

# The Presbyterian Review.

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## LOST HOURS.

Their advent is as silent as their going,  
They have no voice nor utter any speech,  
No whispered murmur passes each to each,  
As on the bosom of the years' stream flowing,  
They pass beyond recall, beyond our knowing,  
Farther than sight can pierce or thought can reach,  
Nor shall we ever hear them on Time's beach,  
No matter how the winds of life are blowing.

They bide their time, they wait the awful warning  
Of that dread day, when hearts and graves unsealing,  
The trumpet's note shall call th' sea and sod,  
To yield their secrets to the sun's revealing;  
What voices then shall thrill the judgment morning,  
As our lost hours shall cry aloud to God!

R. T. W. DUKE.

## OVER LAND AND SEA.

Prince Max, of Saxony, a relative of Queen Victoria, is laboring in a German church in the East End slums of London.

The Sultan of Jahore has made a grant to the Rev. J. A. B. Cook, the English Presbyterian missionary in Singapore, of a plot of land 300 acres in extent for the purpose of a Christian Chinese settlement.

The committee appointed by the last National Council of the Congregational Churches to arrange for the Second International Council, to be held, probably in Boston, in 1899, met recently, and completed some of the arrangements. The program is being prepared, and correspondence with English Congregationalists has shown that there will be a large representation from across the ocean.

The U.S. Presbyterian Assemblies are making preparations for their meetings. The Northern is to be held at the grounds of the Winona Assembly and Sunday-school Association, Indiana, May 20th, and Dr. J. L. Withrow, of Chicago, the retiring moderator, will preach the sermon. The Southern will meet at Charlotte, N.C., the same date, Dr. R. L. Mallard being the preacher. At both assemblies the question of the organic union of the two bodies will come up in the form of a proposition that both meet next year at Louisville.

Dr. Daniel Dorchester, a reliable church statistician, shows by published official reports that from 1870 to 1894 the Roman Catholic population in the U.S., increased from 4,600,000 to 7,806,649, while during the same period the Protestant Church membership increased from 6,673,396 to 15,127,948.

The Swedish Government proposes to start a balloon toward the North Pole with three Swedish Scientists. It is to depart from Spitzbergen about July 1st. Dr. Nansen says nothing is to be gained by further researches in that direction, but it will be a real gain, by finding the pole, to put an end to dangerous efforts to reach after that which is of no value.

The Mississippi floods have abated but little, and along the southern course of the great stream citizens and public officials have worked day and night to avert

ruin. The region submerged produced last year crops aggregating a value of \$22,000,000. The extent and the duration of the floods have caused them to take on the proportions of a national disaster, and some plan will have to be devised for averting in the future such a calamity.

A faithful and untiring worker for the Lord has just written to tell of a serious loss he has sustained. He is laboring in Arkansas, going from house to house, and carrying the message of the Gospel to the poor and ignorant inhabitants. One day he left his Bible on the seat of the rough vehicle in which he rode, as he entered a log cabin to announce that he would preach in the neighborhood. When he returned to resume his journey, he found that his Bible was gone. A loose mule had seized it with his teeth, thrown it to the ground, and had torn out the Old Testament from Isaiah to Malachi. Which is the worse, the mule or the Higher Critic?

Monday April 19th, the Rev. David Roberts, D.D., the venerable Welsh bard, "*Dewi Ogwen*," of Wrexham, attained his eightieth birthday. Dr. Roberts is one of the leading Welsh Congregational ministers, and is the oldest minister with a pastoral charge in the Principality, having been ordained in the year 1839. Owing to the weak state of his health, Dr. Roberts has not been able to preach for some time past, but he is now progressing favorably, and hopes again to resume at an early date his ministerial duties.

The Government Committee of the Irish Presbyterian Church met recently and agreed to prepare an address to the Queen on this her Diamond Jubilee, and have it ready for adoption at the coming Assembly. The Lord Chamberlain is to be at once consulted as to her Majesty's wishes in the matter. The address presented ten years ago vied with that of the Jewish community as to which of them was the most beautiful in design and decoration, and was specially admired by the royal circle at Windsor, and no doubt the Assembly will again distinguish itself, if her gracious Majesty affords it the opportunity.

Nearly 300 women last year were turned away from the Industrial Farm Home for women inebriates founded by the British Women's Temperance Association at Duxhurst. In the February number of the *White Ribbon Signal* Lady Henry Somerset gives an account of a recent visit to the farm Colony, which has attracted the earliest attention of those in authority as a probably successful solution of the problem of dealing with inebriate women. The scheme differs from all others in being on the village plan, consisting of a model village of 6 cottages clustering around a large house, on a farm of 180 acres among the hills of Surrey. Each cottage is presided over by a nurse matron from the Church Army, and everything of an institutional character is carefully excluded. Every patient is kept one year, and every means that love and ingenuity can devise to build up the physical, mental, and spiritual health is used to cure them of the deadly disease of alcoholism.