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Y. M. C. A. NOTES.
A delegation from the Kingston, N. Y. association recently visited West Hensley and held interesting services. It is expected that an association will soon be organized there.

At a recent reunion of the Y. M. C. A. of Bordeaux, France, the very earnest and efficient General Secretary bade the association farewell to enter the evangelical ministry, to which he goes with many prayers.

The eleventh annual convention of the Y. M. C. A. of the State of Ohio was welcomed in the Broad-street Congregational Church, Columbus, Sept. 27th. H. Thane Miller presided, and Rev. Dr. Moore welcomed the delegates on the part of the clergy. He liked the association because it is developing unity among the Churches. He said the association had demonstrated the necessity for its existence, and God has vindicated the wisdom of its establishment in the results achieved. Before the meeting adjourned a letter from the Private Secretary of the Governor was read, requesting that the latter's absence from the city detained him from the Convention's sessions in which he was much interested.

During the recent strike the Y. M. C. A. of Wilkesboro, Pa., sent delegations of its members to hold religious services among the troops stationed in that city. They were cordially welcomed and were heard with attention, the soldiers themselves opening the singing.

The temperance work under T. N. Douthey has been very successfully prosecuted at Mightopolis, St. Paul, and Richmond, Minn., the Y. M. C. A. assisting.

We learn with regret that the ritualistic spirit which takes the lead at St. Vincent, France, takes away all hope of reconstituting the union dissevered by the departure of most of its members.

Mr. L. P. Rowland, late of Philadelphia, and well known in association work, has been called to work on the Eastern shore of Maryland.

At Cedar Falls, Iowa, is an association which is doing an excellent work. Although organized but six months the association has succeeded in breaking down the denominational "partition walls," and the Christian union which John speaks of is beginning to be realized.

The annual convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the State of New York, met at Hudson, Sept. 19th. Many persons well known in association work were present, and among others the Rev. George Müller, of Bristol, England, took part in the exercises. The reports from associations showed that an encouraging work was going on throughout the State. Mr. H. B. Cathambelin, of Syracuse read an interesting paper before the Convention on "The Financial Necessities" of the associations, and resolutions were adopted asking for \$3000 for the State work for the year to come. Of this amount nearly \$2000 were subscribed on the spot. The Convention throughout was one of the most successful ever held in New York.

The tenth anniversary of the Y. M. C. A. of Meriden, Ct., was held Sept. 17th. The President, Mr. Benham made an interesting address, sketching the history of the association from its inception to the present time. He stated that the library contained 2000 volumes, and has a membership of 300.

The Conventions of the Associations of New Hampshire was held at Concord, Sept. 18-20. 300 delegates were present, and \$2000 subscribed for the State work. The Conference for New England Christian workers was held the three days immediately preceding the Convention, and

was attended by delegates from all parts of New England. The conference and convention were both of very great interest.

At the time of the recent Dominion Convention at Quebec, the association of that city desired to present to the public the needs of the society for a building of its own. A mass meeting which was well attended was held therefore in this interest, and was addressed by prominent association workers. The advantages of a building in assisting the work of the organization was presented by Messrs. Cree, of New York, Budge, of Montreal, Crossbid, of Quebec and others, and subscriptions were raised amounting to \$10,000.

The eleventh annual Convention of the Y.M.C.A. of the Maritime Provinces was held in Chatham, N.B., Sept. 6th. A large number of delegates were present from different parts of the Provinces, and the International Executive Committee was represented by Mr. H. K. Cree, of New York. The Hon. Mr. Blair extended in the name of the Chatham Association a hearty welcome to all the delegates, which was responded to by Mr. J. B. Morrow, of Halifax. The Rev. Mr. Wilson welcomed the Convention in the name of the clergy of Chatham, and commended the association as a hand-maid of the church. The expenses for the year was reported to be \$8,563 for the various societies.

THE INFATUATION OF CRIME.

We do not favour a ready admission to our columns of cruel and sanguinary tales. But as a warning to those who indulge wicked passions, and to show the terrible retribution which overtakes, sooner or later, the perpetrators of iniquity, we give extracts as to a dreadful sin and punishment which recently appeared in English papers. The St. John Telegraph gives a summary of the facts connected with the mystery, murder and penalty. It is next to impossible to believe that such wickedness is allowed to cumber the earth.

A short time ago our cable despatches announced that four persons had been sentenced to death, in England, in connection with the Penge mystery and murder case, but no details were given fitted to cast light on the matter. These have now come to hand, and are of the most extraordinary character.

The persons sentenced to die are Louis Staunton and Patrick Staunton, brothers, Mrs. Patrick Staunton, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Rhodes and Alice Rhodes her sister. The woman, who was murdered, was Mrs. Louis Staunton, whose maiden name was Harriet Butterfield.

The story, in brief, is that a couple of years ago Louis Staunton married Harriet Butterfield, who was ten years older than himself; and a person of weak mind; that soon after he tried to induce her to sell all her property and reversions amounting to £3,000; that he soon after conceived a guilty passion for Alice Rhodes, sister of Patrick's wife, the brother and wife both favoring it. The whole family removed from Penge to a retired spot in which Mrs. Louis Staunton and her child were placed in a small room in Patrick's house, and slowly starved to death, Alice Rhodes, whom he intended to marry when he got rid of his wife, openly lived with Lois as the true Mrs. Staunton. The child was reduced to the point of death and sent to the hospital where it died. Before Mrs. Staunton breathed her last, the parties moved back to Penge, carrying the dying woman with them, in order to get a certificate at that place that the death of Mrs. Staunton arose from natural causes. They almost succeeded but suspicions were aroused.

The court scene at the trial is thus described:—
Mr. Justice Hawkins in his scarlet and black robes with his black cap;

the miserable prisoner in the dock, Louis pale and in a trance; Patrick and his wife terror stricken yet rapidly exchanging communications with each other; Alice Rhodes with head covered and stupefied with terror; the court crowded with ladies and gentlemen; the time after 11 o'clock at night; the jury having brought in their verdict the foreman, in answer to the Clerk of Arraiges, pronouncing the word "guilty" four several times.

What follows is thus described by an English contemporary:—

"Silence" is emphatically proclaimed, and once more the two brothers and two sisters are in the front row of the dock. There is no sitting now. They must all stand and bear the verdict pronounced upon them. Louis, still ashy pale, looks as if he were in a stupor, and gazes unmoved. Patrick trembles like a leaf, and as he has done on every day of the trial, looks behind him pitifully and pleadingly for his wife. Once she is by his side he seems more consoled. The two women, half stooping and shrinking from the look of the Court and the eyes of the women round about them at every corner, stand by the side of the men. The dock is now full. The warders have been doubled and trebled, and it requires all the kindly assistance of Mr. Smith, the Governor, and all the attention of every one concerned to prevent Patrick and his wife from falling. It is a dreadful moment, and the suspense is painful. Once again the names of the jurymen are called over, and each one answers. Then, after another "Silence!" the Clerk of the Arraiges speaks: "How say you, gentlemen, is Louis Staunton guilty of the murder with which he stands charged?" The Foreman's voice trembles, "Guilty." "Is Patrick Staunton guilty of the murder with which he stands charged?" "Guilty." "Is Elizabeth Ann Staunton guilty of the murder with which she stands charged?" "Guilty." "Is Alice Rhodes guilty of the murder with which she stands charged?" "Guilty." At the last sentence there is an exclamation of "Oh!" a sudden sharp murmur of pity which runs instantly round the court. All eyes are fixed on the miserable creatures in the dock. That murmur of commiseration grows so loud that the recommendation to mercy of the women is scarcely heard. And now Alice Rhodes has fainted in the dock. With a piteous moan she has fallen into the arms of the attendants, and has been gently placed on a chair. "I will, I will," murmurs Mrs. Patrick Staunton to her husband. He has implored her for his sake to be firm, and she is acting bravely. Still Louis Staunton gazes upon the Court as if in a dream. Still Patrick Staunton positively shivers. How long will that unhappy woman bear up? Her sister is moaning in a fainting fit, and smelling salts are being administered; and whilst the old-fashioned cry of the usher, "Oyez, oyez, oyez," asks why sentence of death should not be pronounced, and the judge sternly comments on the enormity of the offence, and the two brothers and the sisters still stand at the bar. Patrick Staunton grasps his wife's hand; he presses it intensely and affectionately. Again she murmurs she will be firm, but at the mention of death her strength succumbs, and, with one pitiful cry, "O, give me a chair," she sinks by the side of her sister in a swoon. And now the two brothers are left standing, to hear the sentence of death pronounced. Before the dreadful words are over, Patrick, remembering, no doubt, their old affection, has slipped his hand into his brother's, as much as to say that if "they were not lovely and pleasant in their lives," still that "in death they are not divided," but Lewis Staunton, pale as hewn-marble, neither trembles nor falters, nor looks at his brother, nor turns to poor Alice Rhodes as she lies fainting in the corner, but simply gazes across the crowded court into vacancy. As we look amidst the huddled crowd of warders, fainting women and pale men condemned to death, they are asked if they have anything to say against the oncoming execution. Mr. Sydney Smith,

the Governor of the gaol, answers for the women No; but Alice Rhodes, recovered for an instant answers for herself, "Only that I am innocent." Louis and Patrick Staunton say nothing; but when the confusion has subsided go down the sad steps after the removal of the prostrate sisters. So ends the drama brought to a tragic conclusion, and as the audience file out, appalled at the scene just witnessed, one of the leading counsel—accustomed, no doubt, to sentences of death—asks my Lord when he will take the first case in the morning.

On Saturday evening, September 22 the Rev. Dr. Gervase Smith and Mrs. Smith embarked at Gravesend on board the steamer "Hankow" for Melbourne. A large number of friends assembled at the Cannon-street railway station to bid the travellers Godspeed on their journey to Australia, whither Dr. Smith is going as representative of the British Conference to the General Conference of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church, to be held at Sydney, in May, 1878, and to visit the several colonies connected with that Conference. Amongst those present were the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Punshon, and the Revs. M. C. Osborne, G. W. Oliver, B.A., John Harvard, W. Butters, J. Buller, T. Allen, W. Hirst, W. H. Cornforth and W. Cornforth. About a score of relatives, including the sisters and the sons of Dr. Smith, and friends from all parts of the British Isles, proceeded to Gravesend. The weather was fine; the accommodation on board was excellent; and there appeared every prospect of a swift and pleasant voyage. Word has been received from Plymouth that the passage so far had been smooth and free from all discomfort. Probably no further news of the vessel will be received till her arrival at Melbourne is announced by telegram some six weeks hence. After reaching Melbourne, Dr. and Mrs. Smith will visit Adelaide, Tasmania, New Zealand, Queensland Sydney; and at the close of the General Conference at Sydney will sail to San Francisco, calling at Fiji and the Sandwich Islands. The long railway journey across North America and another voyage from New York to Liverpool will bring their long circular tour to a close, probably in the latter part of next July. Many prayers have been and will be offered, that Dr. Smith's health, which of late has not been robust, may be permanently improved by the sea breezes and change of scene, the Australasian Churches may be greatly blessed by his presence and ministrations, and that journeying mercies in abundance may be granted to him and Mrs. Smith during their long absence from home.—Records.

JOSEPH COOK'S PERSON AND MANNER.

BY PROFESSOR J. P. LACROIX.

Mr. Cook, than whom no man in Christendom is at present a more shining light, is short and heavy in person, the very ideal of absolute physical health. His general appearance is rather Scotch or English than American—delicately florid of countenance, and light almost sandy, of hair. His head is no way particularly remarkable, having no special disproportionateness of forehead or of intellectuality over the other inferior faculties. To meet him on the street or in a hotel, one would take him to be simply an excellent specimen of well-balanced manhood, perhaps a banker, a man of literary leisure; certainly no fanatic in politics, religion, or any thing else.

What is his manner as a speaker? How does he succeed in interesting an out-door audience in the discussion of the profoundest problems of metaphysics and theology? (1.) By his own perfect mastery of the subject. (2.) By his personal enthusiasm for the subject. (3.) By his very rare imaginativeness and amplexness of language. By his physical ability to deliver himself with great force and animation.

There is in Mr. Cook an absolute absence of hurtful mannerisms and of artificiality. No one would suspect him of ever having come within a hundred

leagues of a teacher of elocution. He has no fancy gesture, no theatrical stamp of the foot, no scientific modulations of the voice. He has absolutely no shadow of self-consciousness, no remotest thought of "what impressions I am making." He is too genuine a man for this or any other such littleness.

Some of his lectures here have been delivered from the manuscript; some in the absolutely free manner of a politician addressing a mass meeting. His great speech on, "Does Death End All?" was a fine piece of absolutely untrammelled harangue before a great multitude as it is the fortune of man to listen to. On this occasion he rose to his feet, stepped solidly to the front of the platform, and with a single sentence seized the absolute attention of that vast multitude, and sprang into the very heart of his subject; and for two hours that attention he held, and that first bound of energetic delivery he kept up.

When he reads he does it with about as much forcefulness as when he speaks freely. Discarding a desk, he seizes his great bundle of manuscript with both hands, and gets as near his audience as he can, and reads with all the might of his strong person and his warm heart. When a fresh argument flashes upon him, he tosses aside his bundle of foolscap, and follows it out to the end. Then resuming his manuscript, he proceeds just as if there had been no interruption. Thus his speeches grow in scope every time they are delivered.

The nearest thing to a mannerism of intonation in Mr. Cook is a very peculiar sort of cadenced rhythm with which some of his intensest utterances are concluded. It is the same thing which appears as a dead fossil in the artificial intonation of the ritualist, in the weird howl of the dervish, and in sing-song of the Southern backwoods Baptist. It is the very same thing which forces the bard to sing, and the poet to write in musical numbers. In Mr. Cook it is wonderfully impressive, simply because it is absolutely natural, absolutely the fitting form for the thought to assume under the peculiar circumstances. In Mr. Cook's whole manner there is great gentleness, kindness, Christianness, and the absolute absence of bitterness, sarcasm or sneering. The foe is not frowned down, nor browbeaten down, but he is simply annihilated by the sweetness and brightness of truth. I regard it among the richest privileges of my life to have heard Mr. Joseph Cook.—West. Adv.

WHAT IS IT.

The Steamer "Cortes" which arrived yesterday morning from St. John's, N.F., brought up a curious kind of sea monster, which was caught at Catalina on the 24th ult., by two fishermen. It had been driven round the east point of that harbor during a gale, and when noticed it was still living, but in a very exhausted condition, and was rescued with much difficulty and taken to St. John's, N.F., where it was sold to parties in New York, for \$500, who intend to preserve it and put it up on exhibition. The following is curtailed from the St. John's, N.F. "Star."—The animal is forty feet six inches, between extremities, or from the point of its longest tentacle to the point of the tail. It has eight arms which radiate from the head of the animal, four from either side of the head, near the extremity of which, with two of the shorter tentacles between them, spring two enormously long arms or feelers of about thirty feet six inches each, varying in thickness from their extremities to the base at from about six to twelve inches in circumference. The mass of the body, including the tail was about ten feet in length and about three in breadth, with an average thickness of about twelve inches. The tail is about two feet nine inches across, and the head is about two feet and a half in circumference.—Halifax Herald.