

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN.

## A SERMON IN STONE.

BY M. M. C., NEWCASTLE, ONT.

I stood within the solemn, cloistered stillness  
Of an old church, gray with the dust of years,  
And marked the many monuments of men  
By which their country—for whose common weal  
They lived and loved and died, them glorified  
In gleaming-marble or in burnished brass.  
A group of four fixed wondering my gaze;  
Foremost of these was Nelson, whose proud name  
For daring and devotion to his duty  
Has long years reigned a revered household word  
In stately English homes; and too in those  
Of other climes and names. Beside him stood  
A gleaming figure, as an angel clad  
In flowing vestures; and, with finger raised  
And pointing to the statue at her side,  
Admonishes two peasant lads who stand  
And rapturously upon the hero gaze  
To emulate his virtues and his brave  
And noble life, and meet—as chance they may—  
His glorious death, and fair, proud, spotless fame,  
Unending yet. So shall the sons of England's soil  
Be to their country's Queen and quiet homes,  
As bulwarks beaten by an angry wind;  
Or like the chalk cliffs of their lovely Isle,  
Though buffeted by waves and rudest winds,  
Stand stately and firm and fear no foe.

And so, methought, the Christian in his course,  
Though buffeted by cruel winds of scorn,  
And maligned motives and hindering ills,  
Is pointed by his guardian angel's hand  
(Who stands and watches all his hopes and fears,  
His fair temptations and his foulest sins)  
To Christ, the Master, in His high abode.  
Who once was man below and felt the woes  
And trials of the flesh, yet sinned not,  
Whispers with silver softness in his ear,  
"Be like Him! Strive to reach that eminence  
Whereon He sits enthroned a God indeed,  
By doing as He did, and putting on  
Like as it were a garment, the whole life  
And glowing virtues and the saving grace  
Of man's best model, Christ, the living God!"

## AN EARLY AMERICAN RAILWAY.

The American effort was less pretentious. The circular or elliptical track upon which Penrose and Bennett ran their machine was movable and adjustable, or was subsequently made so in order to allow of its being readily set up in a large hall or upon open grounds. A hall as long as possible and at least twenty feet in width was required for that method of adjustment; but when set up out-of-doors the space of exhibition was usually still more ample.

This was certainly the quaintest train run since Stephenson attached his first locomotive to the old stage-coach, "The Queen Charlotte," and dragged it as a passenger car. The coach of our experimenters, holding two persons, was evidently an adaptation of the old-fashioned sleigh, with high, straight back; and with its "dash-board" much exaggerated—probably a needed defence for the passengers against cinders and smoke.—Charles H. Roberts, in the *American Magazine* for February.

## ARE GOOD-NATURED PEOPLE UN-INTERESTING?

As a general thing, original people, people with wills and opinions—in other words, interesting people—are not, I am inclined to believe, of a very easy-going temper. The man who has a mind of his own usually wishes to have his own way, and is therefore not likely to be regarded as in any conspicuous degree pleasant. When it is said of a clergyman, "Oh, he is a very good man," all church-going persons at once get the idea of very dry sermons. (For the conveying of such a compliment as this all the vowels and consonants together are not equal to one left-handed inflection.) The most interesting character in Milton's *Paradise Lost* is unquestionably the arch-fiend himself; and in the modern newspaper—epic poems being long out of date—no class of persons, unless it be political candidates, cut a greater figure than the criminals. There is no doubt of it, good nature and even a good character—which things, I comfort myself with hoping, are not exactly the same—do tend to grow somewhat monotonous and tiresome. Human nature is like an apple—all the more palatable for being a trifle tart. No husband and wife ever lived together in greater mutual affection than did Elia and his cousin Bridget, concerning whom we read, nevertheless, "We agree pretty well in our tastes and habits—yet so as 'with a difference.' We are generally in harmony, with occasional bickerings, as it should be among near relations. Our sympathies are rather understood than expressed; and once, upon my dissembling in a tone in my voice more kind than ordinary, my cousin burst into tears, and complained that I was altered."

A little flavour of individuality and self-will is excellent for preventing insipidity. Thus I theorize. And why not? If a man is fond of his own ease and his own way, always notional, often out of sorts, and never very amiable, why should he not shape his theory to the facts?

All the while, however, I am conscious that I could find much to say on the other side. There used to be a funeral hymn (it may have gone out of vogue ere this) beginning, "Sister, thou wast mild and lovely," the word "lovely" being employed, I take it, in the old-fashioned, dictionary sense of lovable, not in the new-fangled, boarding-school sense of beautiful; and I cannot help feeling that mildness, gentleness of spirit, is one of the traits which most people like to attribute to their friends, at least after they are dead. It

would sound rather odd and incongruous—would it not?—to sing about the coffin, "Sister, thou wast irascible and interesting." And even in the case of the living, I must confess to the preference for an equable and obliging disposition, especially in a woman. I may be whimsical, but I have never seen many who afflicted me as uncomfortably sweet-tempered.—*March Atlantic.*

## TO LIVERPOOL THROUGH HUDSON'S BAY.

But it is not because of its human inhabitants, nor of its quarries for the hunter on land or sea that the Hudson's Bay region has special interest for us to-day. We might be content to leave it to the chill obscurity which has been so long its lot were it not that, as already indicated, the Central part of Canada and the North-West of the United States are asking whether it does not afford a solution of the problem how to secure for their products the cheapest and most expeditious road to the best markets. A glance at the map will be sufficient to make clear that the shortest possible route between the region referred to and Europe lies through Hudson's Bay. Careful calculations have shown that the city of Winnipeg, for instance, is at least 800 miles nearer Liverpool by the Hudson's Bay route than by the St. Lawrence, and the difference in favour of the former increases, of course, the farther you advance north-westward. If, as has been pointed out, you take the central point of the agricultural lands of the Canadian North-West, you will find that the distance from it to Winnipeg is about the same as to Churchill, the finest harbour of the bay. Now the distance between Churchill and Liverpool is a little less (about sixty-four miles) than it is between Montreal and that great entrepot of commerce. The conclusion, consequently, is that as between the said centre and Liverpool there is a saving of the whole distance from Winnipeg to Montreal, by the use of Hudson's Bay, which means in miles no less than 1,291 via Lake Superior, and 1,698 via Chicago.—J. MacDonald Oxley, in the *American Magazine* for February.

## CROSSES, STARS AND GARTERS.

The February *Century* contains Ernst von Hesse Warte's contribution to the European craze for decorations. From his article the following is taken: The Emperor William is generally seen wearing the iron cross and the star of the most distinguished order of the Black Eagle. Emperor Francis Joseph invariably wears the decoration of the order of the Golden Fleece, it being one of the regulations of the order that every knight belonging to it must wear it at all times, in state or private. A similar regulation compels the knights of the Russian order of St. George to wear the cross at all times, and they would incur penalties if seen without it.

The ordinary decoration, including the ribbon, is about four inches long by three inches wide. To be able to wear all their decorations, Prince Bismarck or Count Moltke, for instance, would require a breast thirty feet in breadth. A man of merit in Europe should, however, not only be of large proportions, but also of superior strength; for the average weight of one gold grand cross is about half a pound. The aforesaid dignitaries would therefore have to carry about forty pounds, in addition to their heavy gold embroidered uniform. Civilians are permitted to wear diminutive reductions of their orders, suspended on narrow gold chains; the stars of a Grand Officer or a Grand Cross, however, are worn in their original size.

It would be difficult to say who is the most decorated man of Europe. Each of the three emperors and the royal sovereigns of Europe average fifty grand crosses, with their respective appendages. Aside from the sovereigns and princes, I should think the most decorated man must be either Count Andrassy, the former Chancellor of Austria, or the station-master of —, a well-known water-glace. The latter receives an average of three minor crosses annually, depending mainly on the number of sovereigns and princes visiting the place; station-masters, physicians, police commissioners, and others are in many instances remunerated for their services with crosses very much as the gate-keeper of the Castle of Chillon receives a shilling from every visiting Englishman.

## JOHN KNOX'S CLOCK.

Mr. W. H. Woods, of Huntington, Pa., has in his possession a clock that would command perhaps as high a figure as any other timepiece in the country. It was made at Paisley, Scotland, by Eavn Skeoch, in 1560, and was owned by John Knox, the great Scottish reformer, from whom Mr. Woods is a lineal descendant. John Knox died in 1572. His big clock was handed down to his family for nearly 150 years, when it finally came into the hands of John Witherspoon, father of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. When John Witherspoon, the son, left Scotland in 1768 to take charge of Princeton College, he brought the old heirloom with him, and when he was elected to the Continental Congress the old time-piece was ticking in his parlours, and indicated the hour of his departure to transact his patriotic duties. Dr. Witherspoon prized the clock very highly. He cleaned it himself at regular intervals, and took pleasure in showing it to his friends and the members of Congress. When he died he requested that it should remain in his family and descend to the first-born of succeeding generations. At the death of Dr. Witherspoon, in 1794, the clock came into possession of his daughter, Marion, who subsequently married the Rev. Dr. James S. Woods, of Lewiston, who died in 1862. At the death of Mrs. Woods, shortly after, the clock came into the possession of its present owner, Mr. W. H. Woods, in whose parlour it now stands. The clock is still a good time-keeper, eight feet high, with rosewood case and brass works. Mr. Woods was urged to place the clock on exhibition at the Centennial, but refused to let it be taken from the house.

## British and Foreign.

LORD ROSEBURY suggests that a tablet should be erected in St. Giles to the memory of the Earl of Dalhousie.

MR. GEORGE MULLER, of Bristol, preached in a Congregational church at Hobart, Tasmania, on Christmas Day.

AN address has just been presented to the venerable Dr. Peddie, of Edinburgh, in commemoration of his sixty years' ministry.

IN Cupar Free Church Presbytery Rev. W. Affleck gave notice of an overture on the subscription of office-bearers to the standards.

ST. CUTHBERT'S Church, Edinburgh, is to be reseated and provided with a new staircase from the gallery at a cost of about \$46,000.

SIR JAMES M'CUCCLOCH is the elder appointed by the Victoria Assembly to represent it at the Pan-Presbyterian Council in London.

THE late Mr. Crawford Ross of Tain and Cadboll, Ross-shire, has bequeathed nearly \$47,500 to the Mission Scheme of the U. P. Church.

THE Rev. Robert Gault gave notice in Glasgow Free Presbytery of a resolution protesting against the resumption of diplomatic relations with Rome.

IT is stated that the candidature of at least four ministers has been announced privately by circular for the vacant clerkship in the Free Church Assembly.

AN episcopal chair has been presented to St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, by Canon Liddon, in commemoration of the chapter having offered him the bishopric two years ago.

THE Rev. T. Gregory of Kilmalcolm, to the great satisfaction of his attached flock, has intimated to Greenock Presbytery his declination of the call to Belgrave Church London.

THE doctors at the Royal Infirmary of Glasgow are endeavouring to get themselves made into a branch of the university in that city under the title of "St. Mungo's College."

THE Rev. Brooke Lambert has two fine churches under his care at Greenwich; from one he does not receive a penny, while the receipts from the latter last year were \$155.60.

IN northern New Zealand all the Churches are suffering very much in their finances on account of the heavy commercial depression and a full stipend is enjoyed by but few of the ministers.

TAIN Presbytery has declined to interfere in the dispute as to the introduction of instrumental music into Tain parish church. The Kirk Session is to make such arrangements as they think fit.

THE Baptist Board and the London General Baptist ministers have adopted a resolution protesting against the monstrous perversion of the Royal Holloway College for women into an Anglican institut on.

THE *Scottish News*, the only Conservative organ for the two chief cities of Scotland, issued its last number lately. It is believed that at least \$750,000 have been lost in the futile endeavour to establish it.

"FOR God's sake," said a Kaffir chief to a government official the other day, "keep the brandy from my people, or my tribe will soon be rubbed out." Shortly after, the Government gave greater facilities for the sale of liquor.

THE Queen has sent a gold diamond locket, enclosing her portrait, to the infant daughter of Rev. James Campbell of Crathie, who officiates as domestic chaplain when the court is at Balmoral. The child has been christened Alexandra Victoria.

THE week of special evangelistic services in Dr. John Brown's old church at Haddington attracted large congregations, and Mr. Nelson, the pastor, was assisted in the efforts by several brethren who delivered stimulating and deeply impressive addresses.

THE bill for introducing the Bible in schools has been defeated in the New Zealand Parliament by fifty to thirty-two. In last Parliament the bill was supported by only eighteen, so that the movement is advancing and its friends are well satisfied with the latest vote.

MR. W. H. SMITH, formerly chaplain of the city poor-house in Edinburgh, made another attempt to be heard in Edinburgh Presbytery with reference to his views on future punishment. But as soon as he rose to speak the reporters were requested to retire, and Mr. Smith speedily followed them.

THE Rev. J. F. Ewing, of Toorak, was one of the deputation of ministers who laid the facts concerning the New Hebrides before the Earl of Carnarvon during his lordship's recent visit to Melbourne. In his reply the Earl expressed his earnest sympathy with mission work and his readiness to give it his best help.

ON the motion of Dr. Corbett, Glasgow South Presbytery recommended the discontinuance of the Spanish mission of the Church at as early a date as can prudently be arranged for. An amendment by Dr. Fergus Ferguson that the Synod would not be justified in withdrawing from the mission was lost by seven to ten.

THE motion of remonstrance with the action of Glasgow Presbytery in receiving Rev. George Dods, now of Kilmarnock, to the status of an advanced minister, when they knew that he was under sentence of suspension for contumacy by Melbourne Presbytery, was carried in the General Assembly of Victoria by fifty-six to ten. The case was brought up by Rev. J. F. Ewing.