

shores of Europe. Suppose such a change were to take place in the configuration of the surface of the globe, so as to admit the passage of this current directly into the Pacific, across the existing Isthmus of Panama, or along the base of the Rocky Mountains of North America into the North Sea—(a change infinitely small in comparison with those which have heretofore taken place)—our mountains, which now present to us the ever-varying beauties of successive seasons, would become the unvarying abodes of the glacier and regions of the snow-storm; the beautiful cultivation of our soil would be no longer maintained, and civilization itself must retreat before the invasion of such physical barbarism. It is the genial influence of the Gulf-stream which preserves us from these evils.

THE CHINESE INSURGENTS.—A supplement to the *Ortland Friend of China*, says: Among the books published by the insurgent chiefs, and brought by the *Hermes* from Nanking, is the first part of the book of Genesis, according to the translation made by Gutzlaff, and published by him in Hong Kong. There is another edition of Gutzlaff's Genesis printed in Ningpo, but in all those places where the Ningpo edition departs from the one published in Hong Kong, the insurgents' copy adheres to the latter, and not to the former. It is difficult to assign a reason why they have stopped at the end of the 28th chapter; perhaps the book when issued at Hong Kong was divided into two parts, and the first part only has fallen into the hands of the insurgents; or perhaps they are intending to print the whole, and this is the first part that is ready when the *Hermes* visited Nanking.

There is one circumstance connected with its publication worthy of remark, namely, this: that the title-page is emblazoned by the imperial arms, consisting of two birds of Paradise paying court to the sun, and supported by two prancing dragons rising out of the water on either side. Over the whole are the words, "A new edition, published in the Kwei-how, on the 31st year of the celestial dynasty of Thae-ping."

If the first half of Genesis be only the commencement of a series, which the insurgent chiefs intend to continue as soon as they have opportunity, and as soon as the various documents comprising the 'Holy Book' come into their hands, we may then expect to see, in the course of time, should the insurgents prove successful, the whole of the Jewish and Christian Scriptures published by authority, and circulated throughout the empire. This will do more towards the diffusion of divine knowledge than anything which has hitherto been attempted, and may be the means, in the hand of God, of correcting many erroneous and superstitious notions which, in their partially instructed state, the insurgent chiefs have propagated. The fruit of the tree of life will thus contribute to the blessing of the nations, and what man has done imperfectly will be more perfectly accomplished by God's own truth. We rejoice to know that while the *Hermes* was at Nanking, two copies of the delegates' version of the New Testament were placed in the hands of one of their chiefs, and received with respect and gratitude.

In the 'Book of Religious Precepts of the Thae-ping Dynasty,' we have frequent reference to 'the presentation of animals, wine, tea and rice, which is in the book directed to be offered up to the great God; and it is not improbable that they may have resorted to the inculcation of these offerings from the 3rd chapter of Genesis iv. 3, where it is said 'that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering to the Lord, and Abel brought of the firstlings of his flock.' The practice, also, of Noah (Genesis viii. 20) and of Melchisedec (Genesis xiv. 18.) with that of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, might have led them to conceive that offerings would be acceptable to God; while they had not present to their minds the statement of the Apostle that Jesus had, by one offering, perfected for ever them that were sanctified.

We find in one of their pamphlets, called 'The Proclamations published by Imperial Appointment,' the very phrase used by Gutzlaff as the general title of the Old Testament, viz: 'The Sacred Scriptures of the Old Testament;' and the phrase, 'the supreme God, the great God,' so often used in the books of the insurgents, is evidently taken from Gutzlaff's translation in Genesis ii. 4, and numerous other places. He has used it as an equivalent for 'the Lord God,' where the supreme Lord stands for the first, and the great God for the second part of the phrase. The practice of Gutzlaff to employ the term Shang-te for God, by way of eminence, has been followed throughout in the insurgent books, while his practice

of using Shin for Gods, when the Almighty was not designated, as in Genesis iii. 5, has been imitated in the pamphlets brought from Nanking, so that they may be said to have made Gutzlaff's translation of Genesis their text-book.

THE DEAD.—How sudden we think of the dead! Although we sit round the same hearth where they once sat, and read from the same volume they so loved to peruse, yet we do not think of them. Oh, how the heart throbs with wild and uncontrollable emotion, as we stand beside the dying friend we dearly love! We wildly strive, but in vain, to prolong the precious life we follow in unobscured anguish down the dark flowing river, the spirit of the loved one passes onward alone, and we are left to linger on the shores of time. We think as we behold the manimate form consigned to the cold grave, and hear the damp earth cover it, that we will never forget the life scenes of the departed—that their memory will always remain in our hearts, and almost wonder that the busy multitude can move on briskly among us. But the sun shines brightly as ever on the now made grave. Nature looks so gay and smiling, and the birds sing as merrily as before.

Again we mingle in the busy, jostling throng.—Weeks and months roll on—we visit the graves less frequently—and gradually cease to think of the lost ones, save when some voice or incident or bygone day recall them to our memory. The feeling of bitter anguish and bereavement is soon worn off by the accumulating cares and pleasures of life. Thus we, in turn, must ere long pass away, and be forgotten. Such is human life.

THE ARCH OF SOLOMON.—By the kindness of the Provisional Bishop of the Diocese, we are enabled to lay before our readers the following letter from the Rev. James C. Richmond. It mentions a very interesting and very curious fact, which we hardly know what to think of. If on renewed and fuller examination, it should prove to be a fact indeed, our countryman will have made a discovery, which Wilkinson thought that he had made in Egypt, but which, we believe, was never regarded as conclusive. An arch cut in rock and lined with stone, might, to an unpractised eye, have the appearance of what is known in architecture as the Roman arch, but as Gutzlaff in his History of Architecture observes, it would not be able to bear the superincumbent weight, were it really made to rest upon it. It is the function of the true arch, according to the same authority, to do this. It would seem, then, that to establish Mr. Richmond's discovery as being truly such, he would have to make sure that the passage-way which he entered was not cut in the rock, and simply lined with stone;—and also that the weight of earth and mason-work above it, depended on it for support. When the Assyrian, and Egyptian, and Grecian ruins have been searched in vain for traces of the arch, it would be remarkable indeed if the existence in such an accessible and frequented quarter as the Holy City had been overlooked. However, Mr. Richmond's account is very clear and precise, and we hope to hear that fuller attention has been drawn to the spot. If it verifies his discovery, he will be entitled to substitute for the Roman arch, a new name; that of the wise king, who, besides knowing the nature of the trees, beasts, birds, reptiles and fishes, might perhaps have known the nature of the arch also.—*Church Journal*.

PREACHING TO THE WORKING-CLASSES.—In addition to open air and other public services, preaching from house to house may be tried. I do not mean hiring, or obtaining the use of a room in some dwelling in a given locality, and preaching there regularly, on a particular evening, from week to week, but a rotary service carried on from one house to another. Let me cite an example which will readily explain what I have in view. Many years ago two friends of mine, who had engaged in holding open air services during the summer, cast about them as to suitable preaching occupations in the winter months. One of them had his attention directed to a number of dwellings forming three sides of a square, and inhabited by working men and their families, and almost the whole of them neglecters of God's house and worship. He called on some of the parties, and presently obtained permission to hold a meeting in one of the cottages. An evening was fixed and the service held. After singing, prayer and reading the Scriptures, each of the friends delivered a suitable address, and then concluded with two short prayers. At the close of the engagement it was enquired, "Is there any one here who would like to have a similar service held in their house?" Three or four voices answered, "Yes;" their names

were taken down, and one was fixed upon for the next meeting. At its conclusion the same question was asked, and the list was augmented by several additional names. In this way the thing was carried on until a service had been held in each of the thirty houses, save one. By this method several advantages are secured: you get a larger number of persons interested in the services, as each one in whose house a meeting is to be held will be engaged in inviting, and making room for as many neighbours as the place will contain.

RAILROADS.—There are 264 miles of railway in operation, of which 10,180 are in the eastern hemisphere, and 19,684 in the western. 17,811 miles are in the United States, 6,970 in Great Britain, 5,340 in Germany, and 2,480 in France. The longest railroad in the world is the New York Central, which with its branches is 621 miles in length. There are 281 railways, 17,811 miles in length, completed in the United States, constructed at a cost of \$368,588,638, and 134 in course of construction, 12,806 miles in length.

COAL.—There are stated to be in the United States 129,032 square miles of coal, of which 44,000 are in Illinois, 21,105 in Virginia, 15,637 in Pennsylvania, 13,300 in Kentucky, 11,900 in Ohio. In Europe there are 17,487 square miles of coal, of which 11,850 are in Great Britain, 3,408 in Spain, 1,719 in France, and 548 in Belgium. The yearly product of coal is, 31,500,000 tons in Great Britain, 4,960,000 in Belgium, 4,140,000 in France, and 4,000,000 in the United States.

THE 187TH HYMN.—This beautiful and admired hymn, "I could not live away," has hitherto been almost universally ascribed to the Rev. Dr. Muhlenberg; but in a letter to the *Calendar* of last week, it is positively claimed by Mr. Henry Ward, "Associate Editor of the *Litchfield (Conn.) Republican*," who says, "I have never made but one plain, straightforward assertion on the subject; and that is, that I composed and wrote the hymn entire, just as it stands, in 1822."

THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—OFFICIAL AWARDS OF JONES.—The board of directors of the Association for the Exhibition of the Industry of all Nations have published a pamphlet of 98 octavo pages, containing an official list of the awards made by the juries appointed to examine the several departments of the exhibition. Copies of this pamphlet can probably be obtained by all who desire to consult it. From the number of the names in the list, we suppose that there are few exhibitors who had not received either a silver medal, or a bronze medal, "a special mention" or an "honorable mention."

THE COMET OF 1856.—The peculiarly brilliant comet, last seen in 1556, and expected to reappear about 1856, is the comet which decided Charles V. upon abdication. "Already dejected by reverses," says the *Boston Transcript* the result of the siege of Metz—the defeat of Renty—the humiliation of the treaty of Passaw—the combination of all these calamities drew from the monarch the despairing cry, "for—ure abandons the old!" The appearance of the flaming meteor just at this time seemed, to his superstitious sense, a direct message from heaven. Not that he thought it was directed towards him as a man so much as to his station.

SATAN'S SUCCESS.—A lady who had refused to give, after hearing a charity sermon, had her pocket picked as she was leaving the church. On making the discovery, she said, "God could not find the way into my pocket, but it seems the devil did."

THE BANEFUL EFFECTS OF A POPULAR CLASS OF PUBLICATIONS.—which ought to be severely prohibited by law, are illustrated by the facts elicited on the examination of Chapman, the fiendish murderer of Mr. and Mrs. Cozzens, that he had been stimulated to such deeds by reading the lives of Dick Turpin and Captain Lightfoot, whose career he desired to imitate.

BAD BOOKS.—A publisher of erroneous and dangerous books assured Semler, that he only gave them to the world in order to excite inquiry. "That," replied Semler, "is to set a town on fire in order to make trial of the engines."

LET A MAN PROBE THE DESIRES AND LONGINGS OF HIS HEART honestly, and to the bottom, and he will find them to be the offspring of sin and love of the world.

It is absolutely indispensable to many men to have money, we know some who without it their usefulness would be well estimated in one word Zero.