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With such readily available sources of entertainment, to be had by turning a switch and pressing a key, the story of the erstwhile dreary winter's eve on the still lone but far from lonely farm, will soon be among the romances to be retold; for with the advent of perfected wireless transmission the farm life of the future may be made far more alluring than life in the cities.

And old Dobbin! Framed and hung somewhere in the farm home will be the picture of a horse, in reverent memory of a noble and worthy service done, that he may not be altogether forgotten in the new age of an energy that will not consume half the crops of a farm to run it, and with better success and profit than ever before.

### WONDERFUL MEMORIES

IT has been said that it was no uncommon thing for Julius Caesar to dictate to several secretaries at the same time, besides maintaining a running conversation with a number of officers in his tent, the great man never being at a loss to know "where he was at" whenever he took up a loose thread in dictation or conversation.

Joseph Scaliger had a pretty fair memory. In Homer's Iliad and the Odyssey there are something over sixty thousand verses. Scaliger consumed only twenty-one days to commit all them to memory.

Seneca, we are informed, could repeat two thousand names in the same order in which they had been spoken, and could rehearse two hundred verses after hearing them read twice.

Mithridates, the Asiatic monarch of poison fame, numbered some twenty-two countries in his dominions, and was able to converse with natives of any of them without the assistance of an interpreter.

Lord Macaulay had perhaps one of the most astounding memories of which there is any account. So well did he know the Bible that, when it was his desire to acquire another language, he was accustomed, once he had skimmed through the grammar, to take up the reading of the Bible in that language. He was fond of boasting that if by some catastrophe all the written works of Homer, Shakespeare, Milton, Dante, and Plato were destroyed, he would at once furnish the texts from memory, since he knew them all by heart.

When, however, we come to consider the case of Mezzofanti, the Italian linguist, we find that his extraordinary memory was such as far to outstrip anything that has been referred to here. At his death, in 1849, at the age of seventy-three, he is said to have been acquainted with one hundred and fourteen languages. Byron, whom he is said to have beaten at talking English slang, pronounced him "a monster of languages, a Briar rose of parts of speech, a walking polyglot."

It is interesting to note Mezzofanti's progress in the accumulation of tongues other than his own. Before the close of his university career he had mastered Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, Coptic, Spanish, French, German, and Swedish. During the wars of which Italy was the theater in the first part of the nineteenth century, Mezzofanti found many opportunities to extend his knowledge of languages. In the hospital of Bologna, to which he attached himself in the capacity of volunteer chaplain, there were invalids from most of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and from these he speedily acquired a grasp of their respective tongues. In 1817 he could read twenty languages and write eighteen. During his later residence in Rome, whither he went in 1831 to accept a position in the Vatican library, he made further additions to his store of linguistic knowledge, acquiring Irish, Welsh, Lappish, Sanskrit, Persian, Georgian, Armenian, Chinese, and several African tongues.

It has been averred that Mezzofanti's familiarity with the dialectal varieties and local idioms of the principal languages, as well as with their respective literatures, together with his power of rapidly passing from one to another in conversation, were well nigh incredible. In 1838 he was made a Cardinal.

—Taylor Edwards

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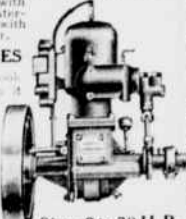
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