

TO REINFORCE FAITH.

REV. DR. TALMAGE TELLS HOW

Mary McDona, Bel of 1841, Destroyed by a Plain Way of Bombard Every Thing That is Sacred.

What a pity he is going there! said my friend, a most distinguished general of the army, when he was told that the reason for my not being present on a celebrated day in the history of the Holy Land was that you had called on me some one. My military duties, (0), he will be disillusioned when he... the equal and commonplace... of Palestine, and his faith will be... in Christianity, for that is often the... The great general misjudged the... I went to the Holy Land for the one... of having my faith strengthened, and... was the result which came of it. In all... journeys, in all our travels, in all our... in all our plans, augmentation... than the depletion of our faith should... chief desire. I can give you a... of our faith's destiny. I can give you a... of its obliteration. Read infidel... have long and frequent conversations... skeptics attend the lectures of those... to religion, give full swing to... but habit, and your faith will be so... that you ever had any.

If you want to ruin your faith, you can do more easily than you can do anything else. After following the Bible all my life I can say a plain way by which, in six weeks, I could give up my faith, and my heart and head... nature in the bombardment of the... and the church's aid I now hold... That it is easy to banish soon and... ever all respect for the Bible I prove by... that so many have done it. They were not particularly brainy but had special... will, but they so thoroughly accom... the overthrow of their faith that they... have no more idea that the Bible is true, or... that Christianity amounts to anything, than... who live in the truth of the "Arabian Nights'... or the existence of Don... "windmills." They have destroyed their... the faith, and they will never will... a return of it.

My revivals of religion may sweep over the city, the town, the neighborhood where they live, and they will feel nothing but a... or expressed disgust. There are persons in this country today who 20 years ago... their faith, and in heart and head... The black and deep toned bell of... down hangs over their head, and I take the... hammer of that bell, and I strike it three... times with all my might, and it sounds... well; well; well. But my wish, and the wish... of all of you, is the prayer expressed by... the disciples of Jesus in their words of... "Lord, increase our faith."

The first mode of accomplishing this is to study the Bible itself. I do not believe there is an infidel now alive who has read the Bible through. But as so important a document as this that has passed through in order that it may be thoroughly understood, and read in course. I now offer \$100 reward to any infidel who has read the Bible through twice and read it in course. But I cannot take such a man's own word for it, for there is no foundation for integrity except on truth. If the man who rejects the source of truth how can I accept his truthfulness?

So I must have another witness in the case before I give the reward. I must have the testimony of some one who has seen him read it all through twice. Infidels fish in the Bible for the absurd and contradictory and absurdities, and in order that their Bible you will see intermissions in the book of Jonah and some of the chapters of that unfortunate prophet nearly worn out by kings, and some parts of II Samuel or I Kings you will find dim with finger marks, but the Psalms of David, the Ten Commandments, and the Psalms of David, the Sermon on the Mount, and the book of John the Evangelist, will not have a single leaf pencil stroke in the margin, nor any finger marks showing frequent perusal.

The father of one of the Presidents of the city of St. Louis, a pronounced infidel, I knew it when many years ago I accepted his invitation to spend the night in his home; just before retiring at night he said in a loose way, "I suppose you are accustomed to read the Bible before going to bed, and here is my Bible from which to read." He then told me what he would like to have me read, and he only asked for those portions on which he could easily be factious.

You know you can make fun about anything. I suppose you could take the last letter your father or mother ever wrote or I find something in the grammar or the spelling or the tremor of the penmanship about which he is derisively critical. The internal evidence of the truthfulness of the Bible is so mighty that no one man out of the 1,000,000,000 of the world's present population or the vast millions of the past ever read the Bible in course, and read it prayerfully and earnestly. But was led to believe it. He then told me what he would like to have me read, and he only asked for those portions on which he could easily be factious.

But suppose, now, all the best spirits of all ages were assembled to decide the fate of the world which will be the permanent of our Heavenly Father, and these memoirs of our Lord Jesus, what would be the verdict? Shall they burn, or shall they live? The unanimous verdict of all is, "Let them live, though all else burn." Then put together on the other hand all the debauchees and prodigals and assassins of the ages, and their unanimous verdict concerning the Bible would be, "Let it burn."

Mind you, I do not say that all infidels are immortal, but I do say that all the scorpions and scoundrels of the universe agree with them about the Bible. Let me vote with those who believe in the Holy Scriptures. Men believe other things with half the evidence required to believe the Bible. The distinguished Abner Kneeland rejected the Scripture and then put all his money into an enterprise for the recovery of that locus-pocus "Captain Kidd's treasures." Kneeland's motto for doing so being "There is no statement that he could tell where those treasures were buried from the looks of a glass of water dipped from the Hudson River.

The internal evidence of the authenticity of the Scriptures is so exact and so vivid that no man, honest and sane, can thoroughly and continuously and prayerfully read them without entering their discipleship. So I put that internal evidence paramount. How are you led to believe in a letter you received from husband or wife or child or friend? You know the handwriting. You know the style. You recognize the sentiment. When the letter comes, you do not summon the postmaster who stamped it, and the postmaster who received it, and the letter carrier who brought it to your door to prove that it is a genuine letter. The internal evidence settles it, and by the same process you can forever settle the fact that the Bible is the handwriting and communication of the infinite God.

Furthermore, as I have already intimated, we may increase our faith by the testimony of others. Perhaps we of lesser brain may overcome our unbelief by supposition or cajoling into an acceptance of a hollow pro-

testion. So I will this mornin' turn this house into a courtroom and summon you, and you shall be the jury, and I now implore you for that purpose, and I will put the witness stand men whom all the world acknowledge to be strong intellectually would be incontestable. It will not do to witness stand any minister of the Gospel, for he might be prejudiced.

There are two ways of taking an oath in a Bible and the other is by holding up the right hand toward heaven. Now, as in this case it is the Bible that is on trial, will you not ask the witness to put the book to his lips, for that would imply that the sanctity and divinity of the book is settled, and that would be outrageous question. So I shall ask each witness to lift his hand toward heaven in affirmation.

Salmon P. Chase, chief justice of the supreme court of the United States appointed by President Lincoln, will take the witness stand. Chief Justice Chase, upon your oath, please state what you have to say about the book commonly called the Bible. The witness replied: "There was a time in my life when I doubted the divinity of the Scriptures, and I resolved, as a lawyer and a jurist, I would try the book as I would try anything in the courtroom, taking evidence for and against. It was a long and serious and protracted trial, and using the same principles of evidence in this religious matter as I always do in secular matters I have come to the decision that the Bible is a supernatural book, that it has come from God, and that the only safety for the human race is to follow the teachings." "In fact, that will do, go back and take your pillow of dust on the back of your head, and go to sleep."

Next I put upon the witness stand a President of the United States—John Quincy Adams. President Adams, what have you to say about the Bible and Christianity? The witness replied: "I have for many years made it a part of my duty to read through the Bible once a year. My custom is to read four or five chapters every morning immediately after arising from my bed. It employs about an hour of my time and seems to me the most suitable manner of beginning the day. I was heartily convinced, I repeat the Bible, whether with reference to its origin, its history, or to its morality, it is an invaluable and inextinguishable mine of knowledge and virtue."

Next I put upon the witness stand Sir Isaac Newton, the author of the "Principia" and the greatest natural philosopher the world has ever seen. Sir Isaac, what have you to say concerning the Bible? The philosopher's reply is: "We account the Scriptures of God to be the most sublime philosophy."

Next I put upon the witness stand the author of the letters, Sir Walter Scott, and asked him what his thoughts of the place that the Bible ought to take among other books. His reply is: "There is but one book, and that is the Bible."

Next I put upon the stand the most famous geologist of all time, Hugh Miller, an Elder of Dr. Guthrie's Presbyterian church in Edinburgh, and Erasmus and Kepler, and they all took the same thing. They all say that the Bible is from God, and that its might influence for good that ever touched our world is Christianity.

"Chancellor Kent, what do you think of the Bible?" Answer: "No other book ever addressed itself so authoritatively and so pathetically to the judgment and moral sense of mankind."

"Erasmus Burck, what do you think of the Bible?" Answer: "I have read the Bible morning, noon and night, and have ever since been the happier and the better man for such reading."

Next I put upon the stand William E. Gladstone, the head of the English government, and I asked him what he said to me in January of 1890, when in reply to his telegram, "Pray come to Hawarden to-morrow." I visited him. Then and there I asked him as to whether in the passage of years his faith in the Holy Scriptures and Christianity was increased or decreased, and he turned upon me with emphasis and enthusiasm saying no one who has not conversed with him can fully appreciate and express by voice and gesture and illumined countenance his ever increasing faith in God and the Bible and Christianity as the only hope of our race. "I will tell you, Mr. Gladstone, we will take up your time and your energy, and we will take up your time in England just now. I think you are very busy."

The stuporous graves of Sodom and Gomorrah have been identified. The remains of the tower of Babel have been found. All the documents lifted from the sand and Hebrew inscription of the Pharaohs are high up on the rock, and re-echo the truth of Bible history. The signs of the time indicate that almost every fact of the Bible from old to old will find its corroboration in ancient city disintegrated, or ancient walls, or in the dust of ages, or ancient documents unrolled by archeological explorations.

I like the way that the minister's widow did in Elsha's time, when after the family being very unfortunate, her two sons were about to be sold for debt, and she had nothing left but a pot of oil, and at that time Elsha's dire straits were known for, from the neighbors all the vessels she could borrow, and then began to pour out the oil into those vessels and kept on pouring until they were all full, and she became an oil merchant with more assets than liabilities, and when she was asked how she got a vessel, the answer came, "There is not a drop of oil left, but I use what oil of faith we have and use it until the supply shall be miraculously multiplied. Bring on your empty vessels, and by the power of the Lord God of Elsha they shall be filled until they can hold no more of joyful, believing and triumphant faith." What a frightful time was that, a few days ago down on the coast of Long Island, when I have been stopping. That angel of a tempest which, with its awful wings, sweep the Atlantic coast from Florida to Newfoundland did not spare our region. A few miles away from the shore, the crew of a four men whose stern had slain the sea had cast up. As I stood there among the bodies I said to myself, and I said aloud, "These men represent homes. What will mother and father and wife and children say when they know this?"

Some of the victims were unknown. Only the first names of three of them were found out—Charles and William and I wonder now if they will remain unknown and if some kindred far away may be waiting for their coming and never hear of the rough way of their going. I saw also one of the three who had come in alive, but more dead than alive. He had become helpless six miles out, and as one way a wayward wind he hissed and went out the cry was, "Oh, my God, we are lost!" Then the crew put on life preservers, one of the sailors saving to the other, "We will meet again on the shore, and, if not, well, we must all go some time."

and Peter, all there, and I'll a certainty of both there until the heavens and the earth are created, which is described in the first book of the Bible, shall have collapsed, and the white horse of the conqueror, described in the last book of the Bible, shall paw the dust in universal demolition. By that tremendous fact my faith is re-enforced.

But I come to the height of my sorrow when I say the way to re-enforce our faith is to pray for it. So the disciples in my text read the sacred Scriptures. "Lord, increase our faith." Some one suggested, "Do you really think that prayer amounts to anything?" I might as well ask you, letters are telegraphic poles from New York to Washington, in these lines of telegraphical lines from London to London, from Cologne to Berlin. All the people who are sent and received messages on those lines know of their existence. So there are millions of souls who have been in constant communication with the capital of the universe, with the throne of the Almighty, with the great God Himself, for years and years and years.

There has not been a day when supplications did not flash up, and blessings did not flash down. Will some ignorant man, who has never received a telegram or sent one, come and tell us that there is no such thing as telegraphic communication? Will some one who has never offered a prayer or heard an answer to it, come and tell us that there is nothing in prayer? It may not come as we expect it, but as sure as an honest prayer goes up a merciful answer will come down.

During the blizzard of four or five years ago, when many of our telegraphic wires were prostrated, and I telegraphed to Chicago by way of Liverpool, and the answer after awhile came round by another wire, and I so the prayer we offer may come back in a way we never imagined, and I if we ask to have our faith increased, although it may come by a way different from that which we expect, our confidence will surely be augmented.

Oh, put it in every prayer you ever make between your neck and your last exit, "Lord, increase our faith"—faith in Christ as our personal savior, faith in the ark and the eternal catastrophe, faith in the most eminent Holy Ghost, faith in the Bible, the most voluminous ever dictated or written or printed or read; faith in adversity, providence, harmonious for our best welfare; faith in a judgment day that will set all things right which have been wrong, and which shall surely be augmented.

Increase our faith, not by a fragile addition, but by an infinitude of recuperation. Let us do as we saw it done in the country where we were yet in our teens, at two old farmhouses after a long drought, and the soil had become dried, and the cotton meadow with thirst at the bars, and the grass withered, and the corn was shriveled up, and one day there was a groll of thunder, and then a congregation of clouds on the sky, and then a startling flash, and then a drenching rain, and father and mother put barrels under every window, and the corn of the house and set pails and buckets and tubs and pans and pitchers to catch as much as they could of the shower. For in many of our souls there has been a long drought of confidence and in many no faith at all. Let our faith increase, all our hopes, all our consolations, all our prayers, to catch a mighty shower. "Lord, increase our faith."

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Of the twenty-three men who put on the life preservers, only three lived to reach the beach. But what a scene it was as the good and kind people of Southampton, led on by Dr. Thomas, the great and good surgeon of New York, stood watching the sailors struggling in the surf. All the while the good people of Southampton, led on by Dr. Thomas, the great and good surgeon of New York, stood watching the sailors struggling in the surf. All the while the good people of Southampton, led on by Dr. Thomas, the great and good surgeon of New York, stood watching the sailors struggling in the surf.

And this is the appropriate word for us this morning as we stand and look on upon this awful sea of doubt and unbelief on which hundreds are this moment being wrecked. Some of them were launched by Christian parents on smooth seas, and with promise for prosperous voyages, but on Voltare cyclone struck them on one side, and on Voltare cyclone struck them on the other side, and a bad habit cyclone struck them on all sides, and they have foundered far away from shore, far away from God, and they have gone down or are washed ashore with no spiritual life left in them.

But, thank God, there are many here today with enough faith left to be instrumental in the effort at their reeducation. All hands to the beach! With a confidence in God that takes no denial, let us lay hold of them! Fetch them out of the breakers! Bring good and warm and gospel stimulus and good life to the freezing souls! Re-educate! Re-educate!

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TEMPERANCE

PLenty of OPPORTUNITIES. It is reported that a man in Buffalo, N. Y., is going to build a line, which will be worth \$107,000, and the walls will be decorated with \$10 and \$20 gold pieces. There will be plenty of opportunities for him to hand over some of those pieces to the widowed orphans of his victims, from which will be enough of tears flow to wash the walls of the said building.—Media (Penn), Ledger.

INTEREST AS A CAUSE OF CRIME. Lord Chief Justice Hale was perhaps the first to call attention to intemperance as a cause of crime, requiring special study and attention. In 1870 he is reported as saying: "Of the murders and manslaughter, the burglaries and robberies, the riots and tumults, and other enormities committed during the last twenty years, were divided into five parts, four of them would be found to have been the issue and product of drinking."

THREE BLACK SPOTS. The great Scientific Temperance Instruction map in the educational exhibit at the World's Fair has three black spots covering the States of Indiana, New Jersey, Tennessee, Georgia and South Carolina. All the other States and territories provide by law for the instruction of the children in their public schools, in temperance principles based on scientific truth. This legislation in the interests of temperance education has been secured within little more than a decade under the leadership of Mrs. Mary H. Hunt, the superintendent of such work for the W. C. T. U.

DRINKING ON OCEAN STEAMERS. The consumption of intoxicants on board our great ocean steamers, though not supposed to be as extensive as formerly, and there are certainly many abstaining voyagers, still assumes large proportions. In a late number of the Leisure Hour Mr. W. J. Gordon writes an interesting article concerning such magnificent modern steamers as the Majestic, Campania and others. In speaking of the extensive supplies of food and drink provided by these great steamers, he gives, among other items, the average per vessel, per year, of the following: ten thousand bottles of beer, twenty thousand bottles of mineral water, three thousand bottles of spirits and five thousand bottles of wine. In view of the many passengers who do not drink intoxicants at all on shipboard, many of these who do drink, in the light of Mr. Gordon's figures, are in the habit of being drinkers. The use of intoxicants is a deplorable and dangerous in the extreme.—National Temperance Advocate.

GERMANY'S ALCOHOL QUESTION. Dr. Wilhelm Dole, of Hemsford, near Dresden, has in the Christliche Welt, concluded a series of nine lengthy articles in which, at the hands of an overwhelming abundance of official statistics, he demonstrates that Germany most emphatically has an alcohol question to solve. It is doubtful whether ever before the terrible facts in the case have been marshaled as the writer has done them here. In concluding he gives in a summary outline some of his results. He says:

The preparation of alcoholic intoxicants rose in our year of sixteen million double hundredweights of grain, twenty million double hundredweights of potatoes, twenty-seven million double hundredweights of coal, and many other useful articles. It costs us, in other words, of the harvest of 1,775,000 "bushels" of land, whose yield value would be \$300,000,000, to produce every 100 gallons of 65% alcohol. It takes the working power of one man out of every sixteen; on its battlefields we find each year 6343 wounded (janities, murderers, etc.), and 223 dead. The drink bill last year robbed us of 2,000,000,000 marks, or about 80,000,000 dollars, to irrigate 100,000,000 German paupers to be supported by the State and by charity; takes 4200 German men each year into the involuntary imprisonment of the working colonies, and endless numbers of men, women and children into other charitable institutions. At least 50,000,000 German paupers to be supported by the State and by charity; takes 4200 German men each year into the involuntary imprisonment of the working colonies, and endless numbers of men, women and children into other charitable institutions. At least 50,000,000 German paupers to be supported by the State and by charity; takes 4200 German men each year into the involuntary imprisonment of the working colonies, and endless numbers of men, women and children into other charitable institutions.

THE QUESTION OF INTERTEMPERANCE. In passing along one of the streets of our city today, I saw a letter to the New York Morning Journal, in which a man trying to steady himself against a lamp-post, his head, swaying from side to side, hung until his chin rested upon his breast, he emitted unintelligible sounds. His clothing was covered with the filth in which he had rolled, and he was being led to a house of refuge by a policeman.

His condition was brought about by that which the Government permits to be vend and reap a profit from its sale—alcohol. I ask you, Mr. Editor, if the highwayman who thistles you and takes away your purse is not less harmful to society than the man who dispenses intoxicants, or the Government that permits the sale of them? In the one case you lose but your property, in the other the man loses not only property, but good character, self-respect and all else that honorable men hold dear. Nor is this all. Think of the misery, entailed on the family of the drunkard, the transmission to the offspring of a desire, a thirst, for the damning liquid that is the cause of their degradation; so that the drunkard is not only a curse in the present, but his baneful influence reaches, through his children, to the future.

Should we, Mr. Editor, not endeavor to root out the cause of this evil. It is our duty to do so. As a simple and effective means to this end, I propose that every woman, girl, man and boy reader of the Journal who abhors drunkenness and desires to see it corrected refuse to enter a house or store where alcoholic stimulants are dispensed or sold; that they cut the acquaintance of those who render themselves obnoxious by the drink curse, and, further, that they refuse to live over a saloon. No formal organization is necessary. Let each person refuse to do as suggested, and be faithful and persistent, and the de-diamonded rum-seller and his driveling victim, if not altogether driven out, will certainly not be so obtrusive.

TEMPERANCE NEWS AND NOTES. According to a recent statement, there are Sweden alone 300,000 total abstainers. In 1892 the city of New York paid for its school \$4,000,000, for its amusement bill \$7,000,000 and for its drink bill \$60,000,000.

A law in Denmark provides that all drunken persons shall be taken to their homes in carriages at the expense of the publican who supplied them with liquor. In the Argentine Republic, instead of fining a drunkard, they sentence him to sweep the streets for eight days; and a similar punishment exists in St. Petersburg. In the recent report of the Massachusetts State Board of Charities it is stated that the proportion of crime traceable to intemperance must be set down, as heretofore, at not less than four-fifths.

Temperance is at once a principle, a motive, and a practice. Its principle is purity, for the sake of the highest uses of life. Its motive is abstinence for the sake of good. Its practice is abstention for the sake of the noble ideal and of being.

HOUSEHOLD MATTERS.

GERMAN CORN CAKES. Beat two eggs without separating, add a quarter of a teaspoonful of salt and a quarter of a cup of granulated corn meal. This should be about the consistency of molasses. Put a tablespoonful of butter into a frying-pan, when melted and hot turn in this corn cake. Flatten it round, as you would a griddle cake, and half an inch thick. Fry on one side, turn and fry on the other. This you will recognize as German farina cake, and we make use of corn meal instead of farina. Cut this cake into dice, throw them into the soup tureen and pour over the hot soup, which may be clear soup, puree of beans, or any light cream soup.—Household News.

TO PRESERVE CITRONS. Pare the citrons and cut them into slices about an inch and a half thick, then into strips the same thickness, leaving them the full length of the fruit; take out all the seeds with a small knife, then weigh, and to each pound of citron put a pound of white sugar; make a syrup; to ten pounds put a pint of water and simmer gently for twenty minutes; then put in the citron and boil one hour, or until tender. Before taking off put in two lemons, sliced thin—seeds taken out—and two ounces of root ginger. Do not let them boil long after lemon and ginger are added; do not stir while boiling. The above is very fine if carefully made.—Detroit Free Press.

SOUTHERN SWEET PICKLES. A delicious sweet pickle is made of watermelon rind by preparing it as far as the salt and alum baths are concerned, precisely as for preserving. Pack in jars and cover with boiling spiced vinegar, using a pint of strong vinegar and a pound and a half of brown sugar to every two pounds of fruit. Spice to taste with stick cinnamon, mace and whole ginger root. Boil these spices with the vinegar and sugar. Let the fruit stand in this twenty-four hours, then lay the vinegar to a boil again; pour over the fruit and repeat this the third time; cover closely. The pickle is ready for use at once. They are perfectly delicious when well made, crisp and a rich color.—New York World.

CHOCOLATE PUDDING. Reserve one gill of milk from a quart, and put the remainder on the fire in a double boiler. Mix three tablespoonfuls of cornstarch with the cold milk. Beat two eggs with half a cupful of powdered sugar and half a teaspoonful of salt. Add this to the cornstarch and milk, and stir into the boiling milk, beating well for a minute. Shave fine two ounces of chocolate, and put it into a small pan with four tablespoonfuls of sugar and two of boiling water. Stir over a hot fire until smooth and glossy; then beat into the hot pudding. Cook the pudding in all ten minutes, counting from the time the eggs and cornstarch are added. Serve cold with powdered sugar and cream. This pudding can be poured while hot into little cups which have been rinsed in cold water. At serving time turn out on a flat dish making a circle, and fill the center of the dish with whipped cream flavored with sugar and vanilla. The eggs may be omitted, in which case use one more tablespoonful of cornstarch.—Boston Cultivator.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS. Core apples before paring and there is less danger of their breaking. Green tea will revive rusty black lace and render it as good as new. The tone of the piano improves when the instrument is moved from the wall of the room. The white of an egg, with a little water and sugar, is good for children with irritable stomachs. A quart of milk, in which the juice of three Mandarin oranges has been squeezed, is said to be a refreshing lotion for the complexion. If a mirror be placed where sunlight, or a very strong light falls directly upon it, the quicksilver will be liable to dissolve, leaving dark spots on the glass. If tea be ground like coffee, or crushed immediately before hot water is poured upon it, it will yield nearly double the amount of its exhilarating qualities. A good waterproof paper for covering jars used in preserving may be made by brushing over the paper with boiled linseed oil and suspending it over a line until dry. After the juice is squeezed from lemons, the peels are useful for rubbing brass. Dip them in common salt, rub the brass thoroughly, then brush with dry fatidric.

A little kerosene oil rubbed briskly over the spots on dark clothing, will brighten the garments and remove the stains almost like magic. The kerosene will evaporate quickly and leave no stain. One of the simplest methods to remove fruit stains from linen or cambie is to place the stained part over a bowl and continue pouring boiling water through until the stain disappears. If this be done soon after the article is stained, there will be no trouble in most cases. The water must be boiling hot. To remove the odor of onions from kettles and saucapans, put some wood ashes into the utensil, add boiling water and let it stand for a short time on the back part of the stove. If you have no wood ashes use potash or soda with water, then wash it in hot suds. All kettles in which onions, cabbage or turnips have been cooked should be washed in this way.

Curious Facts. Texas has a town named "Jonah." Oranges are grown in every corner of the world. There are three harvests a year in some parts of India. Peaches, called Persian apples, were known in Europe before the Christian era.

Macaroni is one of the things those who are fighting obesity should eschew. Two postoffices in North Carolina are respectively named "Joy" and "Worry." The first illustrated Bible ever published was the Nuremberg Bible, printed in 1476.

A surgical operation at Rochester, N. Y., a finger has been substituted for a nose upon Fred Darcey. June is the favorite month for suicides, and Tuesdays and Thursdays the favorite days of the week. The "tears ran down my aching brow," is an allegation on a tombstone in a San Francisco cemetery.

Grasshopper soup, of which Stanley wrote as a luxury in Africa, has been experimented with in Paris with success. Quill pens were used A. D. 553; steel pens were invented by Wals, of England, 1835, and improved by Gillot, 1822.

Guttapercha was introduced into Europe from Malacca in 1822. The annual consumption now amounts to 4,000,000 pounds. The Mayor of Shepherdstown, West Virginia, recently fined himself for letting his cow run at large in violation of a town ordinance.

Horse bread is still made in some parts of Sweden, the Tyrol and Switzerland. When the driver reaches an inn he lays for his horse a broad, flat cake or some of oatmeal. Two men, others, dead, but with fur in fine condition, came ashore on the beach between North Cove and Westport, Washington, the other day. The skins are worth \$100 or more apiece.

One specimen of the boobah tree examined by Humboldt proved to be 5150 years old. The great naturalist, in speaking of it, said: "It was undoubtedly the oldest organic monument on our planet." A duck and an owl were shipped in the same box by a fancier from Orlando, Fla., to the North the other day. Upon the arrival of the box at its destination it was found that the owl had actually destroyed its traveling companion.

When a man was swimming across the river, at Clarion, Penn., recently, "he came near being drowned by an immense eel winding itself around his legs. After considerable trouble he killed the eel, which measured over three feet in length." The oldest man and woman in Pennsylvania, and probably in the United States, according to the same source, are Mary McDonald, aged 92, and John Gibson, aged 91, both inmates of the Home for the Aged and Infirm Colored Persons in Philadelphia.

Domestic Tea Culture. About ten years ago the then Commissioner of Agriculture, under the direction of Congress, expended a small appropriation made for the purpose of ascertaining whether the tea leaf could be grown in any part of the United States in such quantities as would warrant the fostering of the industry for commercial purposes. The result at the experiment, which was made in one of the Southern States, demonstrated that the soil was too dry, the average temperature too low, and that it would require much irrigation and outlay of much money and care to carry out the project. It was accordingly abandoned by the Government as a failure. The trial was so thorough that the department has since expended nothing in further experiments. Not long since Doctor Charles E. Shepard wrote to ex-Secretary Hubert, requesting his co-operation in further experimenting with the production of tea. On the doctor's request Secretary Busk wrote the Secretary of State to request the United States Consuls at the various tea ports to send samples of the seed of the tea grown there. The seed was forwarded to Doctor Shepard, which action ended whatever pecuniary interest the department had in the experiment.

Doctor Shepard selected Pinehurst, S. C., where he established an experimental station at his own expense and began the propagation of the plant. He has made a report to the Secretary of Agriculture, which will be incorporated in the annual report of the department on the progress of the plant. While he has had more success than did the department in growing the leaf, and it is quite hopeful of better results, it is plain that the conditions are such that as an industry tea growing in the United States can never be profitably conducted in competition with China, India and Japan.—Washington Star.

CURIOS FACTS.

Curious Facts. Texas has a town named "Jonah." Oranges are grown in every corner of the world. There are three harvests a year in some parts of India. Peaches, called Persian apples, were known in Europe before the Christian era.

Macaroni is one of the things those who are fighting obesity should eschew. Two postoffices in North Carolina are respectively named "Joy" and "Worry." The first illustrated Bible ever published was the Nuremberg Bible, printed in 1476.

A surgical operation at Rochester, N. Y., a finger has been substituted for a nose upon Fred Darcey. June is the favorite month for suicides, and Tuesdays and Thursdays the favorite days of the week. The "tears ran down my aching brow," is an allegation on a tombstone in a San Francisco cemetery.

Grasshopper soup, of which Stanley wrote as a luxury in Africa, has been experimented with in Paris with success. Quill pens were used A. D. 553; steel pens were invented by Wals, of England, 1835, and improved by Gillot, 1822.

Guttapercha was introduced into Europe from Malacca in 1822. The annual consumption now amounts to 4,000,000 pounds. The Mayor of Shepherdstown, West Virginia, recently fined himself for letting his cow run at large in violation of a town ordinance.

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The Queen of the Antilles. Jamaica has perhaps made greater strides in the way of progress than any of England's smaller colonies during the past twenty-five years, and has some right now to call herself "the Queen of the Antilles." Among the evidences of improvement may be cited the hotels which have sprung up in the island, for the building of one of which \$120,000 was expended. Then the Americans are laying lines of railway through the best part of the island, and the fruit cultivation is now as productive as that of sugar, while the price of land has risen enormously. Carlyle's shade would be astonished to hear that the once thriftless natives have managed to put by nearly \$2,500,000 in their savings banks.—London World.