showing the precise numbers of the Roman Catholic clergy in that country. As a result, it has been ascertained that there are at present 55,385 individuals holding different offices in the Church. Of these eighty-seven are archbishops or bishops.