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AT THE OFFICE OF THE JEFFERSONIAN.

Answer to the Geographical Enigma of last week.—Col. HENRY S. MOTT.

Fixing the Attention.

What is commonly called *abstraction in study*, is nothing more than having the attention so completely occupied with the subject in hand, that the mind takes notice of nothing without itself. One of the greatest minds which this or any other country ever produced, has been known to be so engrossed in thinking on a particular subject, that his horse has waded through the corner of a pond; yet, though the water covered the saddle, he was wholly insensible to the cause of his being wet. I mention this not to recommend such an abstraction, but to show that he who has his attention fixed, and the power of fixing it when he pleases, will be successful in study.

Why does the boy who has a large sum upon his slate, scowl, and rub out, and begin again, and grow discouraged? Because he has not yet learned to govern his attention. He was going on well, when some new thought floated into his mind, or some new object caught his eye, and he lost the train of calculation. Why has that Latin or Greek word so puzzled you to remember, that you had to look it out in your dictionary ten or a dozen times? And why do you now look at it as a stranger, whose name you ought to know, but which you cannot recall? Because you have not yet acquired fully the power of fixing your attention. That word would have been remembered long since, if it had not passed as a shadow before your mind when you looked at it. A celebrated authoress, who states that she reserves all her it's to be dotted and t's to be crossed, on some sick day, might have given a more philosophical reason; and that is, that she could not bear to have her attention interrupted a single moment, when writing with the most success.—*Student's Manual.*

A Glutton.

An old stage, whose name is familiar as household words at the Penitentiary, last evening went into an eating-house on the dock and called for supper, for which he agreed to pay 25 cents. A seat was provided for him, and he set about devouring all he could lay hands on, which he accomplished in the shortest possible period. After clearing the table he became indignant at the proprietor for not furnishing more food and drink, and before leaving he declined paying on the ground that his appetite and thirst were not satisfied. A policeman was called, who arrested and took him to the Station-house where 'free' lodgings were provided for him for the night. This morning he was brought before Justice Parsons, when he gave his name as Edward Wilson, a resident of Bethlehem. On the part of the complainant it was proved that before Wilson had been called upon to pay, he had eaten and drunk four cups of coffee, and had received the fifth when he became indignant because more food was not brought on and threw it over the table. Previous to this he had devoured a whole loaf of bread, half a pound of butter, eight krullers, six pigs' feet, one tongue, and a dish of cold-slaw. He did not deny that he had eaten all he was charged with, but simply contended that he applied for supper, and not having obtained all that he desired, he did not consider that he was compelled to pay.—*Albany Journal.*

PRETTY GOOD.—An exquisite compliment was paid the other evening to a lady in our presence. She had just swallowed a petite glass of wine, as a gentleman in the company asked for a taste.

"It is all gone," said she laughing, "unless you will take some of it from my lips." "I should be most happy," he replied, "but I never take sugar with my wine!"

[From Gleason's Pictorial.]

ELDORADO.

NO. VI.

BY THOMAS BULFINCH.

When Raleigh on his first arrival broke up the Spanish settlement in Trinidad, he took Berrio, the governor, prisoner, and carried him with him in his voyage up the river. Berrio seems to have borne his fate with good temper, and conciliated the good will of Raleigh, so that when the expedition returned to the mouth of the river, he was set at liberty, and collected his little colony again. Berrio probably shared the same belief as Raleigh in the existence of the kingdom of Eldorado, within the limits of his province, and was naturally desirous to avail himself of the respite which he gained by the termination of Raleigh's expedition, until it should return in greater force, to penetrate to Eldorado and take possession for himself and his countrymen. With these views he sent an officer of his, Domingo de Vera, to Spain, to levy men, sending, according to Raleigh's account, 'divers images, as well of men as of beasts, birds and fishes, cunningly wrought in gold,' in hopes to persuade the king to yield him some further help. This agent was more successful than Raleigh in obtaining belief. He is described as a man of great ability, and little scrupulous as to truth. Having been favorably received by the government, he attracted notice by appearing in a singular dress, which, as he was of great stature, and rode always a great horse, drew all eyes, and made him generally known as the Indian Chief of Eldorado, and the rich lands. Some trinkets in gold he displayed, of Indian workmanship; and some emeralds, which he had brought from America, and promised stores of both; and by the aid of influential persons, he obtained 70,000 dollars at Madrid, and 5000 afterwards at Seville, authority to raise any number of adventurers (though Berrio had asked only for three hundred men), and five good ships to carry them out. Adventurers flocked to him in Toledo, La Mancha and Estremadura. The expedition was beyond example popular. Twenty captains of infantry, who had served in Italy and Flanders, joined it. Not only those who had their fortunes to seek were deluded; men of good birth and expectations left all to engage in the conquest of Eldorado; and fathers of families gave up their employments, and sold their goods, and embarked with their wives and children. Solicitations and bribes were made use of by eager volunteers.—The whole expedition consisted of more than 2000 persons.

They reached Trinidad after a prosperous voyage; and took possession of the town. The little mischief which Raleigh had done had been easily repaired, for indeed there was little that he could do. The place did not contain thirty families, and the strangers were to find shelter as they could. Rations of biscuit and salt meat, pulse or rice were served out to them; but to diminish the consumption as much as possible, detachments were sent off in canoes to the main land, where Berrio had founded the town of St. Thomas. Some flotillas effected their progress safely, but one which consisted of six canoes, met with bad weather, and only three succeeded in entering the river, after throwing their cargoes overboard. The others made the nearest shore, where they were described by the Caribs, a fierce tribe of natives, who slew them all except a few women whom they carried away, and one soldier, who escaped to relate the fate of his companions.

The city of St. Thomas contained at that time four hundred men, besides women and children. Berrio, to prepare the way for the discovery and conquest of Eldorado, sent out small parties of the newcomers, under experienced persons, that they might be seasoned to the difficulties which they would have to undergo, and learn how to conduct themselves in their intercourse with the Indians. They were to spread the news that the king had sent out many Spaniards, and a large supply of axes, caps, hawk-bells, looking-glasses, combs, and such other articles of traffic as were in most request. They saw no appearance of those riches which Raleigh had heard of, nor of that plenty which he had found. The people with whom they met had but a scanty subsistence for themselves, and so little of gold or silver or anything else to barter for the hatchets and trinkets of the Spaniards, that they were glad of the chance to labor as boatmen, or give their children in exchange for them.

Berrio was not discouraged by the result of these journeys. Like Raleigh he was persuaded that the great and golden city stood on the banks of a great lake from which the river Carriol issued, about twelve leagues east of the mouth whereof his town was placed. A force of 800 men was now ordered on the discovery.—The command was given to Correa, an officer accustomed to Indian warfare. Three Franciscan monks, and a lay brother of the same order accompanied the expedition. Having reached a spot where the country was somewhat elevated, and the temperature cooler than in the region they had passed, they halted themselves on a sort of prairie, and halted there in the hope that rest might restore those who began to feel the effect of an unwholesome climate. The natives not only abstained from any acts of hostility, but supplied them with fruits and a sort of cas-

sava (tapioca). This they did in sure knowledge that disease would soon subdue these new-come Spaniards to their hands. It was not long before a malignant fever broke out among the adventurers, which carried off a third part of their number. One comfort only was left them; the friars continued every day to perform mass in a place where all the sufferers could hear it; and no person died without performing and receiving all the offices which the Romish church has enjoined. Correa himself sank under the disease. He might possibly have escaped it, acclimated as he was, if he had not overtaken himself, when food was to be sought from a distance, and carried heavily loads to spare those who were less equal to the labor. For now the crafty Indians no longer brought supplies, but left the weakened Spaniards to provide for themselves as they could, and when Correa was dead, of whom as a man accustomed to Indian war, they stood in fear, they collected their forces, and fell upon the Spaniards, who apprehended no danger, and were most of them incapable of making any defence. The plan appears to have been concerted with a young Indian chief, who accompanied the Spaniards under pretence of friendship, and the women whom the Indians brought with them to carry home the spoils of their enemies, bore their part with stones and stakes in the easy slaughter. The Spaniards who escaped the first attack fled with all speed, some without weapons, and some without strength to use them.—The friars were the last to fly. With the soldiers to protect them they brought off their portable altar, two crosses and a crucifix. No attempt at assistance was made, except when a fugitive fell by the way. The word then passed for one of the fathers; some soldiers stood with their muskets to protect him while he hastily confessed and absolved the poor wretch, whom his countrymen then commended to God, and left to the mercy of the Indians!

In some places the enemy set fire to the grass and shrubbery which in that climate grows with extreme luxuriance, by which means many of this miserable expedition perished. Not quite thirty out of the whole number got safe back to the town of St. Thomas. That place was in a deplorable state, suffering at once from a contagious disease and from a scarcity of provisions. To add to the distress about a hundred persons more had just arrived from Trinidad. They came of necessity, for there were no longer supplies of food at Trinidad, to sustain them. But they came with high-raised hopes, only repining at their ill luck in not having been in the first expedition, by which they supposed the first spoils of Eldorado had already been shared. They arrived like skeletons at a city of death. Not only were provisions scarce, but the supply of salt had altogether failed, and without it, health in that climate cannot be preserved. To add to their misery, the shoes had all been consumed, and the country was infested by that insect (the chigua), which burrows in the feet, and attacks the flesh wherever the slightest wound gives it access. The torment occasioned by these insects was such that the men willingly submitted to the only remedy they knew of, and had the sores cauterized with hot iron.

Among those who had come from Spain to enter upon this land of promise, there was a 'beata' or pious woman, who had been attached to a convent in Madrid, and accompanied a married daughter and her husband on this unhappy adventure, and devoted herself to the service of the sick. Some of the women and she among them looking upon the governor, Berrio, as the cause of their miseries, and thinking that as long as he lived, there was no hope of their escaping from this fatal place, resolved to murder him, and provided themselves with knives for the purpose. The indignation against him was so general that they hesitated not to impart their design to one of the friars, and luckily for Berrio, he interposed his influence to prevent it. One of the women who had sold her possessions in Spain to join the expedition, made her way to the governor when the officers and friars were with him, and emptying upon the ground before him a bag which contained one hundred and fifty doubloons, said, 'Tyrant, take what is left, since you have brought us here to die.' Berrio replied, with less of anger than of distress in his countenance, 'I gave no orders to Domingo de Vera that he should bring more than three hundred men! He offered no opposition to the departure of such as would. Many who had strength or resolution enough, trusted themselves to the river in such canoes as they could find, without boatmen or pilot, and endeavored to make their way back to Trinidad; some perishing by the hands of the natives, others by drowning, others by hunger on the marshy shores which they reached. Vera soon died of a painful disease in Trinidad, and Berrio did not long survive him. Such was the issue of this great attempt for the conquest of the golden empire; of which, says an old Spanish historian, it may be said that it was like Nebuchadnezzar's image, beginning in gold, but continuing through baser metal, till it ended in rude iron and base clay.'

NO. VII.

RALEIGH'S first voyage disappointed every one but himself. He pretended to have obtained satisfactory evidence of the

existence of Eldorado, and information of the place where it was; also proof of the existence of mines of gold; and to have conciliated the good-will of the natives and secured their co-operation with him in any future attempt. But he had brought home no gold; the shining stones which his followers had abundantly supplied themselves with were found to be worthless; and there was no evidence of the existence of a native sovereignty as far advanced in civilization and refinement as the Mexicans and Peruvians, the conquest of which would reflect as much glory upon the English name as the achievements of Cortez and Pizarro had upon that of Spain. Raleigh's boastful representations therefore failed of effect. None of his countrymen were inclined to join with him in a further prosecution of the enterprise, and the subject was dropped for the time.

Raleigh was soon restored to favor and employment in the naval expeditions against Spain, which took place at this time. He greatly distinguished himself on several occasions, and was in high favor with Queen Elizabeth till her death;—but with the succession of James his fortunes fell. He was accused (whether justly or not is still doubtful) of being concerned in treasonable plots against the king, and was brought to trial, found guilty, and committed prisoner to the Tower, to await the execution of his sentence.

Raleigh, withdrawn from active labors by his imprisonment, was not idle. He turned to intellectual pursuits, and with many minor pieces, in prose and verse, executed his greatest work, 'The History of the World';—a project of such vast extent that the bare idea of his undertaking it excites our admiration. As an author he stands on an eminence as high as that which he obtained in other paths. Hume says 'he is the best model of our ancient style,' and Hallam confirms the judgment. His imprisonment lasted thirteen years. At the expiration of that time, he had influence to have his sentence so far remitted as to allow him to go on a second expedition in search of Eldorado. Twenty years had elapsed since the former expedition, and the present was of a magnitude more like a national enterprise than a private one. Sir Walter's own ship, the *Destiny*, carried 36 guns and 200 men. There were six other vessels carrying from twenty-five guns to three each. Raleigh embarked all his means in this expedition. His eldest son commanded one of the ships, and eighty of his companions were gentlemen volunteers and adventurers, many of them his relations.

Those who have thoughtfully considered Raleigh's career have seen reason to doubt whether he really believed the stories which he was so anxious to impress upon others. They have thought it more likely that his real object was to emulate the fame of Cortez and Pizarro, and to dispossess Spain of some portion of her conquests in South America and transfer them to his own country. This latter object was admissible, at the time of his first expedition, because Spain and England were then at war; but was not so, on the second, as the two nations were then at peace. But Raleigh had reason to think that if he could succeed in his object there was no danger of his being called to very strict account respecting his measures.

He arrived off the coast of Guiana on the 12th of November, 1617, having had a long and disastrous voyage. One ship had left him and returned home, another had foundered, forty-two of his men had died, many were suffering from sickness, and himself among the number. But he found the Indians friendly, and not forgetful of his former visit. He writes to his wife, 'To tell you that I might be here king of the country were a vanity; but my name hath still lived among them here. They feed me with fresh meat and all that the country yields. All offer to obey me.'

Being too feeble from sickness to go himself, he sent forward an expedition under Captain Keymis to enter the Orinoco and take possession of the mines.—Five companies of fifty men each, in five shallops, composed the expedition, Raleigh with the remainder of his vessels repairing to Trinidad to await the result.

Since Raleigh's former expedition the Spaniards had made a settlement upon the main land, and founded a town to which they gave the name of St. Thomas. The governor resided there, and there were in all about five hundred inhabitants. On the twelfth of January the English flotilla reached a part of the river twelve leagues from St. Thomas, and an Indian fisherman carried the alarm to that place. The governor, Palameque, mustered immediately the little force which he had at hand. This consisted of fifty-seven men only. Messengers were sent to summon those men who were at their farms, and two horsemen were sent out to watch the invaders' movements.

At eleven in the forenoon the vessel anchored about a league from the town.—The men landed, and the scouts hastened back with the intelligence. A Spanish officer with ten men was placed in ambush near the city. As soon as he was informed of the direction which the English were taking, he cut a match-cord in pieces, which he lighted at dark and placed at intervals where they might deceive the invaders, by presenting the appearance of a greater force. The first

discharge was from two pieces of cannon against the boats. The Spaniard with his little band then opened his fire upon the troops, and kept it up from the bushes as he retired before them. This skirmishing continued about an hour and a half till he had fallen back to the place where the governor and his people were drawn up at the entrance of the city, to make a stand. It was now nine at night. Raleigh says, in his account of the action, that some of the English, at the first charge, began to pause and recoil shamefully; whereupon his son, not tarrying for any musketeers, ran up at the head of a company of pikemen, and received a shot wound. Pressing then upon a Spanish captain with his sword, the Spaniard taking the small end of his musket in his hand, struck him on the head with the stock and felled him. His last words were, 'Lord have mercy upon me, and prosper the enterprise,' and his death was instantly avenged by his sergeant, who thrust the Spaniard through with his halbert. In the heat of the fight and in the confusion which the darkness occasioned, the Spanish commander was separated from his people and slain.—The Spaniards however had the advantage of knowing the ground, and betaking themselves to the houses, they fired from them on the English and killed many, till the assailants set fire to the houses, thus depriving themselves of that booty which was their main object. The English were now masters of the place, the remainder of the defendants, with the women and children, under the command of Grados, the officer who had deported himself so well in the first ambush, effecting their escape across the river. Grados stationed them at a place, about ten miles distant from the town, where a few slight huts were created for the women and children.

The captors searched in vain for gold in the city. But they had an idea that there was a rich gold mine a short distance up the river. Accordingly two launches, with twenty or thirty men each, were dispatched up the Orinoco. They came to the mouth of the creek which led to the place where Grados had hunted the women and children, and the largest of the launches was about to enter, when Grados, who had posted nine of the invalids in ambush there, with about as many Indian bowmen, fired upon them so unexpectedly and with such good aim, that only one of the crew is said to have escaped unhurt. The other launch also suffered some loss. Three days after three launches were sent to take vengeance for this defeat; but Grados had removed his charge some two leagues into the country, and these vessels went up the river about a hundred leagues, treating with the Indians, to whom they made presents and large promises, and after eighteen or twenty days returned, having effected nothing of importance.

The English had now been four weeks in the city, annoyed by the Spaniards and Indians, and losing many of their men, cut off in their foraging excursions by ambushes. After the unsuccessful attempt to discover the mine, no further effort was made for that purpose, Keymis alleging in his excuse that 'the Spaniards, being gone off in a whole body lay in the woods between the mine and us, and it was impossible except they had been beaten out of the country to pass up the woods and craggy hills without the loss of the commanders, without whom the rest would easily be cut to pieces.' The English accordingly retreated from the city, setting fire to the few houses that remained, and promising the Indians, as they went, that they would return next year, and complete the destruction of the Spaniards.

Raleigh was by no means satisfied with Keymis's excuses for his failure to discover the mine, and reproached him with so much severity that Keymis after the interview, retired to his cabin and shot himself through the heart.

When Raleigh arrived in England he found that the tidings of his attack on the Spaniards, and the utter failure of his expedition, had reached there before him. The Spanish ambassador was clamorous for punishment on what he called a piratical proceeding; and the king and the nation who might have pardoned a successful adventurer had no indulgence to extend to one so much the reverse. Finding a proclamation had been issued for his arrest, Raleigh endeavored to escape to France, but was taken in the attempt, and committed close prisoner to the Tower. He had powerful friends, and strong efforts were made to save his life; but all availed not, and on the twenty-ninth of October, 1618, four months after his arrival, he was beheaded on the scaffold.

The fate of Raleigh caused a great sensation at the time, and has not yet ceased to excite emotion. The poet Thomson in his 'Summer' finely alludes to the various circumstances of his history, which we have briefly recorded:

—But who can speak
The numerous worthies of the 'Maiden reign?'
In Raleigh mark their every glory mixed;
Raleigh, the scourge of Spain, whose breast
With all
The sage, the patriot and the hero burned;
Nor sunk his vigor when a coward reign
The warrior fettered, and at last resigned
To glut the vengeance of a vanquished foe.
Then active still and unrestrained, his mind
Explored the vast extent of ages past,
And with his prison hours enriched the world;
Yet found no times in all the long research
So glorious or so base as those he proved,
In which he conquered, and in which he lost.

There's no Knowing How or When it is to Happen.

This is a saying among young ladies, in regard to meeting their future husbands. We can tell a story to bear them out. It is now some years ago since Mr. E., a respectable inhabitant of Brighton, who carried on the business of a plumber and glazier, died, leaving behind him a widow and a daughter. Mrs. E. gave up the business and removed to another part of the country, London, we believe. At all events a few months back, she was in the great metropolis, on a visit to some friends with her daughter, now a very beautiful young woman. As the mother and daughter were passing one day through the Strand, they were overtaken by a violent storm of rain, which compelled them to look about for a place of shelter, and none presented itself more opportunely than the porch of a large mansion, the nature, of which at the time was not known to the fair refugees, but which was, in fact, the banking house of S. S. and P., one of the most wealthy firms. Here the ladies took their station, but had not been there long before the door of the bank opened, and a young man of genteel appearance presented himself, and begged that they would step in until the violence of the storm had passed. The ladies accepted the offer, and were escorted by their polite conductor into an inner room of the establishment. What passed it is not in our power to say. The conversation we may presume, turned upon the ordinary topics, the weather, the amusements, the incidents of the day; but whatever the conversation it was agreeable to all parties. At length the storm subsided—the rain ceased; and the ladies rose and with many thanks their young host withdrew, but not before he had succeeded in drawing from them the address of their London residence. Nor was it long before he availed himself of this information, called and obtained permission to repeat the visit, which he did again and again; until after a certain time the young man declared his attachment, made proposals for the hand of the young lady, and was accepted. The parents of both parties were favorable to the union, and a few days ago the London papers announced the marriage of the oldest son of Sir John Paul, of the firm of S. S. and P., to Miss E., the daughter of the late Mr. E., of Brighton. The days of chivalry may be gone, but those of true gallantry and disinterested love will last while the human heart beats.

'Fuss in Foot's.'

Even more laughable and ridiculous a sight than a little boy with a high standing dickey, or a straight-bodied dress coat, is one with a segar in his mouth, and his head enveloped in smoke. We will know the charms of tobacco, in all its uses, but have yet to find the man who will advise any one else to use it. Little boys and girls are our admiration, and we would have them grow up with good habits and minds well cultivated and refined. The week past we have been pained to see a group of little boys indulging daily in the use of a weed which will surely make their cheeks sallow and eyes sunken,—which will gradually wear upon their nerves, and otherwise permanently injure their health. The use of tobacco, in any shape, is a vile, filthy practice. We have seen thousands, each of whom would give large sums of money to be rid of the habit; and we never yet saw the man who was glad that he learned to use it. But once get the habit firmly fastened upon you, and there is not one chance in five hundred that you will ever be able to shake it off. It is not like a troublesome wen that you can cut off, or a tooth that can be extracted, and you are soon relieved; the longing and pain, occasioned by the want of it, will follow you day and night, like a tooth-ache, for months, robbing you of all comfort, and causing great mental depression.

A friend of ours, fifteen years ago, was as strong and healthy as any of us; three winters ago, with his constitution shattered and health ruined by constant chewing and smoking, as he said, he died. In that period many times he struggled along for months without tobacco, but never could long resist the cravings of his appetite. Boys, once get in the habit of using tobacco, and we pledge you our word that when you are worth one thousand dollars, you will be willing to give the whole of it to be free from its ceaseless influences.—*Manchester Mirror.*

The following, is one of the prettiest similes we have yet come across, and worthy of repetition:

"Take the bright shell
From its home on the sea,
And wherever it goes
It will sing of the sea;
So take the fond heart
From its home and its hearth,
'Twill sing of the love'd
To the ends of the earth."

The cloak of religion is to be known sometimes, says Punch, by the fine nap it has during sermon time.