

all directions in search of work; of a generous subscription gathered in all the region to aid those poor people who had lost their all; of a brace of sermons at the Crampton church, suggested by the events that have been described.

A few weeks passed away, and the cloud was lifted. People ceased to think about the great event of the region and the time. The stream flowed by unused. The tall chimney stood like a monument over dead hopes; over scattered life; over ruined property; over vanished industry. The widow sat in her weeds in her little cottage on the hill, and dreamed of the past and the future. It would be an outrage upon human nature to say that she did not care for what had befallen her; yet she felt that life had something for her yet.

Long years before, she had ceased to love her husband, and long had she felt the galling slavery of his presence as a curse upon her. For her daughter she mourned. She wanted her society. She could forgive everything, if the faithless girl would return. That she dreamed of the future, Dr. Gilbert ascertained early. She had never in her life called for so much medical attendance as in the first month after the death of her husband; and Dr. Gilbert always received a message from her with a wry face, and stayed in her house but a short time. Exactly what she used to say to him will never be known; but he, by some means, ascertained that whatever might be the fate of the estate, she held, in her own right, an amount of bank-stock that would make her very comfortable under any circumstances.

Arthur, of all the operatives, was alone left with work to do. Of all of them, he only had a knowledge of the proprietor's business, and, under legal supervision, it was his task to settle the estate. There were multitudinous accounts to be adjusted, and in the settlement of these complicated affairs there stretched before him a whole year of remunerative labour.

(To be continued.)

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL'S BIBLE ARGUMENT.

"It is not too much to say that the scene in the room of the Senate Committee on Patents on the morning of Friday, January 29, 1886, was one of the most interesting and significant events of our generation. We refer to the hearing there given by committees of both Houses of Congress to James Russell Lowell, President of the American Copyright League, who presented in person his argument in favour of International Copyright. The journals of the country have already printed Lowell's words, but no report, verbatim or otherwise, could re-create the atmosphere of this remarkable scene. The legislative power, that very power hitherto appealed to in vain through generations of authors and Congressmen, was here confronted in behalf of the intellectual world, in behalf of public morality, and in the name of common honesty and common sense, by one of the chief living exponents of literature—who is also one of the chief citizens of the Republic. Nothing could exceed the tact, good-nature, ready wit and hurrying sarcasm with which Lowell took the field. A gentleman well known in the Washington lobby, and opposed to the measure, had been permitted to precede Mr. Lowell. This, as it were, gave for his lance, at the most fortunate moment, an embodied foe; though we doubt whether the subject of his genial and exquisite scorn will ever realize that, like one of the heroes of Dante's 'Inferno,' he was then and there transfixed for all time. The keenest thrusts were accompanied by a wrinkle of the eye, a pleasant falling inflection of the voice, or a smile, that was like the glistering of a Damascus blade, with an edge as sharp as its glitter. It was not only in direct assault that Lowell proved his ability, but throughout the long session by answering quickly and ably the questions coming to him from every side, by turning off queries too vague for answer with, for instance, some quotation from Charles Lamb, and himself asking questions that went to the marrow of the subject. When, in answer to a question, the President of the League answered: 'I do not know of any way in which nations distinguish themselves except by their brains, that is, permanently to make an impression upon all mankind,' those present could not help thinking how the truth of this statement was illustrated by the author of the 'Biglow Papers' and the 'Commemoration Ode,' whose name to-day is known among the cultured throughout the world quite as familiarly as that of any battle ever fought under the American flag.

"But the great value and force of Lowell's argument lay in the fact that he had lifted up the whole discussion from the level of interests and expediencies into the clear air of duties and moralities. While he said with all distinctness and with iteration that, so far as human foresight could determine, the granting of foreign copyright would benefit American literature, would not make books dear, and would be for the good of the whole country, with still greater emphasis he upheld the leading issue. Said Lowell: 'I myself take the moral view of the question. I believe that this is a simple question of morality and justice; that many of the arguments which Mr. — used are arguments which might be used for picking a man's pocket. One could live a great deal cheaper, undoubtedly, if he could supply himself from other people without any labour or cost. But at the same time—well, it was not called honest when I was young, and that is all I can say. I cannot help thinking that a book, which was, I believe, more read when I was young than it is now, is quite right when it says that "Righteousness exalteth a nation." I believe this is a question of righteousness. I do not wish to urge that too far, because that is considered too ideal, I believe. But that is my view of it, and if I were asked what book is better than a cheap book, I should answer that there is one book better than a cheap book, and that is a book honestly come by.'

"The moral question is, and always has been, the leading issue in this controversy, so long left unsettled through the claustrousing of narrow and selfish interests—interests too often able to command the degrading subservience of brains fitted to nobler uses. It is the moral question that has most

interested the thoughtful and honourable portion of the community—which, let us not doubt, is, in fact, the great body of the reading public of these United States."—*Topics of the Time, The Century for May.*

SPRING.

As little children gather round their mother,
And beg her a familiar tale to tell,—
One that is dearer far than any other,
Because so often heard and known so well;

And as they watch her, prompting should she falter,
And any variation quickly see,
And cry: "Don't tell it so, don't change and alter.
We want it just the way it used to be,"—

So do we come to thee, O Nature—Mother,
And never tire of listening to thy tales.
Tell us thy springtime story now, no other;
That hath a wondrous charm, which never fails.

Tell it with all the old-time strength and glory.
Fill it with many a happy song and shout;
Don't miss one bird or blossom in the story,
Don't leave one daffodil or daisy out.

Tell us each shade in all the tree's soft greening,
Don't skip one blade of grass, one bee, one wren,—
Each little thing has grown so full of meaning,
In the dear story we would hear again.

O Mother Nature! thou art old and hoary,
And wonderful and strange things thou canst tell;
But we, like children, love the springtime story,
And think it best, because we know it well.

—*Bessie Chardlers, in May Century.*

PEASANT PROPRIETORSHIP, NORWAY.

Norway presents us with the grandest picture of the effects of peasant proprietorship. There the land has from time immemorial been the property of the labourer who tills it—it has never been poisoned by the foul curse of feudalism. The title deeds of many of these peasant holdings are in a dead language, and the names of the peasants are those of the district. The results are marvellous. Land which no English farmer would or could cultivate under our agricultural system, even if receiving a liberal bounty per acre instead of paying rent, is there made to support whole families, and that by the same race as ourselves, and in latitudes hundreds of miles further north than John o' Groat's House, some of it even within the Arctic circle. Sailing along the Arctic coast of Norway the tourist passes here and there little oases called "stations," where the steam omnibus halts to land and embark a passenger or two. If a careful observer he may learn that in the midst of the rocky desolation there is a deposit of rock fragments and gravel left by an ancient glacier in a hollow formerly filled by the ice. This is cultivated, is a dairy farm and fishing station, farmers and fishers being all freeholders and capitalists, no such class as labourers without property existing there. One of the grandest of the Norwegian fjords is the Geiranger. It is walled by perpendicular precipices from 1,000 to 3,000 feet high. Sailing along the fjord a boathouse is seen here and there at the foot of the dark wall. Looking skyward directly above it may be seen what appear to be toy houses on a green patch. Closer observation reveals moving objects, a field glass shows that they are cattle, goats and children, tethered to boulders to prevent them from straying over the edge of the precipice. A family resides up there, cultivating this bit of ancient glacier ground, backed by craggy mountain tops, with a foreground of precipice above the fjord. The only communication between these eagle-nest farms and the outer world is by the boat below. How that boat is reached, where is the staircase of ledges on the face in the precipice, is incomprehensible to the passing tourist. In most cases no indication of a track is visible. Nothing but absolute proprietorship by the cultivator could bring such land into cultivation. Latitude 62 degrees, altitude 2,000 to 3,000 feet. Summer three to four months long; the ground covered with snow during six to eight months of every year. — *The Gentleman's Magazine.*

MRS. OLIPHANT had a brother who was an English Presbyterian minister in Northumberland, and she herself was at one time a member of the same denomination.

THE Rev. J. Kerr Campbell, D.D., Stirling, has been asked to deliver a lecture on "The United States and Canada" before the society of Science and Art, Kensington.

A WORK on "Medical Missions: Their Place and Power," by Rev. John Lowe, secretary of the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society, is announced. It will contain an introduction by Sir William Muir, and a medallion portrait of Dr. John Abercrombie, founder of the Medical Missionary Society, will enhance the interest of the volume.

THE Rev. Professor Flint, in opening a bazaar to liquidate the debt on the hall of West St. Giles, Edinburgh, said the Church was on her trial, and just because she was a Christian and a national institution she could not refuse to be tested by her fruits. Recently they had most gratifying evidence that although she might have jealous rivals and perhaps irreconcilable enemies, the general mind of the country recognized that she was still as vigorous as ever.

AT the latest meeting of the western board of the National Bible Society of Scotland there was laid on the table a specimen copy of the Gospel according to Mark in Wen li Chinese, the first Gospel printed at the society's own press in Hankow, from which during the last three months upwards of 30,000 Testaments and Gospels have been issued. The agent in Japan reported the proposed issue by the three Bible societies of a pocket edition of the Japanese Scriptures complete in one volume.

British and Foreign.

THERE are in Europe 4,579,000 more women than men. THE Bishop of Carlisle is about to visit the United States.

THE Rev. Angus Martin has resigned the charge of Snizort, Skye, which he has held since 1843.

THE Glasgow foundry boys' society has now no fewer than eighty-eight meeting places throughout that city.

THE Rev. Dr. Cameron Lees has been appointed one of the royal chaplains and dean of the Order of the Thistle.

A LIST of eight has been selected from the ninety-nine candidates who offered themselves for Stevenston Parish.

THE Rev. H. R. Haweis is to visit Boston again next autumn, and will make another lecturing tour of the United States.

IN Edinburgh U. P. Presbytery there has been an increase during the past year of 300 members and \$30,000 of revenue.

PROFESSOR CALDERWOOD, it is said, will offer Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule Scheme stern and unbending opposition.

THE Methodists of Chicago have planted twenty missions and erected eleven mission churches there within the past ten years.

THE first volume of Rev. A. H. Drysdale's History of English Presbyterianism is to be published in the spring of next year.

A GRANITE monument erected over the grave of the late Dr. Kennedy, of Dingwall, has an excellent marble portrait of the doctor.

A MISSION hall erected in Hopehill Road at a cost of \$15,000 has been opened in connection with Lansdowne U. P. Church, Glasgow.

A LIBRARY of 100 volumes of standard English books has been raised by English friends to present to the Native Mohammedan College in India.

HON. H. B. HILL, of Atlanta, Ga., says that of the 700 criminals he has convicted, 600 committed their crimes while under the influence of whiskey.

FRENCH chemists know how to improve on nature. Not only can they concoct wine without grapes, but they export currant jelly without a particle of fruit in it.

CAITHNESS Free Presbytery by eight to seven refuse to transmit an overture to the Assembly asking it to recall the permission granted to use instrumental music.

A REPORT has been made by Dr. Jules Oppert to the French Academy that a papyrus discovered near Assiout in Egypt contains reference to Jacob and Joseph.

THE late Ann Jane Mercer, of Philadelphia, bequeathed \$100,000 to found a home for twelve aged and disabled Presbyterian clergymen who do not use tobacco.

A STRIKING portrait of the late Sir Henry Moncreiff has been presented to St. Cuthbert's congregation, Edinburgh, by Mr. James McKelvie, one of the oldest members.

LAURISTON PLACE U. P. Church, Edinburgh, has rejected a proposal for the introduction of an organ, only 258 out of a membership of 1,030 voting in its favour.

DR. GEORGE L. FITCH, who was Superintendent of the leper settlement on the Hawaiian Islands five years, says he has never known a case where the disease was contagious.

THE Rev. J. Fairly Daly is moving in Glasgow Free Presbytery to have its meetings held at an hour when the elders and members of the Church may find it practicable to be present.

IT is stated that Mr. Wilson, of the Church of Scotland General Assembly's institute in Calcutta, has been elected a representative of the faculty of arts in the syndicate of Calcutta University.

AN aged clergyman at Lincoln, it is said, who was in the habit of getting up in the night to write poetry, was lately found by his landlady burned to death in his bedroom. He was verging on eighty.

SIR JAMES FERGUSON, M.P., has been appointed a representative elder to the General Assembly by Ayr Presbytery. While Governor of Bombay he attended the Episcopal Church and gave Presbyterianism in India the cold shoulder.

BRITAIN'S last year's drink bill would have found maintenance, at the rate of \$6 per week per family of five, for 7,901,845 persons. It is equal to a tax of two shillings per pound on the total income of the people of the United Kingdom.

MR. J. D. LANDELS, missionary of St. James's Place U. P. Church, Edinburgh, and formerly of the Glasgow City mission, has been appointed as missionary to the New Hebrides. He is the third who goes out in response to the appeal made by Rev. J. G. Paton.

WINDSOR PLACE U. P. congregation, Portobello, Rev. Wm. Paterson, B.D., pastor, recently celebrated its jubilee. Principal Cairns preached to a crowded congregation, and a largely attended social meeting was held, at which Dr. Joseph Brown and others gave addresses.

FOR the vacancy of Glencairn Parish there are no fewer than 102 applicants. Col. Walker, of Crawfordton, the chairman of the congregational committee appointed to take the necessary steps towards a settlement, is an Episcopalian, and some others of that persuasion, taking advantage of the adherent qualification, are interesting themselves in the proceedings.

ONE time the essays of "A. K. H. B." being the subject of conversation in Carlyle's presence, he said: "A spoonful o' guid Bohea is in a guid pat; it will yield ye wan guid cup o' tea. That's a' ye'll get oot o'. Afterwards, ye may pour, and pour, and pour; but ye'll get nae mair than the wan guid cup. Which is parabolical of the writings by the gentleman with the alphabet for his initials!"