

For the True Witness.

SPRING.

[The following address was composed for a young lady in Quebec on her seventeenth birthday.]
 Now cheerful Spring arrayed in vernal bloom,
 Bids vegetation burst its frozen tomb,
 Invites the rosiest to chase his way,
 And tells the sportive lamb to come and play.
 All nature hears and owns her magic voice,
 And birds and beasts, and woods, and fields rejoice;
 The sweet flowers of every scent and dye,
 Exhale their fragrance, and delight the eye.
 In every grove, the feathered warblers sing,
 And all creation feels the breath of Spring.
 How pleasant then to be times to roam abroad
 And learn instruction from the works of God.
 To saunter forth in meditative mood,
 And court the pleasures nursed by solitude;
 How pleasant then, soon as the morning smiles,
 To cross the water to Orleans Isle,
 There stay along beneath the forest trees
 And watch their homage to the gentle breeze.
 In nature's beauty waving rich and gay
 A leafy shelter from the solar ray;
 Or cull the simple flower that deck the sod,
 And read in every leaf the name of God.
 How still and sweet in summer's evening's bright,
 When the fair moon comes forth in cloudless light
 To mount the citadel where the eye surveys,
 The lovely scene at one extended gaze.
 Our noble river like a silver plain,
 In moonlight grandeur rolling to the main,
 The fleet of vessels floating o'er its tide,
 The street of houses on either side,
 Our pretty parishes with the spears of light,
 Our busy windmills in their whirling flight;
 The handsome trees that are studied here and there,
 Around the mansion and the cottage fair.

EMERENTA.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

—O—

A Polish priest, now an exile for the Faith in Siberia, writes under date of the eighteenth of last February:—"Our great crime in the eyes of the Government is that we are Catholic priests. I have been nine years in Tobolsk, notwithstanding repeated orders from St. Petersburg for my removal to European Russia in Europe. That favour is now granted me, but I must remain under the surveillance of the police. In the place from which I write now appointed as my residence for the future I find 2 priests and five laymen, who like myself were exiled to Siberia. After many vicissitudes I now find myself in a relatively improved situation, thanks to the goodness of Providence who watches over those in affliction. "We are now arrived here from Siberia after having undergone the horrors of forced labour in the mines; but the Imperial clemency is even more severe to us than the forced labor was; for we are now deprived of the Government allowance of 6 rubles per month or (19s sterling) which we received for our subsistence while we were at work. Now we have nothing, and must provide for ourselves. The journey from Tobolsk into European Russia, 5,000 Russian Verses occupied from May, 1875, to January last. During that time we were marched from one halting place to another in company with the vilest malefactors—being so deprived as to be hardly human. And, oh, the horror of those posts!—You can form no conception of the filth.—In our present abode we were in the greatest perplexity how to procure the means of subsistence, and we must have died of hunger had not God, in his mercy, sent us some aid. It was He who disposed the kind hearts of Count P. and others of our countrymen to take pity on us. The succor which they sent have saved us for the present. May God hear our prayers and bless our generous benefactors!"

There is a rumor current that a number of Carlist Generals have asked to have their "grades" recognized by the Alfonso Government. This rumor is without foundation. General Lizarraga writes to the *Madrid Epoca*, indignantly denying anything of the kind as far as he is concerned. "I would rather live upon charity," he says, "and beg for alms from door to door, and remain a defender of the standard of *Dios Patria Rey*, the only one that can ever save Spain. I want to be one of the first, when I am wanted, to fight for the principles of our banner. I respect those who are to-day contending for the preservation of Catholic unity, but I regret that they consider it possible to achieve any ultimate triumph outside of legitimacy, because Carlos VII., the legitimate and Catholic King, alone can preserve this priceless jewel to our unfortunate country."

General de Iparaguire also declares most emphatically that having crossed the "Spanish frontier with Carlos VII., the legitimate King of Spain, and fought by his side during the entire campaign, he intends to close his military and political career under the banner of legitimacy."

How ITALY GOVERN.—When men or governments have fallen from power or position their crimes and short comings are frequently made public. Such has been the case with Count Cavour, with Prince Bismarck, by Count Von Arnim, and with a host of others of more distant date and less interest. Now it comes the turn of Signor Minghetti's government to be exposed to the contempt of the people; and a Signor Zini, former prefect at Como, and likely to be advanced to the prefecture at Palermo, draws aside the veil revealing the secrets of the fallen ministry. In a work entitled "The Criteria and modes of government in the Italian Kingdom," Zini reveals the existence and the various occupations of governmental spies or secret agents, employed in many ways to keep the government posted upon current events and the private lives and opinions of individuals. "The secret agents," writes Zini, "all paid by the Ministry of the Interior, cover Italy like an excrecence or like a leprosy; no province was safe from them. I have the list of them all, their names and qualifications."

At Rome there were sixty permanent secret agents belonging to the different cities of Italy. Naples had forty, Florence twenty, and Milan twenty. Some of these spread themselves over the adjoining provinces. At Turin, as well as at Florence, there was a grand centre of correspondence with the ministry. Besides these there were 400 agents who travelled throughout the whole year, and had special duties and instructions. They were introduced with special recommendations into clubs and the houses of respectable people; several were entitled counts and cavaliers, and these were received amongst the highest society in the capital, and in other large cities, all the while spying out the sentiments and expressions of their hosts for the advantage of the ministry. They also supplied information to the journals and journalists paid by the ministry and thereby frequently brought an honest name into disgrace. They also furnished correspondence to the journals which was paid for by the government. Changes took place frequently in the field of their labors and they were kept unknown to each other, lest they might combine in a compromising way. Amongst the expenses of the late government are found the monthly payments made to "writers of correspondence," some of them having 100 lire, some eighty, some sixty, others again of higher grade whose stipend ranged from 100 to 500 lire per month. A foreigner and company having received 2,000 lire per month. "Journals at the disposition of the ministry with fixed and monthly remuneration," forms another item in the list of expenses, and amongst them are Italian, French, English, and German journals, and one Belgian journal. This reminds one of the Bis-

marckian "Reptile-press." Men employed in other state offices were also employed in the press department, and receive a separate payment for this work. One of the other curiosities noted by Signor Zini is a certain *liographed correspondence* prepared for prefects and sub-prefects, as admirably adapted to keep them current in the best political news, to which they were counselled to subscribe at the rate of 100 lire per annum for prefects, and fifty lire for sub-prefects; the money to be provided from the funds for the maintenance of public security! Such is a brief sketch of the principal features in this scandalous exposition. The government funds are thus disposed of to maintain a spy-system that reveals the secrets of families; and a press system that prepares news according to government formulae and ruins the reputation of those obnoxious to the ministry.—*Catholic Review*.

The report that the Sultan offers to compromise with his Jewish creditors by turning over to them the Holy Land in payment of his bonds, has started the stories about the schemes of the Jews for the return of their people from all quarters of the globe to Palestine. Christian tradition assigns to them an irrepressible longing to do that same, and now the opportunity is afforded them to do it. All that is necessary is for the Rothschilds to pay what would be a mere bagatelle for them, as the papers which are running the story for the dozentime put it, and the dream of Judea may be fulfilled. All which is very fine, but nobody has yet discovered among the Jews of London, Frankfurt, Paris, Vienna and New York, in which cities they are the money-kings, an irrepressible longing to betake themselves to the desert Syrian wastes and to surrender the place they filled in the great world to sink their capital in any Quixotic attempt to build up a pious government establishment there. There are few people in the world who have better reason to be satisfied with the power they wield through their wealth in every land. Everywhere there are men of the highest culture and attainments among them, who are attached to their surroundings, and who would no more think of an exodus to Syria than the average American would of settling in Central Africa, and, although, if we wait for the Jews to return to the land of Abraham we will doubtless have to wait a good while yet.

AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

THE COLUMN OF KING MESSA.

The article in a recent number of the *Churchman*, describing the discovery and acquisition of an ancient Moabitish monolith, the column of King MESSA (or MESA), deserves more attention than an indifferent reading would be likely to awaken.

The important discoveries recorded during the past few years as the result of research and exploration in the East, have brought to light many valuable memorials to confirm the truth of ancient history. The numerous inscriptions and monuments thus placed in our possession have awakened a very deep interest in the study of relics of antiquity. While they all possess more or less historic interest, without doubt the most valuable are those which have contributed to enrich our knowledge in sacred archaeology. Of this class the most remarkable is the column of MESSA, which M. Renan, in the *Journal des Debats*, characterizes as "the most important discovery ever made in Oriental epigraphy." It is valuable in a double point of view: first, it stands as a living witness of the facts recorded in third chapter of Second Kings, furnishing as it were, a new chapter to that Book; secondly, it furnishes the earliest known specimen of alphabetic writing.

Carved with the graver's tools B. C. 896 to record the victories and achievements of a pompous king, it yet speaks in this the nineteenth century of the Christian era, in no uncertain sense. As it stands to-day in the Louvre, at Paris, 2,772 years after the victories it commemorates, it is an object of more than ordinary interest to all thoughtful and reflecting observers. Sacred with age and breathing the very air of antiquity, one who is familiar with its story cannot contemplate it without feelings of the deepest veneration.

The column was found on the other side of the Jordan and Dead Sea, about three days' journey to the east of Jerusalem, among the ruins of a locality called by the Arabs, Dhidan, and which is really none other than the ancient and famous city of Dibon, often mentioned in the Bible. The inscription is composed of thirty-four lines of small and closely written characters; all the words are separated by points, and the lines themselves are divided by vertical bars into measures or verses, which arrangement facilitates the interpretation and renders it very exact.

Below is given a literal translation of the French version of the inscription, as rendered by M. Charles Clermont-Ganneau, the discoverer, and transmitted by him, some six years ago, to the French Academy. The interruptions in the text are due to the loss or effacing of certain characters, consequent upon the mutilation of the stone by the fanatic and superstitious Bedouins before it came into the final possession of its discoverer. The references are by the writer of this communication, and, though of no importance, may at least be found suggestive:

"I am MESSA, son of Chamosag, the Dibonite. My father reigned over Moab thirty years, and I have reigned after my father. And I have built this for Chamos (Chamos, I Kings, xi. 33) in Qarba (the acropolis of Dibon)—sanctuary of salvation, for he hath saved me from all my adversaries, and made me to triumph over all my enemies."

Omri (I Kings, xvi. 16) was King of Israel, and pressed Moab many days, because Chamos was irritated against him. And his son succeeded him (I Kings, xvi. 28), and he likewise said, I will oppress Moab. In my day I said, I will.... and I will visit him and his house. And Israel was ruined, ruined forever. Omri had taken possession of the land of Medeba (Isaiah, xv. 2). And he dwelt there.... His son (Ahab) lived forty years and Chamos made him perish in my time (II Kings, iii. 5).

Then I built Baal-Meon (Num. xxxii. 38), and I constructed Qirathaim (Kirathaim or Kirjathaim, Num. xxxii. 37).

And the men of Gad lived a long time in the land of Ataroth (Num. xxxii. 3 to 5), and the King of Israel built (Ch. xxxii. 34) for them the city of Ataroth. I attacked the city, and I took it. And I killed all the people of the city in sight of Chamos and Moab. And I took possession of Ariel (Isaiah, xxix. 1) of David, and I dragged (Ch. xxxii. 4) it to the ground before the face of Chamos and Qeriot (Keriot, Jer. xlviii. 24). And I took thither the men of Saron and the men of Maharoth.

And Chamos said to me, Go, take Nebo (Num. xxxii. 38) from Israel. I went by night, and fought against the city from daybreak till noonday. And I took it and killed all, seven thousand men. And the women, the young maidens, for I consecrated them to Astar-Chamos. And I brought away from there the vases of Jehovah, and I dragged them on the ground before the face of Chamos.

And the King of Israel had built Yahaz (Jahaz), and he dwelt there at the time of his wars against me. And Chamos drove him out from before his face; I took from Moab two hundred men in all. And I make them go (Num. xxi. 23) up to Yahaz, and I took it for to annex it to Dibon. It is I who have built Qarba (the acropolis) the walls of the forest and the walls of.... I have built its gates, and I have built its towers. I have built the King's palace, and I have constructed the prisons of.... in the midst of the city."

And there were no wells in the part of the city, in Qarba; and I said to all the people, Make you each a well in his house. And I dug the ditches for Qarba, for.... of Israel. It is I who have built Aroer (Num. xxxii. 34) and made the way of Aroer (Josh. xiii. 9). It is I who have constructed Beth Bamoth, which was destroyed. It is I who have constructed Bosor (Jeremiah, the xlviii. 24) which is mighty.... at Dibon the military chiefs, for all Dibon was subject. And I have filled.... the cities that I have added to the land of Moab. And it is I who built.... Beth-Diblatheim (Ch. xlviii. 22) and Beth-Saal-Meon (Josh. xiii. 17), and I raised there the.... from the earth. And Horonaim, where dwelt.... Chamos, said to me, Go down and fight against Horonaim, Isalah, xv. 5; Jer. xlviii. 3). Chamos, in my time.... the year.... Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon M. Clermont-Ganneau for his able interpretation of this inscription, and his perseverance in overcoming insurmountable difficulties to obtain possession of so precious a monument. The above, however, is not the only interesting result of the distinguished epigraphist. Aside from the eighty or more inscriptions of minor importance, his discoveries include an important inscription of seven lines in archaic Greek, which he found carved on one of the foundation stones of an old Arabian *Madrassa* in the vicinity of the mosque of Omar at Jerusalem. It proves to be one of the inscribed stones placed at the entrance of the ancient temple prohibiting the Gentiles, under penalty of death, from entering its sacred precincts. It is much to be regretted that the action of the Turkish governor prevented the removal of this stone, which would have been placed in the Louvre at Paris as a companion to the Column of MESSA.—T. R. C.—in *Churchman*.

A MURDEROUS VILLAIN.—JOHANNESBURG, Ill., May 17.—A cooper known as the "Californian," who has been here but a short time, had a fight with another man, in which he was worsted. He then shot a man named Grendeman, and then went to his room, and just as some citizens were preparing to arrest him, appeared, flourishing 2 revolvers, and threatened to kill any one attempting to arrest him. Constable Wilking advanced to arrest him, and was shot through the brain, killing him instantly.

THE NEGRO TROUBLES.—NEW YORK, MAY 17.—A special to the *Times* from New Orleans says:—"From advices received here from East Feliciana, Wilkinson county, Miss., sixteen negroes have been killed in the past three days and only one white man, he, at the beginning of the affair. The latter, named Anderson, had accused a colored man of stealing, and had whipped him. Anderson was subsequently killed, and despatches, quite as trustworthy as any, say he was killed by the white regulators of Mississippi, being in bad odor, and charged with buying stolen cotton at his store."

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