

# The Presbyterian Review.

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## OVER LAND AND SEA.

The Negro building at the Atlantic Exhibition is noteworthy, as this is the first great exposition in which this race has had a special building accorded it. This has been constructed wholly by negro labor, and every item in it is either the work of negro hands, or is illustrative of the conditions and development of the race. Its educational and industrial progress are shown by object lessons—which are the great teachers.

Professor A.: "Do you know I find it difficult to remember the ages of my children!" Professor B.: "I have no such trouble. I was born 2,300 years after Socrates, my wife 1,800 years after the death of Tiberius Cæsar, our son John 2,000 years after the entrance into Rome of Titus Sempronius Gracchus for the re-enactment of the leges Liciniae, and our Amanda 1,500 years after the beginning of the Folk-wandering—that is perfectly simple, you see."

Italy expends every year \$96,000,000 for her soldiers, and less than \$4,000,000 for her schools. In Spain it costs \$100,000,000 to maintain the army, and only \$1,500,000 to educated the children, but then it is the exception to find a Spanish farmer who is able to read or write. Germany boasts of being in the foremost rank among the nations in the *kulturkampf* of the world, yet she expends \$185,000,000 on her army, while \$10,000,000 is deemed sufficient for the education of her children. France maintains an army at an expense of \$151,000,000, and supports her schools with \$21,000,000. The United States expends \$115,000,000 for public school, while the army and navy cost only \$54,000,000.

It is said that fifteen gallons of beer were consumed in the United States last year for every man, woman and child, or nearly nine hundred millions of gallons in all. The larger proportion of this is consumed, proportionately, in the great cities, the three worst offenders being Cincinnati, with eighty gallons each year for every man, woman and child; St. Louis, with ninety-three, and Milwaukee, with 102. As tens of thousand of the people never touch it under any circumstances, it will be seen how certain portions of the population make beer-barrels of themselves, and why it is that the times are so hard in many homes where the money that should go for food and clothes and fuel goes into the hands of the bar-keeper and brewer. And yet these people call temperance a fanaticism.

Lady Henry Somerset has told how she was first drawn into temperance work. She had seen two children, a boy and a girl, sip wine at their father's table and often heard the guests laugh at the precocious little ones. She had seen the boy go to a drunkard's grave when only twenty-four years of age. "But what of the girl?" she went on, "The girl was happily married, and became the mother of lovely children. The fatal seed had been sown, however. The young mother became a slave to strong drink. I prayed with her and

went with her. She asked me one day if I would be a total abstainer if she renounced liquor forever. The proposition was a strange one, and I asked twenty-four hours for consideration. When I saw her again she said it was too late. I felt that if I had given her promptly the answer she should have received, she might have been saved. To-day her home is shattered, but I resolved to do in future all I could for God and humanity."

The Evangelical Alliance of Great Britain has already issued its invitation for the annual week of united and universal prayer to be held Jan. 5-12, 1896. The topics suggested for the week are as follows: Sunday, Jan. 5, Sermons, John 15:26; Monday, Jan. 6, Thanksgiving and Humiliation; Tuesday, Jan. 7, the Church Universal; Wednesday, Jan. 8, Nations and Their Rulers; Thursday, Jan. 9, Foreign Missions, Friday, Jan. 10, Home Missions and the Jews; Saturday, Jan. 11, Families and Schools; Sunday, Jan. 12, Sermons, Isaiah xxvii. 5; 1 Cor. xiii. 13.

A most interesting Babylonian tablet has just been deciphered: one of a number acquired by the British Museum in 1884. It is of unbaked clay, and inscribed on both sides with a chronicle of events between B.C. 747 and B.C. 667. In the account given of the reign of Tiglath-Pileser there is another of those many recent confirmations of the substantial accuracy of Old Testament history. Tiglath-Pileser's accession, the tablet tells us, was the signal for widely-spread outbreaks of rebellion against Assyrian rule. Tiglath-Pileser adopted a policy of conciliation in dealing with Babylonian disaffection, it was not without good results that Tiglath-Pileser resided for six months in each year in Babylon, Nineveh being the Royal home for the other half of the year. This yearly migration of the Court to Babylon furnishes an explanation of a text which has been a puzzle to commentators: (2 Kings xv. 19) "There came against the land ('Israel') Pul, the King of Assyria; and Menahem gave Pul 1,000 talents of silver." No such King of Assyria as Pul has hitherto been known. This tablet identifies Pul with Tiglath-Pileser. During the six months that the Court resided at Babylon everything was carried out in the Babylonian style. In the tablet Pul is given as a Babylonian abbreviated form of the native Assyrian Tukulti Pal-Uzur, which has come to be called by us Tiglath-Pileser. The tablet supports also the Biblical account of the death of Sennacherib. In 2 Kings xix. 37 it is said: "As he (Sennacherib) was worshipping in the house of Nisrath, his god, Adrammelech and Sharezer [his sons cf. Isaiah xxxvii. 38] smote him with the sword, and Esarhaddon his son reigned in his stead." The tablet tells us that when Sennacherib marched to Babylon to quell a revolt, he left Esarhaddon, his favourite son, in Nineveh, in charge of the kingdom. Two of Sennacherib's other sons immediately revolted against Esarhaddon, and on Sennacherib's return to Nineveh, this is how the tablet describes the end: "The month Tibal (January-February) the day 20, Sennacherib, King of Assyria, in a revolt his son killed him. . . The month Adar (March-April), the day 18, Esarhaddon, his son, in the land of Assyria, sat on the throne."