

her head, looked at Josephine, and then, laughing, ran on again.

These proceedings had led them half-way to the end of the avenue, when suddenly a woman rushed up panting, seized the child by the arm and dragged her off to the castle, scolding her in a strange language.

Josephine, like a prudent girl, had stepped behind an old lime tree, whose thick trunk entirely hid her. There she began to think. "It is a beautiful place," she said to herself, "but the people are not good here. Truly, the young lady is pretty and bright as they say the fairies are, but a little mischievous. Now they have twice scolded her on my account; perhaps it will soon be my turn to be scolded." The old tree was then covered with blossoms, and a thousand bees were sucking the honey from its flowers. "I shall be stung here," said Josephine, brushing away a bee from her mouth, where it had lighted. "What am I doing? Ah, if my father had only said nothing, these pretty doves would be mine and I should be at home."

(To be continued.)

SAYINGS OF CHINESE GORDON.

I am neither a Napoleon nor a Colbert. I do not profess either to have been a great ruler or a great financier; but I can say this—I have cut off the slave-dealers in their strongholds, and I made the people love me.

I must not complain if they (the natives) have no thought of what I have already gone through. There is only one issue to it, and that is death, and I often feel I wish it would come and relieve me.

I have certainly got into a slough with the Soudan; but looking at my ranker, my Commander-in-chief, and my Administrator, it will be wonderful if I do not get out of it. If I had not this Almighty Power to back me in His infinite wisdom, I do not know how I could ever think of what is to be done.

It is lamentable work, and over and over again in this fearful heat I wish I was in the other world. When I look back on the hours and hours of waiting for this and that, during China and later campaigns, and here, I really think few men have had such worries in this way. But I am wrong in it; the lot is cast evenly to us all. We are servants; sometimes our Master gives us work, and at others He does not, and our feelings in both circumstances should be the same. All I can say is, that this inaction, with so much to do elsewhere, is very trying indeed to my body.

I have just seen Khalifa Atta, who reigned for a few hours (as Ameer), and I told him it was better to be humble, and not high, than to be proud and elevated, for a fall has always to be feared; if one is near the ground one cannot fall very far.

I esteem it a far greater honour to promote peace than to gain any paltry honours in a wretched war.

There would be no one so unwelcome to come and reside in the world as Christ while the world is in the state it now is. He would be dead against—say, nearly all of our pursuits, and be altogether *outré*. I give you Watson on Contentment: it is this true exposition of how happiness is to be obtained—i.e., submission to the will of God, whatever that will may be; he who can say he realises this has overcome the world and its trials. Everything that happens to-day, good or evil, is settled and fixed, and it is no use fretting over it. The quiet, peaceful life of our Lord was solely due to His submission to God's will. There will be times when a strain will come on me, and as the strain so your strength will be.

The future world has been somehow painted to our mind as a place of continuous praise; and though we may not say it, yet one cannot help feeling that, if true, it would prove monotonous. It cannot be thus. It must be a life of activity; for happiness is dependent upon activity. Death is cessation of movement: Life is all movement.

Poor little wretches, slaves, only stomachs and heads, with antennae for legs and arms—the enormous stomachs caused by gross feeding.

The Soudan is a useless possession, ever was so, and ever will be so. Larger than Germany, France, and Spain together, and mostly barren, it cannot be governed except by a Dictator who may be good or bad. If bad he will cause instant revolts. No one who has lived in the Soudan can escape the reflection: "What a useless possession is this land!" Few men, also, can stand its fearful monotony and deadly climate.

As for tax-collecting, or any government existing outside the forts, it is all nonsense. You cannot go out in safety half a mile—all because they have been fighting the poor natives and stealing their cattle.

TYCHO BRAHE.

Tycho, or Tyge, de Brahe, sometimes called the "Recluse of Astronomy," was born in 1546, at Knudstorp, in Scania, which then belonged to Denmark. He was descended from an ancient, princely family, the ruins of whose castle, Wismersborg, are still to be seen on the shores of the Lake of Weller. He was the second of ten children, and he, as well as his sister Sophia, gave promise of very great intellectual ability. After the death of his father, his maternal uncle, Sveno Belle, sent him to Copenhagen to study philosophy. He had early manifested a taste for astronomy; but his relatives designed him for the legal profession, and accordingly his uncle sent him in 1562 to pursue his studies at Leipzig. But the love of astronomy had become with Brahe such a ruling passion, that he would clandestinely leave the college buildings to make investigations. With only the aid of a small celestial globe and a wooden circle for the measurement of the stars, in 1565 he observed the conjunction of Saturn with Jupiter. The inheritance of one small piece of property in 1565, enabled him to follow his darling scheme of prosecuting astronomical experiments, in which he was encouraged by the Danish government. The King, Frederick II., recognizing his talents, requested him to give lectures in Copenhagen on mathematics and comets. His reputation was, if possible, more firmly established by

his discovery of a new star in the constellation Cassiopea. The king at once took him under his special patronage, giving him a pension of 2,000 crowns and a canonry which yielded 1,000 crowns. He also gave to Brahe the island of Huen, where in 1580 he had built for him a laboratory and a magnificent observatory, which was called Uraniborg. A powerful influence was there given to astronomical researches. He was visited by many celebrated personages.

Brahe discovered two inequalities of the moon, besides other valuable observations, and was, perhaps, the first who had correct ideas about comets. His system, a modification of that of Ptolemy, was not extensively adopted. But to Brahe belongs the distinction of having laid the foundation of practical astronomy. Kepler afterwards used his numerous and wonderful observations in his own discoveries. Nearly twenty years of his life were spent in assiduously following his astronomical pursuits. But, unfortunately, the king's death put a stop to all his hopes and aspirations. He became an object of persecution, owing to the hostility of Walchendorff and other members of the regency and was driven from Uraniborg. In 1597 he was obliged to leave Denmark for ever. The emperor Rodolph II. of Germany, invited the ex-patriated astronomer to his own chateau near Prague, assigning to him a pension of 3,000 florins. But Brahe, who could not live, having been exiled from his beloved Uraniborg, died in 1601 and was interred in the Thein-kirche. A beautiful marble effigy in Prague perpetuates his memory.

Little is known of his private life beyond the fact that when very young he incurred the displeasure of his relatives by a marriage with a peasant girl. The king tried in vain to effect a reconciliation. He was of a violent and hasty temper, excessively superstitious, always keeping near him a lunatic, whose ravings he regarded as prophetic.

"A Treatise on the New Phenomena of the Heavens" is one of the best of his astronomical works.—*Wacoona*.

BIDE A WEE, AND DINNA FRET.

Is the road very dreary?

Patience yet!

Rest will be sweeter if thou art weary,
And after night cometh the morning cheery,
Then bide a wee and dinna fret.

The clouds have silver lining,

Don't forget;

And though he's hidden still the sun is shining;
Courage! instead of tears and vain repining,
Just bide a wee and dinna fret.

With toil and cares unending

Art beset?

Bethink thee how the streams from heaven descending
Snap the stiff oak, but spare the willow bending,
And bide a wee and dinna fret.

Grief sharper sting doth borrow

From regret;

But yesterday is gone, and shall its sorrow
Unfit us for the present and the morrow?
Nay; bide a wee and dinna fret.

An over-anxious brooding

Doth beget

A host of fears and fantasies deluding;
Then, brother, lest these torments be intruding,
Just bide a wee and dinna fret.

Every Other Saturday.

REKBER AND ITS PEOPLE.

About half-way between Dongola and Khartoum is Berber, a town built of sun-dried bricks on a gravelly, sterile spot on the east bank, but with a strip of ground between it and the river, laid out in gardens of date, orange, lemon, pomegranate and other fruit trees. The houses, even of the better class, have not much furniture. There is a bedframe with strips of buffalo hide stretched across it, on which are laid neatly-made mats, so that it forms a seat in the daytime. Round the walls hang wooden bowls of various sizes, which are used instead of crockery; but sometimes one or two of our willow pattern plates may also be seen, and in these the hostess will take great pride. She has, also, great stores of vessels in the shape of urns, manufactured by herself of a mixture of clay and other materials; and when she leaves home she places them up in a peculiar way so that she can tell if they have been opened during her absence. The kitchen is separate, and in it there is a stone mill for grinding corn, and three large stones forming a fire-place. The drinking vessels are made out of gourds. The Nubian woman's dress is a piece of dark blue calico wrapped round her waist and coming half way down to her ankles, her head and the upper part of her body being covered by a white muslin scarf with a red border, which can be drawn across the face. Her hair is sometimes gummed into a bushy circle, at others hangs down in thick masses of innumerable plaits; and necklaces of agate and amber beads, coral bracelets, silver and coral rings, ear-rings and massive anklets complete the costume. The upper classes in Nubia have a curious way of cleansing the skin. Every morning they rub it all over, first with a kind of dough, and then with aromatic oil. This is called the dilka, and is said to be very refreshing.

PERHAPS one of the most notable factors in the unification of the Kingdom of Italy lies in its recognition of the potency of the press. It publishes to-day 1,375 newspapers and periodicals, 210 of which are in the Province of Rome.

THE inhabitants of St. Petersburg consider themselves fortunate in having had an average winter death-rate of only thirty-nine per 1,000 of population. In London, where the rate has been recently 19.5, this would be thought epidemic. The usual rate for the Russian capital is forty to forty-five.

British and Foreign.

THE Rev. D. McCallum, Watnish, is to be asked to become a crofters' candidate for Inverness-shire.

THE Rev. Dr. McAuslane is about to retire from the pastorate of Victoria park Congregational chapel, London.

A MEMORIAL window in honour of his parents has been placed in Murkirk Church, by Mr. Hunter, Glenapp.

THE Hon. Bernard Colclough, who is a candidate for Sheffield, has adopted the platform of the Liberation Society.

THE Empress Eugenie has written a book upon the various recollections of her life, which will be issued almost immediately.

A MINISTER of the Gospel at York, Maine, advertises: "Marriage a specialty, acceptable at all hours; strangers particularly invited."

VACCINATION with the microbe of leprosy is about to be undertaken in Honolulu, where the disease is spreading to an alarming extent.

MEN were cutting ice on one of the ponds in Wolurn, Mass., a few weeks ago, while robins were singing blithely in the trees on the shore.

THE Rev. Alex. Marshall, Kirkcubright has accepted \$2,500 from the railway company for injuries sustained at Bridge of Dee station. He claimed \$15,000.

ONE of the bishops has remarked that in consequence of the numerous calls of duty nowadays, "a bishop is in danger of becoming the most ignorant man in his diocese."

THE Nutmeg State is now reported to have recently flooded the Australian colonies with cigars made wholly of paper, carefully coloured and veined, and flavoured with nicotine.

HER vines, usually a waste product in this country, are said to have proved not only good stock for fine paper, but the best substitute yet obtained for rags in French paper mills.

IN the Maine State Reform School instruction is given in mechanical trades. The boys are carefully taught, first, the names and uses of tools, and then how to use and keep them in order.

M. DE QUATREFALES stated recently at a meeting of the Académie des Sciences that in Senegambia the inoculation of cattle against pleuro-pneumonia and small-pox had been practised for centuries.

THE Romish bishop of Meath has appointed a collection to be made at all the chapels for the payment of Messrs. Sullivan and Harrington, the two home rule members of Parliament for Westmeath.

A MURAI tablet has just been erected in the vestibule of Downshire-road Presbyterian Church, Newry, in memory of the late Rev. John Todd, who was pastor of the congregation for upwards of thirty-eight years.

ALTHOUGH it is a common thing for the smaller towns to obtain their water from beneath the surface (artesian wells generally), Martinez, Cal., is to reverse the order and obtain her supply from an altitude of 480 feet.

THE library of the late Dr. Lindsay Alexander, consisting of over 1,400 volumes of church history, theology, and general literature, including a collection of old Bibles, has been sold by public auction in Edinburgh.

A QUEER old man, who formerly lived near Dwight, Dakota, and who was looked upon as a crank, has received a large sum of money from Krupp, the German gun manufacturer, for a valuable discovery in projectiles.

MR. CHARLIE, an ultra Conservative and a turf authority, is candidate for the Slieford division of Lincolnshire. He was proposed by a Roman Catholic, seconded by a Primitive Methodist, and supported by a Churchman.

THE Rev. Dr. James MacGregor, St. Cathbert's, Edinburgh, on a recent Sabbath referred to the death of the oldest member of his session, Mr. Thomas Keddie, who had been connected with the congregation for sixty-four years.

IT is stated that Miss C. A. M. Blackwood, of Brearlie, has endowed Dunfermline Episcopal Church with \$25,000 and certain properties in Masterton, on condition that the incumbent ministers to the widows on the land of Masterton.

A SMALL brass calendar that President Garfield used to turn every morning, and that now bears the date "Saturday, July 2, 1881," never having been changed since that fatal morning, is a prized memento in the house of R. H. Hayes.

THE eightieth birthday of Thomas Cooper, author of the *Forgettery of Suicide*, has been publicly celebrated at Lincoln, where he has his home. A new Baptist chapel about to be erected in the city is to be called the Thomas Cooper memorial.

MOORE, the revivalist, was asked in the recent Convention in Milwaukee whether he had grace enough to die at the stake. He replied: "No. I don't need it; all I want is grace enough to hold this Convention for three days in Milwaukee."

THE Rev. Duncan MacFarlane, M.A., rector for twenty years of Alton Academy, died on the 19th ult., aged forty-eight. He resigned his office, to which he was appointed on leaving the divinity hall, about two months ago on account of failing health.

THE Rev. Donald MacCaig, of Mackaim, has issued his address as a candidate for the representation of the county of Argyre. He is of opinion that the time has come when the Presbyterian Church in Scotland should be reconstructed on a free, independent, and comprehensive basis apart from the State.

THE jubilee of Rev. John Laird, Cupar, was celebrated recently, when he was presented by his colleague, Rev. J. T. Ferguson, on behalf of the congregation, with a full-length portrait by Mr. Herdman, R.S.A. Mr. Laird also received addresses from the Presbytery, the Free Synod club, former assistants, and young men formerly connected with his congregation.