

If we may credit the testimony of Pastor Rorich, Maria Mathsdotter is an extraordinary woman. Notwithstanding her lack of education, she possesses a well-developed mind. When one hears her speak, he says, "one is struck with her clear-headedness, her logical reasonings, and her precise expressions. She discourses with the greatest ease; and although she has had no training, she comports herself quite calmly, and defends her opinions without allowing herself to be intimidated by her audience. She never loses herself in details, as untutored people commonly do; but she follows up the idea which she has in view, and always knows how to come back to it."

But her moral eminence is much more conspicuous. "I cannot tell you," says the same individual, "how much good to the soul the converse does of this woman, whom I would willingly call the Apostle of the North! how one feels at once humiliated and excited to labor when one is in the presence of such faith and such profound humility, such love of souls, such zeal for the advancement of God's kingdom!"

It is not difficult to understand why such a person received so much kindness from the Christians of Stockholm. Though the instances of this thorough, unquestioning confidence in God are quite too rare in the present age, many, in all parts of the world, stand ready to recognize and honor it. Hence the wide-spread interest which is felt in this woman on the other side of the Atlantic. The story of her faith and zeal and love has been told in the chief languages of Europe; so that a fame, such as she never dreamed of, is already hers; and now, on this side of the Atlantic, thousands will repeat the prayer of Pastor Rorich: "May the peace of God be with her! May he keep her in those icy solitudes, and support the faith and charity with which she is animated!"

SOMETHING ABOUT JELLY-FISHES.

(By Edward S. Morse, in *American Naturalist* for July.)

The loiterer by the sea-side may have noticed in his rambles on the beach, certain gelatinous substances left by the retreating tide. An interest excited by so strange a sight may have prompted a closer examination, and yet

recognizing nothing tangible or definite in the structure of these shapeless bodies, a desire has been really awakened to know something about them. We will try to satisfy this curiosity, by giving a brief account of a few of our more common Jelly-fishes; for these shapeless lumps of jelly, seen stranded on our beaches, are really animals, assuming the most graceful and symmetrical forms in the water.

The Jelly-fishes, or Medusæ, have long excited the attention of naturalists from their singular structure, and the wonderful changes occurring during their growth.

While in the higher expressions of animal life the anatomist may puzzle over the intricacies of a complicated organization, in the Jelly-fishes he is at first more perplexed to find anything like organization in their parts, though they are really highly organized compared with animals still lower in the scale. So transparent are some, that one can hardly detect their presence in the water, and so largely does the sea-water enter into their composition, that certain kinds when dried lose ninety-nine one-hundredths of their own weight.

Péron and Lesueur, two distinguished French naturalists, who, in the early part of this century, made a voyage around the globe, thus summed up the results of their combined observations on these animals. "The substance of a Medusa is wholly resolved, by a kind of instantaneous fusion, into a fluid analogous to sea-water; and yet the most important functions of life are effected in bodies that seem to be nothing more, as it were, than coagulated water. The multiplication of these animals is prodigious, and we know nothing certain concerning their mode of generation. They may acquire dimensions of many feet in diameter, and weigh, occasionally, from fifty to sixty pounds; but their system of nutrition escapes us. They execute the most rapid and continued motions; and yet the details of their muscular system are altogether unknown. Their secretions seem to be extremely abundant; but we perceive nothing satisfactory as to their origin. They have a kind of very active respiration; its real seat is a mystery. They seem extremely feeble, but fishes of large size are daily their prey. One would imagine their stomachs incapable of any kind