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THE OLD HYMNS.

BY FRANK STANTON.

There's lots o' music in 'em—the hymns of long ago,
An' when some grey-haired brother sings the ones I used to know
I sorter want to take a hand!—I think o' days gone by:
"On Jordan's stormy banks I stand and cast a wishful eye!"

There's lots o' music in 'em—those dear, sweet hymns of old—
With visions bright of lands of light, and shining streets of gold;
And I hear 'em ringing—singing, where Mem'ry, dreaming, stands,
"From Greenland's icy mountains to India's coral strands."

They seem to sing forever, of holier, sweeter days,
When the lilies of the love of God bloomed white in all the ways;
And I want to hear their music from the old-time meetin's rise
Till "I can read my title clear to mansions in the skies."

We never needed singin' books in them old days—we knew
The words—the tunes of every one the dear old hymn-book through!
We didn't have no trumpets then—no organs built for show:
We only sang to praise the Lord "from whom all blessings flow."

An' so I love the old hymns, and when my time shall come—
Before the light has left me, and my singing lips are dumb,
If I can only hear 'em then, I'll pass without a sigh
"To Canaan's fair and happy land, where my possessions lie!"

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The Class-meeting.—The *Methodist Times* thinks that "there is no simpler, or more urgently needed method of increasing church membership than to give a new, empty class-book to every young man and every young woman who may probably prove a born leader. Let these zealous young people go into the congregation and into the world outside, and recruit their own members."

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A Severe Sentence.—Professor Lombroso's daughter Paola has been sentenced in the criminal court of Turin to twenty-two days' imprisonment and a fine of sixty-two lire. Her crime was publishing an article in a socialistic paper, in which she described the misery she herself had seen among the poor people, and declared that the social system which made such evil conditions should be changed. This is trying to apply the methods of the Middle Ages to the nine-

teenth century with a vengeance. It will not, however, check the wheels of social progress.

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A Working Pastor.—Rev. Dr. Hillis, of Chicago, goes to Beecher's Church, Brooklyn. His "church" in Chicago had no Sunday School, no prayer-meeting, and no religious work. The congregation had nothing to do but to listen to a sermon on Sunday morning, and sing three hymns. This was one reason why Dr. Hillis desired a change. He loves the Sunday School, is successful as a prayer-meeting leader, and knows how to do personal work. Plymouth Church wants just such a man.

✕

Be Definite in Your Meetings.—It was a wise leader who said to the League at a recent service when the time for testimonies had arrived: "Be definite, Leaguers; let us talk on the lines I have indicated, so that all present may carry away from our meeting a clear and well-defined idea of the evening's subject." We lose much wandering about over various fields in the way of our talks. Let us try to have some central thought in every service from which we may expect some definite good to come.

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The Time to Save.—In a recent address in New York, Joseph H. Choate said: "It has been said that a man, if he is ever going to save anything, must begin before he is thirty, even if he lays up only a little at a time. It is equally certain that if a man is ever going to extend a helping hand to charity he must begin about the same age. But when he does not begin right the habit of closeness grows with his age, and he gets worse and worse as he grows older. That's the reason why you find so many curmudgeons in New York."

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The Disarmament Proposal.—William T. Stead, the irrepressible English author and journalist, has been interviewing the Czar of Russia anent the latter's disarmament proposition. Mr. Stead assures the world that the Czar is wholly sincere in his desire for peace and the reduction of great military establishments, but that he fears the other nations will not consent. The Russian ruler is represented as taking a very gloomy view of the situation, saying: "I see nothing before any nation but a terrible heritage of revolutionary anarchy." In commenting on this, the *Michigan Christian Advocate* says: "The crushing burdens and the threatening possibilities of the armed-tooth policy of the great European nations are not exaggerated by the Czar, and the desirability of universal peace and harmony cannot be over-estimated. But the world would have a good deal more confidence in the Czar's sincerity if

Russia would set the pace a little bit—for instance, by ceasing her greedy advances in China, and abating the bitter religious persecution against her own best citizens. Put the jewel of consistency in your crown, Czar Nicholas."

✕

Work it Out with Nature.—The *Popular Science Monthly* thus deals with "Christian Science": "To argue against it on scientific grounds would be almost too ridiculous. When people make a denial of the laws of matter the basis of their creed, we can only leave them to work it out with Nature. They will find that, like all the world, they are subject to the law of gravitation and to the laws of chemistry and physics. If one of them happens to be run over by a railway train the usual results will follow; and so of a multitude of conceivable accidents. A Christian Scientist who 'blows out the gas' will be asphyxiated just like anybody else; and if he walks off the wharf into the water he will require rescue or resuscitation just as if he were a plain 'Christian' or a plain 'scientist.' Like Shylock, he is 'fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases' as the rest of the community; and little by little the eternal course of things will chastise his extravagant fancies into reasonable accord with facts."

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Raise the Standard.—Rev. Dr. Clark, President of the United Society of Christian Endeavor, sent "a birthday message" to Christian Endeavorers for the eighteenth anniversary of the Society. It is a stirring appeal which the young people of all the churches should read and heed. He says: "Nearly fifteen years ago, in the early days of the movement, when there were scarcely a thousand societies in all the world, I sent them a message which they were kind enough to take up and reprint in many languages and repeat in many forms. It was this: 'Raise the standard.' Let me repeat that message once more, for in all these years I have not changed my mind on the matter, and my message in 1899 is the same as in 1884. The last dozen years have been years of peculiar temptation to young people. The standards of many churches in regard to worldly amusements have been lowered. Many practices which a dozen years ago would have been utterly condemned, are to-day admitted in some Christian circles. The strain put upon many young Christians by this conformity to the world all around them has been almost unbearable, and some, alas! have yielded to it. Look this matter of worldliness squarely in the face. Decide what you ought to do as a young Christian. Do not be laughed or browbeaten out of your convictions. Lift up your banner and stand to your colors."