

the hopes he had cherished, vaguely, almost unconsciously, but still with strong earnestness. He had fled from the penalty the just laws of his country demanded from him, taking refuge in a second and more terrible fraud, and now God suffered him not to make this small reparation for his sin, or to taste the single drop of satisfaction that he hoped for in realizing the object he had set before him. There was no place of repentance for him; not a foothold in all the wide wilderness of his banishment on which he could stand, and repair one jot or tittle of the injury he had inflicted upon his fellow-men.

What passed through his soul those three days, amidst the ice-pollitudes where no life was, and where the only sounds that spoke to him were the wild, awful tones of nature in her dearest haunts, he could never tell; he could hardly recall it to his own memory. He felt as utterly alone as if no other human being existed on the face of the earth; yet as if he alone had to bear the burden of the falsehood and dishonesty and dishonour of the countless generations of false and dishonourable men which 's earth has seen.

All hope was dead now. There was nothing more to work for, or to look forward to. Nothing lay before him but his solitary, blank life in the miserable hut below. There was no interest in the world for him but Roland Seldon's grave.

He descended the mountain-side at last. For the first time since he had left the valley he noticed that the sun was shining, and that the whole landscape below him was bathed in light. The village was all astir, and travellers were coming and going. It was not in the sight of the world that he could drag his weary feet to the cemetery, where Roland Seldon's grave was; and he turned aside into his own hut to wait till the evening was come.

At last the sun went down upon his misery, and the cool shades of the long twilight crept on. He made a circuit round the village to reach the spot he longed to visit. His downcast eyes saw nothing but the rough ground he trod, and the narrow path his footsteps had made to the solitary grave, until he was close to it; and then, looking up to read the name upon the cross, he discerned the figure of a girl kneeling before it, and carefully planting a little slip of ivy into the soil beneath it.

(To be continued.)

LAND POOR.

I've another offer, wife, of twenty acres more
Of high and dry timber land, as level as a floor.
I thought I'd wait and see you first, as lawyer Brady said—
To tell how things will turn out best a woman is ahead.
And when the lot is paid for, and we have got the deed,
I'll say that I am satisfied—it's all the land we need.
And next we'll see about the yard, and fix the house up
some,

And manage in the course of time to have a better home.

There is no use of talking, Charles; you buy that twenty
more,
And we'll go scrimping all our lives, and always be land
poor.

For thirty years we've tugged and saved, denying half our
needs,

While all we have to show for it are tax-receipts and deeds.
I'd sell the land, if it were mine, and have a better home,
With broad light rooms, in front the street, and take life as
it come.

If we could live as others live, and have what others do,
We'd live enough sight pleasanter, and have a plenty too.
While others have amusements, and luxury and books,
Just think how stingy we have lived, and how this old place
looks.

That other farm you bought of Wells, that took so many
years

At clearing up and fencing in, has cost me many tears.
Yes, Charles, I've thought of it a hundred times or more,
And wondered if it really paid to always be land poor;
That had we built a cozy house, took pleasure as it come,
Our children, once so dear to us, had never left our home.

I grieve to think of wasted weeks, and years, and months
and days,

While for it all we never yet have had one word of praise.
They call us rich, but we are poor. Would we not freely
give

The land with all its fixtures, for a better way to live?
Don't think I'm blaming you, Charles; you are not a whit
to blame:

I've justified you these many years, to see you tired and lame.
It's just the way we started out, our plans too far ahead;
We've worn the cream of life away, to leave too much when
dead.

'Tis putting off enjoyment long after we enjoy;
And after all, too much of wealth seems useless as joy.
Although we've learned, alas! too late, what all must learn
at last,

Our brightest earthly happiness is buried in the past.
This life is short and full of care; the end is always nigh.
We seldom half begin to live before we're doomed to die.
Were I to start my life again, I'd mark each separate day,
And never let a single one pass unemployed away.

If there were things to envy, I'd have them now and
then,

And have a home that was a home, and not a cage or
pen;

I'd sell some land if it were mine, and fill up well the
rest;

I've always thought, and think so yet—small farms well
worked are best.

CORAL REEF BUILDING.

Professor Joseph Le Conte, in a lecture on corals, corrected a wide-spread misunderstanding respecting corals and coral reefs. The popular idea is, says Mr. Le Conte, that these animals are little insects; that they build like ants and bees do, and when they are alarmed they disappear into their

little burrows, and these reefs are accumulations of millions of these little insects in generation after generation. The fact is, the coral animal is a polyp belonging to the group of radiata; that it consists of limestone deposits in the shape of a hollow cylinder with top and bottom discs, surmounted with tentacles, containing a stomach and enveloped with gelatinous organic matter. The tentacles or arms are provided each with a mouth for the absorption of food. The coral is coralline limestone after the gelatinous organic envelope is decayed and removed. The animals which build reefs are not much larger than pin-heads. Reef-building corals will not grow at a depth of 100 to 120 feet. There have been reef-building corals found at a depth of 2,000 feet, but they were dead—drowned by being carried below their depth. This confines them to coast lines and submarine banks. Corals will not grow where the temperature is lower than sixty-eight degrees at any time—that is, the ocean, not the air. Therefore they are confined to the tropical regions. They will not grow except in clear salt water, hence there is always a break in reefs opposite the mouth of a river. Finally, they demand free exposure to the beating of the waves. The more violently the waves beat, the more rapidly the corals grow, because the agitation gives them ventilation. Corals will grow in the face of waves whose beatings would gradually wear away a wall of granite. The four kinds of coral reefs found in the Pacific Ocean are fringe reefs, barrier reefs, circular reefs, including lagoons in the ocean, and small lagoonless coral islands.

"I'LL NO TRUST YE."

Two centuries ago, in the Highlands of Scotland, to ask for a receipt or promissory note was thought an insult. If parties had business matters to transact, they stepped into the air, fixed their eyes upon the heavens, and each repeated his obligation without mortal witness. A mark was then carved on some rock or tree near by as a remembrance of the compact. Such a thing as breach of contract was rarely met with, so highly did the people regard their honour.

When the march of improvement brought the new mode of doing business, they were often pained by those innovations. An anecdote is handed down of a farmer who had been to the Lowlands and learned worldly wisdom. On returning to his native parish he had need of a sum of money, and made bold to ask a loan from a gentleman of means named Stewart. This was kindly granted, and Mr. Stewart counted out the gold. This done, the farmer wrote a receipt and handed it to Mr. Stewart.

"What is this, man?" cried Mr. Stewart, eyeing the slip of paper.

"It is a receipt, sir, binding me to give ye back the gold at the right time," replied Sandy.

"Binding ye! Weel, my man, if ye canna trust yerself, I'm sure I'll no trust ye. Ye canna have my gold." And gathering it up, he put it back in his desk and turned the key on it.

"But, sir, I might die," replied the canny Scotchman, bringing up an argument in favour of his new wisdom, "and perhaps my sons might refuse it ye; but the bit of paper would compel them."

"Compel them to sustain a dead father's honour!" cried the Celt. "They'll need compelling to do right, if this is the road ye're leading them. I'll neither trust ye nor them. Ye can gang elsewhere for money; but ye'll find none in the parish that'll put more faith in a bit o' paper than in a neighbour's word o' honour and his fear o' God."

THERE is very little that we do in the way of helping our neighbours that does not come back in blessings on ourselves.

THERE is hardly a more striking illustration of the power and cunning of the adversary than the fact that he succeeds in inducing men to ignore his existence, and not seldom in persuading them to make his name and all that relates to him the occasion of a jest.

How beautiful our lives would soon grow if we carried always with us, and put into practice, the lessons we learn by experience! We look back at the end of the year and see many things that cause bitter regret, but instead of leaving them behind, we go on repeating the same follies and errors the new year. A little heroic decision would enable us to rise every day on the mistakes of yesterday.

JOHN NEWTON says: "Sometimes I compare the troubles we have to undergo in the course of a year to a great bundle of faggots, far too large for us to lift. But God does not require us to carry the whole at once; He mercifully unties the bundle, and gives us first one stick, which we are to carry to-day, and then another, which we are to carry to-morrow, and so on. This we might easily manage if we would only take the burden appointed for us each day, but we choose to increase our trouble by carrying yesterday's stick over again to-day, and adding to-morrow's burden to our load before we are required to bear it." Take, therefore, no thought for the morrow; for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself." (Matt. vi. 34.)

In eighty-six town elections in Massachusetts last week, all but twenty-five voted against liquor licenses.

EX-PROVOST ROUGH, of Dundee, Scotland, who was the first rectorial chief magistrate in the United Kingdom, has been obliged by declining strength to resign the office of President of the Dundee Temperance Society, which he has so ably and honourably filled for the protracted period of thirty years. Mr. Rough has been an abstainer from the earliest days of the temperance movement. He is now an octogenarian.

REV. DAVID MACRAE, speaking at the festival of the Dundee carvers and porters, advised the young women present to have nothing to do with any man who took drink. Drink had ruined and was ruining the peace of thousands of homes in Dundee, and they should set their face against it. He had seen it turn love into hate; he had seen it turn the marriage tie into a horrible bondage; he had seen it turn what might have been bright and happy homes into perfect hells.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

THE Shah of Persia proposes to visit England next June. INDIA must have 4,000 missionaries to give one Christian teacher to 50,000 heathens.

THE State of Georgia has forty-eight counties in which the sale of liquor is prohibited.

THERE are eighty pupils in the Chinese Sunday school of Mount Vernon Church, Boston.

THE Mayor of Philadelphia refuses to grant a license to any place of amusement which has a bar-room attached to it.

THE sum of \$5,000 has been raised in the United States for a memorial window in Westminster Abbey to the late Dean Stanley.

In 1853 there were 361 native Christians in China; in 1863 there were 1,974; in 1868, 5,743; and in 1881 they numbered 19,600.

REV. M. D. KALOPOTHAKES, of Athens, has translated and published Dr. A. A. Hodge's "Outlines of Theology" in modern Greek.

ALL the judges of New York city unite in asking the Legislature to pass a law preventing the admission of children to theatres without their guardians.

THE Ayr Free Presbytery have unanimously agreed to petition in favour of local option, and have also appointed a Presbyterial committee on intemperance.

MR. JOSEPH LIVESKY, of Preston, who may be regarded as the founder of the English Total Abstinence Movement, entered upon his eighty-ninth year on Monday, the 6th inst.

THE King of Siam has decided to construct several lines of telegraph, connecting Bangkok, his capital, with the British and French lines. He also will introduce the postal system.

A POLICEMAN has actually been censured and dismissed from the force in New York for harsh treatment of a Chinese laundryman, and for permitting a rough to cut off his queue.

THE Minister for Trade in Austria has ordered that the postal service on Sundays shall be limited, and several others of the Cabinet have decided to lessen public work on that day.

THERE are 37,274 newspapers and periodicals published in the world, with an aggregate circulation of 116,000,000 copies. North America has two-thirds as many as the whole of Europe.

IT is a healthful sign that prominent members of the Chicago Board of Trade propose to expel any officer or director who refuses to discourage the making of "corners" by its members.

DR. WILLIAM CHAMBERS, the proprietor of "Chambers's Journal," which has just celebrated its fiftieth birthday, is restoring the venerable Cathedral of St. Giles, Edinburgh, at his own cost.

THE British House of Commons has passed a bill authorizing the Post-office to issue a "Reply Postal Card," on which the person receiving it can return an answer without further payment.

THE Gospel Temperance Movement inaugurated in Dundee, Scotland, by Mr. R. T. Booth, is still being carried on. Over 30,000 of the inhabitants of Dundee have taken the pledge within a few weeks.

A DESPATCH from Copenhagen says: "A Danish polar expedition, to start in July, has been arranged. The Chamber to-day voted an appropriation toward paying the expenses of the expedition."

THE Commission of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland has resolved to petition Parliament in favour of Dr. Cameron's bill for extending the laws regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors to river steamers.

A TELEGRAM from Sydney states that the new licensing Act, which provides for the closing of all public-houses at eleven o'clock p.m. every week day and throughout Sunday, came into operation at the beginning of the year, and its effect is beneficial.

THE Vienna correspondent of the "St. James' Gazette," London, says the general understanding between Germany and Austria to jointly resist a Russian attack upon either power has lately resulted in an arrangement of details for immediate action if necessary.

THE fearful fact was stated at a meeting in Philadelphia last week, on the subject of "Neglected Children," that 700 children die in that city each year of neglect, starvation and abuse, and that of the children taken to the almshouse, or born there, about ninety-five per cent. die.

MR. PROCTOR, the English astronomer who has excited the fears of some nervous people by predicting the falling of a comet into the sun, may perhaps relieve them by his more recent assertion that "the world is more likely to last 15,000,000 years than to be destroyed in fifteen."

DR. HOUGH, the veterinary surgeon of the Third Avenue Railroad Company, New York, which owns over 2,000 horses, has introduced the Turkish, Russian and electric baths for the treatment of the horses of the line suffering from colds and other ailments. The results of this aristocratic regimen have been very satisfactory.

SINCE the commencement of the operation of the Sunday Closing (Ireland) Act in October, 1878, there has been a decrease in the Irish drink bill of £3,000,000 sterling and 22,000 fewer cases of drunkenness summarily dealt with by the police magistrates. Great unanimity is said to exist amongst the Irish people regarding temperance legislation.

THE Bible and Colportage Society of Ireland is carrying on its useful work, notwithstanding the distracted state of the country and the lawlessness prevailing in many parts. Its colporteurs have not been annoyed while circulating their good books and reading the Scriptures from house to house. During the last twenty years it has sold about 15,000,000 Bibles and good books, for which they have received over \$575,000.