

NEITHER DAY NOR HOUR

By Nicholas de Roerich

RANDOM riding is an excellent exercise. At all times the rider is in an intensely attentive state. Not only must he be prepared for the most unexpected command but he must also keep his horse in the same readiness. Acquiring preparedness will mean that an attentive and solicitous eye will be kept open throughout life. If testing of preparedness were carried out in different aspects in all educational institutions, this would create entire cadres of people, mobile and healthy in consciousness.

"Always be prepared"—this beautiful motto of the boy scouts expresses the wish to be ready at all times. But of course, apart from the wish, one must be tested in preparedness. One should know how to apply this quality under any and all circumstances.

There must be readiness for the most highly diverse actions. There must be readiness for patience. There must be readiness for endurance. There must be readiness for clear decisions in the most dissimilar and contrasting circumstances.

Often people understand preparedness only as regards outward actions. But of course this will be only one part of the consciousness of true preparedness. Man must prove himself both in speech and in silence, not only in movement and tumult but also in silent motionlessness of the body. Man must learn preparedness not only in circumstances which are agreeable to him but also he must prove himself among precisely such conditions as, through chance habits, he does not like. Of course he cannot justify any failure of his by the fact that the conditions of action did not conform to his previously formed habits.

This tensed state of preparedness frees people forever from boredom. After all, what is boredom? Primarily this will be a lack of knowledge of how to employ the time which one has on one's hands. With boredom a person begins to fall into thoughtlessness or to give himself over to preconceived ideas. But surely each moment of life can be employed for discerning something indeferrably useful, and in this feeling of usefulness boredom will be eliminated.

Each one has had occasion to observe absurd arguments such as this, that to one only rubies are pleasing, while another talks only about emeralds and is delighted by them alone. Such senseless disputes only create an oppressive atmosphere. Let one be attracted to rubies and let the other be charmed by emeralds. But if the "ruby" man has to die in order to appreciate the beautiful radiance of the emerald, then he will simply be unprepared for broad perceptions. Likewise precisely the limitedness of the "emerald" man brings him only grief in life. All natural colours are beautiful, each one in its refraction and its scintillation. One may have a secret predisposition for such and such mineral, colour, sound. But apart from this possible innate predilection, one must cultivate appreciation for all the other beauties.

One man believes that he finds an enraptured frame of mind in

feasting his eyes upon the glitter of Venus. Another feels that the magnetic secret of Orion gives him inspiration. A third is fascinated by contemplation of the Pole Star or the Great Bear, while yet another dreams about the constellation of the Southern Cross. There are many profound reasons for this. But he who admires Orion or is inspired by the Southern Cross will be in a very insignificant state of preparedness if he shall not find within himself joy at all the other heavenly abodes.

All this would seem very simple and well understood. But why then in their everyday life do people display such a shameful lack of preparedness, of receptivity to broad perceptions? Let there burn deeply in one's heart a dream about the constellation of the Three Magi, but in this let one not belittle a feeling of rapture towards the Seven Elders. For some reason the same constellation will remind one person about the Great Bear and another about the Seven Elders. Such a distinction of mode does not at all exclude joy about the same constellation. Thus there are many joys. Only one must have preparedness to perceive them and to live by them.

If someone shall deny the unquestionable beauties of nature for the mere purpose of limiting himself to one single particle of them, he simply shows how many lessons in preparedness he still has to learn. Each one has encountered so many narrow specialists who could think only about one almost infinitesimal particle of existence. Of course in the last analysis they only inspire regret for the obvious fact that they have simply not happened to be in contact with a great number of others so that they could realize commensurateness. One would like to toss them into a set of completely unaccustomed conditions and say to them: "Now then, brother, swim out." Then would ensue a great testing, many would feel themselves victims of misfortune and would fall into dire straits. But as for those in whom the inner chalice was already full, they would fetch out of it everything applicable to the given situation and instead of failure they would create still another success and joy.

Any creating of joy is a strengthening and a flowering of existence. Let the deserts of the spirit blossom where there is the capacity to cause joy to burst forth. The deeper the roots of this joy shall be, the more flowery and fruitful will be the transformation of the desert.

Need one make haste? May it be that any impetuous haste in infinity will be senseless? Yet when you consider the velocities existing in space, you can then understand how much celerity of the spirit will always be timely and proper. Preparedness lies precisely in the consciousness, in the spirit. Therefore the cultivation of preparedness too must first of all take place in spiritual cognition. And the potential of swiftness of the spirit, of speed of thought, fully conforms to spatial velocities.

Any ignorant limitation directly contradicts infinity. Therefore each hour of earthly life must be filled with strivings, in order to conform, though relatively, to infinity.

Indeed, much will appear practically incommensurate. But in the spirit material standards do not exist, and therefore the most extreme measures of preparedness will be simply the true path.

Let no one think that the bustle of the market place is a good example of preparedness. Of course such bustling is very superficial, but the agitation of the ocean is not at all measured by the surface movements of the waters. These fleeting waves do not make difficult the progress of the vessel. But the deep mountainous rollings of the ocean can destroy the strongest rigged ship.

When indeferrable preparedness is spoken about, precisely well-timed is the reminder, "neither day nor hour." The sojourn here is so brief that each moment must be filled up, both outwardly and, principally, inwardly.

What joy it is to feel both containment and preparedness. Of course preparedness without containment will still be far from full. In this developed sensitiveness one can discern where is the true possibility and where an actual irreparable danger. There are few bodily dangers in comparison with the many spiritual perils. A true husbandman always keeps the water supplies of his home in a state of cleanliness. He knows that if he does not have a daily look at the sources, the rubbish of everyday life will undoubtedly foul them. Whether this dust be brought in by the wind or through someone's malicious or ignorant will, corrupt products will be cast into the source; no matter which, caring for the source must be continuous.

Fatiguing on the eyes are constantly twinkling fires. They are harmful to the eyesight. Likewise injurious are spasms and convulsions and paroxysms. But still more damage is done by the paroxysms and convulsions of moods. These twinkling fires are not suitable for construction. And even light, inextinguishable, growing, completely illumines all the possibilities of labours. There will be no bewildering twilights during which malignant destroyers obtain entrance.

Great preparedness is required for kindling an inextinguishable light. Each hour of the day and half the night this light does not permit the dark destroyers to draw near. It is no abstraction that this lamp of the heart must be guarded and preserved.

A man may fall as it were into an empty place. If he be limited and spasmodic, he falls into dejection and thus proves himself worthless. He will try mentally to plant this place with his prejudices grown elsewhere. But whoever is ready for building, whoever strives consciously and invincibly, will inspect the mirage of the empty place and may find that precisely here great events have taken place, full of instructive possibilities. The place will be empty only for the unprepared in spirit. But in preparedness, in unbreakable zeal does man bring life into the deserts.

It is said "If thou art tired, begin again; if thou art exhausted, begin again and again."

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Russell's Book Depot

RUSSELL'S Secondhand Book Depot opened this week at No. 1 Curley Street, Richmond Town, Bangalore.

This concern is a venture by an ex-serviceman to earn a living. He has fought in four different campaigns, and being without a pension or any sort of income he is deserving of public support.

His stock of books, all in splendid condition, consists of really first-class literature, mainly fiction of a good standard, biography, travels, history, etc. of a wide and choice variety by celebrated and famous authors, and we can assure our readers that prices are extremely low for the quality of the books offered. The public are cordially invited to visit and inspect this book depot without any liability to make a purchase, where they will receive a courteous reception.

We tender our congratulations on the proprietor's initiative and perseverance, particularly as we know he has only recently recovered from a prolonged illness, and we wish his venture all success.

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Identical Twins

A SOURCE of considerable interest to American biologists and students of heredity at the moment are the identical twin brothers Benjamin and Hyman Rubin, who married respectively Sylvia and Ruth Reisman, also identical twins.

This is the first recorded instance of identical twins marrying each other. The Rubin brothers and their wives were looked to by geneticists to provide an answer to the much-vexed question whether the tendency to have twin children is a hereditary trait.

Supporters of twin-heredity claimed justification of their theory when a few weeks ago, Sylvia gave birth to identical twin girls. Two days later, however, the status quo was confusingly restored when Ruth, also becoming a mother, presented her husband with a single son.

Geneticists divide twins into two distinct classes, fraternal and identical. Of these, fraternal twins are by far the more common, being children born together but not necessarily resembling one another or of the same sex.

Twins of this type do not arouse greatly the curiosity of biologists, as they are classified more as examples of coincident births than duplications of the human species.

Identical twins, on the other hand, are invariably of the same sex, nearly always alike as two peas, and of the same mental characteristics.

With the hereditary twin argument now at a deadlock, students of America's birth statistics are eagerly demanding that the two Rubin families shall have more children in the interests of the advance of science.

The Rubins are willing to cooperate but counter-demand reasonably that financial support shall be forthcoming.

The suggestion is now being made among geneticists that a grant shall be made to the two Rubin fathers to assure them a guaranteed income for their new career of family raising.

BALDWIN BOYS' SCHOOL DIAMOND JUBILEE WEEK

THE last week of March was occupied by the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. Each day had its ceremony, and at the end of a crowded and exciting week all concerned must have felt the need of a rest. The Principal and Staff are to be most sincerely congratulated on a series of inspiring meetings, and on the good work over the past years which has made the celebration possible.

On Monday the 25th, the week was inaugurated by a Service of Rededication, conducted by the Rev. C. P. Heins and the Rev. W. R. G. King. Mr. King gave a thoughtful and inspiring sermon on the meaning and implications of "Rededication."

Tuesday was the Annual School Day. Mr. Carleston presided and gave away the certificates which in war time do duty for prizes.

On Wednesday came the first performance of "Alma Mater." Sir Henry Gidney was to have presided, but was prevented by ill-health.

Alma Mater

Alma Mater is a pageant of the history of the school, written by Mrs. Weston specially for the Diamond Jubilee. It was performed by members of the staff and school, and friends, and the School Orchestra played the incidental music.

A small new boy, Peter Standish, is shown, homesick and miserable, on his first day at the school. Mr. and Mrs. Weston do their best to cheer him up, but he falls asleep still determined to get himself taken home again.

In his sleep there appears to him Alma Mater, the Spirit of the School, who with her sister, Good Influence, shows him a series of scenes from its history.

The first is 1879, the little school for Methodist Children conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Oldham in a room in their house in Alexandra Street.

Next we are shown the first Principal, Mr. M. B. Kirk, going off to market with a basket; the first school cook, Shoolay (who is still alive), the first lady teacher, and the first boy, who prefers the kitchen to the schoolroom, and causes much laughter by his antics.

So much is really but introductory. In Part II Scene II the school takes its first big step forward. It is the principalship of Mr. Ira Richards (1881-85). He and his wife are shown, trying to pay the tradesmen without money, and accepting new pupils who are too poor to give fees. When their position seems quite desperate there enters Mr. Robinson with a cheque for \$3,000 from a hitherto unknown American philanthropist, John Baldwin. This dramatic gift saves the situation and starts the school on its way.

Later Principals and others who have exerted influence upon the school pass in turn, until we reach the future. Here young Peter sees himself as a senior boy, working and playing hard and successfully, passing his examinations, winning pots, and bringing honour to the school and pleasure and popularity to himself. But he is not spoilt by his success: the training given at Baldwin's en-

ables a boy to face the ups as well as the downs of life.

With a few short scenes from the school as it is now, the dream ends; Peter wakes, and encouraged by his dream resolves to take his part in the life of the school without moping or shyness. A tableau of all the performers singing the School Song concludes an effective and moving little play.

Public Meeting

The function for Thursday 28th was a public meeting in the School Hall, over which Lt.-Col. Gordon, the Resident, presided.

Musical and other items came first on the programme, among them a recitation of Mr. G. T. Bridges' Jubilee Poem.

The school servants were next introduced to the meeting, and suitable tributes paid to their long and faithful services. Messages and greetings followed, from pupils and friends of the early days, and from present friends in various parts of India and the world. Sir Henry Gidney's speech, which owing to sickness could not be delivered personally, has been widely reprinted and commented on.

Mr. Weston also contributed some reminiscences of his own, which in view of his long connection with the school have a special interest. He concluded by announcing a sanction of land by the Municipal Commission for the use of the school, and requesting the educational and civil authorities to help the school to make proper use of it. The Resident replied that he would do all in his power.

Col. Gordon complimented the school on the loyalty of all those connected with it, and on the successes achieved in Jubilee Year. He was especially pleased at the record of service in the Forces of Baldwin Old Boys.

On Friday 29th was held a Fete, the money realised being given to the War Funds. Sir Mirza Ismail was present, and made his usual inspiring and graceful speech. He exhorted the boys to live up to their ideals as Christian gentlemen, but to remember that they were also members of a wider community, whose ideals command equal respect.

The Story of Sixty Years

The school authorities have had printed for the Diamond Jubilee a "Story of Sixty Years," a full history of the school from its foundations, by Mr. Weston and Mr. Andersen, with many documents and photographs. The appendices include the Jubilee Pageant "Alma Mater," by Mrs. Weston, Mr. Bridges' Jubilee Poem, a sketch of Sir Henry Gidney, and Bishop Pickett's speech at Baldwin's in February.

The volume gives a striking conspectus of the school's history and achievements, and reveals the reasons for the loyalty of its old pupils and other friends. It has evolved a spirit of its own, a spirit summed up perhaps, from one side, by the triple dedication at the beginning; and an institution which sets before itself a worthwhile ideal will not lack support.