

and perhaps even an unexpected character; and men and women, soldiers and civilians, of all ranks in the revolted districts, swelled for the time to the dimensions of heroes.

It has been said that Delhi was taken, and India saved, by the personal character of Sir John Lawrence. The very name of "Lawrence" represented power in the north-west provinces. His standard of duty, zeal, and personal effort, was of the highest; and every man who served under him seemed to be inspired by his own spirit. It was declared of him that his character alone was worth an army. The same might be said of his brother Sir Henry, who organized the Punjab force that took so prominent a part in the capture of Delhi. Both brothers inspired those who were about them with perfect love and confidence. Both lived amongst the people, and powerfully influenced them for good. Above all, as Colonel Edwardes says, "they drew models on young fellows' minds, which they went forth and copied in their several administrations: they sketched a *faith* and begot a *school*, which are both living things at this day." Sir John Lawrence had by his side such men as Montgomery, Nicholson, Cotton, and Edwardes, as prompt, decisive, and high-souled as himself. John Nicholson was one of the finest, manliest, and noblest of men—"every inch a hakim," the natives said of him—"a tower of strength," as he was characterized by Lord Dalhousie. In whatever capacity he acted, he was great, because he acted with his whole strength and soul. A brotherhood of fakeers—borne away by their enthusiastic admiration of the man—even commenced the worship of Nikkil Seyn: he had some of them punished for their folly, but they continued the worship nevertheless. Of his sustained energy and persistency, an illustration may be cited in his pursuit of the 55th Sepoy mutineers, when he was in the saddle for twenty consecutive hours, and travelled more than seventy miles. When the enemy set up their standard at Delhi, Lawrence and Montgomery, relying on the support of the people of the Punjab, and compelling their admiration and confidence, strained every nerve to keep their own province in perfect order, whilst they hurled every available soldier, European and Sikh, against that city. Sir John wrote to the commander-in-chief to "hang on to the rebels' noses before Delhi," whilst the troops pressed on by forced marches under Nicholson, "the tramp of whose war-horse might be heard miles off," as was afterwards said of him by a rough Sikh who wept over his grave.

The siege and storming of Delhi was the most illustrious event which occurred in the course of that gigantic struggle. The leaguer of Lucknow, during which the merest skeleton of a British regiment—the 32nd—held out for six months against two hundred thousand armed enemies, has perhaps excited more intense interest; but Delhi was the feat of arms of which Britain has most cause to be proud. There, too, the British were really the besieged, though ostensibly the besiegers; they were a mere handful of men "in the open"—not more than 3700 bayonets, European and native—without any defences or support, other

than their indomitable courage and tenacity of purpose, assailed from day to day by an army of rebels numbering at one time as many as 75,000 men, trained to European discipline by English officers, and supplied with all but exhaustless munitions of war. The heroic little band sat down before the city under the burning rays of a tropical sun. Death, wounds, and fever, failed to turn them from their purpose. Thirty times they were attacked by overwhelming numbers, and thirty times did they drive back the enemy behind their defences. As Captain Hodson—himself one of the bravest there—has said, "I venture to aver that no other nation in the world would have remained here, or avoided defeat if they had attempted to do so." Never for an instant did these heroes falter at their work; with sublime endurance they held on, fought on, and never relaxed until, dashing through the "imminent deadly breach," the place was won, and the British flag was again unfurled on the walls of Delhi. All were great—privates, officers, and generals; men taken from behind English ploughs and from English workshops, and those trained in the best schools and colleges, displayed equal heroism when the emergency arose. Common soldiers who had been inured to a life of hardship, and young officers who had been nursed in luxurious homes, alike proved their manhood, and emerged from that terrible trial with equal honour; the native strength and soundness of the English race and of manly English training and discipline were never more powerfully illustrated; and it was there emphatically proved that the men of England are, after all, its greatest products. A terrible price was paid for this great chapter in our history, but if those who survive and those who come after, profit by the lesson and example, it may not have been purchased at too great a cost.*

DWARFS AND GIANTS.

ENGLAND and France have recently lost two of their smallest men: at least, we never heard of greater diminutives, so to speak, among their grown-up population. The one, Edwin Calvert, a native of Skipton in Yorkshire, scarcely reached years of maturity; he died at the age of seventeen, but had probably attained his full stature. He was *thirty-six* inches in height, or three inches less than Tom Thumb, and weighed only twenty-three and a half pounds. He is described as a sharp and intelligent youth; a clever performer on the violin; a great mimic of birds and animals; and he could dance some of the most fashionable ancient and modern dances. Arrangements were in process last spring for taking him to London and the Continent for exhibition; and a court dress had been provided, when Death, the great leveller of high and low, stepped in and defeated the project. It is lamentable to add, that he died from the effects of drink.

The other case, that of M. Richebourg, a Parisian,

* From "Self-Help; with Illustrations of Character and Conduct," By Samuel Smiles, author of the "Life of George Stephenson." John Murray.

is one of the most remarkable on record. He attained the patriarchal age of fourscore, and was only thirty-three and a half inches high. When young, he was in the service of the Duchess d'Orleans, mother of Louis Philippe, with the title of butler, but performed none of the duties of the office. After the first Revolution broke out, he was employed to convey secret despatches abroad, and for that purpose was dressed as a baby, and carried by a nurse, with the papers concealed in his cap. For the last twenty-five years he lived in the Rue du Four St. Germain, and during all that time never went out. Though lively and cheerful with those to whom he was accustomed, he had a great aversion to strangers, and was always alarmed when he heard the voice of one. The Orleans family allowed him a pension.

There have doubtless been dwarfs in all ages of the world. They are mentioned by the most ancient writers as objects of curiosity to the learned and of amusement to the great. A *penchant* for such pigmy retainers, on the part of kings, nobles, and those who could afford to keep them, seems to have been of long standing; for to gratify it, in the days of republican Rome, merchants are said to have conceived the horrid idea of stunting the growth by means of boxes and bandages, thus manufacturing men in miniature. But it was in the middle ages that this strange passion was most fully developed, when mental culture was at its lowest ebb, and outward appearances monopolized attention. There was nothing original in the freak of our Duke of Buckingham, when he caused little Jeffrey Hudson to be served up at a banquet as a kind of human pasty, and presented the imp to Queen Henrietta Maria, upon his emancipation from the crust. This was a common court jest. At a grand festival given by the Archduke Ferdinand of Austria, in 1568, a household dwarf was similarly incarcerated, who leaped out of a pie when the covering was removed, attired in panoply of gilt, and, grasping a banner in his hand, walked about, waving it over the dishes and goblets on the table, complimenting the guests. No more acceptable entertainment than this could be provided for the old Russian czars by their favourite nobles. A couple of pies, from which a male and female dwarf issued, to dance a minuet, procured for the entertainer the unbounded applause of the sovereign. Though these fooleries have now disappeared, yet society is very far from being delivered from the vulgar tastes of former times. It is still profitable to raise the cry, "Now's your time, ladies and gentlemen; walk in, and see the wonderfullest sight ever shown;" perhaps a man too fat for his legs to carry him, or some mite of a female, or an enormously developed pig, or a manufactured nondescript, warranted to be a defunct mermaid caught off Cape Horn. Not many years ago, the Egyptian Hall was the scene of a most melancholy spectacle. There was the poverty-stricken, half-distracted historical painter, Haydon, exhibiting some of his best works, in order to keep the wolf from the door. Day by day he had to record in his journal the utter failure of his scheme, and the success of Tom Thumb under the same roof, whom

hordes of gaping idlers rushed to see, and poured their money into the showman's pockets. At an inn in Shoreditch, custom is now invited by a placard announcing "The smallest barman in London." The little fellow, twenty years of age, can just manage to reach the edge of the counter with his fingers, and mounts a stool to perform his office.

While many dwarfs are almost idiots, others have exhibited much intelligence and artistic proficiency. A German female who died in England, was deemed worthy of the following epitaph, in consequence of her abilities: "To the memory of Nannette Stocker, who quitted this life the 4th of May, 1819, at the age of thirty-nine years, the smallest woman in this kingdom, and one of the most accomplished." She was only thirty-three inches high, and excelled as a musician. Another case in point is that of Richard Gibson, the portrait painter. While in the service of a lady at Mortlake, she observed his talent for drawing, and placed him for improvement with De Cleynne, the director of some tapestry works in the neighbourhood. He soon acquired great reputation as a copier of Sir Peter Lely's portraits, and was a welcome visitor at the court of Charles I. Remarkably enough, the dwarf artist married a dwarf young lady. They made a very neat little pair, both being exactly of the same height, thirty-eight inches. The king and queen attended the wedding; and the poet Waller wrote a congratulatory ode upon the occasion, from which the following lines are taken:—

"Design or chance makes others wive,
But nature did this match contrive.
Thrice happy is that humble pair,
Beneath the level of all care,
Over whose heads those arrows fly,
Of sad distrust and jealousy;
Secured in as high extreme
As if the world had none but them.
To him the fairest nymphs do show
Like moving mountains topp'd with snow;
And every man a Polypheme
Does to his Galatea seem."

Gibson became page to the king, while his wife entered the service of the queen. His pencil was of more service to him than the sceptre to his master; for after having portrayed the royal features, he survived the storms of the period in which the monarch perished, and painted Oliver Cromwell in the height of his power.

Dwarfishness may appear under three phases. In one, the individual exhibits at birth, or during infancy, a size inferior to that of his age, and afterwards grows up rapidly to the ordinary stature of his species. In another, he is born and developed normally at first, then ceasing to increase, retains a height for the remaining part of his life below that of the adult. In a third case, he is born a dwarf, and presents that appearance at every stage of his existence. Dwarfishness, therefore, may be temporary or permanent. It does not appear that dwarfs are more rare in nations of lofty stature than otherwise. They are very frequently the offspring of mothers of the average height, and well-shaped; and it has been observed that the same mother has produced two or more. They have generally dis-

proportionately short legs, and large heads, with an irascible and impetuous temperament. A lady belonging to the court of Stanislaus, Duke of Lorraine, was once caressing a dog in the presence of her dwarf, Nicholas Ferry, better known by the name of Bébé, when he seized the animal, threw it out of the window, saying, "Why do you like it better than me?"

Examples of the opposite extreme of human stature—great height—have been recorded from the remotest antiquity. But they were not more numerous or remarkable in ancient than in modern times; nor is there any foundation for the idea, once entertained to some extent, that mankind had dwindled down from an enormous primitive perpendicular development to a comparatively puny standard. Bones of huge dimensions, exhumed from the soil, which were viewed with wonder and supposed to be human in the infancy of comparative anatomy, are the remains of extinct races of elephants, rhinoceroses, mastodons, and kindred animals.

Admitting the translation to be correct, that there were "giants in the earth" in antediluvian times, the same may be affirmed with equal truth of the modern epoch. But it is very probable that men remarkable for wickedness rather than for stature are intended.

We know nothing respecting the height of the sons of Anak in the land of Canaan, whom the spies reported to be "giants," adding, with much hyperbolical exaggeration, evidently dictated by their fears, that, as compared with them, they seemed to be in their own sight as "grasshoppers." Only a family or tribe, with bone and muscle well developed, and a stature noticeably above what had been seen before, yet by no means gigantic in our sense of the term, need be supposed. The people with whom the Israelites had previously been chiefly familiar, or the Egyptians, were of light make and of medium height, with very few examples of what we should consider tallness. The evidence of mummies is incontestable upon this point; and it was much the same with the Israelites themselves, if we may judge of them by their modern representatives. Very few Jews at present rise above the middle height, while a very large proportion of them fall below it. Hence, the contrast between the spies and the Anakim was probably not greater than the existing difference between the tall Patagonians of South America, and the little Ghoorkas of India or the Lapps and Esquimaux of the polar zone.

Huge fellows and no mistake—giants, properly so called, beyond all dispute—were Og, king of Bashan, and Goliath, the champion of the Philistines. We are, however, by no means certain as to their exact elongation. Nine cubits was the length of the king's iron bedstead; and if we suppose the bed to be one-third longer than the man, and take the cubit at eighteen inches, this will give him a stature of nine feet. But the estimate is based upon assumptions. The champion's height is expressly given at six cubits and a span, or about nine feet six inches, according to the foregoing measurement. Yet it is quite possible that this refers to his military appearance, when a head-dress or hel-

met would add considerably to his real stature. Making the necessary deduction for the superincumbent attire, Loushkin, the Russian giant, is his match, who stood eight feet five inches *in propria personâ*. He was drum-major of the Imperial regiment of Guards, and may be seen at Madame Tussaud's, represented in military costume, "proudly eminent" in the midst of waxen kings and queens, lords and ladies fair. Some of the 2400 men in Frederick William of Prussia's gigantic regiment towered to nearly nine feet; and none in the first rank were under seven. There was Hohmann, the fogleman, "a very mountain of pipe-clayed flesh and bone," as Carlyle has it; so steeple-like, that even a man ordinarily considered tall, could not touch his bare crown with his hand. These lofty specimens of humanity were collected, crimped, and purchased, out of almost every European country, at an enormous expense, to say nothing of broils with foreign states for kidnapping prominent subjects. Full £1200 were expended before James Kirkman, an Irishman of multitudinous inches, was inveigled, shipped, and brought to port. Burgomasters, who happened to be high mightinesses bodily, were unceremoniously dragged from home to recruit the battalion. A Roman Catholic priest of aspiring shape, like a note of admiration, was pounced upon while conducting the services of the church; and an Austrian ambassador, tallest of diplomatists, getting out of his carriage to stretch his legs, while passing through the Prussian dominions, was hurried off to a guard-house, till his suite came up to greet him as Excellenz, when many apologies were offered for the detention.

An adventure of one of Frederick's crimps, which had a fatal result, is related by Carlyle. The place was the town of Jülich; the subject a tall young carpenter. "One day a well-dressed, positive-looking gentleman, Baron Von Hompesch, enters the shop; wants 'a stout chest, with lock on it, for household purposes; must be of such and such dimensions, six feet six in length especially, and that is an indispensable point; in fact, it must be longer than yourself, I think, Herr Zimmermann. What is the cost? When can it be ready?' Cost, time, and the rest are settled. 'A right stout chest, then; and see you don't forget the size. If too short, it will be of no use to me—mind.' 'Ja wohl! Gewiss!' And the positive-looking, well-dad gentleman goes his ways. At the appointed day he reappears; the chest is ready—we hope an unexceptionable article. 'Too short, as I dreaded,' says the positive gentleman. 'Nay, your honour,' says the carpenter, 'I am certain it is six feet six,' and takes out his foot rule. 'Pshaw! it was to be longer than yourself.' 'Well, it is.' 'No, it isn't.' The carpenter, to end the matter, gets into the chest, and will convince any and all mortals. No sooner is he in, rightly flat, than the positive gentleman, a Prussian recruiting officer in disguise, slams down the lid upon him, locks it, whistles in three stout fellows, who pick up the chest, gravely walk through the streets with it, open it in a safe place, and find—horrible to relate!—the poor carpenter dead, choked by want of air in this frightful middle passage of his."

All the ancient nations attached great importance to high stature, as if it alone established a title to respect. Hence kings, however really stunted in their dimensions, are always exhibited upon a colossal scale in the paintings and sculptures of Egypt, Assyria, and Persia. Classical poetry is rife with the same idea. Homer, to secure for the shipwrecked Ulysses a favourable reception among some islanders, tells us that the goddess

"His whole form
Dilated, and to statelier height advanced,
That worthier of all reverence he might seem
To the Phœaciens."

Old Priam is represented peering over the walls of his beleaguered city and picking out the tall men of the besieging army, concerning whom it was fit to make inquiry of their countrywoman, Helen, who attended him. Thus, of Agamemnon he speaks:—

"Name to me yon Achaian chief, for bulk
Conspicuous, and for port. Taller indeed
I may perceive than he; but with these eyes
Saw never yet such dignity and grace:
Declare his name. Some royal chief he seems."

So of Ajax:—

"Yon Achaian chief,
Whose head and shoulders tower above the rest,
And of such bulk prodigious—who is he?"

The superior height of Saul was no mean recommendation of him to the people over whom he was appointed to reign; and even Samuel, when commissioned to consecrate one of the sons of Jesse to the kingdom, thought the eldest must needs be intended, owing to a commanding presence, till corrected by the All-wise upon the point: "Look not on his countenance, nor on the height of his stature, because I have refused him; for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart."

The feeling in favour of distinguished stature descended to modern times. Though not considered a qualification for high office, it was thought appropriate for the officials themselves, whether sovereigns or magistrates, not to court the eye of day without being attended by a body-guard of persons physically eminent, in order to magnify their office, and render them a terror to evil-doers. We have singular memorials of the usage, in the renowned and huge wooden statues of Gog and Magog, in the metropolitan Guildhall, at which the juveniles have so often stared with awe and wonder. No little curiosity has been excited by these monstrous figures, as to their origin and intent; but all that is known upon the subject may be told in very few words. In former times, when men of conspicuous port were in requisition to appear as champions in grand processions, civic and state pageants, it was not always feasible to procure a living "mighty giant" for the purpose. Hence recourse was had to artificial substitutes, which were drawn on cars in my Lord Mayor's Show, and then laid up for the rest of the year. Two giants of wicker work are said to have perished in the great fire of 1666. The present effigies have remained fixtures since they were constructed in 1707, having been made far too cumbersome for convenient transport. As remembrancers of an

extinct folly, we are quite content to have them preserved, since they require no porridge, plan no treasons, and make no complaints.

In by-gone days, when battles were decided by personal prowess in close combat, instead of by strategy and artillery, a goodly height, with a stalwart make, was of no mean value. Considering, too, at present, the onerous labours which fall to the lot of the multitude, and the social sorrows that immediately ensue when the bread-winner fails beneath hard work, to say nothing of the contingency of having to defend the soil, it is of vast importance to guard against every cause of physical degeneracy, and keep our countrymen, as to bone and sinew, up to the standard of their fathers, when

"Each man a six-foot bow could bend,
And far a cloth-yard arrow send."

But we want no giants—no prodigies as to height or girth—not a single man above six feet; and can do very well with the whole of our people some inches less. The tremendously elongated members of the human race, two of whom might shake hands across an omnibus, and either of them light a street lamp without stool or ladder, are useless for all practical purposes of any value, being little else than so many yards and pounds weight of incapableness. They are generally weak in body and mind, destitute of energy and activity, retain throughout their whole life some of the exterior traits and characteristics of infancy, and die early, worn out as it were by their enormous and rapid increase. Magrath, an Irishman, who stood seven feet eight inches without his shoes, died an old man at twenty years of age. On one occasion at Vienna, where some giants and dwarfs had been collected for the amusement of the court, the latter incessantly ridiculed the former; and upon a quarrel arising between two of them, the little morsel of pugnacity not only remained master of the field, but very nearly proved himself another Jack the Giant-killer.

Losing sight altogether of the positively dwarfish and gigantic, it is curious to remark, on comparing the ordinary departures from the medium height, above and below, that, in point of intellectual ability, the shorts carry off the palm from the longs. Alexander Pope was so low that it was necessary to raise his seat to enable him to reach the level of a common table. Dr. Isaac Watts was only a trifle higher, and is said to have improvised the lines, on overhearing a comment upon his appearance,

"Were I so tall to reach the pole,
Or grasp the ocean with a span,
I must be measured by my soul;
The mind's the standard of the man."

Moore the poet, Chateaubriand, and Wilberforce, are other examples. Nelson and Napoleon were not great in stature; and the names of two great living statesmen, in England and France, both of whom have been prime ministers, will occur to most readers. It is not desirable to be noticeably low or high, though of no real consequence; but in either case, it is all-important to be distinguished by the observance of whatsoever things are true, lovely, and of good report.