The Stay Unseen.

O. Poly Eutler, Triend me read since on Thine arm Thos blist me lean, holy me, throse both life's varying scene, By fully to ching to fluce.

Blest with the follow-hip divine, Tako via it There wilt, I if hele exceptive, Lien us the bareches to the vine, My coal would thus to Theo.

Fig. from her home, fationed, oppressed, Rorpado in a found n place of rest; An oxidestill, yet not unblest, With she can cling to Thee.

Off when I seem to trend alone tome barren waste with thorns o'ergrown, Thy voice of love, in gentlest tone, Whispers, "Still cling to Me."

Though faith and hope may long be tried, I ask not, need not, wight beside; How safe, now culm, how saffshed, The souls that thus to Thee!

Blect is my let, whate'r befall; What can disturb me, who appall, While a cuy strength, my reck, my all, Father, felim; to Thee. —Chadelle Elliott

Assyrian Libraries.

Recent Assyrian discoveries seems to confirm the old saying that there is nothing new under the sun. Four thousand years ago the Babylonians possessed libraries and librarians, catalogues and book-shelves, though the greater part of their books were written on clay instead of paper. Papyrus was occasionally used; but generally the Babylonian book was an oblong piece of clay which was stamped on both sides with a metal stylus, and then hardened in the fire. So minute are the characters engraved on it, that it is difficult to imagine how they could have been impressed without a magnifying glass; and as a crystal lens was actually found by Mr. Layard on the site of Nineveh, it would seem that magnifying glasses were known at an early date. Specimens of these clay tablets—"lateres coctiles," as Pliny calls them—may be seen in the British Museum. Every great city of Babylonia and Assyria had, at least, one library, which was stowed away in a chainber of the king's palace, and placed at the public service. We gain some idea of the xtent to which education was spread from the frequently recurring statement that the libraries were formed for the use of "the people." The oldest libraries were those of Babylonia, the mother country of the civilization of Western Asia. Those of Assyria were established in imitation of the earlier ones of Chaldea; and the books with which they were stocked were mostly copies or later editions of Babylonian works. Assyria was originally a dependency of the southern empire; its rise was coeval with the decline of Babylonia, and its civilization was derived from the latter country The primitive population of Babyionia spoke an agglutinative language, allied to the idious of the modern Finns or Tartars. It was they who invented the cuneiform or arrow-head system of writing, and founded the great cities of Chaldea. Their literature was very extensive, and required libraries in which to be preserved. At a date anterior to 2000 B.C., they were conquered by Semites from the west, who appropriated their culture, and gradually succeeded in extirpating their language. This language is termed Accadian, and it became to the Samites of Exhaustic and Accadian. the Semites of Babylodia and Assyria what the Latin language was to the scholars of medieval Europe. Their science and liter-ature were locked up in this dead tongue; and even in practical life a knowledge of at was needed when legal precedents or ancient leases and contracts were in question. Down to the last days of the Assyrian and Babylouian empires every educated man had to be acquainted with this extinct language. For this purpose, grammars, dictionaries, and phrase books of Accadian and Semetic Assyrian were compiled; and works written in Accadian were provided with an Assyrian translation, which was sometimes in a par-

allel column, and sometimes interlinear. Babylonia has not yet been excavated; and our knowledge of these libraries is accerdingly confined to the contents of the libraries of Sernacherib and his grandson, Assurbani-pal, or Sardanapalus, the larger part of which has been brought from Nine veh to the British Museum. Most of the works in the museum are inter editions of older Babylonian texts; very often there are several editions of the series text, and where the original had become illegible, the copyist wrote, "lacuna," or "recent la-cuna." When a work was translated from Accadian, the Accadian text was almost invariably given; and to these translations, together with the grammars, dictionaries. and phrase books already elluded to, modern scholars owe the recovery of the long-lost language of accad. Among the most curious of these works is a long one, in seventy tablets or books, on astronomy and astrol-ogy, which was drawn up for a Babylonian monarch who reigned about 2000 B.c. The catalogue of this work mentions separate treatises on the Polo star, on comets, on the movements of Venus, etc., and at the end tells the reader to write down the number of the table he wishes to consult, and the librarian will thereupon hand it to him. Even at this remote epoch, therefore, the modern system of registering books was in "se; indeed, every tablet hed its press mark. Besides the astrological tablets there is a long work on omens, with formule for averting witcheraft or practicing sorcery, which soems to be extremely aneient, as well as a large collection of hymne to the gods, which formed the ritual of the Accadians. Many of the passages in these hymns reminds us of the Hebrew palms. Closely connected with the hyans are old legends and opics, which are thrown into a poetical form. One of these epics cares from Erech, and consisted of twelve books, each answering to a sign of the Zodiac, and relating to the advertures of a solar hero. The books were originally independent lays, and the eleventh is the story of the Deluge, which bears a romarkable re-semblance to the account in Genesis. Another group of logonds contains one which describes very ully the building of the tower of Babel; white a third group pre-sents us with a history of the Creation and of the Fall of Man similar to that of the

Bible. More détails, however, are furnished than can be found in the Mosais narrative, and an account is also given of a war of the cell spirits against the gods. A very interesting legend describes the descent of the goddes. Istar into Hades, and another tells how the seven worked spirits fought against the mann.

against the moon.
But all this is but a small portion of the syrian and Babylonian literature new in the British Museum. There are works on agriculture, collections of ancient proverbs tables of laws and precedents, contincts and leases, public disputches and private corres-pondence, prayers and beast fables, didate treatises and hints on government, tables of cube roots and other mathematical fornulls, list of animals and stones, of countries and towns, of gods and temples, of foreign products and classes of persons, and, above all, annals and other historical documents. One of the latter is a catalogue of the kings and dynasties of Babylonia, another an account of the relations between Assyrie and its northern neighbor from the earliest times, while the remaining texts describe historical incidents of the reigns of former monarchs. None are so important, however, as the lists of the Assyrian eponymes, that is, officers after whom each year was named. These lists are, of course, of purely Assyrian origin, and they have enabled scholars to restore the chronology of Assyria (and thereby of Judea also) with absolute precision, from the tenth century

The librarians were called "the men of the written tablets." The first librarian of whom we know was a pertain Mul-Anna, the son of Gandhu. His signet cylinder is now in Europe, and we learn from it that he presided over the library of an early Accadian king of Ur. Ur is the city mentioned in Genesis as the birthplace of Abraham, and the signet must be assigned to a very ancient date—more than 4000 years ago. Such is the antiquity of the office of librarian, and of the respect paid to books.—London Bookseller.

Missionaries in Japan.

Professor William E. Griffis, who has resided for many years in Japan, and is theroughly familiar with the country, thus writes in the *Christian at Work*, of the present Christian missionatics in that country:

There are now in Japan the representatives of no less than fourteen proselyting Christian societies, numbering over one hundred missionaries, all told. They are the Mission Apostolique of Paris (Roman Catholic, but not Josuit), the Greek Church of Russia, the Reformed Church of America, the Presbyterian Church of the United States, American Episcopal, American Baptist, American Congregational, American Methodist, Canadian Wesleyan, Society for the Propagation of the Gespel and Church Missionary Society of England, Free Church of Scotland, Woman's Union Missionary Society of the United States, besides Woman's Foreign Mussionary Societies of the Reformed, Presbyterian, Congregational, and perhaps of two other American denominations. Of these, Yokohama contains nearly one-half. Tokio, Koke, and Ozaka pearly another half. A few are in Nagasaki, and one or two in Hakodate. Niigata is not yet occupied by Protestant missionaries, though why we cannot an-

The results of missionary labor may be thus summarized. There are several Catholic, two Russo-Greek, and at least seven Protestant Churches in Japan. In Tokio there are of the latter, two, in Yokohama three, in Kobe one, in Ozaka one. are Union, Presbyterian, Baptist, the latter creeted and ministered to by the Rev. J. Goble. The membership in these churches amounts to Letween two and three hundred. There are probably as many as twenty Sunday-schools now organized these the Gospel and hymns are read and sung in Japanese. The translation of the Scriptures is now proceeding under the direction of a board of translators, representing soveral, and practically all the Protestant denominations. Among there are the Rev. David Greene, Congregational; Pev. S. McClay, D.D., Methodist; Rev. Nathan Brown, D.D., Baptist; Rev. David Thompson, Presbyterian, and others. We should have mentioned, when speaking of the pioneers, that the Rev. Dr. Bettelheim, who lived for years the only foreigner on the Lien Kin (Loo Choo) Islands, translated the Gospels into Japanese. These having been printed in Vienna, are now in circulation. together with the Scripture issued by the Union Committee. The Gospel of John, in Romanized Japanese, printed by the American Bible Society, has been issued and circulated to test the popularity and practicability of Romanizing the entire version of the Bible. Dr. Hepburn also usued, over ten years ago, a tract containing the Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, and Apostics Creed, in the Vernacular. It has had a great circulation and influence. Other translations of minor works have been made

in Tokio and other places.

As most of the missionaries now in the field are new, only a few of them can preach fluently in Japanese. Among these are the Rev. Messrs. James Ballagh, David Thompson, Christopher Carruthers, David Greeno, Henry Stout, J. Goble, Bishop Williams, the Rev. Messrs. Davis, Gulick, Loomis, and others whose names we have no desire to omit.

CHRISTIANS AT WORK.

Even the most cursory glance at Christian mission work in Japan would not be complete were we to omit to mention such agencies as those of medical missionaries and Christian women and laymen. Of the former, Dr. Hepburn at Yokohama, Dr. Faulls in Tokio, Dr. Berry in Uzaka, Dr. MacDonald at Shidzuoka, and others whose names we cannot recall, are nobly occupied, and we trust the time will come when every mission will be supplied with Christian physicians, and dispensaries in which the Gospel is presched.

Of the American Mission Home, in Yokohama, in which Mrs. Prnyn, Mrs. Benton, Miss Crosby, Mrs. Pearson, and Miss Guthric labor, we have no stock of words to express our praise. It is a standing triumph of American house keeping, vigor, and discipline, an American home, and the centre of multifarious Christian labor. Twenty children and girls live in it as their home. A flourishing day-school,

preaching services and Bible class in the school-house, and pager-meetings for Cinistion people in Yokohama—tor sailors from the ships and for Japanese, in both the Enclish and Japanese language—make it a busy place. In it are organized plane for outside work. Only by rigid system, unflagging industry, a good stock of physicians and intellectual strength, and help from a power higher than human, can the vast and varied daily and hourly duties of all kinds be accomplished; but accomplished they are. In Tokio, Miss Youngman and Miss Carruthers in Ozuka, Miss Dudly and Miss Gould; in Kobe, Miss Talcott; in Yokohama, Mrs. Loomis, Mrs. Miller, Miss Whitbeck, and in other places, ladies whose names we have not space to mention, are doing an equally good work. If one thing seems estiled it is the ability and therough adaption of women to de Christian work in heathen lands.

Finelly, in our review we must not forget the Christian laymen. All the good work is not done by missionaries, though they deserve most honor. Some of the Bible clars and Sunday-school teachers and general Christian workers are known and honored at home, and the names we mention are familiar to many of the readers of The Christian at Work. Among these are Dr. St. George Elliott, of Yokohama; Prof. Edward Warren Clark, and Dr. D. B. McCartee, in Tokio; Caj t. Janes, of Kumamoto; Prof. M. N. Wyckoff, of Niigata, and others.

The Successor of Livingstone.

Livingstone is dead, but his spirit still lives, and will raise up others to follow his heroic example. Already one of his countrymen, Lieut. Cameron, has taken up the work of exploration where he laid it down. He has penetrated to Ujij, the point where Stanley found Livingstone, and from there planned now explorations.

Having first sent home Livingstone's rough maps and two notebooks left at Ujiji, the coatral rendezvous at the north-east of Tangauvika. Cameron fixed the position and levels of that place, and then spent two months in exploring the lake itself. It was not till he got to the western side, that, on the 28rd of May last, he discovered the great outlet, which may turn out to be the source of the Congo, at a point twenty-five miles south of Kasenge Islands. That is the river Lukuga, which, like all streams issuing from lakes, flows out with a gontle current for four or five miles, when again, as in the Amazon Valley, it is partially cloked up by grass and rushes. The chief there, who is both friendly and intelligent, dechares that the Lukuga flows west into the Lualaba, which is called Ugarowma by the Arabs boyond Nyangwe, the furthest western point reached by Livingstone. One of these Arabs had been down the river fifty-five matches, or say 550 miles, reaching a place where white prerchants traded in palm-oil and ivory. The traders from the east coast often ponetrate farther west. These people used the word Congo also, which is not Portugese, but indigenous, being the name of a country of which it forms a boundary, while the other native name, Zaire, means any large running water. Convinced that he was at last on the right track, Cameron hastened back to Ujiji to make extensive preparations for that detailed expedition westward on which he entered on the 20th May last. Instead of following the Lukuga into the Luataba and supposed Congo in canoes, he is believed to have struck across the Manynema country to Livingstone's point at Nyangwe, whence he is now probably descending the great

river to the Atlantic.

What the result will be it is impossible to determine, but those who are best acquainted with the geography of the continent, and the resolute and determined spirit of the man, believe that if his life is spared, he will ere long be heard from on the western coast. It is gratifying to know that he hates the horrible slave trade as much as Livingstone himself. He says:

"The slaves are wanted as porters, and the losses by death or desertion are enormous, and therefore the domand is great. The slave trade is depopulating large tracts, and the wretched fugitives are driven to sell each other as a means of subsistence. At present two goats are the price of a boy or girl of from fifteen to twenty. The Wanyamwezi prey on the tribes who have no muskets, and every wretch who can steal or buy a slave must do so. The escaped slaves are another scourge, for they band themselves together and live entirely by plunder. The number of resident Arabs the interior is much larger than it used to be, and they all have slaves. The worst feature is that the greater number of these slaves have no employment, except when on a journey, and are not fed by their mas-ters, so that they have to live by robbery. In going round the lake I was constantly shown places where villages had been, and the inhabitants had been carried off slaves. There is a great internal slave trade, and demand for slaves, which our cruisers can never touch."

Dr. Livingstone was a missionary to the last. He did not abandon Christianity any more than humanity, when he laboured to explore the sources of the Nile. Scientific exploration and discovery were to him but the casting up of a highway for missionary work. To to every last his aspirations are those of the Christian missionary.

"The spirit of missions," we find him writing on the 8th of November, "is the spirit of our Master; the genius of His religion.' in a passage which comes in at the end of an unusually long geographical entry. "Oh, how I long to be permitted by the Over Power to finish in" work!" he wrote, lmost illegibly, a fortnight before he passed away. His own country is taking up that work. The Established and the Free Churches are each organizing a mission after his own heart, on or near the shores of his favorite Lake Nyassa, to the people whom he more than once visited, and deeply loved.

ed, and deeply loved.

Surely his works "do follow him," and his Christian countrymen, as they recall his tremory, and admire his heroic achievements, will feel their special obligations to promote the objects he so warmly cherished.

THE Bible is now printed in no fewer than two hundred and sen languages. In 1874 it was printed in only fifty. BRITISH AND FOREIGN NEWS.

FAIRER BY GENERAL Calls his church at Gonova "Christian Catholic!"

The Duchess of Edinburgh can converse with every foreign minister at the English Court, but the Turkish, in his own language.

The winter in Scotland has been very sevene. Loch Fyne has been completely frozen over, an occurrence that has varely happened before, and not for the past forty years.

The University of Edinburgh has conforted the degree of Doctor of Divinity upon Rov. A. Moody Stuart, M.A., of Free St. Luke's Edinburgh, Moderator designate of the Free Church General Assembly.

The citizens of Glasgow, Scotland, are

raising funds for the erection of a mounment to Livingstone. The subscriptions are limited to \$25 each, and are coming in freely.

CARDINAL CULLEN has proposed to his flock that they should pray for the conversion of Mr. Gladstone, saying that "he is a great and good statesman erring."

In India a native widow, of the highest Hindoo caste in Bombay, was recently married, over 500 friends being present at the ceremony, including a number of orthodox Brahmins. The groom was a leading member of the Prathana Somaj.

A snort time age a Ritualistic clergyman was known to say that the Ritualists dreaded the Free Church of England, but if ever their bishops received conscerntion through Bishop Cummins, they would dread it still more.

An irreverent somebody has called the present House of Commons the "Bung Parliament," a nickname, the appropriate ness of which is seen by the fact that among the brewers who are members, are two Allsopps, two Basses, a Guinness, a Wainey, a Bulton, and a Hanbury.

The Marquis of Ripon, "pervert," was one of the canopy-bearers in a recent Roman Catholic procession at the Oratory Church, Brompton, and the Cart Circular made a note of it. "The Marquis," we learn, "joined with the congregation in adoring the blessed sacrament."

THE Bishop of Litchfield, speaking recently at a meeting of churchmen in Wolverhampton, deplored that after consecrations of churches there should be expensive dinners at which champagne at eight shillings a bottle was drank. Drinking after the consecration of burial grounds was even-worse.

REUTER sends the following from Madrid:

—"According to statistics from Prote tant sources, 30,000 Spaniards have been converted to Protestantism since the Revolution of 1868. The Protestant chapels in Madrid and the principal towns of Spain continue open for public worship."

The New York Scotsman says concerning the Island of Islay, Argyloshire, Scotland: "Islay is more than the Island of Islay. Islay people are to be found in all quarters of the globe. In Canada they have largely multiplied, so much so that probably they could not find a standing-place in the native island."

Mr. GLADSTONE has put a new word into the language of polemics, and, as we think, fixed it there. The word is "Vaticanism," and its meaning one not hard to find. It means the last phase of Romanism. It is old Romanism plus the dogma announced by the latest Council, that the Pope, as the vicar of Christ, is infallible.

The Lindon Punch had a cartoon lately, representing Archbishop Manning looking into a fire, and social therein the Papal Tiara. His dreams, both by day and might, may take that shape sometimes, but I think their fulfilment very improbable, as Italian cardinals are the great majority of the "Sacred College," and they are not the men to put candidates of another nationality first, when so many of their own are in the purple to select from.

Some time ago Spurgeon was immersing an enormous man who had once been a Methodist local preacher. It was made a more difficult process by the man's interference with Mr. Spurgeon's attempts to put him under the water. Spurgeon looked up at the audience in his mirthful way and said, "You see, brothren, that this brother was brought up an Arminian, and he cannot cure himself of the habit of trying to help."

The Town Council of Perth, Scotland, while recoulty furnishing the sessions of the Presbyterian churches with supplies for the bread and wine used by them in the observance of the Lord's Supper, refused, by a vote of sixteen to four, to provide sherry and brandy for the vestry, it being well argued that manisters and elders should not indulge in intoxicating drinks while discharging those sacred an 'solemn duties.

The following overture has been adopted by the Lance Presbytery for transmission to the General Assembly:—"That they enact and ordain that it shall be competent for the Presbyteries of the Church, with the approval of a standing committee of the General Assembly, to admit ordained ministers of other churches, who shall declare their agreement in doctrine, discipline, and worship with the Church of Scotland, to the full status of ministers thereof."

It has just been discovered that the livings of ministers in the Church of Sootland amount to nearly one hundred thousand more than they were supposed to yield. The average value of the livings amount to more than in the English Establishment, summing up nearly three hundred and forty pounds a year. There are few very rich livings, but the inequalities are not so great as in the English Church. The richest living is the Baromy Church, Lanarkshire. The stipend is £1,102.

It is reported from Russia that 250,000 United Greek Catholics of Poland intend to join the Orthodox Russian Church. Their priests have presented a statement to the Covernment explaining that the change of faith arises from the impossibility of their accepting the dogma of Papal Infallibility. It is also stated that in answer to repeated petitions from Polish and Lithuanian Roman Catholic priests for permission to marry, the Government contemplates such afterations of the laws as will enable the petitioners to do as they please about the matter.

Scientific and Useful.

EVERGREENS.

The whole growth of evergreens for the year takes place in about fifted to twenty days, last of Amil and first of May or June, in the North, recording to locality, a.s. If they are transplanted just as the new growth connactes, the tree is the most vigorous, and, of comes, will be or transplanting best. I have seen small Norway spruces and balsams make eight or ten inches growth the same seerson, when more at the right time; while these moved only a few days too late or too early spont about a year in dying, but generally succeeded in discouraging their owners in trying to "raise overgreens."—Tribune,

A HOUSE-PURNISHING HINT.

Dr. Clarke of Boston has called the attention of his patients to the the danger of breathing the air of chambers poisoned by arsenic. One banker has discovered that many of his handsomest papers, not the green alone, are fully charged with arsenic. The power of the poison increases with years. A varnish may neutralize it for a time, but the only escape is to replace the peritous beauty by less brilliant colours, which have been subjected to chemical test. Even paper borders are not to be trusted in sleeping. rooms, if fully charged with this fatal substance.

A SIMPLE PLAN OF VENTILATION.

The following simple method for ventilating ordinary sleeping and dwelling-rooms is recommended by Mr. Hinton in his "Physiology of Practical Use:" "A piece of wood, three inches high and exactly as long as the breadth of the window, is to be prepared. Let the sash be now raised, the slip of wood placed on the sill, and the sash drawn closely upon it. If the slip has been well fitted, there will be no draft in consequence of this displacement of the sash at its lower part; but the top of the lower sash will overlap the bottom of the upper one, and between the two bars perpendicular currents of air, notafelt as draft, will enter and leave the room.'

INCAUTIOUS USE OF MEDICINES.

An English physician has called attention to the incautious use of a homeopathic medicine known under various names, but which is a saturated solution of camphor in spirit. The solution is said to be in very general use as a domestic remedy for cold and other trifling ailments, and in poisonous potency is quite equal to the prussic acid of the pharmacopoia, and more than four times as powerful as any equal quantity of ladanum. Yet it is sold in large bottles, and not even labelled as poison. In some cases there is not even so much as a direction as to the dose. From fifteen to twenty five drops, and in some instances as much as a tenspoonful, have been taken. The results have been in addition to the local symptoms of irritation of the threat and stomach, violent opileptic convulsions and apoplectic stuper, followed in the case of one previously healthy young lady by one-sided palsy, which continued for several weeks. If a which continued for several weeks. If a large portion of the poison had not been speedily ejected by vomiting, it is probable that death would have resulted in more than one instance.

PLANT MORE TREES.

Often before we have urged our readen to plant more trees. There is no portion of the farm more valuable than that which the orchard covers, that is, if the trees have been well selected and carefully trimmed and cultivated. At this time of the year the worthless varieties that cumber the ground to no profit should be dug up and replaced by some of the many valuable kinds that are to be found in every well stocked nursery. If the farm descends to the children there is no more sure and valuable legacy you can leave them than a well selected orchard of thrifty fruit tress. It is better than money in the bank, stock or bonds. If the farm is to be sold there is nothing like a first-class orchard to enhance its value. Trees cost but little; they can be planted at a time when scarcely any other out-door work can be done to advantage; they beautify the homestead and their fruit is healthful and delicious. Plant them, adorn the front yard with evergreens, and maple, chestnut, the mountain ash, wainut, elm, and many other beau varieties of forest shade trees. Do not fail to add an acre or two to the orchard. There are many choice kinds of apples, pears and plums that are not yet growing there, and you perhaps, have often regretted that you have not set them out long ago. Set them out this spring, and years to come, if you live, you will thank us and yourselves that you did so, and your children will bless you for the good deed.

NEW POISONOUS SNAKE.

A wonderful poisonous snake has just found a home in the London Zoological Gardens. This is a snake-eating snake, hence called ophiophagus. Dr. Fayror has ably described this creature. We learn from him that this most formidable of poisonous snakes, is found, but not commonly, in India, the Andaman and Philippine Islands, etc. It is the largest and most formidable of known vonemous snakes. Shortly after his arrival he was fed by the keeper, who put an ordinary English snake into his cage: the ophiophagus quickly devoted the English snake by bolting him head first. In general appearance his new snake is very like a common cobracecept that, when he spreads his hood, he is seen to be marked in very pretty band, not unlike the paterns on oil cloth. The head is somewhat almond-shaped, exceedingly lizard-like, not that and triangular like that of the rattlesnake. When sitting up with his hood expanded, the snake is continually jerking his head in a restless manner, reminding us of the quick, darting action of the common green lizard; the eye is exceeding clear and bright. When disturbed he hisses loudly, and shows his temper by extruding his long, blacktongue, which he viprates with marvelous celerity. The lower part of the glass of the cage now inhabited by this snake has been pointed white, in order that his naturally hasty temper shall be disturbed as little appearable by the morning calls of visitors.