

—Since the article on our first page, having reference to the St. John Jail, was written, we observe that the grand jury, which was addressed by his honor Judge Forbes respecting the condition of the jail, has made a report on the subject. After stating that, considering the limited means at the Sheriff's disposal, the jail is well kept, the gentlemen of the grand jury proceed to recommend "that ordinary prisoners be put to work on the streets; that water closets be put in each cell; that an addition be made to the jail in order that debtors may be separated from ordinary prisoners, and that some provision be made to provide long-term prisoners with changes of clothing." These recommendations are, for the most part at least, good so far as they go. It has been suggested that a public meeting should be called with a view to giving impetus to the motion for reform which has been made. The suggestion is a good one. There should be such an agitation of the subject as shall lead to the doing away with the present lamentable condition of things and the bringing in of some adequate reform.

—The enthusiastic welcome which Mr. Paul Kruger has received in France during the past week must be at best a melancholy satisfaction to that representative of a lost cause,—a cause lost, too, mainly through his own stubborn refusal to recognize the just rights of his fellow men and to admit changes which justice and the spirit of a progressive age alike demanded. Whatever question there may be as to the wisdom or the necessity of the Boer war on the part of Great Britain, there can be no reasonable question that, on the part of Paul Kruger and the men who with him determined the Boer policy, it was both unwise and unnecessary. If the Boer counsels had been marked by greater wisdom and less stubbornness, the Transvaal and the Orange State might have been to-day a peaceful land inhabited by a prosperous and contented people, with the prospect of forming some day an influential part of a great South African nation. The memory of French huzzas and Irish eloquence, both of which express much more of hatred to England than of enthusiasm for the Boer cause, must be poor consolation for a man whose stubborn folly is responsible for the ruin of his people.

—Mr. Wu, Chinese Minister at Washington, who is a gentleman of culture and versed in the learning of the modern and western world, spoke last week in Philadelphia to a large number of the prominent men and women of the city on the causes of the unpopularity of Foreigners in China. The charge, frequently made, that missionaries are the sole cause of the anti-foreign feeling in China, Mr. Wu declared to be unfair. The missionaries had done much good in China by their schools, the translation of useful works, etc., and the medical missionaries had been especially successful in philanthropic work. But the zeal of some missionaries, he held, had led them into indiscretions, and instances were not wanting of missionaries interfering in the administration of justice in Chinese courts. It is not unlikely that this latter statement is true in reference to some Roman Catholic missionaries, for similar statements have been made repeatedly by Protestant missionaries who have charged that the methods employed by the Roman Catholic ecclesiastics were such as needlessly to arouse the resentment of the Chinese. Missionaries are the only foreigners who have any legal status in the interior of China, other foreigners being allowed to reside only in the treaty ports. The missionary in the interior therefore naturally excites a great deal of curiosity, especially if he does not adopt the native costume. And when he publicly attacks the cherished traditions of the Chinese, condemning the worship of ancestors, etc., he is apt to arouse feelings less kindly than that of curiosity. Mr. Wu recognizes the fact that missionaries are placed in a very delicate position and he thinks that not all of them are cautious and discreet. But he holds that the general attitude of foreigners towards the Chinese has had a great deal to do with their unpopularity. Their conduct towards the Chinese has not generally been marked by politeness and respect, and the fact that in the treaty ports they do not come under the jurisdiction of the Chinese Courts, but are amenable only to the laws of their own country, makes them a sort of privileged class who regard themselves rather as lords of the country than as strangers in a strange land. It is very probable that a missionary's idea as to the respect due to the cherished religious traditions of the Chinese would differ somewhat from Mr. Wu's, since the missionary's business in China is not to pay deference to Chinese traditions but to convert the people from the error of their ways. However it is very possible that some missionaries are not discreet, and it is well enough for us to have a look at the subject through Minister Wu's glasses.

### Thoughts Suggested by the Sinking of the S. S. Monticello.

BY J. D. F.

#### I. EACH HUMAN LIFE AFLOAT UPON THIS SEA OF TIME TAKES RISKS.

Every voyage is an experiment. Much as the water-ways of the world are travelled, an element of uncertainty attaches to each new venture. Whether the vessel is to cross the ocean or to make a short coast-wise run it sails at hazard. In a long spell of favorable weather, when winds blow softly and the sea is gentle, sailors forget the perils of the deep. Yet hurricanes have fallen upon calm seas out of violet skies. It is well for us to remember that life is full of uncertainties and surprises. Each wave of time is wreathed with mystery. We know not what the morrow may bring forth. It becomes us to watch carefully all the way.

"Unfathomable sea! Whose waves are years,  
Ocean of Time, whose waters of deep woe  
Are brackish with the salt of human tears!  
Thou shoreless flood, which in thy ebb and flow  
Claspest the limits of mortality!  
And sick of prey, yet howling on for more,  
Vomitest thy wrecks on its inhospitable shore.  
Treacherous in calm and terrible in storm,  
Who shall put forth on thee,  
Unfathomable sea?"

#### 2. MANY A HUMAN LIFE IS WRECKED THROUGH DISREGARD OF THE STORM-SIGNAL.

It appears from published reports that the ill-starred Monticello sailed from St. John on the 9th of November regardless of the warning of the storm-drum. In the wise and merciful government of God storm-signals are erected along all the coasts of human experience to warn us of approaching tempests. The laws of nature, the intuitions of our hearts, the advice of faithful friends, and especially the clear utterances of the inspired Scriptures advise us of the propinquity of the storm belt. Yet every day and hour recklessness claims its victories. Each night a new column in the books of God is needed for the names of those who went down to hideous ruin and disaster because they refused to be warned. "Because I have called and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand and no man regarded; but ye have set at naught all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh in the day of your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; when your fear cometh as a storm, and your calamity cometh on as a whirlwind."

#### 3. IT IS FOLLY, OFTEN FATAL FOLLY, TO NEGLECT A HARBOR IN THE TIME OF STORM.

We learn that there was a time after the Monticello had sailed when she might have made a harbor, but she was kept upon the open waters of the Bay, to her ultimate undoing. There are harbors all along our way. The harbor of Prayer with its blessed hospitalities; the harbor of Scripture with its breakwaters built of the solid masonry of Divine promise; the harbor of free and sovereign grace, the fair haven of the soul where all the argosies of earth may ride in safety. One thinks of that word "opportunity." It is *op-portus*—off-a-harbor. Listen to the harbor bell, ye souls in the offing and put in to-day out of the violence of the gathering storm!

#### 4. IT IS NOT SIN IN THE WORLD THAT DESTROYS, BUT SIN IN THE SOUL.

The calamity came the other day not because the ship was in the sea but because the sea got into the ship. The Monticello did not capsize, she filled and gradually sank in the engulfing waters. Had she kept the water out of her she would have outriden the billows tempestuous as they were. It is wonderful how gracefully a ship will climb the mighty combers so long as all is well within. No billows of temptation, no waves of evil can overwhelm the man whose heart is right. And Christ directs his help toward the inward life. He did not come to sweep our sky of storms, nor bid the waves lie down in "blue tranquillity;" he came to make the soul staunch and seaworthy, sound at every point. It is not the purpose of the gospel so much to change the environment as to renew the equipment of the soul. Let us see that "the inward man is renewed day by day," then we shall not sink even in the stressful surge.

#### 5. IT IS A MOMENT OF SUPREME PERIL WHEN LIFE'S MOTOR POWER FAILS.

According to the testimony of survivors the immediate occasion of the disaster was the extinguishing of the fires, thus depriving the ship of motor power, which, in turn, rendered her unmanageable. A vessel will only respond to the rudder while she is making headway. When deprived of forward motion the rudder ceases to exercise control and she becomes the sport of the waves. The Monticello failing to point up into the wind, slipped into the trough of the tremendous sea, which so buffeted and drenched her that the end came speedily. It is an impressive parable of life. A man is only safe when he is making headway against the evil. You cannot steer a man after he has come to a dead stop. When the fires of the soul are extinguished—the fires of love, hope, faith, enthusiasm—destruction is imminent. If then you cannot rekindle these fires he slips down into the trough of the sea a doomed man. Sometimes we pastors find the church hard to steer. We push the tiller "hard up" or "hard down," but instead of quick responsiveness there is only a heavy lumbering in the sea. The trouble is with the furnaces. The fire is out. Leakage from the world has extinguished the flames, hence no movement, no responsiveness. Let us keep the fire-box dry and the furnaces aglow!

#### 6. A LIFE MAY BE WRECKED WHEN ITS COURSE IS ALMOST DONE.

It seemed to intensify the tragedy of which we have been speaking that it occurred so near the end of the voyage. In broad daylight, just off Yarmouth harbor, in view of the roofs of the town, the ship shouldered and went down. Four miles more and she would have been sheltered safely. Almost, but lost!

So sometimes men who have come safely through the perils of youth and the temptations of middle life go to ruin in old age. Whelmed in sight of home! Oh, the pathos of it, the inexpressible sadness and humiliation! Be warned, ye whose heads are white with years. Ye have not landed yet. From the very gate of heaven there is a road to lowest hell. God bring us all safe into port!

"Jesus, Saviour, pilot me,  
Over life's tempestuous sea;  
Unknown waves before me roll,  
Hiding rock and treacherous shoal;  
Chart and compass come from thee:  
Jesus, Saviour, pilot me.

When at last I near the shore,  
And the fearful breakers roar  
'Twixt me and the peaceful rest,  
Then, while leaning on thy breast,  
May I hear thee say to me,  
'Fear not, I will pilot thee!'"

### New Books.

A New Webster.—A new edition of Webster's International Dictionary, printed from new Plates throughout, and containing a supplement of 25,000 additional Words, Phrases and Definitions, prepared under the direct supervision of W. T. Harris, Ph. D. L.L. D.—G. and C. Merriam Co. Publishers, Springfield, Mass.

A first-class dictionary is quite indispensable to the intelligent reader and literary worker. Such a dictionary as Webster's International goes no little way toward affording the means for a liberal education. With such a thesaurus of literary information at hand and with the works of the best authors, so many of which are now obtainable at prices which place them within the reach of almost everyone, the young man who will devote his evenings and spare hours to profitable reading may acquire knowledge and culture which will win for him respect in any circle. There are indeed few ways in which ten dollars can be spent to better advantage in the interest of a family than in the purchase of a really first-class dictionary, and we may say here that anyone who secures the new edition of Webster's International, with its Supplement—which in itself would make a dictionary of considerable dimensions—need not fear that he has made any mistake in his choice.

Because additions are constantly being made to the words of a living language, it becomes necessary from time to time to make additions to its dictionary, and hence the necessity for new editions of every dictionary that aims to keep itself abreast of the times. The English language is ten years older now than when Webster's International—the ripe development of Webster's Unabridged—was published. They have been, and the publishers remind us, years of swift movement, social, industrial and intellectual, and there has been a corresponding growth in language. In the Supplement now added to the International, it has been the aim of the publishers to gather the harvest which the decade has produced, and their purpose has been to apply the principles which shaped the character of the original book to the new matter brought by advancing years. The work has been executed under Dr. W. T. Harris, United States Commissioner of Education, as Editor in chief. Dr. Harris' broad and various scholarship, his great and recognized ability as a lexicographer, his devotion to this work and the large corps of able specialists who have assisted in the new edition of the International afford a strong guarantee of excellence. The New Webster, with Supplement, is a book of 2364 quarto pages, published in one volume, and also in two. Besides the dictionary proper the International embraces, among other features, a large number of colored plates, showing flags, seals, arms, etc., of various nations, a History of the English Language by Dr. James Hadley, Indo-Germanic Roots in English, by Dr. August Fick; Explanatory Notes on the Revised Etymologies; A Guide to Pronunciation; An Explanatory and Pronouncing Dictionary of the Names of noted fictitious persons and places; A Pronouncing Gazetteer; A Pronouncing Biographical Dictionary of Ten Thousand names of noteworthy Persons; Pronouncing Vocabularies of Scripture and Greek and Latin Proper Names, and of common English Christian names; also Quotations, Word-Phrases, Proverbs and Colloquial Expressions from the Greek, Latin and other languages. The Supplement occupies 234 pages, and the whole book has been printed from new plates. Into these new plates have been incorporated certain changes and additions made necessary by the advance of knowledge, so that even in the body of the work there is improvement in matter and typography.

John the Baptist, By Rev. F. B. Meyer. Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto. pp 225. \$1.00.

Mr. Meyer is well known to the Christian reading public through his published sermons and other religious works, and his many admirers will welcome another volume from his prolific pen. Mr. Meyer writes as one for whom the life and character of the prophet of the wilderness have always had a great fascination. "As the clasp between the Old Testament and the New—the close of one and the beginning of the other; as among the greatest of those born of women; as the porter who opened the door to the True Shepherd; as the fearless rebuker of royal and shameless sin—the Baptist must ever compel the homage and admiration of mankind." Forbidden Paths in the Land of Og. By the Otherwise Man. Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto. pp. 258. \$1.25.

This oddly named volume is really an account of a brief tour in Palestine and the country east of the Jordan. The trans-Jordan region is less familiar to the ordinary reader than that to the west, because the protection of western travellers passing through that region is not guaranteed by the Turkish Government, and those who determine to make a tour of the country must do so on their own responsibility, taking the necessary risks. The party with which "the Otherwise Man" was associated were however not interfered with by government officials, and do not appear to have encountered much greater difficulties or dangers than are to be met with on the western side of the Jordan. What was seen and experienced is told in an interesting way by the author, with historic reminiscences of the country and cities visited. The present condition is of course in striking contrast with those of Bible times.

Books for New Testament Study. Popular and Professional, is the title of a book of some 80 pages, just issued from the University of Chicago Press. Two lists of books are given with a view of meeting the needs of two classes of students. List 1 presents the titles of certain books which are recommended to those who have not received professional instruction in the Bible, and who are unable to use other languages than the English, while List 2 is designed for those who have the requisite linguistic knowledge and general preparation for an advanced study of the Bible. The books embraced in the lists represent the several schools of evangelical interpretation, both conservative and progressive authors being represented. These lists have been prepared under highly competent supervision and must certainly prove of much value to pastors and others, who frequently find themselves in need of information as to the best helps to Biblical study. The alternate pages have been left blank so that other books may be added if desired, and the important point of giving the price of each work mentioned in the list has not been forgotten.