

WRITING.

Without the aid of writing, the experience of each generation would have been almost lost to succeeding ages, and only a faint glimmer of truth could have been discerned through the mists of tradition. The most ancient remains of writing, which have been transmitted to us, are upon hard substances, such as stones and metals, which were used for edicts and matters of public notoriety. Thus we read that the Decalogue was written on two tables of stone; but this practice was not peculiar to the Jews, for it was used by most of the eastern nations, as well as by the Greeks and Romans. The laws penal, civil, and ceremonial, among the Greeks, were engraven on tables of brass, called *cyrbes*. The Chinese, before the invention of paper, wrote or engraved with an iron tool, or style, upon thin boards or on bamboo. Pliny says, that table-books of wood were in use before the time of Homer. In later times these tables were usually waxed over, and written upon with a style. What was written upon the tables which were thus waxed over was easily effaced, and by smoothing the wax new matter might be substituted in the place of what was written before. The bark of trees was also used for writing by the ancients, and is so still in several parts of Asia. [8.

This Book belongs to
Edward Ayrton
Cray
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Alfred The Great
A.D. 871-900.

Alfred began his reign at the age of only twenty one, in the first seven years he had fought thirty battles with the Danes. What was still worse his subjects did not love him. He was indeed a sincerely pious man, but he had not yet conquered all his faults. He was stern ^{and} proud; his subjects ^{and} by degrees all fell away from him till at last he was left alone wandering about the country in a wretched state.

A swineherd named Dunulf took him into his house, and there he spent the whole

of the winter. Dunuff's wife not knowing
him, one day desired him, to watch some
cakes that ~~were~~ ^{were} set on the hearth to bake,
but he neglected to attend ^{to} them; on finding
them burnt she scolded him severely while
he listened meekly, thinking perhaps of the
hasty words which he had spoken in the days
of his pride. After a time he returned to his
followers to try to make another effort to save his
country, but wishing to learn in what state or ^{guard} his
enemies kept of him, he dressed himself as a
wandering harper, and entered their camp;
while the Danes listened to his music he
looked carefully around himself to see the

weakest parts in their defence, ^{he} then retired to his
faithful Saxons; led them to attack the enemy
and gained a complete victory. He took the
chieftain prisoner and treated him kindly
and gave him the government of the old kingdom
of Northumberia, he at last converted him to the
Christian faith. His country was now at
peace, he now tried to improve his subjects,
he was forced to bring learned men from other
countries to instruct them. The name that they
gave him was Alfred The Truth teller or
Alfred The Shepherd of his people, but he did
not live to finish his work for he died in the
year 900 at the age of fifty two years old much

lamented by his subjects who at last learnt to love him as he deserved. Alfred made many wise laws; and he was the person who divided England in counties, and instituted courts of Justice. He was succeeded by his son Edward.

Metals.

Metal is a very useful thing. We could not manage very well without ^{it}. The places where it lies are called veins. The most valuable of these are gold, silver, iron, lead, tin, copper. There is no gold found in this country the most of it comes from Peru in South America California, and Australia. Wherever we look we almost see utility of metals. Most of the metals

are found a good way under ground. Iron is used for making from the fine needle to the huge anchor. The thing that iron is used for is almost numberless. Gold is most by used in coin, any civilized nation ^{will} use gold for coin. Commerce is chiefly carried on by the means of coin; in exchange the two articles are valued in gold or silver coin.

Copper is made into coin it is nearly the same color as gold, but not of the same value. Metals are indispensable ⁱⁿ arts of manufacture. William the Conqueror. A.D. 1066-1087. Although the Saxons had been beaten at Hastings they never made no resistance

against William, he entered London and there he was crowned on the Christmas day in the year 1066. William was stern, and harsh, but he had some good qualities, he always listened to the good advice of Lanfranc, the good Archbishop of Canterbury. William turned all the South West part of Hampshire into one great hunting ground; all the houses were pulled down and the fields left desolate. The Saxons were much annoyed by a new law to put out their fires at the ringing of a bell, called the curfew, which means cover the fire. Not long after the cruel devastation of the south of Hampshire Richard the second son of William, was killed while

hunting in the New Forest by a thrust from the horn of a stag. Robert the eldest son of William gave his father much uneasiness, once when in France while he was walking in the court with some of his companions his two brothers poured some water from an upper window, he was so enraged that he drew his sword and rushed up stairs to punish them, and might have hurt them severely, had not the noise brought his father to the spot. Robert still in a violent passion rode off to the king of France and declared war on his father. In the battle Robert met his father and knocked him off his horse and wounded him in the hand, when he found out what he had done he was very sorry, but his father

at length forgave him. William having made
a quarrel with the king of France he ordered the town
of Mans to be burnt, and while he was riding round
the ruins his horse stepped on some hot embers and
it started and plunged, and lamed the king,
this brought on a fever; after he had lingered six weeks
he died in the year 1087, in the sixtieth year of his
age and the twentyfirst year of his reign. —

Europe

Of all the divisions of the globe
Europe is the smallest but yet it is
the most important. Europe lies mostly
in the north temperate zone, and in
the eastern Hemisphere. It lies west of

Asia, and north of Africa and is washed
on its western shores by the Atlantic
Ocean. Europe is very much indented
and contains several seas consequently
has a great length of coast; more in propor-
tion than any other of the divisions, which
renders it very advantageous for commerce.
The mountains of Europe lie chiefly to
the north and south with a large plain
between them, called the Central Plain
of Europe. Its rivers are numerous and
equally distributed, and the greater of ^{which} are
navigable. The chief mountain ranges are the
Alps in the south of Europe, the Scandina^{vian}

M^{ts} ~~on~~ the north and the Ural M^{ts} which
lie to the east of Europe. There are several
smaller ranges; such as the Pyrenees between
France and Spain, the Apennines in Italy
the Pindus M^{ts} in Turkey the Carpathian
M^{ts} in the north-east of Hungary the
Cevennes in France and the Ural M^{ts}
in Russia.

ARITHMETICAL TABLES.

NUMERATION.	CURRENT MONEY.	LONG MEASURE.
Units..... 1	4 Farthings make 1 Penny.	3 barleycorns make 1 inch
Tens..... 12	12 Pence..... 1 Shilling	12 inches ... 1 foot
Hundreds..... 123	20 Shillings... { 1 Pound or Sovereign	3 feet ... 1 yard
Thousands..... 1,234		6 feet ... 1 fathom
Tens of Thousands..... 12,345	TROY WEIGHT.	5½ yards ... 1 pole
C. of Thousands..... 123,456	24 gr. make 1 dwt.	40 poles ... 1 furlong
Millions..... 1,234,567	20 dwt ... 1 ounce	8 furlongs ... 1 mile
X. of Millions... 12,345,678	12 oz. ... 1 pound	3 miles ... 1 league
C. of Millions... 123,456,789		69½ miles ... 1 degree
PRACTICE.	AVOIRDUPOIS.	LAND MEASURE.
OF A SOVEREIGN.	16 dr. make 1 ounce	144 inches make 1 foot
<i>s. d. £.</i>	16 oz. ... 1 pound	9 feet ... 1 yard
10 0 are 1 half	14 lb. ... 1 stone	30¼ yards ... 1 pole
6 8 ... 1 third	28 lb. ... 1 quarter	40 poles ... 1 rood
5 0 ... 1 fourth	4 qr. ... 1 cwt.	4 roods ... 1 acre
4 0 ... 1 fifth	20 cwt. ... 1 ton	640 acres ... 1 mile
3 4 ... 1 sixth		
2 6 ... 1 eighth	APOTHECARIES.	CLOTH MEASURE.
2 0 ... 1 tenth	20 gr. make 1 scruple	2½ inches make 1 nail
1 8 ... 1 twelfth	3 scr. ... 1 dram	4 nails ... 1 quarter
1 4 ... 1 fifteenth	8 dr. ... 1 ounce	3 quarters ... 1 Flemish ell
1 3 ... 1 sixteenth	12 oz. ... 1 pound	4 quarters ... 1 yard
1 0 ... 1 twentieth		5 quarters ... 1 English ell
	WOOL WEIGHT.	6 quarters ... 1 French ell
OF A SHILLING.	7 lb. make 1 clove	
<i>d. s.</i>	2 cloves ... 1 stone	DRY MEASURE.
6 are 1 half	2 stones ... 1 tod	2 gallons make 1 peck
4 ... 1 third	6½ tods ... 1 wey	4 pecks ... 1 bushel
3 ... 1 fourth	2 weys ... 1 sack	4 bushels ... 1 sack
2 ... 1 sixth	12 sacks ... 1 last	8 bushels ... 1 quarter
1½ ... 1 eighth		4 quarters ... 1 chaldron
1 ... 1 twelfth	ALE AND BEER.	10 quarters ... 1 last
	2 pints make 1 quart	
OF A TON.	4 quarts ... 1 gallon	SOLID MEASURE.
<i>Cwt. T.</i>	9 gallons ... 1 firkin	1728 inches 1 solid foot
10 are 1 half	2 firkins ... 1 kilderkin	27 feet 1 yard
5 ... 1 fourth	2 kilderkins... 1 barrel	231 inches 1 gallon or Wine
4 ... 1 fifth	1½ barrel ... 1 hogs.	282 inches 1 gallon of Ale
2½ ... 1 eighth	2 barrels ... 1 puncheon	2150 inches 1 bushel of Malt
2 ... 1 tenth	3 barrels ... 1 butt	
1 ... 1 twentieth		
	WINE MEASURE.	TIME.
OF A HUNDRED WEIGHT.	2 pints make 1 quart	60 seconds make 1 minute
<i>gr. lb. Cwt.</i>	4 quarts ... 1 gallon	60 minutes ... 1 hour
2 0 are 1 half	10 gallons ... 1 anker	24 hours ... 1 day
1 0 ... 1 fourth	18 gallons ... 1 runlet	7 days ... 1 week
0 16 ... 1 seventh	42 gallons ... 1 tierce	4 weeks ... 1 month
0 14 ... 1 eighth	63 gallons ... 1 hogshead	12 Calendar Months, or
	2 hogsheads... 1 pipe	365 days and 6 hours,
	2 pipes ... 1 tun	1 Year