

## INVENTIONS OF A HALF CENTURY.

The number of inventions that have been made during the past fifty years is unprecedented in the history of the world. Inventions of benefit to the human race have been made in all ages since man was created; but looking back for half a hundred years, how many more are crowded into the past fifty than into any other fifty since recorded history! The perfection of the locomotive, and the now world-traversing steamship, the telegraph, the telephone, the audiphone, the sewing-machine, the photograph, chromo-lithographic printing, the cylinder printing press, the elevator for hotels and other many storied buildings, the cotton gin and the spinning jenny, the reaper and mower, the steam thresher, the steam fire engine, the improved process for making steel, the application of chloroform and ether to destroy sensibility in painful surgery cases, and so on through a long catalogue. Nor are we yet done in the field of invention and discovery. The application of coal gas and petroleum to heating and cooking operations is only trembling on the verge of successful experiment; the introduction of the steam from a great central reservoir to general use for heating and cooking is foreshadowed as among the coming events; the artificial production of butter has already created a consternation among dairymen; the navigation of the air by some device akin to our present balloon would also seem to be prefigured, and the propulsion of machinery by electricity is even now clearly indicated by the march of experiment. There are some problems we have hitherto deemed impossible, but are the mysteries of even the most improbable of them more subtle to grasp than that of the ocean cable or that of the photograph or telephone? We talk by cable with an ocean rolling between; we speak in our own voices to friends 100 miles or more from where we articulate before the microphone. Under the blazing sun of July we produce ice by chemical means, rivalling the most solid and crystalline production of nature. Our surgeons graft the skin from one person's arm to the face of another, and it adheres and becomes an integral portion of his body. We make a mile of white printing paper and send it on a spool that a perfecting printing press unwinds and prints and delivers to you folded and counted, many thousands per hour. Of a verity this is the age of invention, nor has the world reached a stopping place yet.—*Home Journal*.

## READ CAREFULLY.

The annual sermon to the Sabbath school of the Centenary Methodist Church was preached recently by the pastor, the Rev. Mr. Dobson, to a very large congregation. The text was from Mark x. 14, the latter clause of the verse, "Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not; for of such is the Kingdom of God." The preacher's principal point was that children were already, by virtue of the atonement, heirs of Christ's kingdom. At birth they were pure, and so long as they remained unconscious of sin, were fit to enter into their inheritance. He protested against the idea that children were only saved by the ordinance of baptism, for which, he said, there was no warrant in the Scriptures. Neither did he believe that at the moment of baptism some extraordinary regeneration took place, but simply that all little children were, by the mercy of Christ, free from all responsibility for sin, and had participated in the new birth. No matter how rigidly a creed might be drawn, our humanity revolted against the doctrine that infant children were unsaved. This heirship of children was too commonly lost sight of by those charged with their instruction, and the preacher implored parents and teachers never, unless a child was itself conscious of sin, to tell it that it was lost and under the curse of God. Rather let

them be taught that so long as their minds are pure, so long as their conscience does not accuse them of sin, that they are God's children, and being so, should govern and order their lives by the law of His love. Mr. Dobson spoke with much earnestness and power. His sermon was a broad and liberal presentation of a most important theme: the relation of children to the church, which is, as he said, only beginning to be thoroughly understood in these later days.—*Telegraph*.

[We are glad to notice the above sentiments coming as they do from a prominent Methodist preacher. Such utterances will soon lead the people to see that infant baptism is not only unscriptural, but useless.]

## TEMPERANCE NOTES.

## THE GATES OF HELL.

In a sermon upon this subject Mr. Talmage said: "Another gate of hell, and the chief gate, and as wide as all the others put together, is the gate of alcoholic beverages. On the night of exploration I found that everything was under the enchantment of the wine cup; that was one of the chief attractions of the illuminated garden; that staggered the step of the patrons as they went home. The wine cup is the instigator of all impurity, and the patron of all uncleanness. So far as God may help me, I shall be its unending foe. It was the testimony of the officials on the night of the exploration that those who frequent the house of death go in intoxicated; the mental and spiritual abolished, the brute ascendant. Tell me a young man drinks, and I know the rest. Let him become a captive of the wine cup, and he is a captive of all vices. No man ever runs drunkenness alone: That is one of the carrion crows that go in a flock. If that break is ahead, you may know the other breaks follow. In other words, it unbalances and dethrones and makes him a prey to all the appetites that choose to alight on his soul.

There is not a sin on this continent that does not find its chief abettor in the place of inebriety. There is a drinking bar before, behind, or a bar under it. The officers said to me that night, 'You see how these escape legal penalty, they are licensed to sell liquor.' Then I thought within myself, the court which licenses the sale of intoxicating liquors and gambling houses licenses libertinism, disease, all crime, all sufferings, all woes. It is the legislature and the courts who swing wide this grinding, roaring, stupendous gate of the lost. But you say, you have shown us how these swing in to allow entrance for the doomed; please tell us how they swing out for the escape of the penitent. Let me answer, it is the exception when they come out. I think 999 out of a thousand perish."—*Domestic Journal*.

A SAD sight was witnessed at the police station yesterday. Three dirty, ragged, hungry children—one of them an infant sixteen days old—and their drunken, degraded, half naked mothers, have just been fished out from their miserable den in the north end, and brought to the station for protection by John Naylor, Secretary of the S. P. C. The women fought and swore like demons. The two-thirds naked, shivering children would have brought tears to the eyes of a wooden man. Rum did it all. Five years ago one of the women owned property valued at \$6,000. It has all been spent in liquor, and to-day she is a penniless, drunken sot, and her children hungry and naked, and the thermometer away down below zero. How the sixteen days' old babe lived through the severe cold of Monday night, neglected as it was, is a mystery. The two women were locked in cells, from which they poured forth a volume of filthy language that would have shocked a Wyoming cowboy. The parents will be arraigned to-day on a charge of criminal neglect.—*Halifax Herald*, 5th ult.

## RANDOM NOTES.

Never chase a lie. Let it alone, and it will run itself to death.

Accordingly as men sow in this life, so will they reap in the life to come.

The Salvation Army of England is having fifteen halls built, with seating capacity for 25,000 people.

Heaven's gates are not so highly arched as prince's palaces; they that enter there must go upon their knees.

He who is false to present duty breaks a thread in the loom, and will find the flaw when he may have forgotten its cause.

Kossuth, the Hungarian patriot, though 80 years of age, is still of handsome and robust form. His hair and beard, however, are both snow white.

How would you like to have it said of you when you get to heaven: This one was saved easily. He did not suffer much. He spent nothing for Jesus.

Two Connecticut farmers went to law over a barrel of apples. The case has been tried five times at an estimated cost to the litigants of \$8,000, and they are still at it.

The pay of the Archbishop of Paris has just been cut down from \$9,000 to \$6,000. The bishop of London has \$50,000, and two palaces, but the claims on him are innumerable.

In 1830 it was not known that there was a single Protestant among the French-speaking people of Canada, now there are 3,000 communicants, and a French Protestant population of about 11,000.

John Swim, of West Jefferson, O., began life as a lawyer, but soon abandoned the profession, and became a rag-picker. He has not slept on a bed for 35 years, but owns several fine farms, and is worth fully \$200,000.

Rev. Dr. Newman says the Church should revise her Creed so that it would read: "I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, total abstinence from all intoxicating liquors, the resurrection of the dead, and life everlasting."

Exchange: "I hope we shall exchange duties occasionally," said the rector of A. to a clerical neighbor recently arrived: "my people like a little variety." "Oh, no," said the other; "I protest against exchanges? for if you preach better than myself my people won't like me after you; and if you preach worse you never ought to preach again."

When one is tempted to relate a witty but impure anecdote for the amusement of his intimate friends, let him extinguish the desire he feels to amuse his friends in that way with this prohibition of the Holy Spirit, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of thy mouth." Lips that speak to God in prayer, and of God to man, should never be defiled by giving passage to unclean words.—*Zion's Herald*.

Joseph Cook said recently, in Boston, "In Italy now there are 138 organized churches, besides assemblies where service is conducted in English, French and German. There are among the Waldenses 15,000 communicants, and from 8,000 to 10,000 more in the Italian Protestant churches. In France there are more than half a million of Protestants, with a thousand Protestant pastors, more than 1,200 Protestant schools, and thirty Protestant religious journals. In Switzerland Romanism had once all, and now has only two-fifths of the population. In Bavaria the Protestants number nearly a third of the population. In Belgium alone does Romanism show vigor."