

nation much her superior in wealth, numbers and position; second, the advancement Japan is likely to make as a nation; third, the possibility of the Russian people securing more rights and privileges than they could have done, owing to their Government having been humbled.

G. T. JENKINSON.

Value of Education.

The activity of the present and the hope of the future point unmistakably in one direction. Development will be determined as to quantity and direction by the personality and power of the men who are living and laboring in its midst. If a man would share in the fruits of the progress that is sure to come, he must be ready in heart and head and hand. Progress won't wait for laggards to catch up, or for sluggards to get ready. The heart should be prepared so that the man has complete mastery of himself. One of the most pitiful things in the wide world is to see a strong man the prey of any passion or sentiment, or the sport of any passing fancy. Every young man should be the master of every emotion, feeling, passion and impulse of his being. The mastery should come, not from the crucifixion of the emotions, passions and impulses—for these are in most cases as much divine as any other part of his nature—but from a noble, rational regulation of his whole life, according to his noblest ideals and finest thoughts. This is the foundation and end of all true education. The man thus equipped can go into the whirl of business, into the rush of life where varied activities clamor loudly for his attention and stand unmoved, direct his thought to the consideration of what is noblest and best, reject those that appeal to the basest and lowest in life, while he adopts those that go to make for all that is best in life and work.

The head should be prepared so that the man can think clearly. Sometimes we think that education consists in learning to read, write and cipher. But reading, writing and arithmetic are only means to an end, and that is "clear thinking." Many a man who cannot write his own name can think more clearly and accurately than the man who is the mere echo of the teacher. Self-mastery and power to think are the prime requisites of an education. Without these a man can hardly hope to succeed in this hurried age. Every parent owes it to his child, owes it to the State, owes it to the future, to see that his son and daughter has just such a preparation. The question before each parent should be, not how much land or money can I give my children, but how much power can I bestow on them to enable them to manage money, get land, bless the world, and enjoy its privileges. Money is power if this man has strength to use it. There is enough in the farm to require the best thought and mastery we can put into it. Let every man see that his child is ready for the future of life. Living is the important thing. Preparation for it is the prime consideration.

J. H. RIDDELL.

Edmonton, Alta.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

The sweet, wistful face that appears with this article is that of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, the illustrious wife of a yet more illustrious husband. Mrs. Browning has given many poems to the world: "Sonnets from the Portuguese," "Casa Guidi Windows," "Aurora Leigh" and others, poems which have been recorded a place in the very history of English lyrical poetry. Yet the story of her life is not especially of her life with Robert Browning, but of her life with herself, a life that most fascinate and interest us to see in her work, and in Elizabeth Browning herself, not a woman and idolized wife.

An invalid from her birth, Elizabeth Barrett was hedged about from



Mrs. Browning.

the world almost as a recluse, still less on account of her ill-health than because of an almost insane desire on the part of her father that his children should not marry, nor have any intercourse which might lead to such a consummation. No social life was hers, and she was 36 years of age before she met Robert Browning. The meeting was a matter of love at first sight, and, in truly orthodox fashion, the way did not "run smooth," for invalid though Miss Barrett was, a secret marriage at Marylebone Church and a speedy departure to Havre, seemed a necessity. That the step caused no subsequent regrets, may be judged from the fact that, on each succeeding visit to England, Robert Browning visited the church in which his marriage had taken place and kissed the paving stones. Not so well pleased, however, was Mrs. Browning's father, who resisted every pleading for forgiveness, and refused to have anything to do with his daughter again while he lived.

This, however, seems to have been the only blot on an otherwise complete though sadly short life. Wholly congenial, interested in the same things, inspired by the same objects, and heartily admiring each other, wealthy enough even to live with some luxury, the Brownings wandered from place to place, travelling with Carlyle part of the time, and hovering between London and Italy for longer sojourns. So passed the space of three or four years, and in 1849 a little son, of whom Mrs. Browning wrote, "I am prouder than of twenty Auroras," was born—and in their beloved Florence.

In the summer of 1860, however, the family returned to Florence together for the last time. Almost immediately Mrs. Browning had a return of her old bronchial trouble, and the end came on the night of the 28th of June. "The most perfect expression of her love to me," writes her husband, within my whole knowledge of her—always smilingly happy, and with a face like a girl's—and in a few minutes she died in my arms, her head on my cheek. . . . So God took her to Himself as you would lift a sleeping child from a dark, uneasy bed into your arms and the light. Thank God. Her last word, when I asked, "How do you feel?" "Beautiful!"

"Aurora Leigh" is the most notable of Mrs. Browning's poems. It has been mistakenly called an autobiography, for, in the lives of its heroine and that of Mrs. Browning there exists no similarity at all. Nevertheless, the conclusions reached may be taken as those of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, who has, in them, shown herself an able interpreter of life and art.

Recompense.

Life's scattered joys seem but a golden thread
Tangled on the background of circum-
stances;
So find the thread, oft in our ignorance,
We seem at last, by cunning eyes re-
vealed.
Yet when, Life's "broidery done," by sor-
row taught,
We view it from the other, brighter side,
We'll see the gold threads multiplied,
And learn how well the Weaver wrought.
Sarnia, Ont.
M. E. R.

News of the Day.

Canadian.

Judge Lazier, senior judge of Hastings County, is dead.

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Principal Sheraton, of Wycliffe College, Toronto, died on Jan. 24th.

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The Legislature of Ontario has been summoned to meet on Thursday, Feb. 15th.

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Surveyors are now out on the last 40 miles of the Temiskaming & Northern railway.

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The treaty between Canada and Japan, under which imports will be admitted into the latter country at the minimum rate of duty, is expected to go into effect on March 1st.

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A snowslide, which buried the railway for 2,000 feet under 30 feet of snow, holding up trains for a considerable length of time, occurred at Swinton, near Fernie, B. C., on January 24th.

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Mr. W. Hutchison, Commissioner of Exhibitions, has sent a telegram to the Minister of Agriculture, stating that he has selected a site for the erection of a Canadian pavilion, which is to figure at the coming exhibition at Milan, North Italy.

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A committee of officers on the G. T. R. held a conference recently with Premier Whitney and Hon. Mr. Cochrane, for the purpose of receiving permission to erect several hotels, as summer resorts, in Algonquin Park. The request will probably be granted.

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The C. N. R. has made arrangements with the Quebec Transport Co. to have the ships of the latter's Quebec steamship line handle the grain export from Quebec to European ports. A first-class line of ships will begin sailing from Quebec in May.

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Heavy loss of life has been occasioned along the western coast of Vancouver Island by the recent storms. Upon January 24th, the steamer Valencia was lost, with about 100 lives. The big carrier vessel, King David, was also totally wrecked, but all of her crew were saved, with the exception of seven men who had left in an open boat in search of assistance.

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The body of the Hon. Raymond Prefontaine arrived by the battleship Dominion at Halifax on Jan. 22nd, and was thence sent on to Montreal, where, after lying in state in the Council Chamber of the City Hall, it was finally transferred on January 25th, to its last resting-place, at Cote des Neiges. The funeral procession throughout was impressive, both the marine and the military coming out in force to do honor to the memory of Canada's honored Minister of Marines and Fisheries.

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British and Foreign.

The British House of Parliament will assemble on February 13th.

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British Liberals, up to date, have a working majority of eighty over all, while the Conservatives have the smallest number in the history of the House.

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Advices from Persia state that the Shah, following a vigorous protest against his Government, has promised to grant constitutional government to his country.

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As a result of an explosion on board the Brazilian turret ship Aquidaban blow up on Jan. 21, at Port Jacarepagua, a few miles south of Rio de Janeiro. One hundred and ninety-eight men were killed, including several admirals who had met on a Government Commission, and thirty-six were injured.

The Chinese Government, which seems to be fully stirred up against the aggressions of foreigners, has determined to restrict greatly the privileges hitherto granted to them, especially in new settlements. Regulations have been recently adopted which provide that no land can be again purchased by foreigners; that leases of foreign lands shall be restricted to 30 years, and that rentals shall be fixed by the Government. Chinese authorities also will, in the future, control the policy of the settlements, levy taxes, and control postal and telegraph systems and public works. These rules will apply to the opening of Manchuria, as agreed under the treaty with Japan.

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Venezuela, the bantam cock of South America, is again showing its spurs, this time against France. The immediate cause of the disturbance is the fact that an insult was offered to France by the refusal of President Castro to permit M. Faigny, the French Charge d'Affaires in Venezuela, the right to return to the shore at La Guaira after he had gone on board a French steamer on a personal errand. After several preliminaries, during which the French Ambassador Jusserand learned from the American authorities at Washington that a French naval demonstration against Venezuela would not be considered a violation of the Monroe Doctrine, French warships have been sent to Venezuela, and Venezuela is busily engaged in fortifying her coast towns in preparation for a brush. France has also other grievances against Venezuela which will probably be settled before the embroglio is over.

Precautions.

Always look in the direction in which you are moving.

Never leave a car or other public vehicle when it is in motion.

Never put your head or arms out of a vehicle when it is in motion.

If a horse becomes unmanageable, or runs away with you, the chances of escaping injury are better if you remain in the carriage.

In thunder storms keep away from trees and metallic substances.

Never play with firearms. Always keep them beyond the reach of children.

Avoid the fumes of burning charcoal; they are deadly when confined in a closed room.

Illuminating gas: Be sure to turn it off. Never blow it out.

When very cold, move about quickly. If any part of the body is frozen, rub it with snow and keep away from the fire.

Change wet clothing as soon as possible.

Carefully avoid exposure to night air in malarial districts.

Avoid walking on a railroad track.

When awake, young children should never be permitted to remain alone.

Never touch gunpowder after dark.

Never light a fire with kerosene.

Fill and trim your lamps in the daytime. Never trim or fill a lighted lamp.

Keep matches in a closed tin box.

Have your horses rough-shod as soon as the ground freezes.

Eat only pure food, drink only pure liquids, think only pure thoughts.

If necessary to go into a deep well, first lower a burning candle. If the light is extinguished, the place is unsafe to enter.

To clean fly specks from varnished woodwork or furniture, wipe carefully with a soft cloth wrung from warm skimmed milk and water, equal parts. It not only removes the dirt more easily, but makes the varnish look fresher.

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Carpets if well sprinkled with salt and then wiped with cloth squeezed out of warm water containing a spoonful of spirits of turpentine to every quart, will look bright and new, and will not be troubled with moths and buffalo bugs.