

demand, and that it was the business-like and manly thing to do.

"This is your first venture out into the world, I understand," she said, rising to intimate that their interview was over, "and I greatly wish that it may lead towards a useful and successful career. I have spoken plainly, because I wished you to realise just what you have undertaken, and thus meet with no unpleasant surprises or unexpected experiences. When one enters upon a course with his eyes open, he, in a certain sense, pledges himself to do the best he can in that line of duty, and our acquaintance, though so brief, has convinced me that you can do very well indeed."

"I was under the impression," said the young man, colouring deeply, "that my mother's letter had led you to suppose—to expect just the contrary."

"Mr. Haldane," said Mrs. Arnot, giving him her hand with graceful tact, "I shall form my opinion of you solely on the ground of your own action, and I wish you to think of me as a friend who takes a genuine interest in your success. Good night."

He went to his room in quite a heroic and virtuous mood. "She does not treat me a bit like 'a bad boy,' as I supposed she would," he thought, "but appears to take for granted that I shall be a gentleman in this new house, and a sensible fellow in her husband's office. Blow me, if I disappoint her."

Nor did he for several weeks. Even Mr. Arnot was compelled to admit that it did "work rather better than he expected," and that he "supposed the young fellow did as well as he could."

As the novelty of Haldane's new relations wore off, however, and as his duties became so familiar as to be chiefly a matter of routine, the grave defects of his character and training began to show themselves. The restraint of the counting-room grew irksome. Associations were formed in the city which tended towards his old evil habits. As a piece of Mr. Arnot's machinery he did not move with the increasing precision that his employer required and expected on his becoming better acquainted with his duties.

Mrs. Arnot had expected this, and knew that her husband would tolerate carelessness and friction only up to a certain point. She had gained more influence over the young man than anyone else had ever possessed, and by means of it kept him within bounds for some time; but she saw from her husband's manner that things were fast approaching a crisis.

One evening she kindly, but frankly, told him of the danger in which he stood of an abrupt, stern dismissal.

He was more angry than alarmed, and during the following day about concluded that he would save himself any such mortification by leaving of his own accord. He quite persuaded himself that he had a soul above plodding business, and that, after enjoying himself at home for a time, he could enter upon some other career that promised more congeniality and renown.

In order that his employer might not anticipate him, he performed his duties very accurately that day, but left the office with the expectation of never returning.

He had very decided compunctions in thus requiting Mrs. Arnot's kindness, but muttered recklessly:

"I'm tired of this humdrum, treadmill life, and believe I'm destined to better things. If I could only get a good position in the army or navy, the world would hear from me. They say money opens every door, and mother must open some good wide door for me."

Regardless now of his employer's good or bad opinion, he came down late to supper, but, instead of observing with careless defiance the frown which he knew lowered towards him, his eyes were drawn to a fair young face on the opposite side of the table.

Mrs. Arnot, in her pleasant, cordial voice, which made the simplest thing she said seem real and hearty, rather than conventional, introduced him:

"Mr. Haldane, my niece, Miss Laura Romeyn. Laura, no doubt, can do far more than an old lady to make your evenings pass brightly."

After a second glance of scrutiny, Haldane was so ungratefully forgetful of all Mrs. Arnot's kindness as to be inclined to agree with her remark.

(To be continued.)

#### WHEN TO SELL.

Every one who is engaged in any department of agriculture or manufacture is supposed to have from time to time something to sell or exchange. On the disposition of this surplus depends the supply of all articles that the person does not raise, embracing all implements and improvements of every kind that require an outlay. Hence it is a matter of moment that the sale of those things be made at the time that the best price, all considered, will be obtained. Is it possible to be certain of this time? In general, no. There are certain articles that constitute exceptions. Those that cannot be conveniently preserved must, of course, be thrown on the market at once. Others that are in demand in certain seasons only will be governed by the season trade. But the most common and valuable products of human industry are always in market, and yet are subject to frequent fluctuations in price. Such are the leading products of the farm and most of the useful manufactures. As to these no fixed rule can be given, but the following suggestions will commend themselves to the prudent.

One should keep himself informed of the state of the market, especially in places accessible to him, and as far as practicable in places whose trade affects directly his local market. The best way to secure this is to take and read good papers, that give not only the tabular market statements, but also intelligent and impartial comments and counsels. When necessity compels one to sell, he can only submit, regardless of prices; but in all other cases he ought to govern himself consistently by reasonable probabilities. Unless in the face of a comparative certainty that there will be no advance, economy plainly forbids the disposal of a commodity at a price that is not more than its cost to the

producer. Business cannot live on losses. A certain farmer, who always prospered, made it a rule to sell everything he could spare as soon as it was in marketable condition. He never made much at one time; but he avoided all risks of rogues and fires, all injuries by vermin and weather, all the trouble and expense of protracted storage, all the reduction of shrinkage and incidental waste, and he was receiving money now and then through the year.

It is safe advice to say that every one should be content to sell at a reasonable profit. To wait for very large prices is dangerous policy and especially as to the necessities of life, very bad morals. What man must have his fellow-man should be willing to furnish at rates that are not exorbitant or oppressive. Business should never violate the principles of magnanimity and true charity. —*Rural New Yorker.*

#### SCPTICISM AND CRIME IN GERMANY.

Germany is reaping the harvest of advanced thought or scepticism; crime has increased during the last six years in Prussia from fifty to two or three hundred per cent., the imprisonments in Prussia, Hanover, and the Rhine Provinces alone (the statistics from the Southern States, as Havana, Wurtemberg and Baden, not being yet published), have risen from 102,077 in 1872 to 133,734 in 1876, and the number to-day is reckoned at 150,000. The prisons are all full, and patriotic men are urging the formation of a penal colony on some island of the Pacific or section of Western Africa. A few months ago the chaplain of the Imperial family, Mr. Bauer, in a sermon preached before the Emperor and Princess, said: "Affection, faith, and obedience to the Word of God are unknown in this country, in this our great German Fatherland, which formerly was justly called the home of the faith. On the contrary it really seems as if it were the father of all lies who is now worshipped in Prussia. What formerly was considered generous and noble is now looked upon with contempt; and theft and swindling are called by the euphonic name 'business.' Marriages are concluded without the blessing of the Church, concluded 'on trial,' to be broken, if not found to answer. We still have a Sunday, but it is only a Sunday in name, as the people work during church hours, and spend the afternoon and evening in rioting in the public houses and music halls; while the upper classes rush to the races, preferring to hear the panting of the tortured horses to hearing the Word of God, which is ridiculed in the press and turned into blasphemy in the popular assemblies; the servants of God are insulted daily." The Berlin correspondents of the English journals add: "The German clerical newspapers, Protestant as well as Catholic, are writing in a like strain." Berlin, with a population of a million, has only one hundred and ten ministers of religion, both Protestant and Catholic, and the average attendance at each place of worship is below one hundred. House to house inquiries show that in the same city "in less than one house out of eight is there any regular use or even possession of the Bible." The state of religion and morals in the country is a cause of the greatest grief and anxiety to many of the best citizens. This social deterioration and increase of crime does not come from ignorance. Nor does the prevalence of immorality arise from a lack of artistic and æsthetic culture. Nor is intemperance the cause. The one chief reason for the degeneration of a once noble people is the substitution of scepticism for faith in the Scriptures.

#### DR. CHALMERS ON PREDESTINATION.

It was during the winter of 1804 that Dr. Chalmers delivered his four celebrated lectures in the University of Edinburgh on Predestination, and wound up his series by a fifth on the pulpit treatment of the subject. In this lecture, he warned his students most faithfully against the danger into which they might be tempted in dealing with such a sublime mystery. He said, "Gentlemen, we have entered on this great mystery with regret, and we leave it without a sigh. The subject which we have been treating professionally from the rostrum you will be called upon to treat ministerially from the pulpit, but remember that the provinces are wide apart."

We are dealing with the heads of our alumni; you have to deal with hearts of sinners. Give me a band of men who never walked, as you have done, the halls of a University, whose only library is the inspired oracles of God, whose only tutor is the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven, and let them loose on some wild moral territory, and they will do more, ten to one, than our college-trained clergy, who must utter every truth and shape every gospel enunciation according to the rule and square of a rigid orthodoxy.

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THERE are now \$54 Young Men's Christian Associations in the United States.

WHEN you are reading a book in a dark room, and come to a difficult part, you take it to a window to get more light. So take your Bibles to Christ.—*M. Chalmers.*

THE Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States now number 854. Of these, fifty-six have buildings of their own, valued at \$1,924,770. Building Funds to the amount of \$234,182 have been collected by forty-two associations, and will be expended hereafter upon association buildings. The value of property of all kinds belonging to the associations amounts to \$2,295,600. Reading rooms are supported by 340 associations, and 468 expend \$316,240 annually for current expenses.

## BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

SIAM proclaims religious liberty.

SWITZERLAND had 1,400,000 visitors this season.

THE Jews of the world are said to number now between six and seven millions.

TWELVE missionaries sailed last week for the American Presbyterian mission in India.

NAPOLEON I., Napoleon III., and the late Prince Imperial, all wrote their wills on English soil.

Canada has been visited recently by George Jacob Holyoake, the English freethinker and politician.

THE American Episcopal Church is to hold a Congress in Albany, N.Y., on the 21st of October and following days.

JOSEPH COOK's twenty lectures in Boston the coming season will be held in the Old South Church beginning November 3.

DEAN STANLEY in a recent sermon said that in the fifteen years in which he had been Dean of Westminster there had been but fourteen interments in the Abbey.

STATISTICS collected by the staff of the "Glasgow Daily Mail" show that there are at least 30,000 fewer people at work in that city than there were two years ago.

THE Free Church of Scotland proposes to observe this year as a Missionary Jubilee, as it is fifty years since Dr. Duff was ordained the first Scotch missionary to India.

REV. T. DE WITT TALMAGE has returned from his visit to Great Britain. He is in good health and spirits, and will probably continue to be as eccentric as heretofore.

JOHN BRIGHT presented a petition to Parliament three-fourths of a mile long from 100,000 Primitive Methodists in England, asking for the closing of the liquor-shops on Sabbath.

A MEMORIAL to Sir Rowland Hill is proposed in Great Britain, to take the form of almshouses for postmen, the amount to be raised by the contribution of penny postage stamps.

EXTENSIVE religious revivals are occurring in Virginia and North Carolina. A despatch states that from seventy-five to one hundred persons have confessed conversion at a single meeting.

REV. W. G. BLAIRIE, D.D., of Edinburgh, is writing what will be the biography of Dr. Livingstone. The latter's family are co-operating with Dr. B. in the preparation of the work.

THE Prince of Wales' two eldest sons Albert Victor and George, who are destined for the navy, have sailed for a six months' cruise, where they will take their lot with the other boys of the same class.

THE matter whether a railroad train could make a mile in a minute was lately tested on the Pennsylvania Railroad. In running three miles the first was made 54 seconds, the second in 52, and the third in 50!

THE death is announced of the Rev. Thomas Hislop, Free Church minister of Doune, in the 90th year of his age and the 63rd of his ministry. His entire ministry had been spent at Doune and he was one of the oldest ministers of the Free Church.

AT Aberdeen in Scotland at the opening of the Circuit Court in September there was no case for trial, and the judge was presented with a pair of white gloves in consequence. In many of the Scotch courts the criminal calendars were very light.

THE Belgian bishops excommunicate Catholic children who attend the public schools. Here in Yonkers, says the New York "Christian Weekly," the "sisters" have excluded a little girl from the Sabbath school of her Church for the same crime! This is not Belgium.

A JOINT-STOCK company has been formed in England with a proposed capital of \$5,000,000 in shares of \$5 for the avowed object of diminishing intemperance. It is intended that temperance hotels shall be opened in all parts of the Kingdom. In the prospectus the name of the Archbishop of Canterbury heads the list.

THERE has been an unparalleled diminution in the receipts of British customs. The half-yearly report shows a falling off from the receipts of the preceding six months of five million dollars. This heavy decrease is attributed to the extreme dullness of the times, and the consequent diminished demand for foreign luxuries.

FROM the 56th annual report of the Berlin Society for the promotion of Christianity among the Jews it appears that the total number of the Hebrew race is between 6,000,000 and 7,000,000. Of these 5,000,000 are in Europe, 1,500,000 in America, 200,000 in Asia, and 50,000 in Africa. Of the Asiatic Jews 20,000 are assigned to India and 25,000 to Palestine.

REV. DR. SHELDON JACKSON, in a letter to the New York "Observer," states the surprising fact that though Sitka in Alaska is about fifteen degrees north of Boston and three south of Greenland, through the influence of the warm Japan current in the Pacific Ocean its mean annual winter temperature is that of Georgia, and its summer temperature that of Minnesota.

THE old King's Bench Prison in London having been demolished, it is proposed to turn its site into a play-ground for the children of the densely populated neighbourhood. The "Christian World" says, "It has often echoed with the sighs and groans of despairing debtors. Let it by all means have its evil memories exorcised by the laughter of happy boys and girls."

MESSRS. MOODY and Sankey held an all day series of meetings in Cooper Institute last Tuesday. Large audiences, mostly of men, attended, and were moved and melted as in former days by the earnest, impassioned appeals of the revivalists. They are about to labour for a month in Cleveland, Ohio, from which city they go to St. Louis for their winter campaign.