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all, 3000 feet. 300 feet. 45 feet. 71 feet. 82 feet. the line of d out in the er appearance tsume. Yet

the same class and similar size, to be put together in the Russian arsenals.

The price stipulated for the 84-gun ship is 840,000 dollars—being just at the rate of 10,000 dollars per gun, of which 100,000 dollars were paid when the keel was laid down, and 320,000 dollars have been lately paid in bills on London and Amsterdam. The other half of the purchase sum, as well as the amount of the timber for the second ship, is to be paid on delivery of the vessel at Cronstadt.

How the contractor proposes to elude the vigilance of the British fleet now in the Baltic—and by the last accounts actually blockading Cronstadt—is unknown. However easily he may succeed in mystifying the British consular in America, and making him believe her to be a common merchant ship, there is every reason to hope and believe, that the British naval officers in the Baltic will not be so easily deceived, and that Brother Jonathan will not be able to chuckle at having been "too wide awake for the Britisheers," as in the case of the Minie rifles and the revolvers landed this spring at Baltish Port from the American ship Sammy Appleton, as shown up by your correspondent at Memel. At all events, this communication may have the good effect of serving to put the British consuls abroad and the government at home on their guard, and induce them to keep a good look-out, so as not to permit this vessel to slip through their fingers, and become in time a formidable antagonist.

LAUNCH OF AN AUSTRALIAN WAR STEAMER.

A ceremony which was performed on the 30th ult., although happily of frequent occurrence upon the banks of the Thames, was in this instance invested with some peculiar features of interest. The shipbuilders of London, and their brethren in other parts of the kingdom, have frequently been engaged to construct vessels of war for foreign states, but the present is, we believe, the first instance of a colony ordering in this country a ship of war to be built at its own expense. The colony of Victoria, with a creditable independence of feeling, having resolved to provide in some measure for its own defence from present or future foes, ordered, through Mr. Barnard, the agent for the Crown Colonies, a war screw steamer, to be constructed in this country by Messrs. Young, Magnay, and Co., of Limehouse. The vessel, which is timber-built, designed by Mr. C. Lang, and put together in the strongest manner, measures 580 tons burden, the length between perpendiculars being 166 feet, and extreme breadth of beam 27 feet 3 inches. Her intended armament, which is to be supplied from her Majesty's arsenals, is one pivot 32-pounder gun, weighing 56 cwt., and two medium 32 broadside guns of 25 cwt.; but this armament can be doubled, if necessary. The vessel, which is constructed on very fine lines, will be rigged as a three-masted schooner, and her future captain, Commander Lockyer, R. N., entertains the highest anticipations of her sailing qualities. The engines are to be of 150-horse power, to be supplied from the factory of Messrs. Rennie.

Such is the vessel that may prove the foundation of a great navy in the southern seas, and which was launched on the 30th from the dockyard of Messrs. Young, Curling, and Magnay, in the presence of an immense assemblage of persons of all ranks, including among other distinguished persons, Earl Talbot Mr. Ingham, M. P., Mr. Cayley, M. P., Mr. Baldock, M. P., Admiral Sir S. Pym, and others.

The ceremony of christening was gracefully performed by Lady Constance Talbot, who bestowed upon the ship the, in every way, appropriate name of "Victoria," and the launch was immediately completed in a most successful manner.

About 300 of the invited guests then sat down to a *dejeuner*, almost worthy to be called a banquet, most sumptuously provided by Mr. Bathe, of the London Tavern, and some two hours were most agreeably spent in discussing the good things with which the tables were laden, listening to some appropriate speeches and excellent music, drinking various toasts proclaimed by Mr. Higgs and enforced by sound of trumpet, and the visitors were finally conveyed to town by steamers specially engaged for that purpose.

Greenwich Hospital has just received the relics lately brought to England of Sir John Franklin and his companions. They are placed next to the coat in which Lord Nelson received his death wound at Trafalgar.

**DIVISION OF PRIZE MONEY WITH FRANCE.**—The *Moniteur* says:—"The Consul-General of France at London has just received from the Accountant-General of the Navy in England the sum of £1,547 7s. 2d. as the amount of the prize shares adjudged by the High Court of Admiralty at London, to the officers and crew of the ship *Austerlitz*, of the imperial navy. This sum will be sent to the treasurer of the invalids of the navy, and will be distributed by him amongst the recipients, in conformity with the prize regulations.

THE FIRST STEP.

Reader, I believe there are many persons who have real desires for salvation, but know not what steps to take, or where to begin. Their consciences are awakened. Their feelings are excited. Their understandings are enlightened. They would like to alter and become true Christians. But they do not know what should be their first step.

Reader, if this be the state of your soul, let me offer you some advice. I will show you where to begin. I will tell you what step you ought to take, and may take this very day.

In every journey, there must be a first step. There must be a change from sitting still to moving forward. The journeyings of Israel from Egypt to Canaan were long and wearisome. Forty years passed away before they crossed Jordan. Yet there was one who moved first when they marched from Rameses to Succoth. When does a man really take his first step in coming out from sin and the world? He does it in the day when he first prays with his heart.

In every building the first stone must be laid, and the first blow must be struck. The ark was 120 years in building. Yet there was a day when Noah laid his axe to the first tree he cut down to form it. The Temple of Solomon was a glorious building. But there was a day when the first huge stone was laid at the foot of Mount Moriah. When does the building of the Spirit really begin to appear in a man's heart? It begins, so far as we can judge, when he first pours out his heart to God in prayer.

Reader, if you desire salvation, and want to know what to do, I advise you to go this very day to the Lord Jesus Christ, in the first private place you can find, and entreat Him in prayer to save your soul.

Tell Him that you have heard that He receives sinners, and has said, "Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out." Tell Him that you are a poor vile sinner, and that you come to Him on the faith of His own invitation. Tell Him you put yourself wholly and entirely in His hands,—that you feel vile and helpless, and hopeless in yourself,—and that except he saves you, you have no hope to be saved at all. Beseech Him to give you a new heart, and to plant the Holy Spirit in your soul. Beseech Him to give you grace and faith, and will and power to be His disciple and servant from this day for ever. Oh! reader, go this very day, and tell these things to the Lord Jesus Christ if you really are in earnest about your soul.

Tell Him in your own words. If a doctor came to see you when sick, you could tell him where you felt pain. If your soul feels its disease indeed, you can surely find something to tell Christ.

Doubt not His willingness to save you, because you are a sinner. It is Christ's office to save sinners. He says Himself, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." (Luke v. 32.)

Wait not because you feel unworthy. Wait for nothing. Wait for nobody. Waiting comes from the devil. Just as you are, go to Christ. The worse you are, the more need you have to apply to Him. You will never mend yourself by staying away.

Fear not, because your prayer is stammering—your words feeble, and your language poor. Jesus can understand you. Just as a mother understands the first babblings of her infant, so does the blessed Saviour understand sinners. He can read a sigh, and see a meaning in a groan.

Despair not, because you do not get an answer immediately. While you are speaking, Jesus is listening. If He delays an answer, it is only for wise reasons, and to try if you are in earnest. Pray on, and the answer will surely come. Though it tarry, wait for it. It will surely come at last.

Oh! Reader, if you have any desire to be saved, remember the advice I have given you this day. Act upon it honestly and heartily, and you shall be saved. Do not say you know not how to pray. Prayer is the simplest act in religion. It is simply speaking to God. It needs neither learning nor wisdom, nor book-knowledge to begin it. It needs nothing but heart and will. The weakest infant can cry when he is hungry. The poorest beggar can hold out his hand for an alms, and does not wait to find fine words. The most ignorant man will find something to say to God, if he has only a mind.

Do not say you have no convenient place to pray in.

Any man can find a place private enough, if he is disposed. Our Lord prayed on a mountain; Peter on the house-top; Isaac in the field; Nathaniel under the fig tree; Jonah in the whale's belly. Any place may become a closet, an oratory, and a Bethel, and be to us the presence of God.

Do not say you have no time. There is plenty of time, if men will only employ it. Time may be short but time is always long enough for prayer. Daniel had all the affairs of a kingdom on his hands, and yet he prayed three times a day. David was ruler over a mighty nation, and yet he says, "Evening and morning and at noon will I pray." (Psalms lv. 17.)

When time is really wanted, time can always be found.

Reader salvation is very near you. Do not lose heaven for want of asking. Go this day and take the first step.—Rev. J. C. Ryle.

WHY DO TEETH DECAY?

All the theories that again and again have been advanced in answer to this inquiry, have long since vanished before the true doctrine of the action of external corrosive agents. The great and all powerful destroyer of the human teeth is acid, vegetable or mineral; and it matters not whether that acid is formed in the mouth by the decomposition of particles of food left between and around the teeth, or whether it is applied directly to the organs themselves, the result is the same, the enamel is dissolved, corroded, and the tooth destroyed. Much, very much of the decay in teeth may be attributed to the corrosive effects of acetic acid which is not only in common use as a condiment in the form of vinegar, but it is generated by the decay and decomposition of any and every variety of vegetable matter. When we consider how very few persons comparatively take especial pains to remove every particle of food from between and around the teeth immediately after eating, can we wonder that diseased teeth are so common, and that their early loss is so frequently deplored?—*Exchange*.

The above does not afford good reasons why the teeth of our people are so subject to early decay, in comparison with the teeth of the people of some other countries. It is generally allowed, that there is work for five times the number of dentists in the United States that there is in Britain; and that, while bad teeth is the exception there, it is the rule here. We believe that our people take more pains with their teeth by washing than the natives of Ireland, and yet the Irish have far better teeth. Acetic acid cannot be the cause of this early decay of teeth among us; indeed, we know it is not. There is no subject of more importance than this; for if the early decay of teeth among our people is not the result of ill health, we all know that bad teeth are injurious to health. The health of people is a question of the very first importance; it is of more consequence than any other. It is our opinion, that if more coarse hard biscuit were eaten in early life, to exercise the teeth, they would be less liable to early decay. The very form of some of our teeth are adapted to grinding, and if not properly exercised, they must become tender and delicate.—*Scientific American*.

**MISERY OF STATESMEN.**—Probably few great philosophic statesmen—few men, that is, who have acted intimately in public affairs, as well as contemplated them from the closet, ever quitted the stage without a feeling of profound discouragement. Whether successful or unsuccessful, as the world would deem them, a sense of sadness and disappointment seems to prevail over every other sentiment. They have attained so few of their objects—they have fallen so far short of their ideal—have seen so much more than ordinary men of the dangers and difficulties of nations, and of the vices and meanness of public men. Not many Englishmen governed so long or so successfully as Sir Robert Peel, or set in such heartfelt blessings and esteem; yet, shortly before his death, he confessed that what he had seen and heard in public life, had left upon his mind a permanent impression of gloom and grief. Who ever succeeded so splendidly as Washington? Who ever enjoyed to such a degree, and to the end, the confidence and gratitude of his country? "Yet," says Guizot, "toward the close of his life, in the sweet and dignified retirement of Mount Vernon, something of lassitude and sadness hung about the mind of a man so serenely great—a feeling, indeed, most natural at the termination of a long life spent in men's concerns." Power is a very great burden, and mankind a hard taskmaster to him who struggles virtuously against their passions and errors. Success itself cannot wipe out the sorrowful impressions which originate in the conflict; and the weariness contracted on the scene of action is prolonged even in the bosom.

Within the last eight days 150 dogs have been destroyed by the police in Glasgow.