

## GIBRALTER MISSION.

BY ELDER EDWARD STEVENSON.

## LETTER NO. 2.

March 8, 1853.—The morning was fair and beautiful. My feelings were peculiar as I gazed upon the stupendous rock of Gibraltar rising from the Mediterranean Sea to the height of 1400 feet. And was it strange to have those feelings, as it was not only the land of my birth, but the field of my future labors in the ministry?

As this place is noted by travelers, it may not be amiss to give a brief historical account thereof, and then return to my missionary labors. Historians from very early periods have noticed Gibraltar as Mons Calp, by a well known mythological fiction denominating it, and Mons Abyla on the opposite coast in Africa the Pillars of Hercules. The period when it began to be remarkable for its natural strength and situation seems to have been in the eighth century, when the Saracens, a powerful nation in the East, and along the coast of Africa, invaded Spain, and soon made themselves masters of the whole country.

The Gothic kingdom, which had existed in Spain for 300 years, was, previous to the invasion of the Saracens, distracted with intestine divisions. The nation, having neglected the military discipline of their ancestors, and their monarch, Roderick, a profligate prince, not a little accelerated their ruin by ravishing the daughter of Count Julian, a nobleman of great wealth and influence, and Governor of Cluta in Africa.

To avenge the dishonor done his family, he combined with other discontented chiefs, who were ripe for a revolt; being however too weak, the Count retired with his family into Africa, and acquainted Mousa, Saracen governor of the western provinces, of the divided state of the empire, promising if he would attempt to dethrone Roderick, to assist him with his own interests and friends. Mousa communicated the project to his sovereign the Caliph Ab-Wallid Ebn Abdalmalik, who agreed, and sent a detachment of 100 horse and 400 foot, who embarked in the year 711 under the command of Tarif Ebn Zarcia, attended by Count Julian and other Gothic noblemen, passing the Herculean Straits, landed on the coast of Spain, near the present town of Algeiras, and opposite Gibraltar, directly across the bay, which is just five miles. Finding but little opposition, he ravaged the country and neighboring towns, and returned laden with spoils to report the success of his first expedition.

Mousa, elated with the prospect, the following year, embarked 12,000 men, Tarif having chief command, passed the Rapid Strait, and landed on the isthmus between Mons Calp and the continent.

Let me here remark that Gibraltar or Mons Calp lies south of the isthmus, being exclusive of the isthmus, three miles in length, and half a mile in width, and only seven miles in circumference, rising at the north 1400 feet perpendicularly, and lowering at the south point some 300 feet. The back or east side is also perpendicular; not even a footman can at the present time ascend it. The west side, in front of the bay, descends more gradually to the base, where the garrison now stands; the buildings elevated one above the other, the whole being solid rock, excepting a small portion of the lower part of the town, which is built on a bed of red sand.

There is but little soil on the rock, consequently but few gardens, which have been made with much difficulty and expense. There is some shrubbery and small trees on the front, intermixed with weeds and grass, during the spring rains, upon which the Spaniards herd a few goats by permission of his excellency the governor.

The summers are very hot and dry, having scarce any rain after June until fall, when everything dries up, excepting it is watered. It is remarkable that during the winter no snow, and scarce ever frost is to be seen on the rock, while snow may be seen both on the mountains of Spain on the north, and Africa on the south, which is 15 miles from the south point, across the straits at the nearest point. The straits run from the west, dividing Spain from Africa, being in the narrowest point about ten miles in width.

Gibraltar is the strongest fortification in the world, and of great service to the British fleet, being a great place of ancor and resort, as the garrison is never without seven years' supply of both food and stores, ammunition, cannon, &c. Water is secured in tanks or cisterns during the spring and fall rains, conducted from the steep rock, which not only supplies the place, but Her Majesty's steamers, men-of-war, &c., which often call there for supplies.

The Spaniards, seeing the utility and importance of this stronghold, are much chagrined at their dispossession. Five hundred at one time partook of the sacrament, not to eat, drink, nor sleep until they repossessed it: this was in an early day, which probably I may hereafter notice.

But to return to the army of 12,000 men on the isthmus. Tarif, being determined to call the country his own, also to secure communication with Africa, seeing the strong natural situation of Mons Calp, ordered a castle erected on the side of the hill, to cover his retreat if required, and secure a permanent post. The main part of the castle yet remains; and from an inscription over the principal gate, before it was pulled down, the period of its being finished is ascertained to be about the year 725.

Tarif, leaving a garrison at the foot of Mons Calp (which was called by the Saracens in compliment to their general, Gibel Tarif, or the Mountain of Tarif, and thence Gibraltar), marched into the country, and surprised many towns. King Roderick, hearing of Tarif's approach, assembled a numerous body of troops to oppose his progress. Both armies met, and a bloody conflict ensued. The victory was for a long time doubtful; but the Gothic army, being raw and undisciplined, and part disaffected and joining the Saracens, Tarif at length prevailed, and by this victory was soon in possession of the whole country.

At length the Goths or Spaniards resumed their former discipline and valor, while their conquerors declined into luxury and effeminacy. The result was, the Goths began to regain many of their former possessions, and resolved to reject entirely the Arabic yoke; the infidels were routed, and suffered much loss.

Although Gibraltar increased in importance, Algeiras, on the opposite, nearly obscured Gibraltar in the history of those times.

In the beginning of the fourteenth century, we find Gibraltar in possession of the Christians, being taken by Ferdinand, king of Castile, and remained in the possession

of the Spaniards till 1333, when Abomelique, son of the Emperor of Fez, was dispatched with further assistance to the Moorish king of Granada, who immediately laid siege to Gibraltar.

Abomelique commenced his attack on the castle with great bravery, and the Spanish governor, Vasco Perez de Meyra, defended it with equal obstinacy; but Perez, having embezzled the money which was advanced to victual the garrison, the troops and inhabitants suffered great distress, and after five months surrendered.

Five days after, Alonso attacked Gibraltar at three points. Several serious attacks had been made on the castle when Matonet, king of Granada, joining Abomelique's forces, encamped in the rear of the Spaniards, extending across the isthmus from the bay to the Mediterranean. Being thus cut off, Alonso, after much obstinacy, was obliged to retire with his army.

Alonso, not being satisfied with his defeat, encamped before Gibraltar in the beginning of 1349, laying waste the gardens and houses of pleasure in its neighborhood. In the course of several months the castle was almost deduced to a capitulation. At this critical period, a pestilential disease swept away many of the besiegers, amongst whom was Alonso, who expired March 26, 1350, when the siege was raised.

The descendants of Abomelique remained in quiet possession until 1410, when Jusaf III., king of Granada, took it. The following year the inhabitants revolted against the Granadan Alcadia, and drove him from the castle, and wrote to the Emperor of Morocco to be taken under his protection. The emperor dispatched his brother Sayd with 1000 horse and 2000 foot to their assistance.

The king of Granada, being informed that Sayd had garrisoned the castle, marched with an army, sending his fleet around to the bay, and appeared before the place in 1411. Sayd met him, but being worsted, retreated within the castle, and being much distressed for want of provisions submitted.

In 1435, Henry de Guzman, Count de Niebla, formed a design of attacking Gibraltar by land and sea; but imprudently skirmishing with the garrison from his galleys, before his son, John de Guzman, arrived with his land forces, he was defeated and forced to retreat, in which confusion he himself lost his life, and many of his followers were killed and drowned.

In 1462, a civil war breaking out in Granada, a great part of the garrison of Gibraltar was withdrawn; consequently Gibraltar was besieged, and surrendered to John de Guzman, Duke of Medina Sidonia.

From that period it has remained in the hands of the Christians, having been in possession of the Mahometans 748 years. Henry IV. of Castile and Leon, being pleased with the conquest, added it to his royal titles, and gave it for arms "gules," a castle proper, with a key pendant to the gate, (alluding to its being the key of the Mediterranean), which arms have ever since been continued. Pedro de Porras was appointed governor, but King Henry the succeeding year suppressed him, giving the command to Don Bertrand.

In the year 1540, Piali Tamei, one of the barbarous captains, surprised and pillaged Gibraltar.

In 1689, during the reign of Charles V., the fortifications of the town were modernized, and several additions made by Daniel Speckel, the emperor's engineer. After which the place was thought impregnable.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE LUNGS.**—Much has been said and written upon diet, eating and drinking; but I do not recollect ever noticing a remark in any writer upon breathing, or the manner of breathing. Multitudes, and especially ladies in easy circumstances, contract a destructive mode of breathing. They suppress their breathing, and contract the habit of short, quick breathing, not carried half-way down the chest, and scarcely expanding the lower portions of the chest at all. Lacing the bottom of the chest also greatly increases this evil, and confirms a bad habit of breathing.

Children that move about a good deal in the open air, and in no way laced, breathe deep and full to the chest, and every part of it. So also with most out-door laborers, and persons who take a great deal of exercise in the open air, because the lungs give us the power of action, and the more exercise we take, especially out of doors, the larger the lungs become and the less liable to disease. In all occupations that require standing keep the body straight. If at table, let it be high and raised up, nearly to the arm-pits, so as not to require you to stoop; you will find the employment much easier, not one half so fatiguing, whilst the form of the chest and the symmetry of the figure will remain perfect. You have noticed the fact that a vast many tall ladies stoop, whilst a great many short ones are straight. This arises, I think, from the table at which they sit to work or study being medium height; far too low for a tall person, and about right for a short person. This should be carefully regarded and corrected, so that each lady may occupy herself at a table suited to her, and thus prevent the possibility of the necessity of stooping.

**MECHANICS.**—St. Paul was a mechanic—a maker of tents from goat's hair; and in the lecturer's opinion he was a model mechanic. He was not only a thorough workman at his trade, but was a scholar, a perfect master, not only of his native Hebrew, but of three foreign tongues—a knowledge of which he obtained by close application to study during his leisure hours while serving his apprenticeship. It was a custom among the Jews to teach their sons some trade—a custom not confined to the poorer classes, but also practiced by the wealthy, and it was a common proverb among them, that if a father did not teach his son a mechanical occupation he taught him to steal. This custom was a wise one; and if the fathers of the present day would imitate their example, their wrinkled cheeks would not so often blush for the helplessness, and not unfrequently criminal conduct of their offspring.

Even if a father intended his son for one of the professions, it would be an incalculable benefit to the son to instruct him in some branch of mechanism. His education would not only be more complete and healthy, but he might at some future time, in case of failure in his profession find his trade very convenient as a means of earning his

bread; and he must necessarily be more competent in mechanical from his professional education. An educated mechanic was a model machine, while an uneducated mechanic was merely a machine working under the superintendence of another man's brain.

Let the rich and the proud no longer look upon mechanism as degrading to him who adopts a branch of it as his calling. It is a noble calling—as noble as the indolence and inactivity of wealth is ignoble.—[Rev. Dr. Adams.]

**A FULL BLOODED AMERICAN.**—Tim Mullen, a jolly-looking tar, with the richest of brogues, applied at the Custom House the other day for "purtecton" as an American citizen. He was asked for his naturalization papers.—"Me nateral papers, is it, your honor wants," said Tim, with an insinuating grin, "an' me a full blooded American?"

"You don't mean to say that you were not born in Ireland?"

"Born in Ireland," replied Tim. "Sure I was. But thin, your honor, I kem from Cork to New Orleans last summer, an' there the bloody-minded musketeers run their bills into every inch of me, an' sucked out every drop of Irish blood, good luck to 'em, an' now I'm a full-blooded American."

There was some philosophy as well as fun in this reasoning, but it had no effect; and the last that was seen of Tim he was on his way to the City Hall, to look for "the man that sells the nateral papers."

**PERSONAL BEAUTY.**—Just about the last inheritance which a parent should wish a child—whether male or female—is personal beauty. It is about the poorest kind of capital to stand in the world with. Who ever saw a beauty worth the first red cent? We mean what the world calls beauty, for there is a kind of beauty more than skin deep, which the world does not fully recognise. It is not that of which we speak. But the girl of whom all the fops and fools go into ecstasies over and about, we would as soon a child of ours should be, not quite so beautiful. And then your handsome young man over and about whom all the foolish school girls are in ecstasies, what chance has he of ever being anybody? A sad destroyer of ambition is beauty. From being fitted for shallow pates of the other sex who can appreciate nothing else, they become content with a low standard of attainment, and happy only when dancing attendance upon those who are pleased with their insipidity.

**FASHIONS.**—Fashions change with the years. A half century since, the most fashionable woman in London was that female spendthrift who made the largest display of green peas at Christmas. Twenty years ago, the leader of the fashionable was that "gent" who most drove like a cabman, and talked like a horse jockey. The exquisite of this generation differs from all his predecessors, and looks for a season's immortality, not to dogs or phaetons, but to the number of yards of door-mat that he can work into an overcoat.

**IMPORTANT INVENTION.**—Mr. Samuel Weed of Middlesex, Mass., has invented a machine for making printers' types, embossing and embellishing types of all descriptions, of steel, iron, brass, copper and type metal, at an expense, it is said, less than that of the types made in the ordinary mode of casting, and in a more perfect manner. The editor of the Middlesex Journal says he has seen specimens of the types, and he considers the invention one of the most important of the age.

**HOW TO MAKE MEN BRAVE.**—Sir Thomas Fitzgerald, famous for flogging, had raised a regiment of pardoned peasantry in the sister kingdom, which he called the "Ancient Irish." He and his corps were sent on foreign service. On his return he boasted frequently of their bravery, and that no other troops were so forward to face the enemy. "No wonder," said Ned Lysaght; "Thanks to your flogging, they were ashamed to show their backs."

**SURVIVED THREE YEARS BURIAL.**—The Elgin (Canada) Courant relates that a printer connected with that office buried a toad in his garden more than three years ago, about three feet below the surface, and that on being dug up a few days ago, toady, after staring for a moment with its bright, beautiful eyes, leaped away as nimbly as if it had been crossing a foot path.

**A Rutland rumseller,** being recently before a grand jury as a culprit, assumed the attitude of an accuser of the authorities, saying:—"It is a pity I was disturbed. The people were becoming so well trained that they took liquors from me which were two thirds water. If I had been left alone, I think they would have drank clear water before six months."

Goeth says: The grand secret of good writing seems to be in this very simple maxim: Be sure you have an idea before you attempt to express it. If you clearly comprehend in your own mind what you wish to communicate, nature and reason, together with a little practice, will most certainly teach you how to say it in an appropriate manner.

A Buffalo Chief, the head man of the Chippewa nation, died lately in the Lake Superior region, at the advanced age of one hundred years. He is said to have been noted for his rare integrity, wisdom in council, power as an orator, and magnanimity as a warrior. His funeral pageant was attended by a large concourse of Indians.—[Ex.]

**A slattern always makes a poor cook.** The woman who don't dress herself, has never yet succeeded in dressing a beef steak properly. Young men who contemplate marriage will please notice.

A roll of papyrus dug up from the ruins of Luxor is found to contain pleadings at the Greek bar three centuries older than the Christian era.

**Seven years ago** Myron H. Clark kept a one horse hardware store. In 1849, Myron H. Clark was a deputy sheriff. In 1850, Myron H. Clark was one of the marshalls for taking the census of a one-horse village. In 1853, Myron H. Clark was elected Senator—Myron H. Clark is now Governor. Whether Myron H. Clark will go still higher remains to be seen. If he should, it would only show that a man's position in this world depends less upon his deserts than upon "surrounding circumstances." Think of Myron H. Clark, and never say die. The man who will be President in 1870 is now, probably, peddling India rubber rat traps. Again we repeat, never despair.—[Albany Police Tribune.]

**CURE FOR RHEUMATISM.**—Lemon juice is recommended as a certain cure for acute inflammatory rheumatism. It is given in quantities of a table spoonful to twice the quantity of cold water, with sugar, every hour. The effect of the lemon juice was almost instantaneous in one case mentioned; in ten days the worst case was cured, and in seven the other was able to go out, and there was a flexibility of the joints of the cured quite unusual in recovery after other modes of treatment. We know of several recent cures of severe cases.

**SIMPLE CURE FOR THE BITE OF A RATTLESNAKE.**—The Journal, printed at Madison, Wis., relates the following singular recovery from the bite of a rattlesnake:—"We are informed by Dr. Ward that the child of Mr. White, that was bitten by a rattlesnake last week, has recovered.—The remedy used was so simple and attainable by every one that it ought to be generally known. The hand which was bitten and arm were enveloped in a poultice of moistened ashes and the child made to drink freely of whisky punch."

**GLACIAL SEA IN YORKSHIRE.**—Professor Phillips, of England, states that, in a comparatively modern geological period every part of Yorkshire below the level of 1,500 feet was covered by the waters of a glacial sea. Icebergs appear to have floated over the whole of the Hull district, depositing, where they melted or overturned, the materials brought from the higher hills.—Amongst those were blocks of stone from Cumberland and the West Riding, now found perched on the limestone hills. Some of them must have come over the Pass of Stainmoor, a height of 1,440 feet.

Can any one say why it is considered impolite for gentlemen to go in the presence of ladies in their shirt sleeves, while it is considered correct for ladies themselves to appear before gentlemen without any sleeves at all? We merely ask for information.—[Ex.]

**Every man ought to aim at eminence,** not by pulling others down, but by raising himself, and enjoy the pleasure of his own superiority, whether imaginary or real, without interrupting others in the same felicity.

**M. Berthelot,** a young French chemist, has made the discovery that alcohol can be produced directly from olefant gas, which can be extracted in large quantities from coal.

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