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Now, therefore, arise, and go forth, and speak comfortably unto thy servants; for I swear by the Lord, if thou go not forth there will not tarry one with thee this night; and that will be worse for thee than all the evil that befel thee from thy youth until now." But there is a worse thing even than that. I think indeed it will be a bad day for the Bishops if they should ever alienate the attachment with which the Evangelical clergy have regarded them; but it will be a worse thing if they come to alienate the laity, if the laity come to think within themselves, "These men, whose office it is to protect for us our Protestant Church, and to prevent aggressions on the part of the clergy, either cannot or will not prevent the introduction of the polluting Confessional, or the idolatrous Mass into the Church." I have no hesitation in saying that in that case the Church will fall; no Act of Parliament, no Royal Commission can save the Church, she will fall, and great will be the fall, and most disastrous the consequences. Rest assured that if the Church of England goes down we shall never "see her like again;" we shall never see such systematic means for carrying the waters of life through the whole area of our country; we shall never see such another breakwater against the incoming tide of priestcraft and superstition, of atheism and revolution. Let the Bishops then be up and doing, and see if they cannot roll back this tide from us. And then, let me remark, that most assuredly this Society is doing much to maintain the supply of faithful ministers. Only let our Bishops be careful whom they admit into holy orders, and then this Society is prepared to furnish suitable spheres of labour for such faithful men when they are admitted, and so contribute in two ways to maintain a supply of faithful ministers; first, by prolonging the life of many an overworked servant of Christ, and helping him to bear the burden and heat of the day; and, secondly, by encouraging many young men to come forward to fill up the vacant ranks of the blessed army of faithful ministers of the Church of England. Just one word more. Never, depend upon it, was a supply of faithful ministers more needed than it is at present. I feel quite certain that hardly any one has any adequate conception of the real state of our great cities and towns. I don't believe that even the Salvation Army, with all their sensationalism, has been able to get down to the dark, loathsome sediment of corruption and sin that lies at the bottom of our social condition. I am sure that if the actual state of things was realized by you, you would be horror-stricken. There is such an amount of selfishness in our great cities, such a struggle for existence, such preying upon each other, such corruption of every kind. Yet let us not despair. There is no iron necessity, no law of our merciful God, that city masses should only hasten to corruption. Let us infuse more of the salt of Divine grace and truth among them, and instead of a poisonous, rank, fetid, wretched, down-trodden, scarcely animal existence, we shall yet see in our great towns and cities a healthy, vigorous, intellectual, moral, and spiritual life.

British & Foreign News.

ENGLAND.

The death of Prince Leopold has brought to a sudden close a life of noble purpose, full of promise. He was a gifted and earnest man, deeply interested in every philanthropic work and social reform. His widow and the Queen have universal sympathy in this terrible blow. Its effect upon Her Majesty's health is watched with great anxiety. All the English journals speak in terms of the highest praise of the deceased Prince, who is universally and deservedly lamented.

The Dean of Bristol is dangerously ill.

Spurgeon, the eminent preacher, has fallen heir to a large fortune, left him by the late Joseph Poole, of Leicester.

Mr. Gladstone has agreed to the creation of a new minister with a seat in the cabinet, to be called the Secretary for Scotland.

The freedom of the city of London has been conferred on the Earl of Shaftesbury, as a recognition of his lifelong services as a philanthropist.

Since the Postoffice Savings' Banks have been introduced in Great Britain, £42,000,000 sterling have

been deposited in them by members of the working classes.

The Rev. Dr. Scrivener, Prebendary of Exeter, vicar of Hendon, a member of the New Testament Revision Committee, and a well-known writer on Textual Criticism, is seriously ill.

Weekly "dances" are among the parochial attractions of St. Peter's, London Docks. These are said to have been instituted by Mr. Macknochie, who perhaps took the idea from the annual ball which is said to be held in connection with St. Alban's, Holborn.

The Marquis of Lorne, speaking at a meeting in Kensington on behalf of the Church of England Waifs and Strays' Society, highly praised the efforts of Miss Rye and Miss Macpherson in connection with the emigration of children to Canada. He said that he had twice visited Miss Macpherson's establishment near the Niagara Falls, and could therefore speak warmly in its praise. A lady had lately told him that in Quebec alone places could be found at once for 1,000 girls if they were sent out. It seems anything but desirable for either boys or girls to remain waifs and strays at home, while they can be made useful members of society at so small a cost abroad.

"Chinese" Gordon, when the cotton famine reigned in Lancashire, in order that he might contribute something to the relief fund, took a large gold medal which he had received from the Empress of China, scratched out the inscription and sent it anonymously to Canon Miller. "Never," he afterwards wrote to his brother, "shall I forget what I got when I scored out the inscription on the gold medal. How I have been repaid a million fold!"

An extraordinary case is reported from Epping in England. Over fifty years ago, a Mr. Hobson, of that place, was left a widower with three very young children. Some time later, on the advice of his vicar, he procured a license and married his deceased wife's sister. Fifty years have elapsed since that time, and during all these years Mr. and Mrs. Hobson have been constant attendants at church and regular communicants. Last January, however, a new vicar, Rev. R. Fort, forbade both Mr. and Mrs. Hobson from communicating, and stigmatized their union as incestuous, basing his action on "the law of the land" and the Prayer-Book. As an alternative he proposed that this aged couple, who had so long lived happily and legally together, should occupy separate apartments. Mr. Hobson appealed to the Bishop of St. Alban's, Bishop Haughton, who upheld his vicar's action. But the matter was not allowed to rest here. It has since been clearly shown that the marriage in question was strictly legal. An inquiry of the Attorney-General in the Imperial House of Commons, elicited a decided reply in favour of Mr. Hobson. It was clearly shown that Lord Lyndhurst's Act of 1835, while invalidating all such subsequent marriages, expressly legalised marriages with a deceased wife's sister which had taken place before the passing of the Act. Sir Henry James further intimated that the vicar had laid himself open to an action in the Court of Arches, and the bishop and his vicar have deemed it wise to withdraw from their untenable position. Mr. and Mrs. Hobson are now allowed to commune.

SCOTLAND.

An English Earl has purchased the island of Orkney, Scotland, for a country seat. He thus obtains complete control of the island, which he will devote to hunting and to his horses and dogs. All the inhabitants were given a sum of money and a passage ticket for the United States.

Mr. Moody paid a hurried visit to Edinburgh last week and opened the new hall for Carrubbers Close Mission. Mr. Moody, when in that city a year ago, collected three-fourths of the amount himself. The buildings when completed will cost over £13,000.

A Higher Life Conference was held in Edinburgh lately, which was very well attended. As in Glasgow, the ministerial converts mostly belong to the Established Church, and include Professor Charteris, D.D.

IRELAND.

The Archbishop of Armagh, Dr. Marcus Gervais Beresford, entered upon his eighty-fourth year on February 15th, and the event was celebrated by the ringing of the bells of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh.

At a meeting of the Synod of Ardagh, held at Longford, on February 25th, to consider who should be recommended to the vacant Bishopric of Kilmore, Elphin, and Ardagh, the Rev. Canon Peacocke received a large majority of the votes of those present.

UNITED STATES.

The death is announced of Dr. Ezra Abbot, of Harvard, one of the ablest Biblical scholars in America.

The Presbyterian Hospital of Philadelphia, which lately declined the gift of \$2,500, the proceeds of the Charity Ball last week, received a cheque for \$3,000, of which \$2,500 was to replace the offered sum, and \$500 "a premium for adhering to principle." The donor wished the whole to be added to the permanent fund of the hospital, so that principal and principle might go together.

Nine male members of the parish of St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church, Brooklyn, N.Y., have been ordained Lay Helpers by Bishop Littlejohn. This is the first time this office has been administered in this country.

With an increase of communicants by 30,000 or 40,000 in the Protestant Episcopal Church, there are fewer candidates for the ministry than were reported three years ago.

"Truth and persecution are inseparable," says the *Catholic Review*. "For illustrations, see Fox's *Book of Martyrs*," pungently adds the *Christian Register*.

The Chinese of San Francisco sent \$45,000 to their suffering countrymen, victims of the flood near Canton. Several of their merchants gave \$2,000 each.

In a recent lecture on Evolution, delivered in Pittsburgh, President McCosh, of Princeton College, the well-known Christian philosopher and metaphysician, said: "My first position is the certainty of evolution. Evolution is but the coming of one thing out of another. No scientific man under thirty years of age in any country denies it, to my knowledge. To oppose it is to injure young men. I am at the head of a college where to declare against it would perplex my best students. They would ask me which to give up, science or the Bible. There is a general progression in nature. The theory that the earth was once a vapour from which the earth evolved is not inconsistent with the Scriptures, for they speak of its being "void, without form." The natural struggles for existence lead to the survival of the fittest, a most benevolent law, and also in accordance with the Scriptures. Man is so constituted with the faculties that God has given him that he learns by experience. Without order, of what benefit would experience be? Evolution teaches that the present comes out of the past and goes down to the future. Evolution but shows the agencies by which God's plans are carried out. It is but the evolution of Genesis when each "brings forth after its kind." Science tells the same story. But what is the limit to the fixedness of the law? I believe that the evolution of new species is a question in science, and not of religion. It should be left to scientific men."

FOREIGN.

Of the total female population of India, 99,500,000, only 127,000 are under instruction, while of the 103,000,000 male population, 2,517,629 are at school. That vast disproportion will not exist at the next census and those that will follow it.

Under the ruins of a mediæval house in Rome was lately found a collection of 832 Anglo-Saxon silver coins of the ninth and tenth centuries, which undoubtedly belonged to Saxon pilgrims to the Holy City while Marius II. was Pope.

The Spanish Government are said to be investigating the recent Bible-burnings and other violations of religious liberty in some of the provinces. It will be well for it to make its subjects know that the days of the Inquisition have passed.

Solomon Shapira, well known in connection with the recent attempt to sell in England a forged manuscript of the Pentateuch, has committed suicide, having shot himself in the head with a revolver at a hotel at Rotterdam.

Trinity Church, Bermuda, the pro-cathedral of the colony, was entirely destroyed by fire on Sunday morn-