

upon as the best farmer for many miles round. He was the agent of Mrs. Stewart, who was generally absent from the Hall, where he was almost master. The great kitchen at the Grange, which was large enough to hold all the population of Hazelmount, was the common council-chamber and assembly-room of the village. Men and women and children brought their troubles and their wants there, sure of a patient audience from the master or the mistress. This was so natural a custom that the latter would have felt aggrieved if their humble neighbours and dependents had sought help and counsel elsewhere.

Mr. Arnold, like his father before him, was churchwarden; and neither he nor his wife and son were ever absent from their great square pew next to the reading-desk in the parish church. They were men much in earnest about doing their duty both towards God and man, and they were held in high repute as men of honour and integrity. Mrs. Arnold went somewhat beyond this in her religion. Though she could not induce her husband to deviate from the customs of his forefathers, by having family prayer at any other time than Sunday night, she read some chapters in the Bible to herself, morning and evening, with scrupulous care; and as long as Philip was only a boy she had required him to read with her. She made a point of going through the Bible from beginning to end once a year; and she had accomplished this feat thirty times. When any of their cottagers were ill, she visited them daily, and read to them suitable and impressive passages of Scripture; sometimes with an inward thrill of emotion which made her feel that there was something more in the familiar words than she had yet laid hold of. It is natural to any community of human beings to seek a spiritual guide; and for many years Mrs. Arnold had been the spiritual guide at Hazelmount, as being the one among them who stood in the closest relationship to the unseen world.

(To be continued.)

THE TERCENTENARY OF EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.

An educational picture which will never fade from my memory is that of the great celebration of the tercentenary of the University of Edinburgh which I had the pleasure of attending, not only as an alumnus of that university, but as a representative of McGill. The number of eminent men collected on that occasion from all parts of the world, the enthusiasm of the people of Edinburgh itself, and the admirable tone of the whole of the meetings, contributed to give it a character unique among university gatherings. One feature of the occasion which was especially noteworthy was the emphatic recognition that Edinburgh University is a child of the Protestant Reformation, and that to this it owes largely its commanding position as compared with the older universities of Scotland. This same idea was echoed by the representatives of the German Universities, who advanced similar claims, and attributed to the more modern and liberal aims thence arising the vast growth of their universities. The Reformation was not merely a religious movement, but scientific, literary and educational as well, and the special genius of what we know of Protestant education, which is Protestant in that it strives to cultivate the powers of independent thought, depends largely on this origin.

The subject is one which merits attention on the part of the Protestant community of the Province of Quebec. As a minority it is necessary for us to maintain as high a standard of general and professional education as we possibly can, and to preserve those free and modern methods which we inherit from the Protestant schools and colleges of the mother country. There is, however, as strong tendency, becoming more and more manifest, on the part of the provincial legislature, to oblige us to conform to what may be called the pre-reformation educational methods of the majority, making these alone valuable in the eye of the law. It was guaranteed to us at confederation that this should not be done; but it is natural that, without any intention to injure us and by mere inadvertence, such encroachments should be made, not only in general education, but also perhaps more especially in the laws regulating the learned professions. Attention to this matter I think vital in our present circumstances. We can at least maintain that our methods of education have succeeded in producing as efficient professional and business men as the others; and the Protestant community of this province, and especially of this city, has made very great sacrifices to maintain institutions suitable to its own views and interests. The fact of this educational and practical difference to which I have referred, is in reality the principal reason for the existence of our university and the institutions connected with it, since but for this we might save money and trouble by sending our students to the numerous and well-endowed French colleges of our province. It is necessary that this should be distinctly understood and that we should temperately but firmly maintain our right to have our education conducted on our own principles, and to have it recognized as being for our own people and relatively to our own wants, equally valuable and efficacious with that which may be preferred by the majority, or which may be inculcated on it by the ecclesiastical authority to which it defers in all educational matters.

Another feature of the Edinburgh celebration was the prominence given to the connection of the city with the university, for Edinburgh, like Montreal, has built up its university largely by its own liberality, and if we may judge from the small beginnings of the Edinburgh University and the fame it has since achieved, still greater things may be expected when our university shall have attained to the same venerable age. In connection with this it is well that we should notice the relations between McGill College and the citizens of Montreal. There is no room here for any jealousy between town and gown. Our endowments, our buildings, our apparatus, books and collections, our exhibitions, scholarships, prizes and medals, are the gifts of the men and women of this city, and it would be the basest ingratitude on our part to manifest either in word or deed anything except friendliness or kindness to the city and its people. We know by the most assuring evidence that the city is proud of its

university and desires to promote its interests, and the interests of its teachers and students, and it should be a point of honour and right feeling on the part of every one connected with McGill to reciprocate this kind feeling and to show our appreciation of the benefits we receive.—*Sir William Dawson, C.M.G., LL.D.*

THE DEAR LONG AGO.

In the gray of the gloaming o'er lowland and highland
The storm wind is sounding its bugles afar,
The billows roll black on the desolate island;
In vain shall the mariner seek for a star.

O keeper, look well to thy beacon forth-gleaming;
O fisher, steer boldly, with eye to the light,
Lest slumber unbroken by waking or dreaming
Thy portion shall be in this turbulent night.

Yet quiet I sit, thinking not of the sobbing
So eerie and dreary of tempest and snow,
For tones in my heart with strange sweetness are throbbing
The runes and the tunes of the dear long ago.

I am lone to the days that were swift in their flying,
All pulsing with music and sparkling with mirth,
The days when my childhood no space had for sighing,
No place for the phantoms of darkness and death.

On the hearth pales the fire's red glow to dull ashen;
Without, the trees moan in the deepening chill;
But fancy recalls to my spirit the fashion
Of Spring on the meadow, the plain, and the rill.

I remember the lilacs that budded and flowered,
The willows that dipped in the full-flooded stream,
The orchards with blossoms so lavishly dowered,
In times when joy held me unchecked and supreme.

Ah, wild is the winter on lowland and highland,
And black break the waves on the storm-battered coast,
And sound the long bugles on peak and on island,
And gathers the tempest with haste and with host.

I sit by myself in the gray of the gloaming,
I muse on the days that were tender and true,
And my heart, like a child fain to rest after roaming,
Is back in the bright days, my mother, with you.
Margaret Sangster, in Harper's Magazine for December.

SYDNEY SMITH EXTINGUISHING A BORE.

Sydney Smith, on his visits to Bishopthorpe, frequently acted as croupier at the archbishop's table, and several amusing anecdotes used to be told of his conduct in that capacity. Dr. Harecourt had a rooted aversion to bores of every description, but he particularly dreaded the attentions of scientific and erudite guests, as he had discovered, through many a doleful experience in the past, that they were addicted to long-winded and tediously minute explanations. One day an entomologist, full of enthusiasm for his hobby, and eager to impart what he knew of insect ways to his reluctant host, sat at the right of the archbishop. A momentary lull in the conversation, which up to this point had been general, gave the admirer of beetles his coveted chance, and straightway he plunged into the midst of his subject, until the good-natured prelate, who cared for none of these things, was rendered supremely miserable by a complicated and confused account of a department of knowledge with which he had never intermeddled. The archbishop frankly avowed his ignorance, and did so in such significant terms that his indifference likewise stood confessed. The student of things which creep was either blind or remorseless, and accordingly pursued his way through larvae, antennae, and the like, with dangerous animation. The master of the banquet tried to turn a deaf ear to the maddening persistency of his misguided visitor, who told a tale as interminable, but not as interesting as that with which the "Ancient Mariner" detained the wedding guest, whilst the host sat at the head of his table like a picture of injured innocence. At the other end Sydney Smith, a delighted spectator of the scene, awaited his opportunity to rescue the disconsolate prelate from his embarrassing dilemma. By-and-bye he heard the man of science declare that the eye of a fly was larger in proportion to its body than that of any other creature. At once in tones of lofty authority, not unmingled with contempt, the croupier struck in and met the statement with a flat denial. Indignant at such a contradiction on ground of which he felt sure, the entomologist proudly fell back on facts, and demanded visual proof. The wretched company was now on the alert, and began to settle down to the expected controversy. With much deliberation and precision Sydney proceeded to call attention to the great sources of all truth, and argued that it must be admitted that the common judgment and knowledge of mankind lay treasured in the bardic measures and nursery rhymes of antiquity. "What then? How does all this bear upon the present case?" demanded the naturalist, somewhat stiffly. In overwhelming recitative came the familiar words, "I said the fly, with my little eye, I saw him die!" The *reductio ad absurdum* was complete, and Archbishop Harecourt was free.—*Reid's Life of Sydney Smith.*

DURING the last four years as compared with the previous four there has been a decline of 34,000,000 gallons in the consumption of spirits in the United Kingdom, equal to a saving by the people of \$65,000,000.

IN one of the English public schools, a difficulty arose between a teacher and a scholar concerning certain prescribed lessons which were to be learned at home. The case was taken before the Appellate Court, where it was decided that "home lessons set by teachers cannot be enforced."

British and Foreign.

IN the consumption of soap per capita in the United States lead. Italy is last on the list.

A CHAIR of Biology has been founded in the recently established University College, Dundee.

AN invitation from all denominations in Melbourne is to be addressed to Mr. Moody asking him to visit Australia.

THE pauper population of England exceeds by some 100,000 souls the entire population of the great colony of New South Wales.

THE Prater at Vienna has recently been very much embellished and is now considered by the Viennese to be the finest park in Europe.

THE vineyards around Mount Aetna in Sicily yielded this year an extraordinary crop of grapes, the wine from which is of a superior quality.

AS usual, crowds of tourists visited the battlefield of Waterloo, last summer and brought away relics turned out of the Birmingham factories.

THE Nan of Kenmare has arrived at New York. Her mission in coming to America is to raise funds to aid the suffering poor of Ireland.

COMBINATIONS have been formed in New Zealand Victoria, and South Australia for the purpose of raising the Bible in the public schools.

PROFESSOR LUSHINGTON has been elected Lord Rector of Glasgow University, and Professor Alexander Bain Lord Rector of Aberdeen University.

ALTHOUGH newspaper reading is greatly on the increase in Austria-Hungary, it is estimated that some twenty millions of the nation never see a paper.

DESPITE the distress in the north of England this autumn, there is a decrease in the returns of paupers as compared to last year, and a very decided diminution in crime.

DR. TAYLOR, the M. E. Bishop of Africa, proposes instead of teaching his assistant missionaries the native languages to teach the natives English as the shorter method.

A VERY brilliant light is obtained in China from candles—only of late years imported into Europe made of wax supplied by insects, specially reared through Chinese ingenuity.

DR. A. N. SOMERVILLE is accompanied on his evangelistic tour in Greece by his son Rev. J. E. Somerville, late of Broughty-ferry, and Mr. James D. White of Norwood, London.

THERE was a case in the Bankruptcy Court in London a few days ago in which a banker's clerk, with a salary of \$500 a year, had run up a bill of \$255 for flowers for his button-hole.

WITH the exception of the Dean of Christ Church and Prof. Jowett, Master of Balliol, there is not now a single head of a college in Oxford who has any reputation as an author in the world of letters.

THE manufacture of watches and clocks in Switzerland has of late suffered so severely that many of the factories have been indefinitely closed; Geneva has lost twenty-five per cent. of its trade in this line within five years.

ONE-THIRD of the newspapers published in Italy bear the title of "Gazette," the name having been handed down from 1570, when the first gossipy little sheet saw daylight at Venice, and was sold for a small coin, *gazetta*.

A DEEP cave has been found to exist under the town of Blankston, Iowa, by a farmer who was sinking an artesian well. Three unsuccessful attempts were made to sink the well, but each time the drill sank into the cave.

IN France, by a refinement of judicial cruelty, the date of execution is not known until the previous evening. Notices are then sent to the governor of the jail, executioner and chaplain. From the hour of his sentence the criminal is dead to the world.

EACH man of the camel corps which has been formed for Egypt will ride, like the mounted infantry, at the back of a native driver, whose assistance in the management of the animal is indispensable. Besides the two men, a camel will carry baggage and probably one of the 12½ gallon tanks of water.

THE *Moscow Gazette* remarks that sedition having reached as high as Lieutenant Colonels it will probably not stop there and we must be prepared for still more surprising revelations: while the *Piedmontese* believes that the canker of Nihilism has now eaten through every class of society, private and official.

TWO Frenchmen have invented a new kind of harp, made entirely of wood. Instead of strings the inventors use strips made of American fir. The sound is produced, by the contact of the fingers, but the player wears leather gloves covered with resin. The tone of the instrument is said to be of remarkable purity.

A NEW outfitting establishment has been opened in Oxford street, London, and among the curiosities displayed is an umbrella labelled as the identical machine referred to in the *Female Tatler* of December 12th, 1709, as borrowed from the mistress at Wills Coffee House by the young gentleman from the Custom House.

IT has been suggested in Bombay that the questions of the infectiousness of the cholera microbe should be put to practical test with convicts sentenced to death. In the event of the result being nil, the sentence should be commuted, the subjects being given the choice between the chances of cholera and the certainty of the hangman's rope.

ABOUT a year ago Mr. Mackay resigned the congregation of Balteagh, Ireland, resolving to go to New South Wales. Thither Mr. Mackay accordingly went, and was called to a Church in Sydney. Intimation having reached the Balteagh congregation that Mr. Mackay would return, they recalled him by cablegram, and he, accepting the call through the same medium, has now been installed in his old congregation.