

If he ever thought of the possibility that he was defying something or Someone whose hand directed Robert Lyon's movements and shaped his fortunes.

These interviews with Mr. Dyer were sufficiently harassing previous to his absence for the summer. But since his return, and perhaps because I was a little jaded, they had become too painful and exhausting to be endured unnecessarily. The night of which I am about to speak I escaped early, bent on walking off his depressing influence. It was a cool, crisp November evening. I buttoned my coat and lured my head for a moment, taking a full, deep breath to rid myself of the intolerable pressure of this man's sin, wrong, or whatever it was, and started off, facing the wind. There is something clean and healthful in a strong wind, and before I had gone half a mile I began to feel its influence.

In passing the chapel of Tom's church, my attention was arrested by a full tide of song pouring out into the darkness and the night. Tom was an accomplished musician, with a keen ear and correct taste, and he had been an educating power to his congregation in this particular as in many others, until they were said to have the finest singing in the city, especially at their social services. I stopped to listen. The full harmony of well-trained voices sent out to me that exquisite hymn of Bonar's:

"I heard the voice of Jesus say,
Come unto me and rest."

And, again—

"I heard the voice of Jesus say,
I am this dark world's light."

It seemed a direct answer to questions I had been fruitlessly asking, and in obedience to an impulse I was still too languid to resist I entered unobserved and took a seat near the door.

Tom's subsequent prayer was very earnest and sincere, a conscious outpouring of the wants of himself and his people into the ear of a compassionate Father and into the heart of a loving elder Brother, whose life and death had made possible a glorious immortality.

Then came another hymn, so restful and satisfying that I could feel my weariness passing out of me at every pore; leaving me in a state of quiescence, a sense of lying still in loving hands, too precious to be disturbed by the utterance of thought. Toward the last, I became conscious of a full, clear alto, charged with the soul of the singer, leading me onward and upward to some unknown region unvisited before. I had no wish to see or curiosity to know who the singer might be.

An hour filled with earnest devotion, helpful in every sense, fled swiftly, and the audience rose to sing the parting hymn:

"Abide with me—fast falls the eventide,
The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide."

And hearing again that wondrous alto I turned and saw Agnes Dyer with closed eyes and uplifted face entreating with song her Lord and Master.

It would be impossible to tell the emotion with which I was filled during the singing of that pathetic hymn. And the closing line:

"In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me,"

became a prayer that was on my lips for months and abides with me still.

Waiting a little I saw that Miss Dyer was alone, and offering my arm we walked slowly toward her home. She expressed her pleasure at seeing me there, and for a little fell into the old, unrestrained way of talking to me. I saw into her soul once more and was conscious of a change there; a reaching out and longing for other souls; a palpitating love and anguish that bore others as it had long borne her father in supplication to the bosom of the Infinite. My eyes were full of tears and I could not speak. Was this the secret of the change in Maud and Hal?

At her own door she came back to herself and the restraint and distrust concerning me. I could not bear it, and taking her half unwilling hand between my own, I said with a voice I could hardly control:

"Miss Dyer, I intreat you, distrust me no longer. I am cruelly placed, I withhold only what I must, in loyalty to—" I stopped. How could I go on? Already I had said too much. Surprised and moved, she was searching my face with eyes that looked me through and through. In a voice that was scarcely above a whisper, she finished the sentence:

"To my father?"

She made it a question that must be answered, and I said:

"Yes."

She grew white even to her quivering lips but she did not move her eyes, and when she spoke it was more like a cry than a question:

"Has my father anything to tell that his daughter must not know?"

"Have compassion; I am under bonds."

She turned away and threw up her hands and held them clasped above her head. I knew that she was praying. The moments slid by and we stood immovable as the stone statues that guarded the entrance, and as silent as death.

When she turned to me again her face was as one to whom some awful apprehension had settled into a certainty. I was shocked.

"It is nothing so dreadful—nothing to be so wretched over. Believe me, Miss Dyer."

She gave me her hand as if she needed the little comfort I could give. But she asked no further question. She would go to her grave first. The restraint she put upon herself brought back the cold reserve that looked like distrust, and that hurt me more than anything else, and I entreated:

"You will have faith in me? You will trust me again?"

She searched my face. There was something of the father's wariness in the girl. It was a full moment before she answered, slowly:

"I cannot see that you are to be blamed. It is well that you have said what you have. I shall understand you better."

"And you will trust me?"

She waited. She was so essentially truthful that she dared not promise anything she was not sure of fulfilling. At last she said:

"If I can, and I think I can. If I do not, the fault is my own. There is an impression to be grown out of, and we are not always masters of ourselves. God help us both." And with an earnest clasp of the hand she bade me "Good-night."

I saw the doors close upon her, and realized that a trust, however lost, is the hardest thing in the world to regain."

(To be continued.)

CHINESE MONEY.

The Chinese probably illustrate in the most extreme manner the length to which loose views concerning currency can be carried. The history of their currency presents that mingling of the grotesque with the tragic which most of their actions have when viewed through Western eyes. Coined money was known among them as early as the eleventh century before Christ, but their inability to comprehend the principles upon which a currency should be based has led them into all sorts of extravagancies, which have been attended by disorder, famine, and bloodshed. Coins came at last to be made so thin that 1,000 of them piled together were only three inches high; then gold and silver were abandoned; and copper, tin, shells, skins, stones, and paper, were given a fixed value, and used until, by abuse, all the advantages to be derived from the use of money were lost, and there was nothing left for the people to do but go back to barter, and this they did more than once. They cannot be said now to have a coinage; twenty-nine hundred years ago they made round coins with a square hole in the middle, and they have made no advance beyond that since. The well-known cash is a cast brass coin of that description, and, although it is valued at about one mill and a half of our money, and has to be strung in lots of one thousand to be computed with any ease, it is the sole measure of value and legal tender of the country. Spanish, Mexican, and our new trade dollars, are employed in China; they pass because they are necessary for larger operations, and because faith in their standard value has become established; but they are current simply as stamped ingots, with their weight and fineness indicated. —*Popular Science Monthly.*

LOVELINESS OF THE OCEAN.

One who has never travelled upon the ocean expects to find it somewhat thickly populated. He thinks of the vast travel and traffic that goes over the waters, and he is ready to imagine that the great deep is alive with this hurrying to and fro of nations. He reads of lands whose commerce whitens every sea, and he is as ready to think the metropolis; is as full of sails as the harbor of some mighty ocean itself. But he finds his mistake. As he leaves the land, the ships begin to disappear, as he goes on his way, they soon all vanish, and there is nothing about him but the blue sea and the bended sky. Sometimes we may meet or overtake a solitary ship through the day; but then, again, there will be many days when not a single sail will be seen. There are spaces measured by thousands of miles, over which no ship has ever passed. The idea of a nation's commerce whitening every sea is the wildest fancy. If all the ships that ever have been built were brought together in a single fleet, they would fill but a hand's-breadth of the ocean. The space, therefore, that man and his works occupy on the sea is so small in its extent, that the hold on it by its power is slight and superficial. Both together are as nothing. The ocean covers three-fourths of the surface of the globe; and by far the greater portion of this vast expanse is, and ever has been, entirely free from man's presence and visitation.

MARRIED LIFE.

Julius Moser gives the following counsel from a wife and mother:

"I try to make myself and all around me agreeable. It will not do to leave a man to himself till he comes to you; to take no pains to attract him, or to appear before him with a long face. It is not so difficult as you think, dear child, to behave to a husband so that he shall remain forever in some measure a husband. I am an old woman, but you can still do what you like; a word from you at the right time will not fail of its effect; what need have you to play the suffering virtue? The tear of a loving girl, said an old book, is like a dew drop to a rose; but that on the cheek of the wife is a drop of poison to the husband. Try to appear cheerful and contented, and your husband will be so; and when you have made him happy you will become so—not in appearance, but in reality.

"The skill required is not so great. Nothing flatters a man so much as the happiness of his wife; he is always proud of himself as the source of it. As soon as you are cheerful you will be lively and alert, and every moment will afford you an opportunity to let fall an agreeable word. Your education, which gives you an immense advantage, will greatly assist you, and your sensibility will become the noblest gift that nature has bestowed on you, when it shows itself in affectionate assiduity, and stamps on every action a soft, kind and tender character, instead of wasting itself in secret repinings."

This is most excellent advice, and worthy of being treasured up.

CONTENT can only be purchased by a virtuous life.

TRUE reverence for God includes both fear and love; fear, to keep him in our eye; love, to enshrine him in the heart; fear, to avoid what may offend; love, to yield a prompt and willing service; fear, to regard God as a witness and judge; love, to cleave to him as a friend and father; fear, to render us watchful and circumspect; love, to make us active and resolute; love, to keep fear from being servile and distrustful; fear, to keep love from being forward or secure; and both springing from one root, a living faith in the infinite and ever-living God. —*C. J. A.*

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

THE Old Catholics of Basle have increased in numbers the past year from three thousand to four thousand.

A JEWISH synagogue in New York has been purchased by Polish residents and turned into a Catholic Church.

TWELVE clergymen are said to have withdrawn from the Church of England within a month, to join the Church of Rome.

THE practice of holding "soirees" and secular entertainments in churches is agitating the Established Presbytery of Edinburgh.

AS many as four hundred persons have lately been received into the New Haven churches on profession of faith—the result of the Moody revival.

TO the forthcoming volume of the "Encyclopedia Britannica," Professor Robertson Smith contributes two articles—one on Eli and another on Eve.

WITHIN six years and a half the membership of the Plymouth Congregational Church at Worcester has increased from three hundred to six hundred.

MR. EVARTS says the secret of John Hall's power as a preacher is "his pulpit simplicity, and the fixed character of the man behind, and transfixing it all."

THE British Workman Public House Company, of Edinburgh, has declared a dividend of five per cent., and put aside ten per cent. for the depreciation of fittings.

A PETITION signed by the Patriarch of Venice and several Italian bishops has been presented to the Pope, asking him to introduce the cause of the beatification of "the glorious Pius IX."

A SEASIDE Home is to be built at Ashbury Park, N.J., by the Sisterhood of the Good Shepherd, for the care of weary and sick women and children. The corner stone was laid July 9th.

THE Presbytery of Dumbarton have ordained the Rev. James Henderson, who has received an appointment from the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland to proceed to Meerut, Northern India.

THE committees representing the Wesleyan and Primitive Methodist bodies of Ireland have concluded their negotiations for the union of the two bodies, and will report favorably on the subject to their respective Conferences which meet soon.

ST. STANISLAUS' Church, the only Catholic Church in New York where the Polish language is spoken, was dedicated Sunday, July 14th, by the pastor, Rev. N. F. Wayman, under authorization of Cardinal McCloskey. About 300 families belong to the congregation.

THE First Congregational Church at Townsend, Vt., was one hundred years old June 21, 1877, but, being without a pastor at the time, the celebration was postponed till last week, when it came off in the shape of a tea party in the village park, a large number being present.

RUMOUR has it that the Roman Catholic Churches in the United Kingdom are to be placed under the direct control of the Pope, instead of that of the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, the object being to induce the British Government to establish relations with the Vatican.

THE Russian Greek Church possesses 38,602 churches, including cathedrals; 12,860 chapels and oratories; 18,887 arch-priests, priests, deacons and precentors; 56,500,000 members, of whom 29,000,000 are women and 27,000,000 are men. The sums received by the Church during the year amount to about \$9,000,000.

THE English Evangelization Society, during the past year, had the services of 170 evangelists, thirty-four of whom were paid and wholly employed. They labored in 656 places in all parts of the kingdom, seventy-eight of which were in London and vicinity, and held 11,369 meetings, at an average cost of one pound a meeting.

THE Rev. Mr. Balfour, of the Free Church Presbytery of Edinburgh, called the attention of his Presbytery to the fact that the Rev. Walter Smith, D.D., held public services in his church last Christmas Day. The Presbytery, by a vote of fourteen to six, refused to take action in the matter, whereupon Mr. Balfour appealed the case to Synod.

SIR STAFFORD NORTHCOTE announced in the House of Commons on Tuesday the betrothal of the Duke of Connaught with the Princess Marie Louise of Prussia, daughter of Prince Frederick Charles, and gave notice that he would on Thursday move for the usual grant. Sir Charles Dilke thereupon gave notice of an amendment reciting that no constitutional precedent for such an application exists.

THE report made by the chief of revenue agents shows that illicit distillation of whiskey is extensively carried on in several of the Southern States, and that the officers of the Government are defied and resisted when they attempt to break up the business, and in several instances have been actually murdered. The chief agent expresses the opinion that the President will have to use the army to execute the law. Then by all means use the army, and the sooner the better.

THE advowson and perpetual right of presentation to the living of Kingstone, near Canterbury, worth upwards of £500 per annum, was offered for sale at the auction mart in London a few days since. The auctioneer said the population of the parish was only 278, so that the clergyman would not be overburdened with work and could say of himself: "The lines have fallen to me in a pleasant place." Not a bid, however, could be obtained and the lot was withdrawn.

THE Rev. R. W. Dale, of England, in his "Impressions of America," speaks with approval of the general practice of sending children to the public schools instead of to private or parochial institutions, and says: "The presence in the common schools of a large number of children accustomed to the refinement of a pleasant and even luxurious home must have an influence on their less fortunate schoolfellows which it is not easy to estimate, and must greatly aid the work of the teacher."