

A NATION'S HISTORY.

There is nothing that solidifies and strengthens a nation like reading the nation's own history, whether that history is recorded in books or embodied in customs, institutions and monuments.—Joseph Anderson.

Precocity.

"Mercy!" exclaimed Mrs. Diggs. "The baby is chewing on your pocket edition of Epictetus!"

"Indeed," replied Professor Diggs, with a proud and happy look, "let the child alone. It is seldom that a mere infant shows such a pronounced taste for the classics."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Ladies' Portraits.

In a moment of self revelation Hoppner once stated that in painting ladies' portraits he used to make as beautiful a face as he could, then give it a likeness to the sitter, afterward working down from this beautiful state until the observer should cry out, "Oh, I see a likeness coming!" Then Hoppner would stop and never venture to make it more like.—London Telegraph.

Lost Bark.

Muggins, seeing a dead dog in the ditch, stopped and, after gazing intently at it, said to his companion, "Another shipwreck."

"Where?"

"There lies a bark that is lost forever."

His companion growled and navigated on.—Exchange.

Egypt and China.

In Egypt we dig and delve and year by year recover the treasures she holds. In China there is nothing to recover, nothing to dig for. All her past is huddled on the surface. Her music and her musical instruments of the past are here today the same as they ever were. There are no stages of development and no steps of ascent.—Hermann Smith.

The Clear Infinity.

That which we foolishly call vastness is, rightly considered, not more wonderful, not more impressive, than that which we insolently call little-

ness, and the infinity of God is not mysterious, it is only unfathomable; not concealed, but incomprehensible; it is a clear infinity, the darkness of the pure, unsearchable sea.—Ruskin's "Modern Painters."

Spoons.

The origin of the spoon is uncertain. It must have been invented at a very ancient date, for it is found among people that have never come into contact with civilization. The necessity of having some implement for dipping water seems to have led first to the invention of the calabash or the use of the coconut shell and later on to the spoon.

His Kick.

"I understand Brown is taking lessons from a memory teacher."

"He ought to. The last time I played golf with him he forgot about twenty strokes that he took."—Detroit Free Press.

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