

ful grasp. My state providentially excited the Christian feelings of a devoted servant of the Lord, who during my illness, paid me several visits. On those occasions he spoke to me about the love of Jesus in dying for me, and such portions of the Scriptures as he judged applicable to my state; and called upon God, in prayer, to bless me. My conceptions relative to those exercises were, that they constituted a sort of duty which a pious man thought it right to attend to, and to which it was very proper for sick persons to submit; but beyond this, they made no impression on my mind. It was the will of the Lord, however, that I should recover; and I was soon able to drive out. I now thought that I had no more to do with religious means, or even with religious men, until sickness might again, at some far distant day, lay its hands upon me. But how mysterious are the ways of God! how diversified the means he employs to bring sinners to himself! On my first visit, after my recovery, to the town of B—, I was met on the street by the devoted Christian who had so kindly visited me during my affliction. He inquired, in the most affectionate manner, after my health; and I well recollect my reply: it was, 'that I was never better in my life.' To my great surprise, however, he pressed upon me the importance of immediately giving up my heart to the Saviour, and of preparing for death. I cannot tell now what more he said; but when he left me, I began to think that, though it might be very right and proper for one to be school-taught about religion when lying on a sick bed, it was a most preposterous thing for a man so strongly to insist upon it to a person in perfect health, as I then was. Such were my first thoughts after this, to me, never to be forgotten interview. My friend's remarks, however, induced subsequent and better reflections; and I was at last led to read the Bible for myself. The light that soon broke in upon my mind led to discoveries of a character truly wonderful to me: not only did I read in the Scriptures of God, that I was a guilty, polluted, hell-deserving sinner, but I felt it in my inmost soul. I felt, too, how powerful my obligations were to love that gracious Being who had so loved me as to give his only begotten Son to die for me. I saw that my whole life had been one continued act of rebellion against him; and my astonishment was great that he had not long before let loose the tumbler of his power against me, and plunged me lower than the grave. These feelings, however, were accompanied by a hope that the Lord in his infinite mercy would be gracious unto me, and pardon my sins. Under this impression, I gave myself up to searching the Scriptures; and one night after my family had retired, I threw myself down on my knees before the sofa, and called upon the Lord to have compassion on me, and remove the burden of my transgressions. How long I continued in that way I cannot now recollect; but before I ceased to plead, in an agony of prayer, the merits of the Saviour's death, the Spirit of the Lord so clearly set forth Christ Jesus before my mind, as dying for my sins, that I could no longer doubt the willingness of God to have mercy upon me. Peace instantly flowed into my heart, and I rejoiced with a joy that was unspeakable and full of glory. I immediately hastened to my bed room, and awaking my wife, told her of my newly tasted happiness. Thus did the Lord introduce me into newness of life; and from that time to the present I can truly say that his ways have been to me ways of pleasantness, and all his paths peace."

The captain ended his interesting account of his conversion. He evidently felt the

making it to be a cross; but, as the Lord's witness, he desired to bear a faithful testimony to the grace which was bestowed upon him; and having done this, he confidently left the issue to God. The solemn silence which followed was soon broken by Mr. K—, who though personally unacquainted with the Captain, was not a stranger to his God. The dealing of the Lord with his children, although diversified, exhibit evident proofs to the Christian's mind that they are operations of the same Spirit. It proved so in the present case; the experience of Captain B— told feelingly and impressively upon the heart of my mercantile friend. The mercy of the Lord in calling him into the glorious liberty of his children, stood out before his mind in all its importance; and, from a heart overflowing with gratitude to God, he too declared, in a brief manner, what the Lord had done for his soul.

The scene altogether was one of deep interest—of interest which doubtless extended itself beyond the room in which these strangers sat, and in which angels themselves refused not to participate. I have before observed that there were at this time in the coffee room, two or three small parties of gentlemen, who at first were busily engaged with the newspapers; it was observed, however, that as Captain B— proceeded with the account of his conversion, the papers were laid down, and the most marked attention seemed to be paid to his most interesting narrative: so much so, that although it occupied a considerable time, the bell was never once rung, nor the smallest uneasiness manifested by any of the gentlemen present. The evening was now, however, considerably advanced; and, after some refreshments had been partaken of, the officer, Captain B. and Mr. K. warmly shook hands and separated for the night.

(To be continued.)

INSTANCES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEMORY.

1. Cyrus, the founder of the Persian Empire, knew the names of all the soldiers of his army.
2. Lucius Cornelius Scipio knew all the Romans by name.
3. Cynæus, the orator, and minister of Phrrhus, King of Epirus, knew and solicited the whole of the Senate and their domestics by name.
4. Mithridates, King of Pontus, knew 22 languages, and spoke them all fluently. John Pius, the youngest son of John Francis Pius, Prince of Mirandola, is said to have been familiar with 18 languages by the time he had reached his 18th year. Sir William Jones was acquainted with 28 different languages. William Lee, professor of the Arabic and Hebrew languages in the University of Cambridge, became familiar with 17 languages in 14 years. Leyden, the poet and mentalist, and Adelung, the linguist, were skilled in many languages, both ancient and modern.—The German poet, Klopstock, is said to have been able to repeat the Iliad from the beginning to the end.
5. Seneca, the moralist and tragedian, says that he could, in his youth, repeat 2000 names in the same order that they were read to him, and that by his extraordinary mnemonic powers he could repeat two hundred independent verses dictated to him by as many persons, beginning with the last, and so on successively until he came to the first, and this without a single omission. The mention of this astonishing endowment of the Roman tragedian and moralist brings to recollection the exploit of a certain Corsican who dwelt at Padu, and who, according to the report of Antonius Muretus, could repeat words dictated to him from the Greek, Latin and other languages, in the very order of their dictation; and he performed the same feat backwards without the smallest deviation from correctness, whether he began from the last, the third, the fifth, or any given order from the first; and that, too, though the words were without meaning or connection.

In the passage in which Seneca mentions his extraordinary effort of memory just mentioned, he tells a pleasant story of a certain poet, who

having recited a tale of fiction in public, one of his auditors claimed it as his production, and in proof of the allegation, repeated it word for word, to the great discomfiture of the real author, who was incapable of the same effort of memory. A similar occurrence is said to have taken place in the case of an Englishman, who applied to Frederick the Great for permission to teach the art of mnemonics in the Prussian dominions. To test the truth of the pretensions of the professor, the Prussian king prevailed on Voltaire to repeat a long poem which he had just finished, when, to the surprise of the king and the French philosopher, the Englishman recited the whole without the least deviation from the original.

6. Dr. Alexander Gerard, the celebrated Scotch metaphysician, was gifted with uncommon powers of memory. It is to him that Dr. Beattie alludes, in his *Essays on Memory and Imagination*, when he says, "he could fix a sermon, in two hours' application, so effectually in his mind as to be able to recite in public, without the change, omission, or transposition of the smallest word."

7. It has been observed that nature delights in anomalies and deviations from her general and established laws. The following fact corroborates the assertion. In the "Guide to the Observations of Nature," the author of that valuable and original work says—"I knew a fool who was placed under the charge of a clergyman in the country, as being utterly incapable of conducting himself in ordinary matters, (he was a young man of fortune) yet he could repeat every word of the clergyman's sermon, tell how many people there were in the church, how any one that sat in a pew named to him was dressed, or who did or did not contribute to the poor. He could do that for any Sunday; last week, or last year, was all the same to him."

8. The boys Zerah Colburn, Thomas Malkin, and George Bidder, were gifted with astonishing memories for mental calculation; and the late Wm. Fraser, of Edinburgh, equalled them in the same endowment. But of all the instances of the extraordinary exertion of this faculty, none is more surprising than that of Dr. John Willis, Leucanias professor in the University of Oxford. In his letters occurs the following memorable avowal:—"In the dark night, in bed, without pen, ink, paper, or anything equivalent, I did, by memory, extract the root of 3,0000,0000,0000,0000,0000,0000,0000,0000, which I found to be 1,73205,08075,68877,29353 &c."

9. Woodfall, the Parliamentary reporter, reported the whole of the speeches uttered in the sittings of the House from memory. On this subject, the author of the "Guide to the Observation of Nature," gives us the following information:—"Some time ago there was employed, as reporter to one of the morning papers, a gentleman who had long been a faithful labourer on the establishment in the Upper House. He took no notes whatever, and yet if an unexpected debate sprang up, and he was left for hours before any one went to relieve him, he could write out the whole *verbatim*. In the office, too, he was the oracle of facts and dates; and as he had read the newspapers diligently for many years, he knew almost every Parliamentary sentence, and could tell by whom it was spoken, on which evening, what was the subject of the debate, and who were the principal speakers."

Lastly, Pliny, in the 24th chapter of the seventh book of his Letters, relates some instances of prodigious memory; and in the same passage he also mentions persons, who, by disease, a fall or other accidents, lost the greatest gift and blessing of nature.

A REMARKABLE CONVERSION.

"Another of these grandmothers who had wallowed in the very sewers of heathenism, the dupes of all the superstitions of former times, had been an active agent of the wicked one in opposing the progress of the Gospel. As the representative of by-gone ages—for the snows of many a year were seen through the mass of grease and dirt which adorned her head—she was regarded with reverence by the younger females on the station, as the oracle of ancient wisdom. She was wont to tell them what they knew not of the customs of their ancestors. Had she been a man, her contaminating influence would long have been arrested; for there were those on the station whose influence would have driven her to seek an asylum elsewhere; but she was borne