man help, what would become of them?

THE FALL OF EMPIRES.

Of all the Empires whose rise and fall have been recorded in history, there is not one that has owed its ruin or decay to checking the lust of unmeasured territorial acquisition. The wisest of the Roman Emperors was also the one, who even recalled the boundaries of his dominions from beyond the Danube. Everyone can discern and denounce the private folly of the farmer, who covets more and more land, when he has neither capital nor skill to turn to account what he has already got; though he does not commonly proceed by covenants taken in the dark lest his landlord should come to know what sort of deed he is signing. But it requires a steady eye and a firm resolution to maintain the good tradition of all our bygone statesmen at a juncture when tradition is discarded for newfangled, or, as Mr. Roebuck calls them, "original" devices, and the mind of folly finds utterance through the voice of authority. Britain, which has grown so great. may easily become little; through the effeminate selfishness of luxurious living; through neglecting realities at home to amuse herself everywhere else in stalking phantoms; through putting again on her resources a strain like that of the great French war, which brought her people to misery and her throne to peril; through that denial of equal rights to others which taught us so severe a lesson at the epoch of the Armed Neutrality. But she will never lose by the modesty in thought and language, which most of all beseems the greatest of mankind; never by refusing to be made the tool of foreign cunning, for ends alien to her principles and feelings; never by keeping her engagements in due relation to her means, or by husbanding those means for the day of need, and for the noble duty of defending, as occasion offers, the cause of public right, and of rational freedom, over the broad expanse of Christendom. — The Right. Hon. W. E. Gladstone in the Nineteenth Century.

BISMARCK'S COURAGE.

It was in 1866. Bismarck-then Count Bismarck-was returning from the Palace, where he had been to see the King. While passing through the large street of Berlin, called Untet den Linden, and quite near the place where Hoedel and Nobiling have since attempted the life of Emperor William, he suddenly heard a shot fired close behind him. He turned sharply round and saw a young man who, with He strode at once up to the young man and seized the arm that held the revolver, while with his other hand he grasped the hand of the would be murderer, who, however, had time to pass the weapon on to his left hand, and now fired three shots in quick succession. Bismarck felt himself hurt in his shoulder and one of his ribs; but he held his furious assailant fast till some soldiers came up and took hold of him. Then Bismarck walked home at a brisk pace and reached his own house long before anybody there could know what had happened. The countess had some friends with her when her husband entered the drawing-room.. He greeted all in a friendly manner, and begged to be excused for a few minutes, as he had some urgent business to attend to. He then walked into the next room where his desk stood, and wrote to inform the king of the accident. Having attended to this duty, he returned to the drawing room and made one of his little standing jokes, ignoring his own unpunctuality, and saying to his wife; "Well! are we to have no dinner to-day? You always keep me waiting." He sat down and partook heartily of the dishes set before him, and it was only when the dinner was over that he walked up to the countess, kissed her on the forehead, wished her in the old German way "Gesegnete Mahlzeit!" (May your meal be blessed!) and then added you see I am quite well." She looked up at him. "Well," he continued, "you must not be anxious, my child. Somebody has fired at me : but it is nothing, as you see.' -Blachwood's Magazine.

THE STRENGTH OF CHRIS-TIANITY.

Some of the best testimonies for Christianity have come from men not popularly identified with it. Says Macaulay

The ark of God was never taken until abandoned by its earthly defenders. In captivity its sanctity was sufficient to save it from insult, and to lay the hostile fiend prostrate on the threshold of its own temple. The real security of Christianity is to be found in its benevolent morality, in its exquisite adaption to the human heart in the facility with which its scheme accommodates itself to the capacity of every human intellect, in the consolation which it bears to the house of mourning, in the hight with which it brightens the great mystery of the grave.

To such a mystery it can bring no addition, of dignity or of strength, that it is part and parcel of the common law. It is not now for the first time left to rely on the force of its own evidences, and the attractions of its own beauty. Its sublime theology confounded the Grecian schools in the fair conflict of reason with reason. The bravest and wisest of the Casars found their arms and their policy unavailing, when opposed to the weapons that are not carnal, and the kingdom that was not of this world. The victory which Perphyry and Diocletian failed to gain. is not, to all appearance, reserved for any of those, in this age, who have directed their attacks against the last restraint of the powerful, and the last hope of the

FAMILY READING.

THE WEEK OF PRYER, 1879.

The Circular of the Council of the Evangelical Alliance has been published, and, although it is somewhat early, we think it well to put its contents before our readers as soon as it comes into our hands, so that they may have time to give to the various subjects mature thought and consideration :-

SUNDAY, January 5th.—Sermons:—
The years of the right hand of the most high."-Psalm lxxvii., 10.

MONDAY, January 6th.—Praise:—Praise to God for his long-suffering kindness and mercy; for the goodness of his providence; and especially for salvation in Jesus Christ, and for the blessings enjoyed under the present dispensation of the Holy Ghost. Thanksgiving for the cessation of war and the peaceful settlement of European questions; also for the Divine blessing which has attended the international meetings and services held in the Salle Evangelique, the distribution of the Holy Scriptures, and other Christian work during the Universal Exhibition in Paris. Confession of unbelief and unfruitful. ness. Ps. cxvii., ; Ps. cvii., 33 43; Rom. xi. 33-36; Acts ii. 14-21; Ps. xlvi. 6-11;

Dan. ix. 3.10. Tuesday, January 7th.—Prayer:—For the power of the Holy Spirit to rest upon and operate in the Church of God everywhere, so that the disciples may be led into all the truth; that errors in doctrine and corruption of Scriptural worship may be stayed; that faith and hope, brotherly kindness and charity may be increased and that the general tone of spiritual life may be elevated in communion with the Lord. Intercession for believers who are afflicted. John xviii, 36-38; John xvi. 14; 2 Tim. iii. 15; Rom. xii. 9-18; Eph. i. 15-23; Ps. xxxiv. 17-19.

WEDNESDAY, January 8th.—Prayer:— For the energetic operation of the Holy Spirit in the world at large, convincing men of sin, of righteousness and of judgment; and bringing those who are merely nominal Christirns under the quickening and transforming power of the Truth. Also for Christian families; for the training of the young in the fear of the Lord, that may be kept from error and evil, and especially that the grace of God may be upon them. John xvi. 7-14; Gen. xviii. 17-19; Col. iii. 16 24; Prov. xxii. 6; 1 Chron. iv. 0. s0.

THURSDAY, January 9th.—Prayer :-For the effusion of the Holy Ghost "upon all flesh;" for the continuance of peace: for the establishment of righteous government; for the spread of enlighten. ment, goodwill, and love of justice among all nations, and for their conversion to a smoking revolver, was aiming at him. Christ; for the removal of intemperance, and other social evils; special prayer for the nation, its Sovereign, and all in authority. Is. xi. 1-10; Prov. xiv. 14-27; Is. lxi.; Gav. v. 19-26; 1 Tim. ii. 1-4.

FRIDAY, January 10th.—Prayer:—For the blessing of the Spirit of God to accompany evangelistic and missionary labours, and render them fruitful to Christ; for the turning of all Israel to the Lord; for eral weeks; by that time you can buy the growth and stability of the young with this money more provisions." churches gathered from heathen communities; for the revival of Bible Ohristian. ity in Eastern lands , for the preaching of the Gospelamong all nations, and for 'cheerfulgiving" on the part of those who go not themselves to this work. Matt. xxviii. 19 20; Rom. xi. 26; Acts xi. 19-30; Matt. xxiv. 14; Phil. iv. 10-19.

SATURDAY, January 11th .- Prayer :-For those who preside over the Churches of the Saints, and for all who are called to preach and to teach; for the due observance of the Lord's day; for the wise guidance of biblical translators and critics. for successful resistance to secularism and infidelity; and for the Divine blessing to accompany and follow the General Conference of Christians of various nations to be held this year in Switzerland. Eph. vi. 18-19; Is. lviii. 13-14; 2 Tim. ii. 15-19.

SUNDAY, January 12th.—Sermons:— Looking for "the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. i 9; and Matt. xxiv. 42-51.

WHAT HAPPENED IN A SNOW STORM.

Nearly a century ago there lived a pious man named Christian Zirchel, a mile northeast of Frederick, Maryland, which was then a staggling village. By his industry Zirchel had supported his family in what was then regarded a moderate competence. He had his patch of cleared ground and a plain rude house. In the spring of the year he was taken seriously ill, and after a few weeks of suffering died, leaving a wife and four children under twelve years of age. The poor widow with her orphan children, mnnaged by thrift and economy to procure the needed comforts of life during the summer. autumn, and earlier part of the winter. The country was sparsely settled; her nearest neighbor lived a mile away. Fuel

was easily procured, for heavy forests were all around and timber was of little value. As the winter gradually wore on her stock of provisions grew less and less, filling her mind with much anxiety. In the month of March, when her food was about exhausted, there came a heavy fall of snow, covering over and obliterating the few roads in the neighborhood. The snow also drifted heavily against her cabin which had only one door. Against this door the snow settled so compactly to the unable to make their way out; they were prisoners.

ions for one day and shut in from all hu-

No earthly probability that any traveller would come into such an out of the way place through such snow. From the depth and compactness of the snow it might lie for several weeks. No hope of human help. The pious woman turned her thoughts to God. She told the eldest child to repeat the explanation of the first article of the creed in Luther's catechism I believe that God hath created me and still preserves to me my body and soul;

that he daily provides me with all the ne-cessaries of life, guards me from danger and preserves me from evil, wholly induced by paternal love and mercy.' The mother then took her German bymn

"Commit thou all thy griefs, And ways into his hands." She then took her Bible and read from the thirty seventh Psalm : " Trust in the Lord and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Commit thy way unto the Lore; trust in

book and sang Gernardt's hymn:

him, and he shall bring it to pass." She then offered a fervent prayer that her Heavenly Father would, according to his

The day passed, but no signs of help. The second day the prayers of the good dinner. The prayers of the mother were earnest, and uttered aloud, that her Father in heaven would send some messenger with food to satisfy the hunger of her children. These prayers were at length interrupted by a pounding on the top of the door. In response to her inquiry a voice said, "Open the door." This was done with difficulty; but partially open, she saw a man standing on a drift holding in his hand the bridle rein of his horse.

these children from starvation. The man said: "I paused for some time before knocking at your door. I overheard parts of your prayer; I have learned its general import. I am a drover from Washington county. I sold a drove of cattle in Baltimore, and am on my way home. The roads through the woods are so drifted that I lost my way. I the closing days of this short Christian saw the smoke from your chimney, and life may be helpful to others. O. woods are so drifted that I lost my way. I came here to ask what direction I am to take for your village. But first of all as you seem to be in distress, what can I do for you?"

She informed him that for several days her children had been on short allowance and had merely a crumb to-day; the last morsel was gone. It was impossible for her or her little ones to make their way through the snow to the nearest house a

The stranger said he had passed a mill probably a mile or two back; by followng the track his horse had made he could reach it. He would bring her half a bag of flour.

When he returned, by the assistance of his borse treading down the sr v, he contrived to open a path from the door. He also aided in getting additional fuel from the woods, and then gave her about five dollars in coin, and said, "So late in the season, this heavy snow cannot last long.

The benevolent man then took his leave riding through the unbroken snow in the direction of the village, where he found comfortable quarters for the night in the village inn.

The very next day the sun shone with great warmth, and the snow melted rapidv. The widow Zerehel lived for many years, and never afterward knew what famine and want were. No skeptical cavilling could ever make her doubt that the hand of the Almighty had interposed to save her and her children from starvation. For ever afterward she was a firm believer in the efficacy of prayer.

"HOME, SWEET HOME."

On one occasion Howard Payne, the genial hearted, kind little man who wrote the immortal song of "Home, Sweet Home," was walking with me in the great city of London, and pointing to one of the aristocratic streets in May Fair, where wealth and luxury had the windows closed and curtained, least the warmth and light should go out, or the smallest air of cold winter come in, where isolated, exclusive English comfort was guarded by a practical dragon of gold, he this tiny man with a big heart said: "There, my good friend, I became inspired with the idea of Home, Sweet Home, as I wandered about without food or a semblance of shelter I could call my own. Many a night since I wrote those words that issued out of my heart by absolute want of a home, have I passed and repassed in this locality, and heard a siren voice coming from these gilded, fur lined comfortable walls, in the depth of a dim, cold London winter, warbling, 'Home, Sweet Home,' and knew no bed to call my own."

SUNNY PERSONS.

We all know them, and I have thanked God that they did exist in this world of clouds and shadows. They are men of like passions with ourselves, but somehow they seem to live in a higher atmosphere nance and a pleasant word for every one. No matter how dark affairs may be, though men's hearts are failing them for fear, yet these sunny characters can take a cheerful survey of matters, and endeavor to buoy up the spirit of their fellows. They personal interest and care. can find a bright side to things when to others they are gloomy and fore boding. If we are in difficulty and perdepth of five feet, that the family were plexity, we love to go to them and unbos- dren going to ruin through these gins to live in you, and reign in you, bringom our sorrows, assured that at least we shall recieve a sympathizing word and The widow began to realise her situa- bade be of good cheer; assured that with tion; without more than sufficient provis | patience and firm trust in God, all will be

A REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE.

Little Lincoln Melrose was a bright and active member of the Bedford-street Sun- here and there, he was gone." day-school in this city. At the early age of eleven years he fell a victim to that dreadful scourge of childhood-diphtheria. His sickness lasted nearly three weeks, and was a scene of unusual religious triumph. On the day that he was taken sick he said to his aunt, "I shall never recover, but don't tell mamma." At another time he said, "Strange that nobody seems to believe that I am going to die; I should think they all could see it.' His description of his conversion would have done credit to any one of mature years. Only a day before he was taken sick he gave his heart to Jesus. " Before I gave him my heart it felt so heavy, but since that time it has been so light and peaceful." Observing, on several occasions, the anxious expressions on his mother's face, he said with great emphasis, "Mamma, the Lord gave, and the Lord taketh away; blessed be the name of the Lord." He was overheard saying to himself, "I want to be a good, faithful promise, protect and feed her helpless servent; I want to be a nice Christian." The day before his death, calling his mother to him, he addressed her as "Jesus;" then correcting himself, he said, "O, I woman became more fervent. A mere think so much about Jesus that I came morsel had been left for a scanty break-fast, and now the children were crying for three times." During all his sickness he was more or less engaged in prayer, and when suffering from paroxysms of pain he would exclaim, "Lord I will try and be patient." Atother times his little soul would be filled with an unutterable joy, when he would be heard to say, "O, glory! blessed Jesus! precious Jesus." Just before his departure a good sister of the church coming in, he asked her to pray with him. At the close of her prayer he said, Amen" with an emphasis such as she She said, "You are a stranger, but you had never heard. Then, with a clear voice, are a messenger from God to preserve he uttered the Lord's Prayer, and soon

fell aslsep in Jesus. In addition to the funeral services held at his home, a memorial service of great interest was held in the Sunday School at Bedford-street. Many who have listened to the recital of these incidents have felt that they deserve some sort of public record. They are given with the hope that New York.

WHILE THY SERVANT WAS BUSY HERE AND THERE HE WAS GONE."

It was a most impressing sermon from that text. It was, in that special case, made applicable to the influences that rest upon one's soul, to the power and the strivings of the Holy Spirit. which, if regarded, may abide with us; but which, disregarded or disdained, may leave us forever.

But the text may also apply to any lost opportunities, to any case where it it is either our duty or privilege, or both, to do good, and while we are busy here and there, the time passes and it is too late.

"While thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone,"

People have been very much stirred up of late, or rather the newspapers have, about our boys. How deeply the anxiety has gone, time will show. A vast deal of iniquity has been unearthed, and vile and vicious publications have been stopped which had been doing their pernicious work for months and years.

Let us hope that so far as mothers are concerned the warning has been heeded. Mothers as a rule need but to be informto be roused at once. No one can see a daughter in danger without rushing at once to warn and rescue.

boys will come out right enough." The but He does entreat as a friend! majority don't know. Others think it

the excuse. They have begun by tak- Jesus says, "If a man love me, he will ing the means for the ends. Work was keep my words, and my Father will intended to be the means of feeding love him, and we will come unto him, and clothing one's family. Now work, and make our abode with him." the profession or business, is the aim Again Jesus says: "Behold, I stand and object of life. And it becomes so at the door and knock, if any man hear engrossing that such simple duties as my voice and open the door, I will the training and government of his boys come into him, and will sup with him, a man cons ders quite out of the ques- "and he with me." Without the pertion. The Lord says of his laws: "And mission of the individual He cannot do thou shalt teach them diligently unto it. If Jesus has not already done this thy children." The answer is, "Lord, for you, dear disciple, invite Him at I have not time; it is all I can do to once to undertake it. He loves to do it. make room for them.'

There is no harm in supporting his tion." His work is perfect. The small family, but when a man has neglected est flower, and the smallest animalculæ than do most of mankind. Whenever we the further duty of training them it is unobservable to the naked eye, when meet them, they have a beaming counte- curious sometimes to see how he has put under the most powerful microput all that money into a bag with holes, scope, only brings out their beauty, and so that he is no better of, and his chil- reveals their perfection. This is the dren, perhaps, have gone to ruin. For reverse in the most finished and polishthere is nothing to take the place of ed work of art, for in that case the

with reason. Things look dark; but Him to beauty His own temple, even one of the worst signs would be chil- your body? Will you not suffer Him and snares that are set for them, and ing every thought and every purpose the Fathers, the Christian fathers, or at into subjection to Himself? This is least the moral men, letting them go the will of God concerning us, and it to ruin through sheer neglect,

"Take this child and train him for

Lord, while thy servant was busy There used to be books for mothers:

there are still. But, also, let us have an exhortation to fathers. Upon no other being can the gre fall, and now is the only sure time. Mischief which is done is done early. We have seen men very solicitous about the fruit of tree; the worms had it, they would d anything to save the fruit. Alas! it was stung when it was green; a little care then would have saved it, now it is too

The way to escape heartaches, if no. thing worse, is to be faithful to one's children; and the way to save the nation is to save the boys * * *

A SERMON FROM A PAIR OF

There lived forty years ago, in Berlin, a shoemaker who had a habit of speaking harshly of all his neighbours who did not feel exactly as he did about religion. The old pastor of the parish in which the shoemaker lived heard of this, and felt that he must give him a

He did it in this way. He sent for the shoemaker one morning, and when he came in said to him:

"Master, take my measure for a pair of boots."

"With pleasure, your reverence," answered the shoemaker, please take off your boot.'

The clergyman did so, and the shoemaker measured his foot from toe to heel, and over the instep, noted all down in his pocket-book, and then prepared to leave the room. But as he was putting up the measure the pastor' said to him:

"Master, my son also requires a pair of boots.'

"I will make them with pleasure, your reverence. Can I take the young man's measure?"

"It is not necessary," said the past tor; the lad is fourteen, but you can make my boots and his from the same

"Your reverence, that will never do," said the shoemaker, with a a smile of "I tell you, sir, to make my son's

on the same last.'. "No, your reverence, I cannot do it."

"I must be—on the same last." "But, your reverence, it is not pos sible, if the boots are to fit," said the shoemaker." thinking to himself that the

old pastor's wits were leaving him. "Ah, then, master shoemaker," said the clergyman, "every pair of boots must be made on their own last, if they are to fit; and yet you think that God is to form all Christians exactly according to your own last, of the same measure and growth in religion as yourself.

That will not do either." The shoemaker was abashed, then he

"I thank your reverence for this sermon, and I will try to remember it, and to judge my neighbours less harshly in

LET THAT MIND BE IN YOU."

Is it not wonderful condescension, that He who of old laid the foundations of the earth, and spangled the heavens About the boys we are less sure, for with those beautiful orbs; He who where are the fathers? In the course only had to say, "Let there be light," of a long experience we remember to and the heavens were ablaze with His have seen very few (we could count glory; -when he comes to beautify His them on our fingers) really faithful fa- own dwelling place, has really to bethers. Some are careless, they really come the suppliant and ask permission don't care, and will tell you, "Oh. the to do it? He now no longer commands

"Know ye not that your body is a is the mothers duty to look after the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in children. That is rather a strictly you. which ye have of God, and ye are American notion. Nine tenths of the not your own?" Hear His loving reexhortations are to mothers. We mean, quest. Shall it be granted? "Let out of the Bible. In the Bible they are that mind be in you, which was also in addressed to fathers, and they are really Christ." Do not hinder. He purposes and truly made responsible for their to adorn this living temple with all the graces of the Holy Spirit. He desires Most men are "too busy;" that is to make it worthy the Triune Deity.

"He will beautify the meek with salvaglass will be certain to reveal imperfec-We mourn over the country, and tions. Dear reader, will you not permit was for this God died.

MR. G

A short

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