

LIFE.

Along the way of life two angels fare,
And with them all the multitude of men;
The first a shining one with golden hair
Whose face each seeth once but not again,
Though rising from his sleep and following close,
Through all his days he seeks that sight to win;
Yea, more, his name or seal no mortal knows,
Nor shall, till heaven's gate he stands within.

The other is an angel stern and wan,
And men may see his iron-visored face,
Necessity his name; but should a man
Follow the fairer angel in the race,
Because he knows necessity comes after,
For him the depths of hell and devils' laughter.
—Colin A. Scott, in *The Week*.

ONE ASPECT OF A WEDDING.

It is impossible that such a scene as the marriage of the heir to the Greek throne with a Princess partly of German and partly of English blood should not bring many strange contrasts and coincidences before the minds of men. The very name and title of the bridegroom call up memories the most remote from the traditions of that Athenian greatness, without which, nevertheless, it is doubtful whether there would have been an independent Greece at all, and quite certain that Athens would never have become a loyal capital. Constantine, Duke of Sparta, takes his name from the first Christian Emperor, the founder of the "New Rome," on the Byzantine waters, and his title from the severe aristocratic commonwealth which was the very antithesis to the Athenian genius. His bride represents two kindred peoples, separated by a wide gulf of national character from the lively and versatile Hellenic nature, but both profoundly influenced in their intellectual development by the priceless gifts which Greece—and, in this respect, Greece almost means Athens—has bequeathed to mankind. The marriage ceremony was, in some sense, typical of the union of those two great currents of thought, art, and policy, which have joined together to swell the mighty river of modern civilization. Certain incongruities there must be, where names and things hallowed by ancient recollections suddenly come across us in the bustle of everyday life. It is not without a sort of pang that we hear, among the honours rendered to the bridal pair and the illustrious guests at Athens, that "the Acropolis was illuminated," just as if it were the Crystal Palace or the Eiffel Tower! But how are such shocks to be avoided in a country where we are told, as a matter of course, that the King took the train to Eleusis, not to do honour to Demeter, but welcome the Royal family of Denmark? The pouring of new wine into old bottles is an inevitable incident of progress in a country with such an historic record as Greece. That Greece is progressive will not be denied, though it may be thought that she would do better to turn some of the attention she bestows on "advanced politics," both at home and abroad, to the improvement of her natural resources, which have not yet been brought up nearly to the level at which they stood before the waves of conquest and spoliation swept over her. All the civilized world is interested in the revival of Greece, as was once more proved by the gathering at the Duke of Sparta's marriage. The guests met, indeed, to discharge a pleasant family duty, but it may be doubted if some of them would have gone so far for such a purpose had the little kingdom been a mere Serbia or Montenegro instead of the land that was, long before the rest of Europe emerged out of the darkness of prehistoric times, the cradle of artistic power, intellectual effort, and political capacity.—*London Mail*.

REFINED BARBARISM.

We shudder at the marriage market of the Easterns. We think it "awful" that women should be bought and sold to the highest bidder like so much cattle at a fair. We deprecate the savage customs which allow a young brave to steal his wife by first knocking her on the head and clubbing her male relations. We hold blankets and cows to be no fit equivalent for human flesh; and we imagine sweet little idyls of youths and maidens, scantily clothed, wandering by the river's side or through the dark aisles of a tropical forest—loving, innocent and free. But here, in our refined and civilized country—here, in this Christian England, where we all vow by our proxies to renounce the world, the flesh and the devil—we sell our daughters to the highest bidders, all the same as in the open Eastern market. We exchange their fair young flesh for the local equivalent of cows and blankets. We suppress their natural repugnance by arguments quite as conclusive and irresistible as the savage's club; and with these same arguments we knock on the head all the lovers and all the protectors who would, if they could, save the girl from such a fate. Our managing mothers are women without compassion, conscience, or even true knowledge of human nature. Their god is gold; their Apollyon, whom they must overcome, is the celibacy of their daughters. To vanquish the one and carry their living tribute to the other constitute the grand success of life; and let the means be what it will—November for Jane, or a Borgia for a Saint Agnes—it matters nothing to the mother; she has managed to marry all her daughters, *tant bien que mal*, and she may now sing her shrill and discordant *Te Deum*.—*Truth, London*.

ABOUT AUTOGRAPHS.

There has been a somewhat brisk correspondence lately, in the (London) *Athenaeum*, with regard to the sale of autographs of celebrities. Provided the letters do not contain any private matter, or anything that the writer would desire not to be made public, I cannot see that it can do any harm. As the copyright of any letter is the property of the writer and not the receiver, its publication can at once be stopped should it appear to be desirable. This course in special instances has frequently been taken. The author of "Adam Bede" used to have printed on top of her letter paper, "You are particularly requested to burn this letter when read." And probably if most letters were burned directly they were answered, it would save a great deal of trouble to everybody. But people will not, as a general rule, carry out this excellent precept. I believe there is a kind of ink, known to chemists, which will, in the course of a week or two, fade away altogether and leave nothing but a sheet of blank paper. People who dislike their letters being hawked about might use this to advantage. But, after all, autograph hunting, within decent limits, is a very harmless amusement. The only drawback with regard to a celebrity's letters is that he, the manufacturer, so to speak, gets no profit on their sale. I know a case of a popular author who saw a letter of his advertised for five shillings. He went to the dealer, looked at the letter, and asked how much had been given for it. He was told four shillings. Whereupon the author offered to supply the dealer with as many as he pleased at half-a-crown apiece. This seems to be a sensible and purely business view of the transaction, but the dealer did not seem to think that letters written to order would have so ready a sale as those acquired in promiscuous fashion.—*J. Ashby Sterry, in Book Buyer*.

SHORT VERSUS LONG.

A "Rustic Moralist," writing to the *Times*, declares that long sermons are the greatest grievances of a half-urban, half-rural parish in the South of England. If so, the half-urban, half-rural parish is a very happy one. As to the long sermons, they are undoubtedly a great grievance where they are lifeless too, as the sermons complained of appear to be. But even if the worst sermons are usually long—because, as Blanco White once said, "It was very good of the preacher to stop at all, for there was no reason why he should,"—we are by no means sure that the best sermons are short. When a man has a good deal in him to say, in nine cases out of ten he will hardly be able to say what would be most useful to his hearers in ten minutes or a quarter of an hour. The wisest practice would be to let an interval of two or three minutes elapse between the close of the service and the sermon, in order that those who do not feel equal to the prolonged stay might go home without giving offence. That would be far better than cutting all sermons down to a Procrustean standard of length.—*Spectator*.

NATURAL REFRESHING SLEEP.

HOW THIS TERRIBLE DISEASE, THE FORERUNNER OF INSANITY, CAN BE POSITIVELY AND PERMANENTLY CURED.
NO ONE NEED DESPAIR.

Your doctor can tell you by reference to his case books that sleeplessness, with restless and wakeful nights, followed by a weak, tired and exhausted feeling on arising in the morning, is more frequent among his patients than any other trouble. He will assert most positively that it is the sure forerunner of physical prostration and complete nervous exhaustion, ending in insanity. Thousands allow themselves to drift toward the awful verge of insanity, without knowing that the feelings and sensations which they experience day by day are fast hurrying them on to utter mental collapse and absolute prostration of nerve power.

Those who have felt the maddening misery of sleeplessness know only too well that insanity is its near relative. Save yourself from these terrible results while there is yet time by the use of that wonderful nerve restorer, Paine's Celery Compound. For all the different forms of bad sleep it is a true remedy. It soothes, calms, and quiets the weakened, irritated and over-excited nerves, producing perfect repose and refreshing natural sleep; at the same time it imparts renewed life, strength, vitality and vigour to the nervous system, and restores the physical energies and powers to perfect health and strength.

"In the summer of 1888 I had to work very hard, and was troubled considerably with insomnia (sleeplessness). I resolved to try your Paine's Celery Compound, and after taking the contents of two bottles, felt like a new man. A good night's rest gave me strength for the duties of the day, and instead of starting out to business in the morning feeling as if I had completed a day's work instead of being about to commence one, I started out in good spirits, feeling fresh and strong." A. Sabiston, Montreal.

Paine's Celery Compound may be purchased of any druggist at one dollar per bottle. Refuse substitutes, for this medicine has no equal.

On our 787th page to-day will be found a striking and instructive illustration of the comparative worth of the various kinds of baking powders now in the market.

British and Foreign.

LADY PLUNKETT, wife of the Archbishop of Dublin, is dead.

Two cases of pocket-picking occurred at Dumfries Synod Conference.

ABERDEEN has the credit of sending out more missionaries than any other county in Scotland.

DR. DUGALD REVIE was ordained in St. John's, Glasgow, as medical missionary to Central India.

THE Rev. John Russell, M.A., Lochwinnoch, succeeds Mr. M'Indoe as Clerk of the Paisley Presbytery.

KILBURNIE congregation now meet afternoon and evening having discontinued the Sabbath forenoon service.

THE Blue Cross Knights is the title of a new temperance organization in Berlin; its president is a nobleman.

THE Rev. James R. Gillies, M.A., of Hampstead, has published a volume of sermons under the title, "Mantle and Staff."

PRINCIPAL CAIRD, on account of illness, was unable to preside at the meeting of the General Council of Glasgow University.

THE 112th anniversary of the East U. P. Church, Strathaven, and semi-jubilee of Mr. Donaldson were commemorated by special services.

DR. MARSHALL LANG preached on a recent Sunday forenoon in Kelvinside Free Church, in Rev. Mr. Ross Taylor's absence at Perth.

DR. R. H. GUNNING has sent \$1,500 to help the Waldensian Church in its evangelistic work in Italy, and has promised \$500 a year in future.

A SECTION of the St. Andrews students thought of nominating Bishop Lightfoot for the university rectorship, but he declined to stand.

IT is reported that the Protestant Defence Association are about to put the law in motion against Ritualistic practices in certain Dublin churches.

THE contest for the rectorship of St. Andrews University will probably be between the Marquis of Dufferin and Lord Balfour of Burleigh.

By arrangement with Rev. John M'Neill, Messrs. Nisbet and Co. have begun to publish weekly, in pamphlet form, a sermon by that eminent preacher.

LORD ROSEBURY'S presentation volume to the Scottish History Society, "Lists of Rebels of 1745," will appear, with a preface from his pen, next spring.

MR. DAVID MASON pronounces the Scott monument in Edinburgh the finest that has yet been raised anywhere on the earth to the memory of a man of letters.

IT is reported that a gentleman in Derby is surrendering a situation on the Midland Railway worth \$5,000 a year to work in the Wesleyan Forward Movement.

DR. HENRY COWAN has taken leave of New Greyfriars, Edinburgh, being appointed to succeed Prof. Christie at Aberdeen. He has been formally inducted to his chair.

THE Rev. C. A. Salmond's call to South Morningside is not yet allowed to drop even at his own request. Mr. J. Rutherford Hill appeals to the Assembly in the matter.

A "SACRED" relic now in the museum at Stockholm was formerly in the church at Skifvarp, where it wrought miracles as the hand of a saint; in reality it is the fin of a seal.

THE wealth of the British Museum is not merely the result of the copyright laws, for as a rule the purchased works outnumber those acquired under the Act of Parliament.

THE beadle of Inverness Gaelic Church read an edict to the congregation from the pulpit. The Presbytery did not accept this as sufficient; one of the members termed it sacrilege.

MR. WYON, the engraver, is about to offer the Livingstone gold medal for competition annually among the students of Nonconformist colleges in an essay on Missionary Enterprise.

NEXT to London, and perhaps to Oxford, Edinburgh has the largest provision of books of any city in the British Empire—close on a million on the shelves of her various public libraries.

A JEW fruit dealer is the new Lord Mayor of London; and a Jew fruit dealer is expecting to be the Lord Provost of Glasgow after Mr. Muir of Dunston, the newly-elected chief magistrate of the second city.

ARCHBISHOP THOMSON deplores that the sin of gambling has largely spread over every class within his own recollection. It is a vice besetting society which it is as much a duty to abstain from as from thieving.

DR. JAMES MACGREGOR had a very hearty reception from the Y. M. C. A. of St. Cuthbert's on the first appearance after his return trip from Australia when he presided at a lecture on John Knox by Dr. William Landels.

THE lately deceased Professor Cobet, of Leyden, the greatest Grecian since Porson, retired from his chair some years ago, broken in health, and with his vast mental powers gone. Latterly he read nothing but French novels.

THE "services for the people" conducted in Renfield Street Church, Glasgow, by Rev. A. F. Forrest, are attracting crowded congregations. The choir, in choruses and solos, does its work with marked taste and impressiveness.

THE murder of a Greek Christian missionary at Antioch is being investigated by the authorities at Aleppo, and in a letter to Professor Chancellor, of Belfast, Lord Salisbury says it is expected that the guilty parties will be reached.

AT Beith twenty-nine members of the congregation appeared before the kirk-session to lodge objections against the admission of its own nominees as elders. These were repelled, and an appeal to the Presbytery was intimated.

DR. OSWALD DYKES has begun the winter session with twenty-nine students, nearly all university men, and twelve of them graduates. They come from a variety of universities—Cambridge, the Royal University of Ireland, London, Glasgow, Aberdeen, St. Andrews, and Owens College, Manchester. Twelve are first year's men. The curriculum is three years devoted wholly to theology.