

Family Department.

FENEBERG'S LOAN TO THE LORD.

[Written for the Church Guardian.]

BY O. A. HAMMOND.

To godly Michael Feneberg,
Pastor of Seeg, Bavaria,
With downcast eyes and empty purse,
A weary Traveller came one day,
Who may aid him to journey's end,
Now that his silver staff is gone?
Shall the generous Pastor be his friend,
So far as three crowns, to help him on?
"The journey is long—ah, see the gate!
Hence must I go at morn's awake;
A hapless Traveller, thus in strait,
I crave three crowns, for Jesus' sake!"
Three crowns! "All the Vicar can claim!
But the Traveller earnestly implored:
"Now, since he asks in Jesus' name,
I will lend the money to the Lord."
He drew the silver from his purse,
He sent the stranded stranger on,
But now the Vicar's case grew worse,
Needs pressed him sore, his means were gone.
To left he looked, he looked to right:
No aid, no token of relief;
His wants came pressing, thick as night,
And mustering winds portended grief.
He went unto the Lord, and said:
"Three crowns, dear Lord, I lent to Thee:
My needs run gaunt, my dreams have fled,
I pray Thee, give them back to me."
Ere night there came a message;
What means that packet? hidden it aught?
This opened: "Lo, what have I here?
Three hundred thalers safely brought!"
Childlike, amazed and joyfully,
Exclaimed the man for kindness famed:
"Dear Lord, what dare one ask of Thee?
Straightway one feels so much ashamed!"

EPIPHANY.

[Written for the Church Guardian.]

BY EGRIA.

As they who of old were led,
To Thy manger's lowly bed,
Bending low the knees, confessed,
Thou wert God, forever blest,
Christ, let us be led to Thee,
At this glad Epiphany;
Let us have the blessed sight,
Of Thy glory infinite.
Though Thou art on earth no more,
We can see Thee and adore,
And with faith's all-seeing eye,
Have Thy presence ever nigh.
Christ, praised, lauded, and adored,
Mighty, gracious, loving Lord,
Hear us, as to Thee we cry,
At Thy glad Epiphany.

A HARD LESSON.

A TALE.

[Written for the Church Guardian.]

(Continued.)

Not a little surprised was Mr. Alleyne to find that the lady who had requested to see him for a few moments was no other than Miss Goodwin. Mr. Alleyne was a bachelor, and although no longer young was far from having altogether abandoned any matrimonial intentions, and Inez was one of the young ladies of whom, in his softer leisure moments, he sometimes permitted a vision to flit before his mental gaze. "My dear Miss Goodwin," he said with no little embarrassment, to what am I indebted for this pleasure? How can I serve you? "You will wonder what can have brought me here to-day, Mr. Alleyne," she replied in her bright, gentle manner, "and it was only because I knew you are so kind that I have ventured to come to trouble you, and to ask a favor of you." "I shall only be too glad to do anything in my power," replied Mr. Alleyne, with all sincerity, and thinking at the moment that no young lady of his acquaintance had a more charming manner than Miss Goodwin. So Inez made her request, which was that he would hand over to her then and there the five thousand pounds deposited in the bank by her late father. Very much surprised was Mr. Alleyne, for the doctor's affairs had been well known to him and he well remembered his expression that after a life's hard work and successful practice he could leave only a very modest income to his wife, and his own reply that a man so tender hearted and liberal to all in need could not expect to leave riches behind him. Leading such a quiet, retired life

the interest of their modest capital had apparently quite sufficed Mrs. Goodwin and her daughter, and the elder lady had more than once expressed her satisfaction in knowing that her little fortune was in such safe keeping as that of the old-established Brantford Bank. And now she wanted so suddenly to withdraw it, and on a day when business of all kinds was usually put aside, her daughter requested him to hand her over the money. However the ladies knew their own business best, and Mr. Alleyne was too much the gentleman even to express the surprise he felt, much less to trouble Inez with any questions. He simply asked her to wait for a short time while he went to the bank, which was adjacent to his own house to get the money for her, feeling himself amply repaid for the small trouble by the grateful look in her eyes.

In half an hour more Inez was walking fleetly homewards, clasping in her hand the little packet which was on the one hand to ease Archie of his heavy burden, but in giving up which she and her mother were to take a burthen upon themselves hitherto unknown.

Before day-break the following morning Archie Lennox was seated in the express train to Hillerton, a very different man from the joyous, self-confident Archie Lennox of two short days before; truly the tide of his fortune had turned swiftly. He could not yet fully realize the change in his life, and only had a depressing consciousness that he had injured those who were dearer to him than his life. We need not accompany him to the town where Miss Culpepper, the unconscious cause of his misfortune, anxiously and eagerly awaited tidings from the solicitors who had charge of her late uncle's estate. This legacy meant for her a change from grinding poverty or painful dependence to blessed independence and freedom from care for her remaining years, and at any other time Archie would have warmly sympathized with the unconcealed gratification of the care-worn, faded woman when she found herself actually in possession of what for her represented so much, but alas, she was being enriched at the expense of Inez and her mother, and it was with a sickening sense of this that Archie placed in her hands the notes which Mr. Alleyne had yesterday given to Inez. Having received Miss Culpepper's receipt for the money, he abruptly took his leave of her and wandered aimlessly about the town for hours until the arrival of the train by which he was to return to Brantford.

Some weeks passed, during which a first-class detective spent a good deal of his skill and time to no purpose in the futile attempt to discover a clue to the disappearance of Archie Lennox's pocket book, and Katie had been so deeply grieved and insulted by his cross-questioning that nothing less than her faithful love for her mistress and Inez, and her idolatry of Trixie could have tempted her to remain in the household. She did not suspect that her remaining at all was a matter of debate, that Inez and Mrs. Goodwin had discussed the advisability of doing without a servant altogether. It was chiefly on Archie's account that they decided to keep their faithful Katie, at least for the present, for Archie, whenever he came, seemed to notice with feverish anxiety any change, however small, in their domestic matters. Mrs. Goodwin had not scrupled to promise him, that if necessary, she would allow him to help them, but his income was as yet but a small one, and the promised partnership was yet a year off. Inez had quietly but positively announced her intention of forming a little school, and had gone systematically to work to find some pupils. It was a nine days' wonder among the Goodwins' acquaintance who had supposed them in much better circumstances than had been the case, and some curiosity was expressed as to the change, but it is needless to say that it was not gratified. Their circle of mere acquaintances of course suddenly and mysteriously narrowed almost to a point; whereas, the few friends, really deserving of the name, rallied round them, cheerfully and hopefully Inez and her mother entered on their new life. The one great treasure was theirs, of which no human vicissitude could rob them—they felt no anxious forebodings, and indulged in no regrets. Their hearts were warmed with the consciousness of having helped the one dearest to them in his hour of need. As Inez had said, they were still better off than thousands of others; so long as they were endowed with health, and still could call the dear old home their own.

To Archie, however, things wore a much darker color; he could not for an

hour shake off the miserable remembrance that he had, as he expressed it, despoiled them, that through him they had lost their pleasant independence and exchanged it for sordid cares and anxieties. What a poor unmanly part he had played, he who had prided himself on being in some sort their support, on taking the place of his dead benefactor. Sanguine and elated as he had been, buoyed up by a consciousness of the elements of success in himself and a belief in his good fortune he was now profoundly discouraged. Since an unpleasant interview with Mr. Dryson, on his return from Hillerton, that gentleman had not treated him with his former cordiality and confidence, whether he wished to express his disapproval of Lennox's un-businesslike conduct, or that he believed some further blame attached to him, or that he was irritated by a consciousness that the heads of the firm should themselves bear at least a part of the loss incurred, he was cold and overbearing in his manner, and Archie, for the first time in his life, experienced the unpleasant sensation of being snubbed.

But greater than all other troubles, and yet connected with them all, was the fact that his marriage with Inez seemed to be removed to an indefinite period. Mrs. Goodwin he well knew, dearly as she loved him, would not give her consent to her daughter's marriage in the present circumstances of both, thus day added itself to day without bringing the old brightness back into his life. Impatient as he sometimes felt, he began to look abroad and think of other and shorter roads to fortune than that which he was pursuing; he read much of the far West, of California and Australia, what might not a few years accomplish in his case, as in that of so many others. One evening, partly in jest but more in earnest, he asked Inez would she wait for him if he could make up his mind to put the ocean between them for a while. The bare thought of his doing so gave her pain, such as she had never experienced, but she answered bravely, that if it would be for his good, God would help her to bear his absence, yet that it seemed to her that in his own land and his own profession he would find room to make as much fortune as they should need—"we don't want to be very rich, Archie," she said, "father was not a rich man, and yet think how happy we have all been." But you have never known straitened circumstances, you have never felt care pressing upon you until now," he answered, with that look of distress in his eyes which Inez dreaded, and which it was her loving aim to banish as much as possible. "You foolish fellow," she said, laughing; "do I look as if care was killing me? You don't know that I bid fair to become a popular teacher; you should see my class of little maidens; and, by-the-by, Trixie has become a model of good behaviour in school; she seems deeply impressed with the importance of her position."

Thus Inez would make light of the cares which were really pressing enough; and now that she had discovered what Archie seriously contemplated, she set herself more than ever to the task of cheering him. Mrs. Goodwin preached patience, and spoke trustfully of his prospect, but by a tacit consent nothing passed between Archie and herself on the subject of his marriage with Inez; and it was this which made him recur more and more frequently to the idea of seeking his fortune abroad. The project began to take shape with Inez too, and the dread of a separation from her lover began to steal the brightness from her sweet face also. She had said nothing of it to her mother, but Mrs. Goodwin saw the shadow plainly enough.

(To be Continued.)

BE HONEST.

I tell you, brethren, be honest in your dealings; take no advantage, even of a child. Be conscientious in your bargains. Have a single eye and a single heart. Seek not to be shrewd. Be not ashamed to be called simple. And let me tell you a secret, seeing it is written in the Scriptures, that your whole body will then be full of light, and this in every kind. You will actually see further and see clearer than shrewd and cunning men; and you will be less liable to be duped than they, provided you add to this another part of the character which is proper to an honest man—namely, a resolution to protect honesty and to discountenance every kind of fraud. A cunning man is never a firm man, but an honest man is; a double-minded man is always unstable, a man of faith is firm as a rock. I tell you there is a sacred

connection between honesty and faith; honesty is faith applied to worldly things, and faith is honesty quickened by the Spirit to the use of heavenly things.—Selected.

Our London Letter.

(From our own Correspondent.)

A few weeks ago I was in Canterbury and visited St. Augustine's College, which is so well represented in Canada. Old Augustinians will be pleased to learn that the college is filled to its utmost capacity, and is, under the able direction of Dr. Maclear, the present and recently appointed Warden, doing a good work. From his past experience, and the nature of his work in London, Dr. Maclear has acquired the faculty of drawing young men to him, and of winning their respect and affection, which will render him invaluable in the position he now occupies. Old students, of whom you number many amongst your readers, will be pleased to hear this, and to be assured that should they ever return on a visit to their Alma Mater they will meet with a warm reception and be made much of.

Some few evenings ago one of the former students from the College, the Rev. George Smith, of Rorke's Drift celebrity, at a missionary meeting, gave a very interesting account of the Zulus, an abstract of which I purpose sending you, thinking it will interest you more than a description of the prize pigs and fat oxen which are the principal topics of conversation here just now.

Mr. Smith said he had consented to tell them something about the Zulus, he might say from the cradle to the grave, although Zulus knew nothing about cradles. He should tell them something of their manners and customs so that they might become more personally interested in the Zulu people, and be stirred up to help in the Mission work. He had lived nine years in Natal, on the borders of Zululand. His parish was large—about the size of Norfolk and Suffolk, and part of Essex added in, the native population being very large. The Zulu people were a strong and vigorous race; their weak ones die off early. Their ideas of clothing were far from expensive or extravagant. (In illustration several "suits" were shown varying in size, from a few square inches to a moderate size apron). They were by no means clean or particular in their own houses. He had tried hard to persuade a Zulu mother to wash her child, and was amused to see her odd ways of doing it. Having fetched a bowl of water from the river she took mouthfuls, and used her mouth as an engine to squirt it over the little one, who showed a true Zulu dislike for the cleansing process. The Zulus had a very sensible way of naming their children. Every name had some meaning to it, and referred to some incident of the infant's life or peculiarity in its habits. Mr. Smith showed a great variety of articles of clothing, ornaments, and nicknacks of many kinds and gave a very interesting account of their several uses. Amongst other items was a Zulu doll. He had long tried to get one of these, but the girls would on no account part with what they spoke of as their own flesh and blood. He had got a Zulu young lady to make the specimen shown. It was quite two years before he could finally obtain it, for their was no use being in a hurry in Zululand. When a girl comes of age she is invested with a special dress as an intimation that she has "come out" and is prepared to receive the attention of the young men. Then she shaves the wool of the forehead and ornaments the brow with a circlet of bead work. They are very fond of bangles on their arms and he had seen as many as thirty between the wrist and the elbow. The Zulu ladies rejoice in a sort of perpetual leap year, and think it quite natural to make a declaration to any young man they may take a fancy to. She goes to his place and says that she has come to her father's house. But it is not such an easy affair to get married even then. The young man has to pay a certain number of cattle to his lady's father. An ordinary marriage gift may be ten head, a chief would have to pay twenty, and a big chief as many as could be got from him. When engaged the girl goes to the young man's village and stays there three days. A dance takes place to denote the engagement, and a part of the cattle is sent in by the man. The wedding may not come off for a long time, but the girl is looked upon as the man's wife. The

chief amusement of the Zulu young ladies appears to be dancing. Decking themselves out with as many belts and strings of beads as they can to make themselves attractive they dance most assiduously. Hair dressing is another favourite amusement. They had learned to wear their hair in fringes on the forehead long before the European ladies borrowed that invention. Man, woman or child, everyone took snuff on every conceivable occasion, and in quite inconceivable quantities, lading it into the nostrils with a spoon they carry as an adjunct of their snuff boxes. The Zulu brides wear a wedding veil and a proper wedding dress made out of the skin of a small antelope, which is ornamented with Birmingham buttons. (One of these garments was exhibited and was subsequently inspected with much curiosity.) That dress they have to wear till it is worn out. They have bridesmaids, from two to twenty, according to the station of the parties. The bride comes the night before the wedding to a neighbouring village. The next morning she goes down with her maids to the nearest stream and is supposed to perform the highly necessary operation of bathing till about midday. It is true the efficacy of the bath is somewhat marred by the fact that the ladies adorn themselves by daubing their bodies with various coloured clays. Then a procession is formed which works its way in a curious zigzag fashion to the bridegroom's abode—he, poor fellow, looking all the while very disconsolate and little like the happy man his. The bride remains hidden among her crowd of friends, while abundant dancing on both sides goes on.

When all are exhausted a man comes out who lauds the bride as the finest girl that ever lived, and winds up his speech by asking for one more head of cattle, or at the very least a goat. After that the bride performs the ceremony of insulting the bridegroom. She has her dagger and shield and hits her future lord usually with the shield, but sometimes with the knife. Then comes more dancing, and in the confusion the bride suddenly rushes off in an apparently desperate attempt to escape. She takes to the hills, and her maids and friends after her until she is caught and brought back. The day ends with much drinking of beer and a friendly fight.

On the morrow one of the cattle is slaughtered with many peculiar and singular ceremonies; the old ladies hold a final court of enquiry and at last the wedding is considered over and the bridegroom becomes a happy man. Festivities are kept up till there is no more to eat or drink. The girl's joyous days are at an end. Henceforth she has to work in the field and the home while her lord enjoys the fruits of her labour. The Zulu men are often drawn in pictures wearing head rings. These are made from an exudation of the mimosa tree. While still sticky the hair is fixed into it and the ring becomes an inseparable ornament. But it can only be worn by special permission of the king, or in Natal, of the chief. A variety of small articles of use or ornament are carried in the hair, and charms are usually worn round the neck. The Zulus are inveterate smokers of a native hemp, very stupefying and maddening. The speaker often gave them tobacco to induce them to give up this pernicious habit, but they clung to their own special weed. They were hospitable, but their hospitality was far from attractive. Their small huts, into which one had to creep, swarmed with cockroaches which too often had a way of drowning themselves in the soap or porridge. When a Zulu died his friends endeavoured to bury him so that the place might soon become unknown. A round hole was dug several feet deep and a cavity made in which the body was placed. In front of this his shield was propped up with his assegais and then the hole was filled up with earth. Mr. Smith gave an interesting account of a Basuto chief named Hlubi, who had assisted the British in the campaign and had been made by Sir Garnet Wolseley king of the district in which was the fatal field of Isandhwana. Hlubi long ago asked Mr. Smith to send him a teacher for his people and he caused that to be done. Since he had settled in his kingdom he had again asked for teachers and now upon the spot where the battle was fought they had a school, and were about to establish a church, for which about £1,500 had already been raised. Bishop Mackenzie had gone on to that very field resolved to make it a centre of life and Christian work in Zululand.