

The chain was borne—one kindly wave  
 Of speech flashed through its coil;  
 Then dumb and dead in ocean's grave  
 Lay hope and cost and toil.

But thou good ship, again hast brought,  
 O'er these wide waves of blue,  
 The chain of kindly word and thought  
 To link those worlds anew.

—*Punch.*

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## Fragment Basket.

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UNSELFISH LIFE.—Could we count up the immense sums that have been used for individual pleasure, or in supplying the lower wants of the race, and in the same connection, see how little is devoted to the moral elevation of man, we might then be constrained, not to commence a crusade against the comforts of miserable men, but to teach men the comfort there is in self-denial and the unselfish life; and seek to incite men to at least as much zeal in spending for God, in saving the lost, as they now have in spending for folly or fancy.

During twenty-seven years past, the French people have paid for tobacco money enough to support the A. B. C. F. M., at one hundred thousand dollars a year above the present cost, for a period covering twenty-eight Jubilees! Every twelve months, enough is thus spent to support all the missions for one generation.

The support of the turf in England is a million a year. New York theatres receive a million and a half yearly; men are patient under a long and filthy play who weary with half an hour of gospel. Forty thousand dollars, and ten thousand extra for champagne, are easily spent in a ball for the Japanese. When there may be a call for funds for Japanese missions, will it then be hard to raise fifty thousand dollars?

If we lay the world under tribute to help us through life; may we not lay ourselves under tribute to help the world to an eternal life? Six per cent. of the yearly cost of tea in the United States will give six hundred thousand dollars; but what family will save six per cent. of their yearly cost of tea and send the gospel to China?

No sane man will doubt that the New York Central Park is a great missionary force; but if it is wise to spend so much for that, what money shall be poured out for the far nobler charities? More money has now been expended on that park than the cost of the A. B. C. F. M. for fifty years; and while fifty millions more are proposed for it, how many millions per year will American missions find at their service? The one is a place of fresh air for half a million of people; the other is a free gospel for twelve hundred millions, who know not of the free air of Christ's heaven.

We find money laid out more liberally in Satanic adventures than for missions; more paid for politics than for the gospel of God; the costly vices of appetite better patronized than the needs of heathen souls. Our houses are built strongly for ourselves, while human souls, both here and across the waves, wander homeless. We clothe ourselves and leave our brothers' souls naked. We care for our dogs and horses, and are content that our brothers in Adam shall fare worse; we feed to the full and neglect the hungry; the people praise any writing which bolsters up their sin, and in the patronage of fine arts, or the amusement of travel forget the arts that adorn the soul, and forget that we journey toward a better country. Many of these uses of money are of high good and ought to be patronized, but the complaint is that there is not a corresponding outlay for the nobler needs of men.—*Jubilee Essays.*