

were through, and I felt a faint remorse that I had feigned sleep in the afternoon, even though my motive had been consideration for her as truly as for myself.

"Miss Adah!" I exclaimed, "you are growing much too unselfish. Why didn't you get your supper first?"

"I've had all I wish. I'm not hungry to-night."

"Truly, you look as if you had lived on roses; but you can't thrive long on such unsubstantial diet. It was real good of you to read to those children so long. If I had been an artist I would have made a sketch of you three. You and that little dark-eyed girl make a lovely contrast."

"I like her," she said simply; "I feel as if I wanted some one to pet. Can't I read to you while you eat your supper?"

"I'd rather have you talk to me; what do you think of the little girl's father?"

"I haven't thought much about him."

"I wish you could see his house in New York; it's a superb one, and on your favourite Fifth Avenue."

"Yes, I know," she replied absently.

"I should think you would envy Miss Warren."

"I don't," she said emphatically; "the man is more than the house."

"I don't think you would have said that a month ago."

"I fear not. I fear thee didn't like me that Sunday afternoon when I was so self-satisfied. I've thought it over."

"Indeed, Miss Adah, I would gladly be struck by lightning myself if it would change me for the better as greatly as you are changed."

"It wasn't the lightning," she said, blushing and slowly shaking her head. "I've been thinking."

"Ah," I laughed, "you are shrewd. If women only knew it, there's nothing that gives beauty like thought, and its charm that increases every year. Well," I continued, with the utmost frankness, "I do like you now, and what is more, I honestly respect you. When you come to New York again, I am going to ask your mother to trust me as if I were your older brother, and I'll take you to see and hear much that I'm sure you'll enjoy."

"Oh, that will be splendid!" she cried gladly. "I know mother will let me go with thee, because—because—well, she says thee is a gentleman."

"Do you know, Miss Adah, I'd rather have your mother say that than have all Mr. Hearn's thousands. But your mother judges me leniently. To tell you the honest truth, I've come lately to have a very poor opinion of myself. I feel that I would have been a much better man if, in past years, I had seen more of such people as dwell in this house."

"Thou remembers what father said to thee," she replied shyly, with downcast eyes; "this is thy home hereafter."

"She looks now," I thought, "as if she might fulfil the dream I wove about her on that memorable day when I first saw her in the meeting-house. How perverse my faith has been, giving me that for which I might well thank God on my knees, and yet which my heart refuses, and withholding that which will impoverish my whole life. Why must the heart be so imperious and self-willed in these matters? An elderly gentleman would say, 'Everything is just right as it is. It would be the absurdity of folly for Miss Warren to give up her magnificent prospects because of your sudden and sickly sentiment; and what more could you ask or wish than this beautiful girl, whose womanhood has awakened and developed under your very eyes, almost as unconsciously as if a rose-bud had opened and shewn you its heart? Indeed, but a brief time since I would have berated any friend of mine who would not take the sensible course which would make all happy. If I could but become 'sane and reasonable,' as Miss Warren would say, how she would beam upon me, and, the thought of my disappointment and woe-begone aspect banished, how serenely she would go toward her bright future! And yet in taking this sane and sensible course I would be false to my very soul—false to this simple, tree-hearted girl, to whom I could give but a cold, hollow pretence in return for honest love. I would become an arrant hypocrite, devoid of honour and self-respect."

"Heaven bless you, Adah!" I murmured. "I love you too well for all your kindness and goodness to pretend to love you so ill."

(To be continued.)

THE RELIABLE MAN.

The reliable man is always there when he is wanted. You do not have to send to twenty different places after him; if he is not at home his wife can tell you where he is. The reliable man always tells his mission to his wife. He is not fool enough to marry a woman he cannot trust. He is not much of a talker, but he thinks a great deal. He looks at a subject in all its bearings. His judgments are unbiased. If he should be elected governor, he will carry state affairs with a just and firm hand. In private life he will always have plenty of kindling wood ready in the morning. No running round in the cold for him before he has made his toilet. He won't be likely to whip the children when they don't deserve it. He can bear allusion to a religious or political belief which does not accord with his own without going into tantrums. He can give advice, and keep his temper if it is not taken and followed. He knows there are people in the world beside himself. He believes that this planet will continue to be run with a moderate degree of success after he shall sleep with his fathers. He never tells what he would have done "if he had only been there."

If he makes you a promise you know he will keep it unless he dies before the time for its redemption. If he states a fact for a fact you know that you can credit the statement. If he sells you a horse and warrants him "sound" you need not look for a spavin or a ringbone after the first day's hard driving. His word is as good as his bond. He is honest; you can trust him to do as he agrees. You need not watch him, he will do just as well without it. He has respect unto himself, and would be ashamed to have his own soul convict him of dishonesty.

If you are in trouble, you know you can expect help from him. If you are "down in the world," he will stand by you. If her friends have forsaken you he will uphold and support you. In society the reliable man is worth his weight in gold. In the church he is invaluable; he will pass the contribution box when the wardens are laid up with bad colds; he will take care of the minister's house when he goes away for a day's pleasuring; he will help the ladies put down the new vestry carpet, and he is ready to stir the oyster stew, or tend the elevator from the kitchen when the society have an "old folks' supper." All the girls like him and all the boys respect him, and his wife is proud of him, and lays great emphasis on what "my husband" says—for she knows he is reliable. And we devoutly wish there were more like him!

SOWING AND PRAYING.

Sow, sow, sow;
Ever keep on sowing;
God will cause the seed to grow
Faster than your knowing.
Nothing e'er was sown in vain,
If, His voice obeying,
You look upward for the rain,
And falter not in praying.

Pray, pray, pray;
Ever keep on praying;
In the brightest, darkest day,
Still His voice obeying.
Never from the gates of prayer
Turn with doubting sorrow;
For the One who standeth there
May answer thee—to-morrow.

MR. JOSEPH COOK says that "a pulpit silence on temperance discredits itself as much as a pulpit silence on dishonesty."

WM. HAWTON, a farmer in the district of Yealmpton, Devonshire, has been fined £5 for having some living Colorado beetles in his possession, which he had brought from America.

NEVER swerve in your conduct from your honest convictions. Decide, because you see reasons for decision; and then act, because you have decided. Let your actions follow the guidance of your judgment; and if between them both you go down the falls of Niagara, go! It is the only course worthy of a man.—H. Beecher Bushnell.

MORE than 800,000 acres of land have been reclaimed from the water in Holland since the beginning of the sixteenth century, and the work still goes on at the rate of about eight acres per day. Since 1820 the Lake of Haarlem has been drained, and now the Zuyder Zee is to be pumped out, which will surpass all previous endeavours.

THE Leone di Caprera, a boat 27x7½ feet, has made the voyage from Montevideo to the Canary Islands, with an Italian captain and two sailors on board. It was three months and five days at sea, but spoke with several vessels and encountered one storm. It will next sail for Barcelona, and thence for Naples, where it is destined for the Museum.

IT is a good thing to be sure of your facts ere you speak. Dr. Begg has just suffered sore defeat because of a neglect of this rule. In a debate in the Free Church, Presbytery of Edinburgh, he opposed the new Hymnal proposed for the use of the church, and asserted that the Church of Scotland had never used anything but Psalms in the service of praise. Reply was made that two centuries before the church had a book of hymns which was extensively used. Dr. Begg denied the existence of such hymns, whereupon Dr. Horatius Bonar produced the book and read some hymns. Dr. Begg dropped into silence.

IN England, although considerable dissatisfaction with the Government is still manifested by many Radicals, there is no sign of any such dissatisfaction in the country at large. The public seems to have approved fully the course of the Ministry, especially in suppressing obstruction in the House, and manifesting a "determination to make the power of the law felt outside its walls." Order in Ireland is being gradually restored, rents are being paid, boycotting is almost extinct, local agitators are either running away or being lodged in gaol. A considerable number of arrests have been made by magistrates, and accused persons have been committed for trial without bail. Attempts by the Land Leaguers in the House to excite sympathy for these prisoners has failed utterly.

THE ratepayers of Edinburgh have, for the second time, negatived a proposal to adopt the Public Libraries' Act for that city. The number of voting cards issued was 41,853. They are thus accounted for: Returned voting "yes," signed 7619; returned voting "no," signed 15,708; returned voting "yes," unsigned 248; returned voting "no," unsigned 554; returned blank, declining to vote, or uncertain, 56; returned conditional on exemption from or modification of rating on business premises, 119; returned conditional on Advocates' Library being included in scheme, 9; returned conditional on limitation of rate of assessment, 69; returned through Post Office as "refused," "not found," or "gone away and left no address," "deceased," etc., 1650; not received, 15,521.

HERE is a quaint recipe from George Bellin's commonplace book 1595-96, Harl. MS. 1937, leaf 107 back.

"A medesyne for the scall.

"Take a handfull and more of hartie repentance, with one pound of suet salvation in Jesus christe, and as much lively faith as one graine of mustard seed, with one drame of greater dread. Put all these into a vessell of Charitie, full of coales of burning Love, And so put them into a viall of Cleane conscience, and Take Euerie use as much as will satisfie the desire of the spirit, And it will heale thee," etc.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

A NEW Phœnician inscription, dated in the reign of Pamiathon, B.C. 320, has been found at Cyprus.

Eleven thousand houses were burned and 32,000 people left homeless in Tokio, Japan, on January 26th.

A TELEGRAM from Madrid says it is estimated that 18,000 head of cattle have been destroyed by the floods in the provinces of Seville.

A HARMONIUM is used in Free St. Luke's church, Broughty Ferry, notwithstanding the decision of the Presbytery prohibiting its use.

GEORGE ELIOT left about £40,000, which goes mostly to members of the Lewes family, with the full consent of her late husband, Mr. Cross.

No less than three memoirs of Mr. Carlyle are in preparation. Mr. Froude will, he believe, bring out very speedily the fragment of autobiography left by Mr. Carlyle, and will reserve till a future period the publication of his biography of the Sage of Chelsea.

THE present population of England and Wales is 24,854,397, an increase of 307,088 over the census of 1877. Scotland has a population of 2,594,929, an increase of only 32,212 in three years. Ireland has a population of 5,533,640. The population of the United Kingdom is 32,982,967.

A ROMAN CATHOLIC Bishop makes the statement that the confessional of his church reveals the fact that of all Roman Catholic fallen women nineteen-twentieths trace the beginning of their sad state to the modern dance. It will require a great deal of *a priori* reasoning to offset that fact.

THE Pope is about to issue a Constitution maintaining the independence of the religious orders in England as regards internal jurisdiction, but modifying it as regards external action in the sense of dependence on the Episcopate, the ground being the peculiar circumstances of Catholicism in England.

A CONFERENCE of British authors and publishers was recently held at 22, Albemarle street, London, to consider the draft of the proposed Copyright Treaty. A resolution was passed accepting the draft proposed by the United States as the basis of negotiation, but substituting three months for twelve as the period within which the agreements there contemplated may be made.

THE Pope in his address to the Cardinals, in reply to their congratulations on the anniversary of his election to the Pontificate, expressed regret at the renewed attacks and insults heaped upon the Church in nearly all parts of the world; therefore an extraordinary jubilee would be inaugurated this year throughout Christendom for the purpose of imploring the Almighty to bestow better times upon the Church.

MR. MUNDELLA stated last week in the British House of Commons that the yearly importations of pork in its various forms from the United States, Canada, Germany, and Denmark, amounted to over twenty pounds per head for the whole population of the United Kingdom, and the total value exceeded £9,500,000. The Government, he said, could not suddenly shut off this supply of food by prohibiting its importation.

A PARIS correspondent telegraphs that the Union publishes a note, doubtless from the Archbishop of Paris, in which it is said, "We warn Mr. Parnell that the Irish cause to be worthy of interest should remain national and not be mixed up with revolutionists." The correspondent says that the consequences of this is that Monseigneur Guibert will not see Mr. Parnell. Possibly Parnell may renounce the leadership of the Irish party, which is much discontented with him.

A REMARKABLE discovery has been made by Mr. Alexander Adams, one of the technical officers of the Post-Office Telegraph Department. It is the existence of electric tides in telegraph circuits. By long continued and careful observations he has determined distinct variations of strength in those earth currents, which are invariably present on all telegraphic wires, following the different diurnal positions of the moon with respect to the earth. He read a paper on the subject at the meeting of the Society of Telegraph Engineers on Thursday.

A SAD affair has been solemnized at Bordeaux, in which those who style themselves "Brothers of the Christian Doctrine" were the perpetrators. The ears of some children were torn until, according to the testimony of the medical officer, they were disconnected with the head; while others were compelled to lift very heavy weights by means of a cord attached to the little finger. "It is demonstrated," remarks a Protestant journalist, "that these men without family ties are thereby wanting in one essential aptitude for teaching."

DR. PHILIP SCHAFF makes the following announcement: "As the English University presses have postponed the publication of the revised New Testament till the middle of next May, the undersigned, in behalf of the American Committee of Revision, give notice to the public that the offer of a memorial copy of the first university edition, handsomely bound and inscribed, for a contribution of ten dollars or more towards the expenses of the committee, is extended till May 1st. The money must be sent to the treasurer, Mr. Andrew L. Taylor, Bible House, New York."

THE Mackintosh of Mackintosh, president of the Highland Society, lately had a gathering of Highlanders with the view of considering the proposed assimilation of the tartans of Highland regiments. Mr. Macrae Moir read a memorial for presentation to the Queen, and which sets forth that the contemplated changes will be repugnant to the instincts of true Highlanders. This memorial, which lies at Stafford House, is to be signed by the Dukes of Athole, Sutherland, Montrose, and Richmond and Gordon, and the Duke of Sutherland has promised to present it in person.