

I shall be within hearing of it. I will come myself if you ring it, however faintly. You know this man?"

"Yes," she answered.
She saw him look across at her with an encouraging smile; and then the door was shut, and she was alone with her mysterious visitor.

(To be continued.)

LIGHT WINES AND BEER.

The often-urged plea drawn from the example of Germany may perhaps be best answered by the following, from the "North-Western Christian Advocate":—

"And now comes a cry of distress from Germany, the land of wine and lager, a cry of alarm at the increase of drunkenness. The advocates of light wines and beer as substitutes for rum and whiskey have for years pointed to Germany as an illustration. The advocates of the free sale of beer and ale have pointed to the same example. But now the 'Nation' publishes a Berlin letter upon the alarming increase of intemperance, and the use of alcoholic drinks in place of or in addition to the use of beer. Belgium has, since 1840, more than doubled the use of alcohol, and in the industrial districts has a dram shop for every seven persons. In Germany the dram-shops increased in two years 12,261—about 10 per cent. The Emperor of Germany, in his late address to his Parliament, called attention to the serious increase of crimes and misdemeanors committed by men in a state of drunkenness, and Parliament has sought to limit the number of licensed dram-shops. It is apparent that wine and beer are no preventives of drunkenness. Rather they awaken and stimulate the appetite for stronger drinks."

One more plea remains to be considered—the allegation that the use of beer is conducive to health. In this connection, Sir Henry Thompson, a distinguished London physician, says:—"The habitual use of fermented liquors to an extent far short of that necessary to produce intoxication, and such as is common in all ranks of society, injures the body and diminishes the mental power to an extent which, I think, few people are aware of. Such, at all events, is the result of observations during more than twenty years of professional life, devoted to both hospital and private practice. Thus I have no hesitation in attributing a large proportion of the most dangerous maladies which come under my notice, as well as those which every medical man has to treat, to the ordinary and daily use of fermented drink taken in the quantity which is conventionally deemed moderate."

FRENCH FIELD MICE.

Darwin's familiar paradox, that the fertilization of certain flowers may depend upon the number of ants in their neighborhood, has an illustration now in France, where it may even be carried a step further. Any observer who knows the French rural districts well must be struck by the immense number of mouse holes which may be seen in some places. The surface of the ground at times has quite the appearance of a network of little burrows, where it would be impossible for one of the field-bees required for the fertilization of Mr. Darwin's flowers to find a secure spot for its nest. In the department of the Aisne alone it has just been calculated by a Special Commission that these field mice have cost the farmers no less than thirteen million francs. The climate seems to be especially favourable to these creatures; and, the population being sparse, the number of cats is few, and the mice increase and multiply beyond belief. Arsenic has been tried in the open; but the hares and rabbits get killed first; and now the plan adopted is to construct heaps or small stacks of straw, to which the mice resort in myriads. These heaps are placed partly below the level of the ground, and are securely packed and covered in, being first stored with poisoned beetroot, turnips, and carrots. This plan is said to be succeeding well, and without harm to the hares and rabbits.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

MORNING BRAIN WORK.

It seems strange that the habit of lying in bed hours after the sun is up should ever have obtained a hold on the multitude of brain-workers, as undoubtedly it had in times past. Hour for hour, the intellectual work done in the early morning, when the atmosphere is as yet unspoiled by the breath of myriads of actively moving creatures, must be, and, as a matter of experience, is incomparably better than that done at night. The habit of writing and reading late into the day and far into the night, "for the sake of quiet," is one of the most mischievous to which a man of mind can addict himself. When the body is jaded the spirit may seem to be at rest, and not so easily distracted by the surroundings which we think less obtrusive than in the day; but this seeming is a snare. When the body is weary, the brain, which is an integral part of the body, and the mind, which is simply brain function, are weary too. If we persist in working one part of the system because some other part is too tired to trouble us, that cannot be wise management of self. The feeling of tranquillity which comes over the busy and active man about 10.30 or 11 o'clock ought not to be regarded as an incentive to work. It is, in fact, the effect of a lowering of vitality consequent on the exhaustion of the physical sense. Nature wants and calls for physiological rest. Instead of complying with her reasonable demand, the night-worker hails the "feeling" of mental quiescence, mistakes it for clearness and acuteness, and whips the jaded organism with the will until it goes on working. What is the result? Immediately, the accomplishment of a task is well, but not half so well as if it had been performed with the vigour of a refreshed brain working in health from proper sleep. Remotely, or later on, comes the penalty to be paid for unnatural exertion—this is energy wrung from exhausted or weary nerve centres under pressure. This penalty takes the form of "nervousness," perhaps sleeplessness, almost certainly some loss or deterioration of function in one or more of the great organs

concerned in nutrition. To relieve these maladies—springing from this unsuspected cause—the brain worker very likely has recourse to the use of stimulants, possibly alcoholic, or it may be simply tea or coffee. The sequel need not be followed. Nightwork during student life and in after years is the fruitful cause of much unexplained, though by no means inexplicable suffering, for which it is difficult, if not impossible, to find a remedy. Surely morning is the time for work, when the whole body is rested, the brain relieved from its tension, and mind-power at its best.—*London Lancet*.

A LITTLE FURTHER ON.

"A little further on," we say—

"A little further on"—

When the hope deferred makes long delay,

And few delights are won;

To patient waiting still resigned,

We fortify the heart and mind,

Assured the treasure we will find

A little further on.

To-day we suffer grief and pain,

And thorns our path annoy;

The biting winds and beating rain

Our tender buds destroy;

And yet a little further on

The storms tempestuous are gone,

And tranquilly we come upon

A miracle of joy.

Though dull and dark these days may be,

And full of sore distress,

Though naught around us we may see

To comfort or to bless,

A little further on, our eyes

Are greeted with unclouded skies,

And from Love's ark an angel flies

To cheer our loneliness.

Though suddenly, and all too soon,

Day's golden beams are shorn,

And at the royal hour of noon

To-night's embrace are borne;

Though deepest darkness may prevail,

Though deepest terrors may assail,

A little further on we hail,

A little further on.

"A little further on," we say,

When health and strength are gone,

When those we loved have passed away,

And we are left alone;

Still to our Father's will resigned,

We wait with patient heart and mind,

Assured that peace and rest we'll find

A little further on!

—Josephine Pollard.

BOOTS VS. THE GUILLOTINE.

During the French Revolution, a feuilletoniste named Schlaberndorf, who possessed considerable ability as a writer, by heartily espousing the cause of the Girondists in all that emanated from his pen, rendered himself obnoxious to Robespierre, and at the dictation of that fierce leader was incarcerated.

When the death-cart, one morning, came to the prison for a load of those who were that day to be mercilessly butchered, Schlaberndorf's name was on the list of the victims. The jailor informed him that such was the case, and he dressed himself for his last ride very nonchalantly and—he was extremely fastidious as to his personal appearance—with great care. His boots, however, he could not find. Here, there, everywhere, assisted by the jailor, he looked for them to no avail.

"I am quite willing to be executed," said he to the jailor, after their fruitless search, "but really, I should be ashamed to go to the guillotine without my boots. Nor do I wish to detain this excursion party," smiling grimly. "Will it make any difference if my execution is deferred till tomorrow? By that time I shall probably succeed in finding my boots."

"I don't know that it will matter particularly when you are guillotined," replied the functionary. "Suppose we call it to-morrow, then?"

"All right," and the jailor allowed Schlaberndorf to remain, not unwillingly, as, owing to his universal good humour, he was especially liked by jailor and prisoners.

The following morning, when the cart drew up before the prison door for its "batch" of victims, Schlaberndorf—dressed cap-a-pie—stood waiting the summons of the jailor to take his place therein. But his name was not called that morning, nor the next, nor the fourth, nor, indeed, ever again; for, of course, it was believed he had perished on the original morning.

Till the sway of Robespierre had ended, he remained in prison; then he regained his liberty, as did the rest of those whose heads had not fallen beneath the blood-stained axe.—*Yonah's Companion*.

WHEN we fight more against ourselves and less against God, we shall cease fighting against one another.

TRY not to think evil of a person. Believe only good concerning him till you know to the contrary.

THE Archbishop of York and officers of other denominations in England have recommended to their churches to petition Parliament to stop the opium traffic.

FIREPROOF paper has been successfully made in Germany of ninety-five parts of asbestos and five of wood fibre, which can be raised to white heat without injury. Fireproof writing and printing inks to use with it are also made.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

FIVE thousand workmen are on strike in Paris.

THERE are 511 Irish "suspects" at present confined in prison.

THERE is a rumour that the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland will resign.

FOUR counties in Kansas have women for school superintendents.

BISMARCK has expressed himself in friendly terms to the Russian ambassador.

TWO members of the Ohio Legislature have been arrested on a charge of bribery.

MESSRS. MOODY and Sankey do not accept the invitation to spend a year in London.

LABOUR strikes are still prevalent throughout the industrial regions of the United States.

ARRANGEMENTS are being made for the emigration to the United States of 12,000 Russian Jews.

AT Rio Janeiro jewels to the value of \$100,000 have been stolen from the ladies of the imperial family of Brazil.

THE Mexican Government has closed a contract subsidizing a line of steamers between England and Mexico.

THREE men-of-war are to be sent to Monrovia to punish the people for ill-treating British subjects belonging to Sierra Leone.

AN English commission is about to be despatched to Madrid to negotiate about a commercial treaty between England and Spain.

THERE is a physician to every 500 or 600 of the population in the United States; the permanent ratio of the sick is 18 to 22 per 1,000.

THERE has been a severe spell of frost in South-eastern Europe, and great damage has been done to the fruit trees, vines, and young wheat.

THE Chester magistrates have received a letter threatening them with death if they sentenced the men charged with assaulting the Salvationists.

BISHOP NULTY, it is stated, has refused to obey the summons of the Committee of the House of Lords to attend and give evidence on the Land Act.

THE Czar of Russia is desirous of an interview with the Emperor of Austria. In view of his approaching coronation he has appointed district marshals in Poland.

MICROSCOPIC insects are preying upon the violet in Europe, so that the sweet flower is threatened with extinction. In the provinces of the Rhone it is already destroyed.

THE leading pastors and influential Christians of New Orleans have organized a Lord's Day League for the education of the masses of the people in the better observance of the Sabbath.

At a meeting of the governors, directors, and proprietors of the Bank of England, it was resolved that the remuneration of the directors should be increased from £8,000 to £14,000 per annum.

THE Merchants' Exchange in San Francisco was closed on the first Sabbath in April, for the first time since its organization. A placard on the door announced, "Closed on account of the Sunday Law."

REV. C. T. WHITMORE states in the London "Christian," that of twenty infidel lecturers and writers who have been prominent in the last thirty years, sixteen have abandoned their infidelity and openly professed their faith in Christianity.

At a teachers' meeting recently held in Hartford it was suggested as a good plan for self-cultivation that teachers should devote an entire year to one study at a time, taking up sculpture one year, and the next engraving or chemistry or history.

THE next issue of gold coinage will bear the impression of Her Majesty from a new die. This, which is only the second taken during Her Majesty's reign, will present the features of the Queen as seen at present, and she will be depicted as wearing the imperial crown.

THE Second Annual Convention of the National Land League met in Washington on Wednesday of last week, a large number of delegates being present. Among other resolutions were a series condemning the actions of Minister Lowell, and urging his recall. On Thursday the Convention adjourned.

FATHER CURCI, the Italian Catholic priest who has been censured by the Pope for his liberal views, is translating the Bible from the Hebrew into the Italian for the benefit of the priests. He is sanguine in the expectation, which all Protestants will rejoice to see fulfilled, that "the day is not far distant when the Catholic clergy will turn with ardour to the Holy Scriptures."

THE Minister of the Russian imperial household has issued a circular announcing that the coronation of the Czar will take place in August, at Moscow. The festivities will last a fortnight, and it is estimated that the expenses will amount to 10,000,000 roubles, about \$7,500,000. The celebration when the late Czar was crowned lasted a month, and cost 18,000,000 roubles.

GREAT PAUL, the new monster bell for St. Paul's Cathedral in London, was successfully rung two weeks ago at the foundry in Loughborough. It was swung at the time on its own headstock, being supported two feet from the ground on temporary timbering. It was lifted by a fifty-ton iron crane, and nineteen men were required to ring it properly, though four could make it speak. While shut in by walls and houses, the bell was heard seven miles away. It is said that this is the first case of a bell of anything like the weight of Great Paul being swung. All the large bells of Russia are struck—they are never swung—while the great bell in Notre Dame at Paris is worked by a treadle or some other mechanical arrangement.