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TRUST.

What can we do, o'er whom the unbeholden
Hangs in a night with which we cannot cope?
What but look upward, and with faces golden,
Speak to each other softly of a hope?
Can it be true, the grace He is declaring?
Oh, let us trust Him, for His words are fair!
Man, what is this, and why art thou despairing?
God shall forgive thee all but thy despair.

OVER LAND AND SEA.

A telegram has been received from Madras conveying the information that Principal Miller, Moderator of the Free Church of Scotland, is dangerously ill. He has been for some time in bad health, and his condition is now critical.

What do you do when, in reading the massive folios of ancient English authors, you meet passages written in an unknown tongue? Paragraph after paragraph you read with all possible fluency, instantly apprehending the author's purpose; but suddenly the writer throws before you a handful of Latin, or a handful of Greek: what then? If you are absorbed by the interest of the book, you eagerly look out for the next paragraph in English, and continue your pursuit of the leading thought. Do likewise with God's wondrous Providence-Book. Much of it is written in your own tongue—in large-lettered English, so to speak. Read that; master its deep significance, and leave the passages of unknown language until you are farther advanced in the rugged literature of life, until you are older and better scholars in God's probationary school. The day of interpretation will assuredly come.

Ex Secretary of State John W. Foster is teaching a Bible class in the New York avenue Presbyterian church, Washington, which is attended by about sixty people, including several public men. He conducted a similar class last year, and awakened much interest.

Every minister and member of the Church needs, for his own information concerning the condition and work of the Church, to be a constant reader of at least one of the Church papers. He should also possess a copy of the Annual Minutes of the General Assembly, which contains the name and address of every minister in the Church, and very much valuable information in relation to the operations of the Church from year to year. We can hardly think that one will love his Church as he should, or be greatly interested in its work, if the above mentioned sources of information are neglected. We are also persuaded that our Foreign Missions would be better supported, if those who are active in the field would make use of the church weeklies by sending in at least quarterly a brief account of their stewardship.

Through the bequest of the late Mr. Robert Logan, of Maitland, the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales has happily realized a sum of money roughly estimated at £50,000. The interest from this bequest is to be devoted to the extension of the Church in the country districts.

One thousand dollars are offered for prize books on "Forming and Maintaining Character on Bible Principles." For the best book of 50,000 to 100,000 words the prize is

\$600; for the next best it is \$400. The theme is an important and practical one, the books wanted are not large, but popular in style; and must be sent to the committee of award under the Green Fund, care of the American Sunday-School Union, Philadelphia, by October 1st 1897.

The Secretary of state for India has made this strong statement: "The Government of India cannot but acknowledge the great obligation under which it is laid by the benevolent exertions made by missionaries, whose blameless example and self-denying labors are infusing new vigor into the stereotyped life of the great population placed under English rule."

The Young Men's Brotherhood of Andrew and Philip has two rules, one of daily prayer, one of invitation to some friend each week to church or to Christian work. The Presbyterian wing of the brotherhood had a very successful convention recently in Newark N. J. It has proved a helpful arm of work in many churches.

Joachim Pecci, the present Pope, made a will sixty years ago in which he gave his property to his brothers on condition that they would say fifty masses each year for five years after his death to get his soul out of purgatory. If it takes a fortune to get a Pope out, how about poor sinners?

The Cincinnati *Commercial Tribune*, of February 8th, has a two-column article on the cigarette evil—its strong grip upon school-boys. An investigation makes the pernicious effect of the habit apparent in many ways, but especially in low percentage in examinations and in a weakened physical condition. An Anti-cigarette League has been formed, having now over one thousand members. Each member takes the following pledge: "We, who sign this pledge, promise that we will not smoke cigarettes and will use all proper means to prevent others from smoking them." In some of the schools the boys magnify their loyalty to the pledge. In the Windsor Street School the League has two hundred members.

The warden of Wisconsin state prison reports that 37 per cent of the convicts cannot read or write. He also estimates that of the illiterate population of the state, of the age when they may be sent to the state prison, one out of every 173 is so sent. While out of those of the same age who can read and write, only one out of every 1,557 is so convicted and sentenced.

Beyrout, on the shores of the Mediterranean, and at the base of the glorious Lebanon, is well known to all tourists in Bible Lands. It is the greatest and most powerful centre of Gospel work in these fascinating regions. The Syrian Protestant College, an outcome of mission work, is a notable institution, with twenty professors and 292 students in its three departments, medical, collegiate, and preparatory. The press of the American Mission exerts a powerful Christian influence by its books in the Arabic language which in 1895 amounted to 24,986,516 pages. Ten different agencies of Evangelical work are operating in this beautiful city. It has thirty two Protestant schools with 700 boys and their fifty teachers; 2,390 girls with their ninety teachers.