

## LUKE XIV. 71.

A friend has sent THE LAMP a very fully annotated copy of its last issue. The Editor is addressed personally, (unfortunately the communication is quite anonymous), and one accepts all that is advanced in the most friendly spirit. It is possible, though it does not appear probable, that Madame Blavatsky, Mrs. Besant, and Mr. Wright are "tools in the hands of Satan" as suggested. Still the Editor is not ashamed to be associated with such laborers in the vineyard. We all, in any case, use our own reason in choosing our fellow workers, and to assert the satanic character of any person savours too much of the Pharisaism which asserted of Jesus that He had a devil. "This paper will be a swift witness against you at the Judgment of the great white Throne, if you do not repent." One is certainly conscious of falling below one's written and expressed ideals, and a public avowal is not without danger, but our secret thoughts are no less a witness than a proclaimed belief. The ideal of THE LAMP is a high one, and we may not attain it in this incarnation, but the bruised reed and smoking flax are still living images. "Let the wicked," adds our friend, "forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thought, and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon."

Mr. Gladstone's assertion that the Church never taught the doctrine of substitutional sacrifice is stigmatised as a lie, but Mr. Gladstone's political experiences have familiarised him with that form of controversy. One regrets that the religious training of our times has not raised us above the ordinary level, and one envies the gentle voiced Buddhist who so fully realizes Paul's charity, and "thinketh no evil." "There is much in the same regrettable tone, however, and the doctrine of reaping as we sow is met by a charge of "speaking great things and blasphemies." "In the latter days" we are reminded, "false teachers shall arise," but the proposal to go back to the "pure teaching of Jesus" is regarded as a subterfuge merely. Romans iv 17 and 24 is "false doctrine," and Romans viii, 35-39 is disputed with an emphatic "not."

A marginal note declares that "crime

is always sin," though it is difficult to believe that the crime for which Jesus suffered was sin. A note on fish symbolism in the various religions is "foolishness in the extreme," and Mr. Judge's article on the folly of suicide is evidence that "truly out of the heart of man proceeds foolishness, demonstrated to the fullest extent by these pages. Time is too precious for such TRASH to be written or read." Does our friend really think suicide commendable? It is not difficult to blaspheme if the statement that hospitals and kindness to animals are nowhere advocated in the New Testament, be blasphemy, but perhaps there are facts which it is wise to conceal. To the query "Does God mock His children?" the rejoinder is an emphatic "Never," yet on the next page we are told "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall have them in derision." This old world idea seems crude and narrow, and would rob us of what is a most constant solace, the feeling of the Divine All Fatherhood. "As a father pitieth His children." Brother or sister, we are only children, and we know but a little. None of us are infallible. We hear different meanings in the one Voice. The son hears the father, the slave hears the master, the pupil hears the teacher, the friend the friend, the brother the brother. But the Voice is one Voice though the words be varied. We are glad you have read, and written us. Read again, but with Love rather than Criticism.

## MAY HAVE BEEN MADE BY AZTECS.

While workmen were excavating for new gates just above the Marseilles, Ill., dam, eight miles east of Ottawa, Ill., in the fall of 1891, they discovered a stone roadway. Some fifty feet of a well-made pavement of slabs was uncovered, each stone being some twelve feet long, from one to three feet wide, and over two inches in thickness, with a break here and there filled in with cobblestones, which were also laid in regular courses.

The roadway, so far as uncovered, is almost perfect. It is of the uniform width of about twelve feet, and is laid upon a foundation of gravel and broken sandstone. The depth at which it appears is from four to six feet. It is thought to have been built by the Aztecs or Tezcunons, who were driven from this region by the Indians.