#### The Testimony of a Physician.

A few months since a memorandum appeared in the public journals signed by two hundred and sixty-six distinguished physihundred and sixty-six distinguished physicians and surgeons engaged in hospital practice in Great Britain, in which an earnest appeal was made to the medical profession at large to be careful, when using alcohol as a remedial agent, so to employ it as not to give ground thatcan alterwards be construed into a sanction for its excessive, or even for its habitual, dietetic use. In this memorandum there appeared an In this memorandum there appeared an altogether unqualified expression of the opinion that the value of alcohol as an opinion that the value of alcohol as an article of dict is immensely exaggerated, and that medical practitioners are bound, in the face of the grievous ovil that results from its indiscriminate and lejudicious use, to inculcate very strennously babits of the utmost moderation. Shortly afterwards a letter was printed, also in the public journals addressed to the Archibits of Contraction. nals, addressed to the Archbishop of Canter-bury, by Sir Henry Thompson, the well-known surgeon of University College Hos-pital, in which he states his own assured conviction that there is no greater cause of moral and physical evil in this country than the habitual use of alcoholic baverages, even when restricted to an amount which falls far short of the quantity required to produce drunkenness, and that is conven-tionally held to be quite-within the limits of strict moderation. Sir Henry further adds that such habitual use injures the body, and diminishes the mental power, to an extent that few people are aware of; and that it is, in reality, the determining cause of a very large proportion of the most dangerous and painful maladies that come under the care of the surgeon, and also of much of the deterioration of the qualities of the race that capacitate men for endurance in the competition which must exist in the nature of things, and in which the prize of superiority falls to the best and the strongest.—Edinburgh Review.

#### A Hard-Shell Baptist on Presbyterians.

The Independent, an organ of the American Congregationalists, publishos a sermon by a well-known Hard-Shell Baptist preacher, who is familiarly known as Club-Ax Davis. We quote a few para-

graphs: "God didn't make us all alike, my breth "God didn't make us all alike, my brethren; but every man has his own sphere. When God has a place to fill, He makes a man and puts him in it. I can see good pints in everybody; and as for the Presbyterians, they are a long way aliead of us Baptists and Methodists in somethings. They raise their children better than any people on the face of the earth. Only a few days ago a Methodist class-leader said to me: 'Brother Glub-Ax, I was born a Methodist, I was raised a Methodist, and by the grace of God I hope, to die a Mothodist; but, thank God, I've got a Presbyterian wife to raise my children.' And I believe, my brethren, if the Lord should open the way for me to marry agin, I'd try my best to find a Presbyterian woman, and run my chance of breakin' her into the run my chance of breakin' her into the saving doctrines of feet-washin' and immersion afterward.

saving doctrines of feet-washin' and immersion afterward.

"As I said before, they raise their children a heap better than we do. They be have better in church, and keep , Sunday better, and read the Bible and learn the Catcohism better than ours do. I declare, my brethren, sheir children are larnt that Westminster Catcohism by the time they can begin to talk plain.

"It ain't three weeks since I was out accattle buntin'—for two of my yearlin's had strayed off—and I stopped in at old Brother Harkey's, on Mull Oreck, and took dimmer. He's a deacon in the Prosbyterian church over that. Well, in truche Letand here, my brethren, Sister Harkey had her little gal a-standin' right before her, with her toes just even with the crack o' the floor, and her hands was a hangin' down by her side, and her mouth turned up like a chicken when it drinks, and she was a puttin' this question to her out o' that Catcohism: 'What are the benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification?' Now, the question itself was enough to break the child down. But when she had to begin and say that question all over (for that's the way it was in the book), and then hitch the answer to it, and which, all put together made this—'Tao benefits then hitch the answer to it, and which, all put together made this—'Tae benefits which in this life do either accompany or tification, are peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end'—I thought the child was the greatest wonder I'd ever seen in all my life. She tuck it right through, too, without balkin or missin' the first word. And the species or expect and first word. And she spoke so sweet, and she looked so like a little angel, that before I know'd it the tears was a runnin' down my cheeks as big as a buck-shot. I've seen the day when I could have mauled and split a thousan' rails quicker and easier than I could larnt that thing and said it off like she did. Now, my brethren, that child didn't understand or know the meaning of one word o' that. It put me up to all I knew to take it in myself. But just and every word of that Catechiem will come back to her, and her character will stiffen up under it, and she'll have the backhone of the matter in her for life.
"I tell you, my brethren," he continued,

"if our children had a little more Catechism and the Presbyterians a little less, it would be better for both.

"Then we don't pray in our families, like they do. I know their prayers are mighty long, and they pray all over creation, but, after all, it's the right way. It's better than prayin' too little. Now, my father and mother were good Baptists, and raised that shiden it. their children to be honest and industrious; but I never heered one of them pray in my life, and I was 'most a grown man before I ever prayed a prayer myself."

Ir is estimated that from twenty to twenty-five thousand have signed the pledge at Pittsburg, Pa., during the steent temperance revival there.

The striking fact is published that eighty-nine descendants of the Huguenests who were banished from France by the revoca-tion of the Ediet of Nantes, returned to it in 1870 as officers in the German army.

# Through Life.

We slight the gifts that every season bears. And let them fell unheeded from our grasp, In our great eagerness to reach and clasp The promised treasure of the coming years;

Or also we mourn some great good passed away. And in the shadow of our grief shut in, Refuse the leaser good we yet might win, The offered peace and gladness of to-day.

So through the chambers of our life we pass. And leave them one by one, and never stay, Not knowing ; ow much pleasantness there was In each until the closing of the door Has sounded thro' the house and died away. And in our hearts we sigh, "Forevermore."

-Chambers' Journal.

#### Friendships.

Among the fruits of harvest lives are its friendships that have borne the test of years of experience, and have not weakened but strengthened. To look back on the friendships of the early and the latter days of life, and find them culminating at the brightest point of the passing years like a sparkling star, or unbroken like a rare gem, "it is the sweetness of life. It makes the world young again." The fidelities of long-proven friendships are the great compensations of life. St. John, who

stood by the cross of the expiring Saviour, is a type of these.

How beautiful, also, was the devotion of Auanda, the beloved disciple and friend of Buddha, who stood by the dying form of his master beneath the forest tree all night, till death and daybreak came togother. So through all the ages. Our friends are ourselves in other shapes. As the years advance, and we grow with them in wealth of spirit, in honors that do not fade, in the divine life that shows something noble and glorious, as well as something beautiful and touching, the harvest of these earthly friendships is a golden one, the fruit sound and precious that shall be gathered at the last. –Churchman. •

#### The Cure for Gossip.

What is the cure for gossip? Simply, culture. There is a great deal of gossip that has no malignity in it. Good natured people talk about their neighbors because, and only because, they have nothing else to talk about.

As we write, there comes to us the picture of a family of young ladies. We have seen them at home, we have met them in galleries them at home, we have met them in galleries of art, we have caught glimpses of them going from a book-store, or a library, with a fresh volume in their hands. When we meet them, they are full of what they have seen and read. They are brimming with questions. One topic of conversation is dropped only to give place to another, in which they are interested. We have left them, after a delightful hour, stimulated and refreshed; and during the whole hour not a neighbor's garment was soiled by so much as a touch. They knew something, and wanted to know more. They could listen as well as they could talk. To

thing, and wanted to know more. They could listen as well as they could talk. To speak freely of a neighbor's doings and belongings would have seemed an impertinence to them, and, of vourse, an impropriety. They had no templation to gossip, because the doings of their neighbors formed a subject very much less interesting than those which grew of their knowledge and their culture.

And this tells the whole story. The confirmed gossip is always either militions on ignorant. The one yariety needs a change of heart and the other a change of pasture. Gossip is always a personal confession either of malice or imbedility, and the young should not only shun it, but by the most thorough culture relieve themselves from all temptation to indulge in it. It is a low, frivolous, and too often, in it. It is a low, frivolous, and too often, a dirty business. There are country neighborhoods in which it rages like a pest. Churches are split in pieces by it. Neighbors are made enemies by it for life. In many persons it degenerates into a chronic disease, which is practically incurable. Let the young cure it while they may.—Dr. J. G. Holland.

#### What Produced the Cold of the Ice Period.

The theories which have been proposed to account for the cold of the ice perio i divide themselves into two groups, viz., the cosmic and terrestrial; or those which invoke extraneous or astronomical influences, and those which look to changes in the earth itself, or on its surface, for a sufficient cause or causes. In the first cate gory may be enumerated the theory of Prof. Croll, that variations in the eccentricity of the earth's orbit have induced great alterations of climate on portions of the earth's surface; that of Belt and Drayson, which supposes the known variability of the angle of the pole with the ecliptic to have been at times sufficiently great to have brought arctic conditions locally down into the temperate zone; also, the speculations that the heat evolved from the sun has been variable in quantity, that the earth has at various times passed through cold spaces in the universe, etc. In the second category are the views first put forth by Lyell, according to which all the variations of climate recorded in geological history have been induced by changes in the earth itself or on its surface.—Popular

THE session of the British Parliament for 1877 was opened by Her Majesty the Queen in person on the 8th inst. The weather was fair and mild. The Prince and Princess of Wales were present, and there was a brilliant assemblage of ladies.
All the foreign ministers and the Chinese and Japanese embassies were also present. The Earl of Beaconfield carried the Sword of State before the Queen. In her address to Parliament she gives a history of the to Parliament she gives a history of the course of her government in regard to the Eastern question, which course she apparently regards with much satisfaction and expresses the hope that an honorable peace will yet be secured before the expitation of the imperial title at Delhi, which was welcomed with professions of affection, and the famine in India, to arrest which every resource will be employed. The rest of the speech is devoted to colonies and home matters.

# Britisk and Foreign Potes.

"Victoria, Erapress," is to be stamped on Indian coins. Turne were 108 deaths from small pox in London, last week.

A DISPATOR to the London Times from Calculta reports that a gunpowder explosion occurred at Adhemaked, India. by which fifty persons were killed and 1,000 wonnded.

REV. DR. FRASER of London intends to urge the appointment of Prof. Christlieb of Bonn, to the chair of Apologetics and Pas-toral Theology in the Divinity School of the English Presbyterian Church.

PROF. PROCTOR says that it is computed that hundreds of thousands of meteors or shooting stars fall upon and become incorperated with the earth every day, and 400, 000,000 each year.

MR. Moody, the evangelist, has written a letter saying that the subscriptions for the children of the late P. P. Bliss are suf-ficient for their support and education, and suggesting that contributions be discon-

HERBERT SPENCER, the English philosopher, is in very poor health, and his friends think it is affecting the character of his work, his last volume bearing "marks of hurried thought and fragmentary writing," He is not fifty, and is unmarried.

THE Commissioner of Education reports 128 theological sominaries in the United States, with 615 professors and 5,284 students. The Roman Catholics have 18 of these seminaries, with 124 professors and 1,819 students.

ABOUT 800 members have been added to the Second Reformed Episcopal Church in Chicago during the past three months. The two Bishops, Cheney and Fellows, en-tered heartily into the revival as conducted by Moody there,

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Efforts will be made during the coming year to make the PRESBYTERIAN increasingly attractive and useful to the large constituency it aims to represent. To this end the Editorial staff will be strengthened; a larger variety of Missionary In tolligence will be furnished by Dr. Fraser, Formosa: Roy, J. Frasor Campbell, and Roy, James Douglas, India; and special papers are expected from the following gentlemen :-

Rev. Dr. Waters, St. John, N.B. Rev. Prof. Bryce, M.A., Winnipeg, Ma. Rev. Principal McVicar, LL.D., Montreal. Rev. John Cook. D.D . Quebec.

Rev. Prof. Gregg, M.A., Toronto. Rev. John Lising, M.A., Dundas. Rev. Prof. McKerras, M.A., Kingston Rev. W. D. Ballantyne, B.A., Pombroke.

Roy. G. M. Grant. M.A., Halifax. N.S. Rev. W. Houston, M.A., Bathurst, N.B. Rev. Geo. Bruce, M.A., St. Oatharines.

Rev. John Gallaner, Pittsburg, O.; etc., etc. Rev. Alexander M'Kay, D.D. The Sabbath School Lessons will be coutinged; and increased attention will be paid to the question of Prohibition now happilygrowing on the public mind. All matters affecting the interests,

Church shall have prompt and careful attention; and the legislation likely to come before next General Assembly will be fairly discussed, and its bearing on the future of Presbyterianism in the Dominion duly examined. We invite the cordial co-operation of ministers elders, and people generally to aid in extending the circulation of the PARSEXTREIAN. Mach has been done in this way already; but much still re-

mains undone. Our circulation is now 6,000; there is no good reason why it should not be 16,000! If each of our present subscribers will only send US ANOTHER NAME We shall at once reach 12,000: and then to get the remainder will be a compara-tively easy matter. Friends, help us in this par-

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# Sabbatu School Eresbyteriau FOR 1877.

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In order to insure an interesting quantity of

In order to insure an interesting quantity of reading matter the paper will be placed in charge of a gentleman in every way competent to conduct such a publication; the illustrations will be more numerous; and the isane of the periodical earlier and more regular than in the past Last year we promised letters from the Rev. J. Fraser Campbell but he only left a couple of months ago, so that he was unpossible to redeem this promise, Both Mr Campbell and Mr Douglas will CV write during the coming year, and Dr. Fraser, who is already so well and favourably knewn to our young readers, will continue his valuable contributions.

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buttons. Ministers and superintendents are carnestly invited to forward their orders without delay, so that we may know in good time the number to be printed for January.

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# OPINIONS.

OPINIONS.

The Year Book has established for itself a high character, not only in Canada but in the United States, for editorial ability audcare, fulness, clearness, and correctness in matter and arrangement, in witness of which statement we append one or two of the many notices and reviews that have reached the Publisher.

Vo seldem find, in so medest and unprotentious form, so much and so various ecclesiastical information. It were well if our people, and particularly our ministers, availed themselves of the sestations this little work affords, as a convenient thesaurus' of valuable information.—Philadelphia Presbytorian.

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