

The hope, then, of our future inheritance so far as it is based upon the promise of God, rests upon an impregnable rock—a sure foundation which no power in earth or hell can undermine. Without this hope to cheer us in our life-journey, the future is dark and cheerless. "If," says the Apostle, "only in this life we have hope, we are of all men most miserable." Bereft of this hope, the sorrows of life would be darker, its trials harder to bear. It is only by laying hold of this hope, by laying hold of Him who came to impart it, that amid the storm and stress of life, when the shadows of death gather round our pathway, and our sun hastens to its setting, we can be cheered and sustained by the blessed hope of that Heavenly inheritance which God has promised and provided for those that love Him. Constable, N.Y.

A GREAT EDICT IN CHINA.

But little attention seems to have been paid either here or in Europe to a recent epoch-making edict issued in the name of the Emperor of China by his aunt and adoptive mother, the wonderful old Empress Dowager. It is nothing more or less than a decree abolishing judicial torture in China. Not only are the appallingly cruel forms of death replaced by civilized methods of capital punishment, but the practice of exonerating confessions of guilt by means of torture is likewise henceforth strictly prohibited. It is unnecessary to recapitulate here the frightful and almost inconceivable forms of barbarity which have been practised by the authorities in China for thousands of years past, in the name of the law.

Every book written about China, whether by missionaries, laymen or ordinary tourists, has pages of blood-curdling description on the subject. But the fact that the Empress Dowager of China should have put an end thereto is a wonderful reform, which will go further toward winning for her the good will of the civilized world and oblivion for the cruelty and remorselessness of which she formerly was guilty than any other phase of her autocratic rule of China.

Different opinions prevail as to the nature of the influences which have been at work to induce the septuagenarian Empress (who but two years ago caused the American college bred native editor of a Siam newspaper to be flogged to death in the courtyard of her palace at Peking) to inaugurate this radical change in the time honored methods of Chinese justice. Some ascribe it to her Japanese advisers, who since the Russian reverses have acquired an enormous amount of prestige and weight at the court of Peking. Others, again, are inclined to believe that it is the extraordinary development of her personal intercourse with Europeans and Americans since the Boxer insurrection five years ago which is responsible for her transformation.

Only so powerful a ruler as the Empress could have brought about such a reform as the abolition of torture, involving, as it does, the reversal of Chinese procedure and practices that have been in use for thousands of years; and, when one reflects upon the appalling cruelty and the horrible suffering to which she has now put an end, the thought will go far toward removing the impression of the Japs created by her intolercant attitude during the past years.

Whatever the business of life, act well your part, and prove to the world that the man ennoble the profession, not the profession the man.

This world is grand and beautiful to the spiritual-minded; it is dull, stupid and commonplace to the unawakened. The world is to each one as each one thinks; beauty and ugliness, order and disorder, can be had for the mere thinking.—Frank Harrison.

FIFTY YEARS A MINISTER.

The celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the ordination of Rev. Dr. Crombie, of Smith's Falls has just taken place in that town. Congratulatory messages were received from Scotland, from various parts of the Dominion and the United States, all the letters bearing testimony in plain, unflattering terms, to his unwearied labors, his lofty ideals, his steadfast loyalty as a friend, his sweetness and purity of life, and his great influence for good as a man and a minister of the Gospel. The letters included those from Calvin Church, Laguerre, Quebec, of which Dr. Crombie was the first pastor; from Inverness, Que.; where Dr. Crombie was minister for many years before going to Smith's Falls; from friends at Lachute and Toronto, from the Rev. John Anderson at Tiverton, who moderated Dr. Crombie's first call at Laguerre, Que.; from the Rev. S. Mylne at Los Angeles, California, and from the Presbyteries of Toronto, Ottawa and Quebec.

At the celebration in the church there was a very large congregation representative of all the other churches in the town, and the service was of a very impressive character. The Rev. D. Currie, of Perth, occupied the chair, and he and the Rev. Dr. Armstrong (representing the Ottawa Presbytery), the Rev. Mr. McArthur (of Cardinal), the Rev. Mr. Logie (Winchester), the Rev. Mr. Frith (Baptist Church), the Rev. Mr. Sykes (Methodist Church), the Rev. Mr. Cooke (St. Andrew's Church), and the Rev. Mr. Scott, (Carleton Place) spoke in terms of warm eulogy of the Rev. Dr. Crombie, and offered him their hearty congratulations on his jubilee.

The Rev. Dr. Campbell, clerk of the Lanark and Renfrew Presbytery, presented a beautifully illuminated address to Dr. Crombie on behalf of the Presbytery. He prefaced the reading of it with a brief address of appreciation of the life and labors of Dr. Crombie and congratulated the people of Smith's Falls on having a man of such sweetness and brightness and purity of life dwelling among them. Accompanying the address was a handsome gold watch suitably inscribed which the Rev. Mr. Woodside, Carleton Place, presented from the Presbytery.

Senator Frost then read an address from the congregation of St. Paul's church as the pastor of which Dr. Crombie had spent a large part of his ministry.

In Dr. Crombie's reply he acknowledged with grateful heart all the kind things that had been said to him and written about him. He was unworthy of it all, he remarked, and felt that the Christian charity of his friends was responsible for it. He exonerated them from any desire to flatter, and so, unworthy as he felt he was, he knew he had their love, and out of the fulness of this they saw only his good qualities and forgot or overlooked his failings. He returned his thanks to the representatives of other churches for their kindness in attending at this his jubilee and for their congratulations. He was glad to recall that he had always lived in peace and harmony with all the people of the town and between him and the ministers of other congregations there had always existed the most cordial relations. He also referred in feeling terms to his long pastorate of St. Paul's Church and to the pleasant relations still existing between him and his former flock.

For many years Dr. Crombie has been clerk of the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew, but he has resigned the office. The celebration of his jubilee was in charge of the Presbytery.

Every day we have opportunities to make our own life a bridge on which another may pass over to something that he could not of himself have attained.

Under the stimulating effect of the czar's rescript, Jews who joined the Greek church are now returning to their original faith.

PERSONALLY CONDUCTED TOUR.

To California and Lewis and Clarke Exposition, Portland, Oregon.

A personally conducted excursion to the Pacific Coast via The Grand Trunk Railway System and connecting lines leaves Quebec July 5 and Montreal and Toronto to July 6. The route will be via Chicago, thence through Council Bluffs to Omaha, Denver, and Colorado Springs. Stops will be made at each of these places, and side trips taken to Manitowish, Cripple Creek, Garden of the Gods, etc. From San Francisco, Mt. Shasta, Portland, Oregon, Seattle, Spokane, and home through St. Paul and Minneapolis. The trip will occupy about thirty days, ten days being spent on the Pacific Coast.

The price for the round trip, including railroad fare, Pullman tourist sleeping cars, all meals in the dining car, hotels, side trips, etc., is \$165.50 from Quebec or \$100.50 from Montreal and \$150.00 from Toronto. This first trip is designed as a vacation trip for teachers, although many who are not teachers will improve the opportunity of taking the trip at the remarkably low price afforded.

For full particulars address E. C. Bowler, General Agent and Conductor, Bonaventure Station, Montreal.

The Canadian Churchman publishes a report from the Mother Country to the effect that Society is now earnestly following the lead long ago set by King Edward against long dinners and rich dishes. This is a sane and wholesome move in the right direction. It will reduce extravagance, increase health, and put in practice the maxim of the classic poet: A sound mind in a sound body. A physician in large practice, speaking of the death of an upright and able judge, after a very short illness, said: "Neglect of the law of health in the matter of diet and exercise had so impaired his strength that he could not withstand the strain of sudden and severe illness." Short dinners, simple food, and even moderate exercise are better insurers of valuable lives than big insurance policies. The community, as well as the family, receive the benefit, in the former case, of the prolonged life, able service, and cherished companionship of the man whereas in the latter case there but remains to the family the financial provision made possible by his death. There are worse things in the world than "plain living and high thinking." Were this the rule, appendicitis would soon be relegated to the limbo of blood-letting and some other surgical practices of the past.

The distribution of the Bible in Arabia was begun in Bahrein in 1893, when the colporteur was exposed to much opposition and persecution. Since that time the Bible has gained a foothold, the obscure shop from which the colporteur started on his tours has become a nice bookstore in a good location, and from about 200 portions of Scripture the circulation has grown to 1,431 portions, 51 Bibles, and 51 Testaments. At first the field of circulation was limited to the nearest villages; now it embraces the Oman coast, Hassa, and all the island group, with a branch station at Kuneit. Prejudice was then strong, and sometimes accompanied with violence. Now Moslems buy the book to

About three hundred years ago there was a flourishing Christian mission established by the Dutch Government and carried on by Dutch missionaries in the Island of Formosa. The center of this mission was Sialang, and it is of interest to know that on New Year's day this year, Mr. Campbell, of the Presbyterian Church of England, baptized twenty people at Sialang, and then administered the communion. The holy ordinances are re-established on the spot where three centuries ago they were administered. The Dutch mission was destroyed through the conquest of the island by Koxinga, the famous Chinese pirate.