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OVER LAND AND SEA.

An encouraging statement is made in the September number of the *Church at Home and Abroad*, as to the new Presbyterian building. The Board of Home Missions is already at home on the seventh floor; the Board of Foreign Missions is on the eighth floor, and the Board of Church Erection is on the ninth floor. A number of offices are already rented, and vigorous efforts are being put forth to have the building occupied at as early a date and as profitable as possible.

Rome, not content with adding during the century certain dogmas to her creed, especially that of the papal infallibility, is now preparing to revive and extend the cult of the Virgin, ten Cardinals, thirty-four Archbishops, and ninety-four Bishops having already signified their intention to attend what is called the Marian National Congress in Rome, the object of which is to place the worshipping of the Virgin Mary still more distinctly and authoritatively among the tenets of the church.

Protestant missionaries in Mexico have begun a crusade against the prevalent and abominable idolatry of the Virgin of Guadalupe. They have put forth a circular against it which promises to cause some political as well as religious commotion, as the priests use the ignorant worshippers of the Virgin for political ends. Some of the Catholic hierarchy, however, disgusted and alarmed at the abominations caused by this idolatry, have raised their voices against it, and it seems that Mexico is entering upon an exciting religio-political controversy.

We suggest that those, who are lamenting the heavy expenditure of money by young people in their conventions, have something to say about the expenses and work of such gatherings as that of the Knights Templar in Boston. What are they doing to make the world better and happier? Let these and their methods and work be contrasted with the Christian Endeavor Convention, held in Boston a few weeks ago.

The census statistics tell us that in the United States there are 22,735,664 wage-earners of all descriptions, men, women, and children, who receive stated amounts for services rendered. Of these, there are 121,219 saloon-keepers and bartenders, while there are 88,295 clergymen. So long as these liquor men do their work it can not be seen how much good the ministers would do, but so long as the ministers are at work the saloon-keepers can not do all the harm they would.

If it is true that family worship is falling into decadence, it is one of the most unpromising signs of the times. The home is the real stronghold of faith and piety and patriotism. So long as the homes are full of the spirit of devotion and consecration to God, the country will be pervaded by true and healthful influ-

ences. Strong men and true women will be reared to bear testimony for God and righteousness. Trained in these schools of virtue and of prayer, they will grow up to practice what is good and to live for what is unseen and eternal. The home must be the center of piety if the church is to be full of spiritual power.

There are few pastors who are able to visit their people so frequently as they seem to desire. Pastors are sometimes thoughtlessly charged with neglect in this matter. If they are diligent students, as every minister must be, if he would render acceptable and profitable pulpit service, frequently visit the sick, the feeble and the aged, they have but little time for social visiting. Besides, the conscientious minister is too intent upon the great work of his office, to feel that his time should be spent with so little profit as must be the case, if it is largely taken up with the amenities even of social life.

For our guide in life we want something which our passions or fancies cannot alter, or fingers cannot touch; as we need not a mechanical instrument alone, but the north-star and the sidereal time of the heavens, to direct us on an earthly voyage. Conscience, independent of religion, of God's will, is not enough; all history, in every land, shows it is not enough. It is but like a lantern on the vessel's mast, casting a little light around, but swaying and turning with every motion of the waves, or eclipsed by the tempest and incapable of illumining the whole course. The sailor must look beyond his candle to the steady, ever-shining pole. And while we move in the varying light of our own mind, and keep that inner, indispensable lamp carefully trimmed and burning, we must supply its deficiencies from the bright, high oracles of God in Jesus Christ.

So live with men as considering always that God sees thee; so pray to God as if every man heard thee. Do nothing which thou wouldst not have God see done. Desire nothing which may either wrong thy profession to ask or God's honor to grant.

The American Female Guardian Society and Home for the Friendless, in New York, is one of the oldest of the child saving institutions. Forty years ago, it organized a day school for street children. This proved so successful that more were established, till now the society has twelve. To these schools, which are in the tenement-house districts of the east and west sides of the city, the poorest of the city's poor, mostly foreigners, or the children of foreigners—Hebrews, Hungarians, Poles, Germans, Italians, etc.—go. They numbered 5,684, and were of fifteen nationalities last year. The school teachers made, in the year, 6,600 visits in the homes of the children, and 12,600 garments were distributed, besides shoes, quilts, coal and food tickets, and, through the generosity of the *Tribune* coal and food fund, 500 of the families of were supplied with groceries or with coal.