

SELF-EDUCATION: HOW TO GET IT.

What can a busy man or woman do to keep the results of his school education and carry on the process still further? In school we acquire either facts or principles; in life we must learn to apply those facts and principles in practical affairs, or they are useless both to us and others. It is applied knowledge which is profitable. The man who simply knows, but does not know how to use what he knows, might, for all practical purposes, as well not know. How, in a busy life, can we get knowledge and apply knowledge? I simply want in this article to give some suggestive hints of a practical nature in answer to these questions.

1. First, by observation. Life is all the time talking to us. He will be always learning who keeps his eyes open and ears open. Some men are too busy, others too lazy, and still others too self-conceited to hear what life has to teach them. We have two eyes, two ears, and two nostrils to acquire information, and one tongue with which to give it.

He is a wise man who understands the proportion which this fact indicates, and devotes six times as much energy to filling up as to giving out. We have somewhere read the story of the way in which the automatic valve-gear of the steam-engine was invented. A boy was set to open and close the valves to let the steam in and out of the cylinder. He rigged up a contrivance by which he made the engine open and close on its own valves. He did not vouch for the truth of the story, and have not time to verify it, but it shows what might be, and this illustrates as well as history the point which I wish to illustrate. We see things but do not observe them; that is, we do not reflectively see them. Dr. Jenner observed that girls who took the cow-pox were safe from the small-pox; hence inoculation. Dr. Newton observed the apple fall from the tree; hence, the discovery of the law of the attraction of gravitation. I know an Indian boy who went to Hampton Institute, was put into the engine-room as assistant, in three months' time, by simply observing the movements of the engine and studying its various parts, had acquired the capacity to set right any little thing that went wrong, without assistance. This man, though he was an Indian, had the kind of brains that insure success in practical life.

3. Good companions are great teachers. The living teacher is better than the dead one. Every man knows something better than you know it, and will be willing to tell it if you are willing to listen to the telling. Most men like to impart knowledge; but there is a choice of teachers; that is, of companions. The wise man will pick out companions wiser than himself. He will seek companionship that is educative and stimulating, not merely that which is alluring and enjoyable. The advantage of school or college is largely the advantage of intellectual companionship. Way study art in Rome, or music in Berlin, or architecture in Paris, or literature in Oxford? Chiefly because in each one of these centers there is an art, musical, architectural, or literary atmosphere. We can get the books and the technical teaching in America, but not the rich and broad companionship.

In the long run, companions mould character. A man is made as well as known by, the companionship he keeps. He who lives with pigs will learn to wallow; he who lives with birds will learn to fly. The graduate of the billiard-room or bowling alley or pool room learns nothing in its companionship. Do not ask, Will this do me any harm? ask, Will it do me any good? The companionship of much of what we call "society" is little or no better. Small talk is the smallest of all microscopic subjects—a Sahara of sand to a grain of gold. But did not Christ go into all kinds of society? Yes; but he did not talk all kinds of gossip. Society did not impress itself upon him, he impressed himself on society. If you can turn the companionship of the bar-room into a literary club, and come out wiser and better than you went in, the missionary result may compensate for the hazardous venture. It will be safe for you to go into all kinds of society if you are as strong as Christ was, and will go in Christ's spirit. But I would like to put here, and in a paragraph by itself, that I may the more impress it upon my young readers, this one sentence, easy to remember, difficult to act upon:

If you have a companion from whom you get no good, and to whom you are giving no good, drop him.

3. The best place to find companionship ought to be home. The first duty of the father and mother is to furnish helpful companionship in the home. But there are many homeless people, and many homes that are not educative, and no homes that can furnish all the education that our sons and daughters need. Where shall we spend our evenings? I grant that this question is easier asked than answered, but it is easier to give the negative answer. Do not spend them in the barroom, or with the loafers in the country store or the village post-office. If there is no literary life a going, find at least one companion who will read with you; then a second; three are enough to make a sympathetic circle. Church prayer-meetings are not always alluring, not always even, unfortunately, instructive; but they furnish at least better companionship than the street corners. In the larger towns there are reading rooms, liter-

ary clubs, Young Men's Christian Associations, and similar organizations. No man need perish with thirst in most of our American communities.

4. Reading is an educator; whether it is a good or bad educator depends on what you read. Be cautious about the time you spend in reading newspapers. Our newspapers are magnificent news-gatherers; but they are not edited; all sorts of news are thrown into these pell mell. The salacious divorce suit may occupy a column, and the report of a scientific exploration or discovery a paragraph. In reading the newspaper you must be your own editor. Pick out what is worth thinking about afterward; shun all else. This simple rule will enable you to get through your newspaper generally in remarkably short time. Read good literature. No man in this year of grace 1888, who lives in America, needs to be without a good library. The best books are within the reach of the most meager purse. You can get a good companion for as little cost as a good cigar. I have been looking over Harpes & Brothers' cheap publications. I take their series as a type, because I happen to know them well. In the Handy Volume Series they give you sixty five volumes for \$18.50; in the Franklin Square Library, seventy-two volumes for \$18.95. From ten to twenty-five cents will give you a volume of the best literature. The libraries give you, in history, Motley, Freeman, Macaulay, McCarthy; in biography, Bunyan, Scott, Selley, Defoe, Carlyle; in literature, Goethe, Lamb, George Eliot, Walter Scott. These libraries will give you a fairly comprehensive knowledge of English history or of English literature from the earliest ages to the present time, and glimpses of French, German, Latin, and Greek history and literature.

If you do not know enough to frame your own course of reading, fifty cents sent to the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle will furnish you with the outline of a course.

Under such circumstances, he who remains illiterate in America has only himself to blame for his ignorance.

5. Your trouble is perhaps not want of money, but want of time. No! We will have time enough to learn if we have wisdom enough to use the fragments of our time. Henry Ward Beecher used to read between the courses at the dinner-table, and when he got interested in his book would take it for his dessert; Hugh Miller lay prone before the fire studying while his companions were whiling away the time in idle jest and stories; Schliemann as a boy, standing in a queue at the post-office and waiting his turn for letters, utilized the time by studying Greek from a little pocket grammar in his hand. He is a wise economist who does not waste more than half an hour a day in idle gossip, useless conversation, frivolous amusement, or mere vacuity. Half an hour a day is three hours a week, a hundred and fifty in a year, twenty working days, net. The man who uses his fragments of time has nearly one month more in the year than his neighbor who is wasteful of the precious commodity.

I might make other suggestions, but these are as many as I can expect my reader to ponder, remember, and put in practice.—*Locius in the Christian Union, N. Y.*

FATAL EARTHQUAKE.

DETAILS OF THE GREAT DISASTER IN YUNNAN.

The Peking correspondent of the *North China Daily News*, under date of March 22d, gives the first authentic details of the great earthquake at Yunnan, meagre particulars of which came by cable about a month ago. The killed and wounded, according to the memorial in the *Peking Gazette*, is officially given as 400, and the government account makes the suffering and loss by the disaster greater than the private report. The following is the story of the *News* correspondent:

The earthquake that has just been reported to the Emperor as having taken place on January 14th in Yunnan is the most severe found in the Chinese records. It commenced at 6 o'clock in the evening and lasted till 4 o'clock in the morning. During that time there were twelve or fourteen principal shocks, and the destruction of houses and human life was very great. The locality is mountainous and dotted with beautiful lakes. The fine kind of tea called Poo-er-cha comes from the neighborhood, also the copper for which the Yunnan is famous. Not far away are the silver mines of Burmah. It is in this favored spot a few miles south of the Yunnan lake known as Tien-chih that this disaster occurred. The centre of the earthquake was at Shih-ping-chou. The whole extent of country disturbed by the earthquake is about 170 miles in length from east to west and 60 miles from north to south. Shih-ping lies in a sort of central position.

Of the three sorts of earthquakes, the circular, the linear and the vertical, this was of the linear kind, and the direction east-northeast, and west-southwest. This we may judge to be at nearly right angles to the prevailing direction of the valleys, lakes and rivers in that part. From the centre of intensity a little to the west of the city of Shih-ping, there was a decided extension of the earthquake wave northward in the direction of the lake, as well as westward to the city of Wei-yuen, 120 miles. Nothing is said in the *Peking Gazette* of any sinking as in the case of the earth-

quake in Kansu and northern Szechuen four years ago. On that occasion a Yamen in the city of Kial-chen went down under the earth's surface. Judging by the words of the memorial which described that earthquake, it was by no means so destructive as the present one.

On the same day as the Yunnan earthquake there was, one also in Szechuen, so we are told in a native newspaper at Luchou. This, however, has not been authenticated by a report in the *Peking Gazette*. Lu-chou is 350 English miles northeast of the locality where the Yunnan earthquake occurred. The report says that 10,000 persons lost their lives, and that at 2 p.m. two great shocks of earthquake were felt at Wan-han and Pansung. A warlog is appended in the native newspapers against accepting these reports as true, without official confirmation. Among the events of the Shih-ping earthquake, the native newspapers say that the chief mandarin of the city had a leg broken. They also say that the land subsided at Lu chon and became a lake. This place is on the Upper Yangtze and only eighty miles above Chung-king, so that we shall soon learn whether this report is a true one.

On hearing of earthquakes in western China we naturally think of the hot springs and oil wells of those regions as also of the metalliferous deposits. It is known that the metals have many ages ago been poured up in a molten form through fissures in the earth's crust. The crust of the earth is likely to be thinner in those localities than elsewhere, and hence the frequent volcanic disturbances which we hear of in those parts of the earth's surface where the metals are found. The inhabitants of those regions have some compensation for the alarms to which they are often exposed by great botanical and mineral richness and variety and remarkable fertility of the soil. The medicines and chemical waters that cure human maladies are there in abundance, and all sorts of productions grow readily in response to the hopes of the husbandman.

The abstract of the *Imperial Gazette* of May 7, says:

The governor of Yunnan reports the occurrence of a very serious earthquake in the south of the province. The disturbance commenced between 5 and 6 p.m. on the 14th of January last, and lasted till 4 a.m. on the following day. During this period there were ten or more serious shocks, which were accompanied by a noise as of thunder. In Shih-ping, Chien-shui and other district cities the town walls were either thrown down or cracked, while the public offices and temples shared the same fate. At Shih-ping, in the south of the city, eight or nine-tenths of the private houses fell, in the east as many as a half, in the north and west rather less; but still, even there, more than a thousand rooms were left with cracked or slanting walls. Two hundred persons of all ages were crushed to death and more than 300 permanently crippled. There was much loss of life and limb in the surrounding villages, namely: in those to the east, 800 killed and 700 or 800 wounded; to the south, 200 and 400; to the west, 300 and 500; to the north, 100 and 200; making a total inside and outside the city together of more than 4000 killed and wounded. But this does not represent the whole of the suffering caused, for a large majority of the people, rich and poor alike, are left without homes, all their provisions and other property being buried beneath the ruins of their houses.

In the town of Chien-shui itself seven or eight people were crushed to death, and some scores were injured. In the neighboring villages 243 people were killed and 150 or 160 hurt. The suffering there is of a similar nature to that in Shih-ping and its neighborhood. In view of the unprecedented magnitude of the disaster and the vast amount of misery it has caused, the memorialist has instructed the Taotai and the Prefect of the locality to lose not an instant in providing funds and in dispatching special officers to assist the regular authorities in discovering those who are in want and distributing charity to them.

In A-mi Chou, Hsin-hsing Chou and Wei-yuan Ting, though fortunately no lives were lost, a number of houses were thrown down. One of these was the district jail at Wei-yuan Ting, from which all the prisoners consequently escaped. Among the fugitives that have not been recaptured are four men, accessories to the murder of three persons in one family. Orders have been issued to recover the criminals and further to hold an investigation for the purpose of discovering if the escape of the prisoners was due to any connivance on the part of the jailors. Also accounts will be made up and sent in showing the exact amount of money disbursed in charity and the number of persons relieved. The rescript declares that the Emperor is much distressed by this serious calamity, and orders that measures be taken to insure the relief of every single one among the sufferers.

PARIS, May 10.—General Boulanger, in his book, strongly condemns colonial adventures, and says: "As long as Alsace-Lorraine is not restored to us, we have no right to divide our forces, especially when advantages aimed at are not quite clear."

BEN BUTLER.

HE WRITES A REMARKABLE LETTER TO CAPT. W. P. BLACK.

The following letter from Gen. B. F. Butler to Capt. W. P. Black is given to the public through the columns of the local press:

"I am very much obliged to you for your letter, and I am also thankful for the receipt of your argument to the jury in the case of Spies et al., or what will be known in the long history as the 'anarchist case.'"

"Our pleasant acquaintance under the most unpleasant circumstances—the joint unsuccessful advocacy of life for men who were unlawfully convicted and unwisely executed—has given me an insight into your purpose and character, and will make our friendship a lasting one, at least on my side."

"I had not believed it possible that palpable judicial murders could again prevail in this country. They once did in what we have been accustomed to regard as the best and purest days of the colonies. It is less than two centuries since seven men of the highest standing, a majority of whom were revered gentlemen, clergymen, as good and pious men as ever lived, as exemplary in every relation of life as it was possible for men to be, sat in a so-called court of justice, each morning session whereof was opened with fervent prayer to the divine source of all knowledge, grace, and power, to direct the actions of his servants as the judges of that court; and in that court were arraigned day after day poor, miserable, broken-down, superstitious women and children upon the accusation that they had commerce with the devil and used his power as a means of spite upon their neighbors, and as one of the means of inflicting torture because thereof the devil had empowered these poor creatures to shoot common house flies from a distance into the flesh of their neighbors' children, by which they were greatly afflicted. Being put into the bar to be tried, they were not allowed counsel, and, thank God, our profession was not disgraced, because the attorney general was a merchant. The deluded creatures sometimes pleaded guilty, and sometimes not guilty, but in either event they were found guilty and executed, and the pins which were produced in evidence, can now be seen among the records of that court, in the court house of the county of Essex, Massachusetts."

"And beyond all this that court enforced, worse than the tortures of inquisition, dreadful wrongs upon a prisoner in order to accomplish his conviction. Giles Corey was an old man, eighty years of age. He had a daughter some forty years of age, simple-minded, not able to earn her own living, and a small farm, and a piece of land and a house thereon, which he hoped to leave to his daughter at his then impending death. Giles was accused of being a wizard."

"His life had been blameless in everything except his supposed commerce with the devil. Upon ex parte testimony he was indicted for this too great intimacy with the evil one, and set to the bar to be tried for his life."

"Giles knew that if he pleaded not guilty he was sure to be convicted, because that was the doom of the anarchists of that day, and if he pleaded guilty he would be sentenced to death, and in either case the farm would be forfeited to the king. But, if he did not plead at all—such was the law—then he could not be tried at all, and his property could not be forfeited to the king and taken from his daughter. So Giles, stood mute and put the court at defiance."

"And then that court of pious clergymen resorted to a method to make him plead, which had not been in practice in England for two hundred years, and never here; and poor Giles was taken and laid on the ground by the side of the court house on his back, with the flashing sun burning in his eyes and a single cup of water from the ditch of the jail with a crust of bread was given him once in twenty-four hours, and weights were placed upon his body until at last the life was crushed out of him, but not the father's love for his child. He died, but not until his parched tongue protruded from the old man's fevered mouth. It was thrust back by the chief justice with his cane. The cherished daughter inherited."

"Being fully imbued with this knowledge of what good men will do when they are either frightened for their souls or their bodies, it has not been to me a source of so much wonder as it might otherwise have been how the law was administered in frenzy in Chicago. Years hence when you and I have passed away, the cases of Giles Corey and the witches and the cases of the anarchists will be compared by just-minded men more than they are now. I hope there may one fact follow in the anarchists' cases that followed in the witches' cases. Judge Sewall, a reverend gentleman, one of the judges of the witches, before he died learned how greatly he had erred, and sinned before God, and he repented in sackcloth and ashes, literally coming out in the face of his congregation and standing in the broad aisle of the church exclaiming, while his written confession of his sins and folly in the witches case was being read: 'Alas! God have mercy on me for what I have done.'"

"I hope you will live to be present when one of the judges before whom you argued will find it his duty to take a like step; but I fear that while he has had the incredible folly of Judge Sew-

all in the treatment of his prisoners, he won't have the piety of Sewall in publicly appealing to his God for mercy, as an example against all others offending in like manner."

"A learned and upright judge, writing the judicial history of witchcraft in this country sums up as follows: 'If the popular cry is to be the standard of what is right, the security of property is at an end, personal liberty is no longer safe, and the blood of the innocent will often seal the triumph of a popular administration of justice, in the triumph of popular vengeance.'"

"Some later writer on judicial proceedings, comparing the judicial murder of the witches with the trial of the anarchists, will close by saying: 'Alas! how surely from age to age doth history repeat herself. One further fact, which I send to you for your comfort. The determined action of a single member of our profession standing up against this craze brought it to an end. I look for like fruits to come from what you have done.'—*Charlevoix Journal, April 5th, 1888.*"

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

NEW YORK, May 9.—At a meeting of the South Pennsylvania Railroad stockholders this morning \$12,300,000 of the stock out of \$15,000,000 was represented and it was unanimously agreed to go ahead with the work of reorganization and reconstruction.

CHICAGO, May 9.—The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy's statement of earnings and expenses for March and for the quarter ending March 31, was issued today. March was the first full month during which the strike of the engineers and firemen was in progress. The gross earnings for the month were \$1,211,188, a decrease of \$741,493 compared with the corresponding period of last year. The expenses were \$1,357,603, a reduction of \$1,513, while in the net earnings a deficit of \$146,415 is shown, indicating a decrease of \$1,719,970 compared with 1887. For the quarter the gross earnings were \$4,563,000, a decrease of \$2,216,300. Expenses, \$3,848,526, an increase of \$419,422. Net earnings, \$724,473, a decrease of \$2,635,723.

NEW YORK, May 9.—Mrs. Schofield, who figures in the Hatch tragedy, was formerly a resident of San Francisco.

A. J. Severance says that she appeared in San Francisco in 1878, and dealt more or less in mining stocks, and she was known among the stock brokers there as "the widow" and "Libby Stowell."

Janitor Whitehead of the Astor Building, says she told him she came from San Francisco in company with one Mrs. Twitchell, where she had made money speculating in stocks. This was in 1883. She has been known under the name of McCormack, but was not so known in San Francisco. Scofield became acquainted with her in Salt Lake City, where she was known as McCormack. Her antecedents are snaky, and her actions here generally scandalous.

C. D. Ferris, who appears in the case as the brother-in-law of Mrs. Schofield, is described as a first-class business man of noble qualities. Ferris formerly lived in California. He wants Scofield's record in Utah looked up. All the evening papers devote long stories to the tragedy. Hints of blackmail are thrown out by Hatch's friends.

The *World* has the following this evening: Mrs. Sophronia Twitchell told Coronor Levy today that she knew of Mrs. Schofield in San Francisco ten years ago. She was then known as Mrs. Stowell. Mrs. Schofield came to this country when she was a young girl. She took to the stage and before her twentieth year, owned a small theatre in San Francisco and started in a burlesque entitled "Jack and Jill." After that she traveled through the country with a stock company, and in 1879 turned up in New York with nearly \$80,000. With this she speculated in stocks and went into various schemes. One of her failures was the "Passion Play," which she induced Saml Morse to put on the stage of the Twenty-third Street Tabernacle, and for which she provided part of the money. In that unsuccessful venture she was known as Mrs. Johnson. At one point in her career Mrs. Schofield appeared as the wife of a captain whose vessel ran out of San Francisco. The captain died and the mate was lost overboard, and Mrs. Schofield, or Libbie Stowell as she was then called, navigated the ship to port. In recognition of her pluck and ability, the Maritime Exchange of San Francisco presented her with a handsome silver service.

BERLIN, May 9.—The Emperor is free from fever today. The cannula was changed this morning and the Emperor rose at 8 o'clock and lay on the sofa in his study, where he was visited by the Crown Princess. Councillor Wilnowski also called and made a report. The Crown Prince called at the castle and inquired after the Empress.

The Emperor passed a very satisfactory day. He remained out of bed until 8:30 p.m., and did not feel especially tired. This evening he had a slight fever. The doctors, when inserting the cannula last evening, took the opportunity to examine the wound in the Emperor's throat. They express the hope of a further improvement of the patient's condition.

The Emperor's breathing was more quiet. The surface of the external wound in the throat, which was recently the seat of inflammation, was cicatrized.