

To Speak French Becomes Ambition of Every Soldier

All who go to France should be able to talk to the people in their own native language. To do so would save time, money and embarrassment. It might even save lives. I can't even talk French in France he must either seek an interpreter or make signs. Imagine a young American in a French city gesticulating wildly while trying to make a native shopkeeper understand! This need not occur. A quick means of acquiring French with correct accent is provided in a remarkable distribution of books now being conducted by American and Canadian newspapers. These books are the pocket size, elegant Soldiers-Sailors Diary and English-French Dictionary.

"My Diary and Dictionary already has become invaluable to me," remarked a nurse at one of the Army camps as she embarked for France. "Without the memorized phrases I would have forgotten many small things and on the way over I expect to learn French by studying diligent the easy sound method which Professor Lapparent has made the vocabulary so easy."

Says His Prescription Has Powerful Influence Over Rheumatism

Discoverer Tells Geo. A. Gorgas Not to Take a Cent of Anyone's Money Unless Allergic Completely Banishes All Rheumatic Pains and Twinges.

Mr. James H. Allen suffered for years with rheumatism. Many times this terrible disease left him helpless and unable to work. He finally decided, after years of ceaseless study, that no one can be free from rheumatism until the accumulated impurities commonly called uric acid deposits, were dissolved in the joints and muscles and expelled from the body. With this idea in mind he consulted physicians, made experiments and finally compounded a prescription that quickly and completely banished every sign and symptom of rheumatism from his system.

A Nurse's Story

A Pa. Woman's Experience

New Castle, Pa.—"I know a little about Dr. Pierce's medicines. I was a nurse, did quite a bit of nursing, especially women, and always recommended 'Favorite Prescription' and it was used in a large number of cases with great success. The 'Golden Medical Discovery' was especially beneficial in one case in particular where the mother caught a heavy cold when her first baby was six months old. She doctored quite awhile but did not seem to get any better. She came to me one evening and wanted me to go with her to see another doctor. So we went to his office and the doctor asked her all manner of questions. He did not tell her what he thought, but told her to use plenty of milk and fresh eggs and take Cod Liver Oil. When we got outside the office she burst out crying and said, he might as well have told me the truth. I know I have a consumption, I said. 'Well the doctors don't always know everything.' Don't take the Cod Liver Oil. Come, we will go to my store and get Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and take that. I'll bet before you take six bottles you can go and tell those doctors you are worth a dozen dead people, and before she had finished the second bottle she was rid of that soreness through her lungs and did not cough but very little. After she had taken six bottles she was a well woman. After that if she ever got a cold the 'Discovery' was all she used. She was never troubled with her lungs afterward."—Mrs. Jennie Lowers, 414 1/2 Bartram avenue.

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"GETTING THE BIG IDEA FIXED"

The International Sunday School Lesson For December 9 Is "Ezra and Nehemiah Teach the Law." Nehemiah, Chap. 8

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS

In a conservation congress held in the South one man made the point that it is better to get the great idea of conservation, or what another called the principle of salvation, into people's minds than to teach them all the methods of conservations extant. Plans are merely the product of a purpose. Methods are the output of motive. Get the big idea into a people's thinking and they may be trusted to find all the practical outworkings of it that are necessary. The best program of moral and national reform is a passion for righteousness; details will take care of themselves. When one of China's greatest statesmen told me that he felt that the nation needs to adopt Christianity, he did not have in mind any complete system of theology; he does not know anything about scientific theology. But he did see clearly that the Christian ideal, and the Christian spirit, are China's present needs. Give her only the forms and methods of constitutionalism with the old individualistic and selfish spirit, and she will make shipwreck of her experiment. The clear need of China as of our own land, is for a new life to vitalize the new forms of this changing day.

Better Than Strong Walls The Great Wall of North China, or the walls about Peking and Nanking are not any more obsolete and ineffective for purposes of defense in these modern times than were the walls of Jerusalem. They might thwart Sennacherib, Tobiah and Geshem, but they were unavailing against the selfishness, pride, idolatry and godlessness of the warring hearts of the Jews. The need of the returned Jews was for the protection that would save them from themselves. What says Amos R. Wells? "Closer is the Lord's protection, than a near investing wall; Closer than a moat about me, closer than a tower tall; Closer than a suit of armor, or my hands and feet can be; For against mine own assailing, His protection keepeth me."

The Jews who had returned from the Babylonian exile were in a capital position to adopt an electric religion, and they had leaning that way. They were surrounded by an assortment of creeds. There were more gods than virtues. Most of the population were easygoing, asking nothing of their devotees in the way of moral strictness. There was free rein for all passions in the service of the gods of the nations. That is why the Jews were so often tempted to stray from Jehovah. A man is glad to cloak the indulgence of his frailties under the cover of some religion. The popularity of all sorts of cults in our own time is to be explained in this same way. Their moral obligations are not rigid and exacting. They profess scorn of the old legalism of the Mosaic law. "Natural religion" is a veritable highbrow fad in our times. It is an easy creed. It will let a man indulge his selfishness to any extent, so long as he is mindful to burn incense to the goddess of Good Form. Be polite and conventional, and you may do whatever you please within these wide bounds, says natural religion, which defines the worst as well as the best of man's nature.

Leaders Real and Sham Sir Robertson Nicol, the great British editor and critic, once gave me his impression of certain public men on this side of the water. Concerning one famous man he said that "He manages to keep just a step in front of the crowd, and he is even looking back over his shoulder to see if they are following." That is a definition of many a popular politician; but the term "leader," must be denied him. The truly great statesman is the one who leads the way to what he believes to be righteousness and honor and public welfare. He is less concerned about people's applause than about their progress. Fortunately, Jerusalem had that kind of leaders during and after the rebuilding of the walls. Nehemiah and Ezra cared more for helping their people than for pleasing them. They never hesitated to point out the dangers which resided in the hearts of the Jews, as well as those which arose from without the city walls. They were true leaders, and followers of the crowd who pretend to keep in front of the procession, like small boys running at the head of a circus parade. Once the wall was finished, these leaders planned for a great festival of recognition of the law of the nation, which was the law of Jehovah. It is the degree of a community's reverence for law that measures its respectability. A common misapprehension is that it is the volume of business that determines a community's strength; but this is not so. The strength of the law is the strength of a people's civilization. Not without reason does the British poet of empire cry to his far-flung fellow countrymen: "Keep ye the law; be swift in all obedience. Drive the road and bridge the ford. Make ye sure to each his own. That he reap where he hath sown; By the peace among our people let men know we serve the Lord."

A Get-Together Meeting Many cities in the southern and western parts of the United States, have entered upon a regular campaign of advertising and promotion. They have adopted slogans and emblems, and assiduously woo increased prosperity. The first step in every such campaign is to get the people together, and to make them feel their civic solidarity. No committee of businessmen can boom a city successfully, unless it is not so. The genuinely unified community consciousness. Ezra had never studied psychology, but he knew human nature, which is the same thing, so his first step, in the great religious and law-observing revival which he projected for Jerusalem, was to get all the people together in one place. He wanted them to become conscious of themselves, to see one another, and to feel the thrill of the "body touch" of people old soldiers talk. Into the broad place before the water gate the whole assembly of the people gather. Wise

who exhibited with pride a map of Bible lands showing Ur of the Chaldees as down in the land of Edom, was not very much embarrassed when the mistake was pointed out. The assumption is that all that pertains to the Bible is somewhat vague and conjectural. One does not expect to comprehend the Bible as he does a book of travels or a history or a novel. That state of mind was given a severe jolt by Ezra, who in this great Bible-reading assembly had the law read so that the record runs, "And they read in the book of law distinctly, and gave the sense, so that they understood the reading." No other book is read so unintelligently as the Scriptures. Philip's question to the Ethiopian eunuch might well be repeated to many a Christian at his private devotions, "Understandest thou what thou readest?" Often the Bible is treated as a sort of charm or incantation, to be read because there is virtue in it, but not because it is understood. Some folk following this good luck method, open their Bible at random for their daily reading, trusting to be guided thereby, though it is usually the bookbinder and not the Spirit who determines the pages at which the volume will open most easily. The only Bible reading that is worth the time spent upon it is Bible reading which gives the reader the sense of what he has read. Otherwise, one might as well read last year's almanac, or a volume of cuneiform inscriptions.

The Speaker Who Made a Hit At a great Philadelphia convention a few years ago a professor in Haverford College read the Scripture lesson. I have forgotten even the names of the distinguished speakers of the evening, but I have not forgotten the speaker who made his hearers understand, which is as truly the speaker's responsibility as it is the listener's. Most persons listen to the Bible without expecting to understand, which is as truly the hearer's responsibility as it is the speaker's. Their knowledge of Mesopotamia is as hazy as their knowledge of the Hittites or the lands of Paul's journeys. A Sunday school teacher

shouted "Amen!" and bowed themselves to the earth in contrition, and listened for dear life for six short hours. No sermons are long when they are messages of life, from living men to living men. Emotions? Of course there was emotion. There is always emotion when hearts are deeply stirred. There is emotion when a man tells a woman of his love. There is emotion over the birth of the firstborn. There is emotion at the deathbed. There is emotion when a country's call is heard by patriots. The stirring of the deep always produces emotion, and the academic objection to emotion in connection with religion is little less than absurd. The lesson of this whole lesson is obvious. It is that the surest way to the most abiding religious revival is by the study of the Word of God. Give the people the Book and they can do without an evangelist. The entrance of the Word gives light and life and fortitude and conviction and lowliness and peace. The people who have come upon a revival of Bible-study have the best reason to be glad and grateful, as the Jews after the festival of study of the law. They celebrated because they had learned anew the Pentateuch; how much greater should be the celebration of those who have the living Gospel as their light and their strength!

Army Ordnance Department Grows to Unusual Size

Washington.—Before the war began the United States government employed approximately 500,000 persons in the civil branch. Now that this country is actually engaged in the conflict, the great army of workers behind the fighting forces is growing by tens of thousands. A good example of this rapid addition of employees is in the civilian force of the Ordnance Department of the Army. Seven large privately owned office buildings in Washington are required to house the officials and

clerks of this force, in addition to the usual quarters in the State, War and Navy building, which were sufficient before Uncle Sam began to prepare for war. The gun division alone, which did not exist as a separate division before we entered the war, now has more than two thousand civilian employees besides about three hundred commissioned officers, and it is estimated that this division will be three times its present size within a year. The great manufacturing plants of the Ordnance Department in various parts of the country employed about 10,000 men last spring. Now

20,000 are at work in these establishments. The task of supplying these thousands of workers in the face of the greatest demand for labor the country has ever known is the problem of the United States Civil Service Commission. At this time great numbers of men and women are needed to fill stenographic and other positions in the offices at Washington and mechanical trades and technical positions in the government plants for manufacturing artillery and ammunition. The local boards of civil service

examined at the post offices in all cities are furnishing detailed information concerning positions in which men and women are needed.

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