THE STUDY OF FACES.

A Science Which Is Capable of Being Re-

Reverend John Kaspar Lavater, a citizen of Zurich, was the first to prove that physiognomy is a science, which can be reduced to fixed rules. In a series of remarkable essays, with many illustrations, he claims the possibility of a complete system, mental states being revealed by the occipital muscle, and the rectus superior of the eye. Lavater was inspired with a genuine love for the science, ranking no study higher, since he says, "What a ray of divinity in that countenance! Every thing declares it to be a copy after a Divine Original." Lavater himself is large-minded, making many concessions and finding in "some faces, which belong to chameleon-souls, the possibilities of what men might and ought to be." Zopyrus, detecting brutal qualities in the face of Socrates, was confirmed in his statement by the philosopher himself, we read, as he admitted that such had indeed been his traits in early life, but that, by effort he eradicated them. Lavater instances many well-known faces, among others that of Cicero, which he characterizes as "luminous and intelligent," that of Plato in which he finds "wisdom almost divine," and Brutus, in which he sees "unshaken firmness." "Wisdom and probity" are clear to him in Marcus Aurelius, and he discovers the "father of poets" in Homer's countenance. "I have seen a criminal with a face like one of Guido's angels," says one author. To this Lawater well replies that "a man born with happy disposition with delicate and irritable fibers, may plunge into crime, and yet be better than a hundred others, who pass for good, and who are incapable of excess." Poets, in all ages and countries, have been believers in physiognomy. Let us take testimony from them. Herder speaks of the eyes as "windows of the soul." Shakespeare says, "there's mo art to find the mind's construction in the face." Milton and Dryden are of the same mind, as the former says, "cruel his eye," and the latter sees "counsel" in the human countenance. "Manly majesty sate in his front, and darted from his eyes, commanding all he viewed," we read in Œdipus. Aristotle, and in modern times our own Emerson, perceived in human countenances traits resembling the brute creation. Coarseness, cruelty, vanity and shallowness betray themselves, while refinement, culture, kindness, the spiritual life will transform the most ordinary features. Lavater became so skilled, after years of study, that he could distinguish the farmers from one part of England from those of another, merely by observation of the differences in their faces. The modern student will find this science a fascinating one. The profiles of Dante, Savonarola and George Eliot resemble each other. In the faces of Shakespeare and Burns the forehead and eyes express lofty intelligence combined with poetic sensibility. In Shelley's broad brow and feminine beauty we recognize the rare and sensitive spirit that dwelt within, even as seen in the countenance of our own beloyed Haw-Had Cleopatra's nose different shape, says one writer, the fortunes of the world would have been changed. The beauty of Helen was the cause of the Trojan war. The face of Mary of Scotland won for her many friends, and made the ill-favored Queen of England her life-long and vindictive foe .- Anna Olcott Commelin, in Open

JACK'S COSTLY RIDE.

An English Tar Mounts the Bronze Steed of Peter the Great.

Among the most famous "sights" of St. Petersburg is a fine equestrian statue in bronze of its renowned creator, Peter the Great. The figure-which stands on the left bank of the Neva, opposite the Senate House-is appropriately mounted on a huge block of grey granite from East Finland, which was one of Peter's first conquests. The great Czar is represented as sitting erect on a rearing horse, and pointing with his right hand to the spot on the opposite bank where he built with his own hands in 1704 the first house of his new capital, while beneath his horse's hoofs lies crushed the serpent that typifies the grovelling ignorance and superstition which impeded his grand designs. Now, it happened that one cold autumn night an English sailor, who had just landed from a newly arrived cargo steamer, was strolling back across the Senate House-square, and, as his ill-luck would have it, stopped to take a passing look at the imperial statue. "Well, if that's the thing they make such a fuss about, I don't think much of it!" cried Jack, disthought it was. Why; I could climb to the top of it myself; and I will, too." No sooner said than done. Over the railings went bold Jack, and, clawing his way nimbly up the roughened surface of the granite pedestal, he succeeded in clutching first the tail of the serpent and then that of the horse, and found himself in a trice astride of the latter, close behind the bronze figure of the Czar. So far so good, but just at that critical moment the moon clouded over, and poor Jack could not see how on earth to get down again. What was to be done? To stay where he was perched on that cold bronze, would be little better than suicide on such a bitter night. To descend would be to risk breaking his neck or limbs; and to call for help would de-liver him ot once into the hands of the police. But the question was unexpect-edly settled for him. His muttered exclamations of dismay caught the quick ears of a passing patrol, who at once turned their lanterns upon the monu-ment, whence the sounds appeared to issue, and, discovering Master Jack in his elevated position, promptly sent for a ladder and hauled him down. A night in the tehast (police lock-up) rewarded our hero's exploit, and the next morning a stern-faced Prefect of Police sensed him to a fine which left poor Jack's pockets as empty as his head, silencing the culprit's remonstrances by saying, with a grim smile—"if you will ride with the Czar, my friend, you must expect to pay high for a mount."—Cascell's Saturday Journal. AN EIDER-DUCK FARM.

How the Farmer Repays the Confidence of

the Trusting Birds. The colonies of breeding eiders often consist of an immense number of birds, and the nests lie so thickly together that it is often difficult to avoid stepping into them. They are usually placed at some slight elevation; and here in a faint depression the duck collects a small quantity of seaweed and drift stuff, wh ch she forms into a felty mass with her breast. Upon this four or five eggs are laid in the course of a week, these being of a pale green color, and rather resembling those of the beron. Even before the last egg is laid it is seen that a few feathers are scattered about the nest, and as incubation proceeds these increase in quantity. The bird covers the eggs with down plucked from her breast, and this she does day by day until a very considerable quantity buries the eggs. It is this down which has become such an important article of commerce. If the eiders are hatching under ordinary conditions, the young appear in about twenty-six days, and almost immediately betake themselves to the water. It is here that they sun themselves, feed and sleep. On a rock-bound bit of coast it is interesting to watch the ducklings paddling among the stones and feeding upon the tiny bivalves that are common among the bays and inlets. These remarks refer to the breeding of wild eiders; but unfortunately colonies of birds under natural conditions are becoming more and more rare every year. The commercial collector has everywhere stepped in, and is putting a terrible drain upon the species.

In Norway this bird is protected by law, though only to be persecuted the more persistently by private individuals. On one island, that of Isafjardarjup, eider ducks are said to nest in thousands. Speaking of the breeding sights by the shore Mr. Shepherd, who visited the colony, tells us that the brown ducks sat upon their nests in masses, and at every step started from beneath his feet. On this island, of three-quarters of a mile in length, it was difficult to walk without stepping into the nests. A thick stone breakwater ran along its coasts just above high water mark. At the bottom and sides of the wall alternate stones had been left out, so as form a series of compartments for the ducks to nest in. Every compartment was tenanted, and as the visitors walked along the ducks flew out all along the line. These were welcomed by the white drakes, which were tossing on the water "with loud and clamorous cooing." A farm house on the island was tenanted in a like manner. The house itself was "'a great marvel." Ducks were hatching on the turf walls which surrounded it, in the window embrasures, on the ground, on the roof. a duck sat in the scraper. Then a grassy bank close by was cut into squares, every one of which was occumounds, rocks, crevices. This was an eider-down farm. So tame were the

tame. The female having laid five or six pale, greenish-olive eggs, in a nest thickly lined with her beautiful down, the collectors, after carefully removing the bird, rob the ret of its contents, after which they replace her. She then begins to lay afresh though this time only three or four eggs—and again has recourse to the down on her body. But her greedy persecutors once more rifle her nest, and oblige her to line it for the third time. Now, however, her own stock of down is exhausted, and with a plaintive voice she calls her mate to her assistance who willingly plucks the soft feathers from his breast to supply the deficiency. If the cruel robbery be again repeated, which in former time was frequently the case, the poor eider duck abandons the spot never to return, and seeks for a new home where she may indulge her maternal instinct undisturbed by the avarice of man."-Cornhill Magazine.

Assimilation of Food. Assimilation of food is best encouraged by work. Digestion is not assimilation. Food may be digested and taken into the blood and yet not assimilated, because there is no activity to encourage it. If muscle is to be built up, there must be a tearing down of muscle first; if there is no tissue of the brain torn dainfully. "It's nothing like so big as I down, there can be no building up process. If we work hard with brain or muscle, using up a great deal of force, nature goes to work in the hours of recuperation to build the brain and the muscle a little stronger than it was before, so every day's expenditure will require the assimilation of a little more food. But if there is no demand, nature will not undertake the task. Sometimes when one has an extra strong stomach and liver, he will be able to make fatty tissue, which will not add to strength, out of food digested in idleness. Assimilation is the power that different parts of the body possess of building up structure like their own out of material furnished by the blood; muscle has the power to make muscles and nerves have the power to make nerves, etc.-Dr. J. K. Kellogg, of Battle Creek Sanitarium, in a Parlor Lect-

-"Cyrus, I want you to go down-town with me. I want to pick out a new necktie for you." "Have we time enough before the shops close, Emily?" replied the capitalist, consulting his watch. "Yes, if we harry. It's only a little after one o'clock." "All right, my dear. Go and get ready. I've got to step around the corner and buy a rail-road. I'll be back in ten minutea."—Chicago Tribune.

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