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No man is born into the world whose work
Is not born with him; there 's always work,
And tools to work withal, for those who will;
And blessed are the horny hands of toil!
The busy world shoves angrily aside
The man who stands with arms akimbo set,
Until occasion tells him what to do;
And he who waits to have his task marked out
Shall die and leave his errand unfulfilled.

—James Russell Lowell.

OVER LAND AND SEA.

Nearly all sermons are good. Some are good for saints, some for sinners, some for both and some good for nothing.

Queen Olga of Greece is a most systematically energetic woman, and she employs a large part of her time in works of practical philanthropy. She devotes an hour or two each day to the great Evangelismos Hospital at Athens, which she created and manages in person. She acknowledges with her own hand each contribution for the hospital, and almost every other charitable institution in the Hellenic kingdom owes its origin to her. She taxes not only her purse but also her personality in works of charity, and the motive for effort is apparently the deeper one of sincere love for God and for humanity.

A decree has been promulgated at Asaba abolishing slavery in the Niger Territories. It will come into force on the Diamond Jubilee Day.

Single windows for the Queen's Jubilee in London, England, are already renting for \$250. It is stated that the fashions of 1837, the year of the Queen's accession to the throne will be revived.

William, since crowned Emperor of Germany, has killed 25,372 game animals. What would the dumb animals call him if they could talk?

Since the foundation of the British and Foreign Bible Society—ninety-three years ago—upwards of twelve millions sterling have been spent by it in the work of translating, revising, printing, and circulating the Scriptures.

Dr. Dawson Burns has presented the nation with its annual drink bill. Over six and a half millions more were spent in drink in 1896 than in 1895. The total expenditure was £148,972,230. This amounts to about £4 per head of the population. It seems clear that Temperance makes small headway.

In the quarter-century since the death of George Peabody his magnificent gift of \$2,500,000 for workmen's houses in London has increased to \$6,000,000. It is interesting to note that in these houses the death-rate of infants is four per cent. below the average death-rate in London. Last year the Trustees of the Peabody Fund provided over eleven thousand rooms, besides bath-rooms, lavatories, and laundries; nearly twenty thousand persons occupied them.

The Presbyterian Church in the United States has opened a mission to the dwarfs in Africa—the first mission to this interesting and mysterious people. A Christian

lady in Scotland meets the expense of the mission. Three missionaries are engaged in this new work, and the Board is ready to appoint another missionary whenever a suitable man offers.

The African Methodists of the State of Illinois are about to build a church at Springfield, the capital of the State, in honor of Abraham Lincoln. It will be named the Lincoln Memorial Church, and will cost \$80,000. In it there are to be three memorial windows. The largest of these will be dedicated to Lincoln, and the two smaller to John Brown and Frederick Douglass. A still more interesting feature will be a memorial room in which are to be kept all sorts of slavery relics, including portraits of the most eminent abolition leaders, an auction-block, the Lovejoy printing press, and the rope which was used in the hanging of John Brown.

A cool million of pounds is to be handed over to the Roman Catholic hierarchy of Ireland for the establishment of a Roman Catholic University in Ireland. "A sop to Cerberus," says one of the Irish journals. It will not satisfy the craving for power, or the greed for money, which have been the characteristics of the Church of Rome in Ireland for many past years. It has already been declared by supporters of the this Church that the "million" will not do, and one man has suggested that the right thing to do, though even this will not complete the list of concessions, is to hand back Trinity College, Dublin, with all its prestige and its rich endowments, to the Papal Church.

The movement started among the elders and deacons of the Presbyterian Churches of Louisville, Kentucky, (both of North and South,) in favor of reunion of the two branches, attracts wide attention. The movers seem very much in earnest, and are urging all the sessions of churches to see to it that such steps are taken at the spring meetings of the Presbyteries as will bring about action on the matter at the next meetings of the General Assemblies. It is proposed that each Assembly be invited to meet in 1898 in Louisville.

The best known Protestant missionary in Spain is Fritz Fliedner, son of the famous Pastor Fliedner, of Kaiserswerth, the reviver of the deaconesses' work in the Protestant Church. Pastor Fliedner, Jr., has been successfully at work in Spain for nearly twenty-years, and has paid special attention to educational projects. His monthly reports, entitled *Blatter aus Spanien*, are exceedingly interesting and can be had for the asking, of Pastor Graebner, of Hagen, Westphalia, Pa.

Japan is a land without domestic animals. There are no cows—the Japanese neither drink milk nor eat meat. There are but few horses, and these are imported mainly for the use of foreigners. The freight-carts in the streets are pulled and pushed by collies, and the pleasure carriages are drawn by men. There are but few dogs, and these are neither used as watch-dogs, beasts of burden, nor in hunting, except by foreigners. There are no sheep in Japan, and wool is not used in clothing, silk and cotton being the staples. There are no pigs—pork is an unknown article of diet, and lard is not used in cooking. There are no goats, or mules, or donkeys. Wild animals there are, however, and in particular bears of enormous size.