

The Presbyterian Review.

Vol. XIII.—No. 29.

TORONTO, JANUARY 21, 1897.

\$1.50 per Annum

MY BLESSING.

Sitting alone in the twilight,
Weary and listless and sad,
Missing a love strong and tender
Which many long years I had had.

Sitting alone in the twilight,
Yearning for what might not be,
Questioning what is the blessing,
This loneliness bringeth to me.

Surely it bringeth a blessing,
Blessing although unperceived,
For Jesus the Lord stands waiting,
To comfort the heart that has grieved,

Sitting alone in the twilight,
This is the message for me;
"Out of a sorrow so bitter
For service thy heart may be free."

Loving and serving unhindered,
Heart and affection all free,
This is the blessing so sacred
My loneliness bringeth to me.

OVER LAND AND SEA.

The First Presbyterian Church of Newburyport, Mass., known as the "Old South" Church, has just completed 150 years of life and its anniversary has been duly celebrated. It is thus of the same age as Princeton University. It was organized by George Whitefield, the great evangelist, who was compeer and associate of the Wesleys. This church is his burying-place, and his memory is most highly cherished as connected with the early life and work of the church.

A summary has been prepared by the editorial secretary of the America Board of Foreign Missions of Protestant foreign mission work throughout the world. Compared with last year the total increase in contributions has been about \$1,100,000. In the United States there was a decrease of about \$70,000. The communicants have increased by about 64,000. In the United States, Canada, Great Britain, continental Europe, Australia, India, Africa, etc., there are 267 Societies, 4,525 stations, 14,037 out-stations, 6,336 male missionaries, 5,675 female missionaries, 60,164 native laborers, and 1,221,175 communicants. The income is \$15,649,243.

The Salvation Army in Great Britain has raised \$118,775 during its late self-denial week to carry on the work of the Army. This is an increase of \$25,000 over the amount thus raised last year.

Twenty five years ago Queen Victoria made her will: but since that time so many changes have taken place that revision was necessary, and a new will will be drawn up and signed by her. The amount of property which the Queen has in her own right and at her disposal is estimated at \$175,000,000. Since ascending the throne in 1837 the Queen's civil list, that is the appropriation for her expenses as sovereign, has been about three million dollars per annum. Of this amount three hundred thousand dollars is for her privy purse, or pocket money. The net revenues of the Duchy of Lancaster yield her another three hundred thousand dollars. The Queen, therefore, has about six hundred thousand dollars per year to lay up, invest and provide

against a rainy day. Many of her investments in real estate have increased enormously in value, and her private fortune is thought to be one hundred million dollars. Prince Albert's estate, which was left to the Queen, has grown to twenty-five million dollars, and this alone, with other revenues and gifts, has brought the whole up to \$175,000,000.

At the late coronation of the Czar of Russia, it was essential that he should appear to be moving freely among his people, and yet that he should be protected from the murderous fanaticism that had assassinated his father. His safety was intrusted by the police to a strong body-guard of peasants belonging to the persecuted sects of the Stundists. Despised, deprived of some of their civil rights for conscience' sake, they were trusted before all other men to guard their Emperor because they were known to be consecrated to "another King, one Jesus." Perhaps the Czar never knew to whom he was indebted, for the cruel persecution of the Stundists still continues.

Dr. Nansen's testimony is added to that of other Arctic explorers in favor of total abstinence. Referring to one of his earlier journeys, he says: "The only spirits we took were as fuel for our stove to melt the snow that we might have water to drink. I believe the use of stimulants to be a mistake." And in explaining his refusal to accept a proffered supply of very fine old Scotch whisky, he said: "I am of the opinion that the use of alcoholic drinks, especially in Arctic regions, is to be avoided."

The saloon keeper has the devil for one of his partners and the state for the other. "A threefold cord is not quickly broken." But though joined hand in hand with the devil and the state, the wicked shall not go unpunished. Their cord will be broken and their legal license to do evil will be annulled.

Dr Jessup writes that a French syndicate are building a large gambling hotel at Ain Soofar, one of the stations of the Damascus railway. This is intended to form a refuge for the gamblers at Monte Carlo when the Monaco license terminates. Several hundred men are engaged on the work, which is to cost £25,000. He also states that according to Mahomedan law gambling is illegal, and that it will lie with the Christian Governor of Mount Lebanon, who is appointed by six European Powers, to say whether this new Gambling Hell will be permitted to transfer its ravages to Syria.

The Orthodox Church of Russia is said to be the wealthiest Church in the world, and the statement has been made that it could easily pay the national debt of the empire, amounting to £200,000,000, and yet not be impoverished. Strange to say one great source of its income is the sale of candles. They are called consecrated candles and during the Easter season the demand for them is immense.