

pect built upon a solid basis, his chances of salvation here and hereafter would be greatly improved. All this could be done in Tom's family if anywhere. He had an excellent wife and three or four young daughters, and the sweetest and most helpful influences abode in that home. The experiment would have been one of doubtful propriety if there had been sons in that family.

I entered first and found Robert still sleeping, and proposed to Tom to look at Robert in his sleep, that he might not betray his painful surprise at the great change that had taken place in him when he should see him awake. Tom went in and I closed the door after him.

What took place in that room was known only to themselves and to Him who knoweth all.

Some hours later Tom and Bob came out, arm in arm, and without speaking to any one went lovingly home together.

(To be continued.)

THE FAMINE IN CHINA.

The famine seems now to be at its worst. The impoverished country consists of the greater part of the Province of Shansi, parts of South-western Chili, Western Shantung, and the northern districts of Honan, comprising an area variously estimated at from 70,000 to 100,000 square miles. The greatest distress is in the southern half of Shansi, including the provincial capital, Tai Yuen, the population of which, unless rain comes at once, bids fair to become absolutely extinct. In its horrible details, as given by all witnesses, foreign and native, official and missionary, it is the direst calamity that this or any country has been visited with. The sturdy Chinese peasants do not calmly fold their hands and die, like our poor fellow-subjects, the Madrassees, last year; they eat the dead, and when there are none to take they kill the living for the same purpose. This is no Oriental exaggeration, but the actual state of things in a district not 700 miles from Shanghai. In the Pekin "Gazette" of the 15th of March there appears a memorial from Li Ho-nien, Governor of Honan, and Yuan, Special High Commissioner for Famine Relief, appealing for State assistance to the distressed province. From it may be gathered the straits to which the famine-stricken country is reduced. I therefore append a translation of it, and I must remind my countrymen as they read it that it is no sensational picture to move the tears of emotional subscribers, but a calm description of the state of the province by its responsible rulers in the language of a Blue-book:

"The drought with which the province has been visited for several years in succession has resulted in a famine of an intensity and extent hitherto unheard of. As autumn advanced into winter the number of those in need of relief increased daily, until at last they could be counted by millions. The lower classes were the first to be affected, and they soon disappeared or dispersed in search of subsistence elsewhere. Now the famine has attacked the well-to-do and the wealthy, who find themselves reduced to greater misery as each day goes by, and they, in their turn are dying off or following those who have migrated elsewhere. In the earlier period of distress the living fed upon the bodies of the dead; next, the strong devoured the weak; and now, the general destitution has arrived at such a climax that men devour those of their own flesh and blood. History contains no record of so terrible and distressing a state of things, and if prompt measures of relief be not instituted the whole region must become depopulated. Local sources of supply are entirely exhausted; the granaries are empty, and the treasury drained dry; while the few wealthy people in the provinces have helped with contributions and loans till they themselves are impoverished."

In the Prefecture in which the capital of Shansi is situated the population has diminished from over 1,000,000 to 160,000, and the Chinese newspapers here give the number of people who have died of starvation, or met the awful fate just recorded, as over 5,000,000.—*Shanghai Cor. London Times.*

A CAUTION.

The narrative of STANLEY'S expedition to Equatorial Africa, and his magnificent exploration of the Congo—one of the grandest achievements of modern times—is published by J. B. MAGURN in one handsome volume, profusely illustrated with engravings from his own sketches, and ten splendid maps. It also contains two portraits of Mr. STANLEY.

The story of this brave man's adventures, the travels accomplished, the perils through which he passed, the sufferings he endured, the wonderful discoveries he made, told in his own fluent and graphic style, reads like a romance of the old adventurous times, and no one who takes up the book will be willing to lay it down until the last page is finished.

For deep dramatic interest there is nothing in the whole range of modern travel equalling the scenes here described.

We regret, therefore, to learn that an attempt is being made to impose upon the public a spurious work, purporting to be a complete history of STANLEY'S achievements and explorations. It is a garbled and incomplete story, made up from letters necessarily imperfect and fragmentary. Compared with the book the letters in the "Herald" are a mere prospectus. Many most interesting details were omitted which appear in Mr. STANLEY'S book, and which are necessary to the complete understanding of the great work he has accomplished. To protect the interests of Canadian readers, we deem it proper to warn the public against attempts to palm off upon them this garbled and spurious narrative of his explorations. The only genuine and complete account of STANLEY'S achievements, written by himself, entitled "THROUGH THE DARK CONTINENT," is copyrighted and published by J. B. MAGURN, TORONTO, by special arrangement with the Author; and whoever buys any other will waste his money and cheat himself out of the genuine book which English critics pronounce the most fascinating book of travel which has been produced in modern times.—[Advt.]

To extol one's own virtue is to make a vice of it.

THE SETTLER.

In a far-distant land, the eve
Had cooled day's sultry glow,
And shadows down the mountain side
Came creeping soft and slow
O'er pastures white with feeding flocks,
And sheaf-set valley's brow.

For fields of yellow corn waved high
Where forest trees once stood,
And the woodman's axe was never heard
In the green solitude,
And human footstep never woke,
The echoes of the wood.

But wielded now by sturdy hands,
All day the bright axe rung;
In the midst of that vast wilderness
A happy home had sprung,
And children's gleeful laughter blent
With voices fresh and young.

Beside his door at sundown sat,
In the still evening air,
An aged man; upon his brow
Were lines of weary care,
And many a fleeting year had thinned
His locks of silvery hair.

'Twas half a century and more
Since he left his native land;
And now on plains of ripened wheat
As thick as ocean sand,
And orchards bent with fruit, he looked,
All planted by his hand.

The sunset faded, and the stars
Gleamed in the tinted sky
By slow degrees; yet there he sat,
That old man silently—
Sat listening to the tale his heart
Told of the days gone by.

Like hoar-frost touched by sun-light, fled
The present from his eyes;
His mind stirred with the wakening
Of sweet home memories;
Again a bright-haired boy he stood
Beneath blue English skies.

The mill-weir's rush he heard again,
The broomy dingles saw;
And the Hawthorns on the river bank,
Just as they grew of yore,
In the Spring-time of his boyhood, when
He pulled the branches hoar.

Rose up another vision yet
In that calm even-while—
The picture of an old green lane,
The well known trysting style;
The shadow of a truthful glance,
A tender, trusting smile.

Twenty Springs had brought their flowers,
Twenty Summers flown,
Twenty Autumns on her grave
Their yellow leaves had strewn,
Since last he kissed that cold white brow,
And went his way alone.

Alone, save for the little ones,
Through whose clear childish eyes
The soul of his lost darling looked,
And bade his crushed heart rise,
For their sakes, from its burdening pain
To steadfast, high emprise.

But now that time of sorrow seemed
As though it had not been,
And the memories of the day before
Sprang fresh and fair and green—
The days when no grief-cloud had dimmed
His life-star's early sheen.

Through the dim twilight's deepened blue
The moon shone clear and still,
Yet steadfastly the aged man
Looked out on wood and hill,
As though he heard the sound of bells,
Or the rippling of a rill.

Distinct and clear, as though it were
A scene of yesterday,
Seemed the cowslip-dotted English fields
And the hamlet far away,
Though he left them when his locks were brown,
And now they glistened gray.

Around the cottage ingleside
Gloweth the Christmas brand,
Rings the laughter and the shouting of
His brother's joyous band;
He feels the old familiar touch
Of his loved mother's hand.

Hark! the clear cry of the whip-poor-will:
The sound the old man hears,
And with it breaks the spell that brought
Again those long lost years;
And now he sees the calm bright stars
Dimly through gathered tears.

—*Chambers' Journal.*

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

The heathen temples at Shantung, China, are rapidly falling into decay, from neglect.

A JAI ANHSE Government official, on accepting Christianity, left his position with a salary of thirty-five dollars a month, to become a colporteur at fifteen dollars a month.

A new religious paper is soon to be begun in Scotland, called the "Scottish Patriot," to combat the Papal aggressor. It will seek to unite all Protestants against the common foe.

The late Rev. Alexander Pollock, of the Free Scotch Church, Paisley, has among his bequests directed £3,000 to be devoted to the founding of two or three bursaries in Glasgow University for behoof of persons connected with Paisley.

WHAT is said to have been the largest Japanese audience a missionary has ever had at one time numbered 3,000, and was accorded Mr. Atkinson, an American missionary, assisted by a native pastor, and an ex-Minister of the Government.

SOME of the Lutheran pastors of Pennsylvania have very large charges. Four pastors serve five congregations, four others serve six, three serve seven, and two serve eight. The largest confirmed membership in any of these charges is 1,726.

THE bill allowing women to vote in school-meetings has passed the New Hampshire House of Representatives, having already been adopted by the Senate. This is the first substantial victory won by the woman suffragists of New England.

THE Vatican having appointed an incumbent of the See of Naples, without the consent of the government, the latter has refused to grant him the exequatur, and he will be maintained at the expense of the Vatican. The government claims the patronage of the see.

THE World's Convention of the Young Men's Christian Association met in Geneva on the 17th. The average attendance at the conferences was 1,000. Delegates present from America, Belgium, England, France, Holland, Spain, and the Protestant cantons of Switzerland.

THE Old Testament Revisers, who began their work on 30th June, 1870, have sat for 460 days for six hours each day, and have gone over the whole of the Old Testament, with the exception of part of Esther, Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Solomon's Song, and Daniel.

THE Queen of England as head of the Church has appointed a commission of noblemen and clergy, to inquire into the law and existing practice as to the sale, exchange, and resignation of ecclesiastical benefices, and to recommend remedies for abuses if any are found to exist.

IN China there are 305 Protestant missionaries of various denominations, or about one to a million and a half of population. This is as if there were only thirty preachers in the whole United States. It must be remembered that half the missionaries are women, who do not preach.

PARLIAMENT was prorogued on the 16th until November 2nd. The Queen's speech is practically a brief reiteration of Beaconsfield's and Salisbury's views on the Eastern Question. She believes that peace in that quarter now promises to be durable and Turkey's independence permanent.

THE ninth session of the Independent Order of Good Templars of Scotland, was held in Edinburgh, under the presidency of Rev. Wm. Ross, Rothiesay. The adult membership of the order in Scotland showed a slight increase during the year. There are at present 54,562 in good standing. The number of juvenile members was 27,775.

THE Roman Catholic journalists are to meet in council on the 9th of September, and the New York "Tablet" declares that from a religious point of view it will be a grave event; and from any and every point of view it must be interesting, for it will certainly be an event that will reflect the genius of American civilization and the glorious liberties of the great Republic.

AN important conference was held on the 31st ult., at the palace of the Bishop of Winchester, in Farnham, England. Twelve American Bishops were present. Father Hyacinthe and Bishop Hertzog, of Switzerland, gave accounts of the reform movements in the French and Swiss Churches. A resolution was passed pledging the English and American Churches to aid Bishop Hertzog in the work of educating candidates for the ministry.

ONE of the modern attractions in saloons is pretty waiting-girls to deal out the deadly drink to the men. This evil, which has been steadily growing in our large cities, has received a sudden check in Pennsylvania. The Woman's Temperance Union has fought it steadily for three years in Pittsburg, where the plan was carried out extensively. Mrs. J. S. Collins carried their petitions to the Legislature, and won a victory, not only for Pittsburg, but for the whole State.

THE Pope is in trouble. He takes up the lamentations of his predecessor and complains that "an unbridled press fights against the faith." "Protestant temples and schools spring up on every side." There is "an influx of heresy," which is a kind of "foreign invasion." Alas for his Holiness. A free press, free schools, and a free church are foes to be feared. And having found their way into Rome, there is no human probability that they will ever go out again.

MR. McALPIN has opened, opposite the Paris Exhibition, his twenty-third place of preaching. About 1,000 persons on Sabbath days and 500 on week days, who came for visiting the marvels of human art and industry, listen attentively to these plain and simple appeals. Even during the hottest days, most of the twenty-three halls were crammed. M. Armand Deille opened, near another gate of the Exhibition, a room, where a great work of God is going on. Hundreds of Roman Catholic Parisians have been already converted to Christ.