

touched Mr. Humphrey. He shrank from letting his guest's clear eyes see the web of sophisms and doubts with which he had succeeded in blinding his own spiritual vision. The scales were partially lifted from Mr. Humphrey's eyes that night, and if he did not believe, he could no longer pride himself on his unbelief. He had met a mind stronger and greater than his own, more highly cultured, more richly stored; and that mind, like the wise men of old, counted it its chiefest honour to be a worshipper at the feet of the meek and lowly Jesus.

That evening was an interesting one to Helen and her brothers. With their Bibles for their guide-book, they visited the places to which the pictured views invited them; and perhaps no travelling they might ever do in the future would give them the unmixed delight they enjoyed that evening, as they took their first journey, as they called it, with Dr. Waldermar and his stereoscope.

When at ten o'clock Dr. Waldermar was taking leave, he gave to Mr. Humphrey his mother's invitation for the young people to spend the Christmas holidays with her. And Mr. Humphrey not only accepted for his children, but consented, with evident pleasure, to eat his own Christmas dinner with Mrs. Waldermar.

How had Dr. Waldermar managed it? Helen knew her father would have made many objections, and perhaps refused altogether if she had told him of their invitation. She went to bed with her heart singing for joy, and more than ever convinced that there was no bitterness in God's balm.

(To be continued.)

#### QUESTIONS TO A FRETFUL WIFE.

"Hester!" exclaimed Aunt Susan, ceasing her rocking and knitting, and sitting upright, "Do you know what your husband will do when you are dead?"

"What do you mean?" was the startling reply.

"He will marry the sweetest-tempered girl he can find."

"Oh! Auntie!" Hester began.

"Don't interrupt me until I have finished," said Aunt Susan leaning back and taking up her knitting. "She may not be as good a housekeeper as you are—in fact, I think not; but she will be good-natured."

"Why, Auntie—"

"That isn't all," composedly continued Aunt Susan.

"To-day your husband was half-way across the kitchen-floor bringing you the first ripe peaches; and all you did was to look on and say: 'There, Will, just see your tracks on my clean floor! I won't have my floors all tracked up.' Some men would have thrown the peaches out of the window. To-day you screwed up your face when he kissed you, because his mustache was damp, and said: 'I never want you to kiss me again.' When he empties anything, you tell him not to spill it. When he lifts anything, you tell him not to break it. From morning until night your sharp voice is heard complaining and fault-finding. And last winter when you were sick, you scolded him about his allowing the pump to freeze, and took no notice when he said: 'I was so anxious about you that I did not think of the pump.'"

"But Auntie—"

"Hearken, child. The strongest and most intelligent of them all care more for a woman's tenderness than for anything else in the world; and without this the cleverest and most perfect housekeeper is sure to lose her husband's affections in time. There may be a few more men like Will—as gentle, as loving, as chivalrous, as forgetful of self, and so satisfied with loving that their affections will die a long, struggling death; but in most cases it takes but a few years of fretfulness and fault-finding to turn a husband's love into irritated indifference."

"But Auntie—"

"Yes, well you are not dead yet, and that sweet natured woman has not been found; so you have time to become so serene and sweet that your husband can never imagine that there is a better tempered woman in existence."—*Satan.*

#### FOURTEEN GREAT MISTAKES.

It is a great mistake to set up our own standard of right and wrong, and judge people accordingly; it is a great mistake to measure the enjoyment of others by our own; to expect uniformity of opinion in the world; to look for judgment and experience in youth; to endeavour to mould all dispositions alike; not to yield to immaterial trifles; to look for perfection in our own actions; to worry ourselves and others with what cannot be remedied; not to alleviate all that needs alleviation, as far as lies in our power; not to make allowances for the infirmities of others; to consider everything impossible which we cannot perform; to believe only what our finite minds can grasp; to expect to be able to understand everything. The greatest of all mistakes is to live only for time, when any moment may launch us into eternity.

#### ONE FOR THE CLERGYMAN.

A German clergyman, who was travelling, stopped at a hotel much frequented by wags and jokers. The host, not being used to have a clergyman at his table, looked at him with surprise; the guests used all their artillery of wit upon him without eliciting a remark. The clergyman ate his dinner quietly, apparently without observing the gibes and sneers of his neighbours. One of them at last in despair at his forbearance, said to him, "Well, I wonder at your patience! I have you not heard all that has been said to you?" "Oh, yes, but I am used to it. Do you know who I am?" "No, sir." "Well, I will inform you. I am chaplain of a lunatic asylum; such remarks have no effect on me."

At the golden wedding of the veteran missionary, Rev. Dr. Elias Riggs, at Constantinople, Dr. Isaac G. Bliss presented him with four Bibles in Armenian, Bulgarian, Osmanli-Turkish, and Armeo-Turkish, the languages into which he had helped to translate God's Word.

#### HER ONLY ONE.

"Good dame, how many children have you?"

Then with a loving and troubled face,  
Sadly she looked at an empty place:

"Friend, I have two."

"Nay, Mother," the father gravely said;  
"We have only one; and so long ago  
He left his home, I am sure we know  
He must be dead."

"Yes, I have two—one a little child,  
Comes to me often at evening light;  
His pure, sweet face, and garments white,  
All undefiled.

With clear, bright eyes, and soft, soft hair,  
He climbs upon his mother's knee,  
Folds baby hands and whispers to me  
His evening prayer.

"The other, he took a wilful way,  
Went far out West, and they link his name  
With deeds of cruelty and shame.

I can but pray,  
And a mother's prayers are never cold;  
So in my heart the innocent child  
And the reckless man by sin defiled,  
The same I hold.

"But yet I keep them ever apart;  
For I will not stain the memory  
Of the boy who once prayed at my knee,  
Close to my heart.

The man he grew to will come again;  
No matter how far away he may roam,  
Father and Mother will bring him home—  
Prayers are not in vain."

The stranger stood in the broader light.

"Oh, Mother! oh, Father!" he, weeping, said,  
"I have come back to your side, to tread  
The path that's right."

And so the answer to prayer was won;  
And the Father wept glad tears of joy,  
And the mother kissed and blessed her boy—  
Her only one!

—Mary B. Burnett.

#### THE WAITING TIME.

No time of seeming inactivity is laid upon you by God without a just reason. It is God calling upon you to do His business by ripening in quiet all your powers for some higher sphere of activity which is about to be opened to you. The time is coming when you shall be called again to the front of the battle. Let that solemn thought of dread, yet kindling expectancy fill the cup of your life with the inner-work of self-development which will make you ready and prepared when your name is called. The eighteen years at Nazareth—what was their result? A few years of action concentrated, intense, infinite; not one word, not one deed, which did not tell, and which will not tell upon the universe forever.

Eighteen years of silence, and then—the regeneration of the world accomplished, his Father's business done—*Alford.*

The noblest life is one devoted to helping others.

God's presence in a house makes a cottage a palace.

We cannot expect perfection in anyone; but we may demand consistency of everyone.

Nothing worse, or more depraving, than some portions of our leading and influential journals can possibly be set before the eyes of boys and girls.

The humble man, though surrounded with the scorn and reproach of the world, is still in peace, for the stability of his peace resteth not upon the world, but upon God.

When a person of feeling and discernment reads a book, and it excites in him elevated thoughts, he may be sure the work is good, and he needs no other mode of proving it.

The danger from a million and a half of voters who cannot read the ballots they put in the ballot-box, is greater than the precedent of national aid to the common schools.

There is no such thing as an accident in an event which occurs through negligence, and the responsibility for that negligence goes to the very head of the railroad company.

How is it that in the enterprises of this life he who can command the most correct and extensive views of results is wise, and not he who grasps an immortality of well-being?

What a man believes he will do; and if he has no faith to guide his practice and impel him to action he will only drift—and no man ever drifted into a good and useful life, certainly not into salvation.

A BITTER word may make a wound that will never heal. A kind word may win a friend that will never turn. A caution may save a soul; and yet silence is sometimes more stinging, and at other times more soothing than any word.

The spirit of one earnest, enterprising Christian worker in a community arouses others to action—sometimes shames them to activity—and their good example becomes contagious. Most people wait for leaders, and an earnest soul with boldness and faith may lead hosts of others to glorious conquests.

MRS. JOHN JACOB ASTOR, New York, sends every New Year, through the Children's Aid Society, a party of 100 homeless boys to the West, at an expense of about \$1,500. She has thus sent 913 boys to good homes in the West and South at an expense of \$13,157.

"RUM was back of it all. Oh, they ought to stop the sale of that terrible, terrible drink," was the piteous exclamation of a young wife murderer in Brooklyn last week, when sentenced to life imprisonment for the fearful crime of which he claimed to be unconscious.

#### BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

There are eighty-four Sabbath schools in Syria, with 3,794 pupils.

There have been destructive floods along the Rhine, the river having risen higher than at any time in the century.

At the close of 1877 there was in South Dakota only one Presbyterian Church; at the close of 1881 there were twenty-five churches.

The statement that \$2,000,000 worth of alcoholic drinks is daily used in the United States, is said to be based on careful calculations.

The Presbytery of Cincinnati has adopted a sustentation scheme by which it proposes to lift up the salaries of all its pastors to a living standard.

The Signal Service station on Pike's Peak is 14,000 feet above sea level, and is constructed of granite laid in cement, to resist the furious storms.

The kingdom of the Netherlands is to have its first International Exhibition next year, at Amsterdam, continuing from May 1st to October 1st.

The New York Children's Aid Society since 1853 has provided homes in the West and South for 67,287 of the neglected poor children of that city.

Three deeds of the Indian Chief Quochatsie, dating back to 1639, and conveying large tracts of lands in Plymouth to the Pilgrim Fathers, have lately been found in Massachusetts.

A new sect has been formed in Finland, taking for one of its dogmas the supreme authority of woman in the family. The husband has to take an oath of absolute submission to his wife.

The Wesleyan minister at Oporto, Portugal, states that Corporal Joachim was not imprisoned for attending his meeting, which he says is not a punishable offence, but for other offences.

Dr. MACLAY, of the Methodist Mission in Japan, states that the cholera which ravaged the country during the summer and autumn, by which 20,000 persons died, has almost totally disappeared.

The Dean of Westminster consents to the appeal of the Longfellow Memorial Committee, composed of many eminent Englishmen, that a bust of our American poet may be placed in the Abbey.

Four barrels of the water of the Great Salt Lake will leave, after evaporation, nearly a barrel of salt. The lake was discovered in the year 1820, and no outlet from it has yet been ascertained.

RECENTLY published statistics regarding Madagascar show that in a population of 2,500,000 there are 70,000 Christians, and it was less than sixty years ago that the first missionary visited this island.

AN English company offers to drain the waters of Lake Geneva, in Switzerland, into the River Rhone, and to pay \$1,000,000 for the privilege, provided they can have the land that will thus be left dry.

MR. MOODY has been holding meetings for a week each in the University towns of Cambridge and Oxford. In the meetings for the members of the University at Cambridge, from 1,800 to 2,000 students attended.

It is estimated that \$250,000 will be necessary to finish the Washington Monument, and the present Congress will be asked to appropriate the entire amount, so that the monument may be completed by the end of the next fiscal year.

A SILVER coin about 1,400 years old has been found at Bruun, in Moravia, Austria. It had on one side the likeness of Attila, king of the Huns, with the inscription, "Attila Rex," and on the other the outlines of a fortified place.

DR. MCGREGOR, the eloquent Scottish preacher, of St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, who made a tour through the North-West last year, is doing Canada great service in the motherland by his excellent addresses on the resources of the Dominion.

THE Burmans are beginning to show increased interest in Christianity. Though the Baptist missionaries in Burmah began their labours among them, they only number about 1,500 converts, while there are 81,899 church members among the Kereans.

REV. JOHN RANKIN, of Ironton, O., is said to be the oldest living clergyman of the Presbyterian denomination in the United States. He is ninety years of age, and began preaching in 1816. He organized an abolition society in Kentucky in 1817.

THE Waldensian Synod, at its late meeting, sent its first missionary outside the Italian field. The Rev. J. Weitzacker, a gifted young pastor at Nice, came forward and offered himself for the mission established on the Zambesi River in South Africa.

BISHOP CROWTHER, whose missionary diocese covers West Africa, has returned to his field of labour on the Niger River. He has been absent from it for some time, and has laid in a liberal supply of printing material in order to circulate the Bible among the benighted Africans in their own language.

THE Baldwin Locomotive Works of Philadelphia completed, November 23rd, the semi-centennial anniversary of their first locomotive. Since then they have constructed 6,477, and are now building ten a week. Their works occupy nine acres, and they employ from 2,600 to 3,000 men.

THE full name of F. Anstey, the author of "Vice Versa," is Mr. T. Anstey Guthrie. He was born so lately as 1856, was educated at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where he came out in the third class of the Law Tripos in 1879. He was called to the bar, but has never practised. His only work at present is "Vice Versa." Mr. Guthrie was born and resides at Kensington.