

British and Foreign.

THE new building of the Melbourne Y. M. C. A. is to cost \$75,000.

FOR Dregburn Parish Church, Scotland, vacancy, 120 candidates are in the field.

THE Russian Government contemplate putting a stop to all Sunday trading throughout the empire.

THE Rev. H. M'Intosh suggests a ten days' mission in the London Presbyterian Churches during Lent.

DR. BLACK, of Inverness, and Rev. G. D. Low, of Edinburgh, are conducting a ten days' mission at Regent Square Church, London.

THE Rev. Peter Robertson, M.A., of Kilbride, Arran, has definitely refused the call to St. Columba Church, Hope Street, Glasgow.

A HOPE is expressed that the valuable library of the late Mr. Cameron, of Brodick, may be secured for the use of some Celtic brotherhood.

DR. MACLAREN, of Manchester, has arrived in safety at Melbourne and it is now arranged that he will return home by India and not by the United States.

A MOVEMENT is on foot at Aberdeen to place a memorial stone over the grave of William R. Broomfield, the recently-deceased composer of hymn tunes.

IT is expected that either Rev. T. Nichol or Rev. H. Gowan will occupy the place of Professor Charteris in the Biblical criticism class in Edinburgh this session.

DR. GEORGE MATHESON, of Edinburgh, conducted the first series of special Sunday evening services which are to be held in St. Enoch's, Glasgow, during the winter.

ON a recent Thursday a marriage was celebrated at Leith between a D.D. and a lady, whose united ages are 114 years. Principal Cairns officiated. Both have been married before.

THE Hastie bequest of \$90,000 has been allocated by Melbourne South Presbytery, one-half to the Infirm Ministers' Fund and the other half to Ormond College and Theological Hall.

EACH member of the Methodist Church in Berlin and Bremen is asked to distribute at least one copy of the Old Testament and one of the New during the year, either by sale or presentation.

DR. MACLEOD, of Govan, preached on a recent Sunday evening with special reference to the opening of his church daily for private devotion. There is also to be daily service in the afternoon.

THAT fortunes can still be made in publishing, if not in writing, books is shown by the fact that the personality of the late Mr. William Petter, of the firm of Cassell & Co., amounts to \$2,600,000.

MR. ROSS, of Cowcaddens, Glasgow, is busily engaged completing his life of the late Dr. MacLachlan of Edinburgh, the great Celtic scholar; it will probably be published before the end of the year.

THE pastor of Silverton says that even willing members of the Church at the east-end of London find the strain of pew rents, collections, and the Sustentation Fund more than they are able to bear.

MRS. GAMBLE, the liberal benefactor of the Irish Presbyterian Church, has handed over to the inhabitants of Gourcock the splendid Institute she erected and endowed there in memory of her late husband.

IN connection with the week of prayer for young men special sermons were preached on the Sabbath set apart for the purpose in nearly one hundred of the Glasgow churches of all denominations.

THE Rev. Robert M'All, a cousin of the founder of the French mission, is at present advocating its claims in Scotland, and recently addressed a large meeting in Glasgow, presided over by Dr. Somerville.

THE late David Kerr, of Park, near Beith, long an elder in Lochwinnoch Church, was a lineal descendant of the noted Covenanter, Robert Kerr, of Kerrsland, and possessed the same spirit as his illustrious ancestor.

DR. PARKINSON, of St. John's, Cambridge, has resigned his office as chairman of the Board for Superintending the B.A. Examinations; he was senior wrangler in 1845, "the man who beat Thomson," the now famous electrician and professor at Glasgow.

ST. CUTHBERT'S, Edinburgh, Dr. MacGregor's Church, is about to be re-seated and otherwise improved at a cost of \$50,000. The heritors contribute \$5,000 and the congregation will raise the rest. A turret is to be erected with an egress at each of the four corners.

MONDAY, the 5th inst., was the 200th anniversary of the landing in England of William of Orange; and there were comparatively few Protestant pulpits in Britain in which reference was not made to the fact on the previous day, while in thousands special sermons were preached.

A THREE weeks' mission at Greenock arranged by the Young Men's Guild has been remarkably successful. The services included Bible readings in the afternoon and evangelistic gatherings every night. The latter were conducted for a week by Rev. George Wilson, of St. Michael's, Edinburgh.

MR. COSMO GORDON LANG, B.A., son of Dr. Marshall Lang, has been elected to the vacant fellowship at All Souls' College, Oxford. A graduate of Glasgow University he became a scholar of Balliol, graduating with second class honours in *littera humaniores* in 1885, and first-class in modern history in 1886. He was president of the Oxford Union in 1884.

DR. J. D. PROCHNOW, of Berlin, for the past twenty-five years the leader of the Sunday school movement in the Lutheran Church in Germany, and who took a prominent part in the British celebration of the centenary of Sunday schools, has died in his seventy-fourth year. He was the founder and editor of a magazine for the children and also of one for the teachers.

Differ from any of these three was Giuseppe Mazzini, the philosopher-apostle. Feeble in body, strong in intellect, indomitable in will, his endowments fitted him for high achievements in literature, and under other circumstances he might have spent his life tranquilly among his books. But his principles would not let him rest, and the frail, nervous scholar became the arch-conspirator of the century, the terror of every sovereign in Europe. He saw that the old religion was losing its hold upon mankind; had sunk, indeed, for the most part, into conventionalities and mummeries, from which the serious-minded men turned in disgust, and the ignorant imbibed superstition. He saw that the monarchical system of government was likewise nearly worn out. History revealed to him the progress of the human race from the lowest level, where absolutism and selfishness prevail, to the higher plane of representative government and national unselfishness. As he believed that the French Revolution marked the end of baser, feudal conditions, so he declared that the epoch had dawned when a nobler system should supersede the existing order. In this coming epoch, nations will not only be free to govern themselves, but the ancient hatreds and wars, instigated by personal greed and dynastic ambition, will cease; for all nations will come to recognize themselves as members of the great body of collective humanity, in which each must perform the work to which it is best adapted, and in which the oppression or disease of one member is a detriment to all. Religion based upon superstition, government based upon privilege, commerce based upon selfishness, are equally condemned in this sublime scheme. Neither the visions of communists nor the sophistries of socialists led Mazzini astray; he probed each, to discover egotism, concealed under plausible formulas, as its motive. French Republicanism has failed, as he perceived, because it has insisted upon the rights of man, and ignored the duties of man. But insistence upon rights can lead only to individualism, to selfishness: we must recognize and perform our duties to our neighbours, in order to attain the end of human existence,—that unselfishness and love which the example and teaching of all noble souls make us to desire and urge us to emulate.—*William Roscoe Thayer, in November Atlantic.*

PEDAGOGIC DIVERSIONS.

This is a genuine product of the Oxford and Cambridge local examinations. Q.—What do you know of Isaac Walton? A.—He wrote the "Complete Angler," and was such an enthusiast in his art that he was termed the Judicious Hooker. A note will be needed to elucidate the next sample. Q.—What is the ecliptic? A.—An imaginary line going round the equator. It seems to be the path which the earth goes round, but it is really the path to heaven. This is due to a misconception of the definition given in the text-books. "The apparent path to the sun through the heavens." I shall make no attempt to classify the authors of the miscellaneous blunders that follow: "Jenny Lind," says one, "sang at Exeter Hall and gave the proceeds to the London Hospital, also called Miss Florence Nightingale." The boy who started a proposition of Euclid with these words: "Let A B be a straight line, which is impossible," was plainly something of a philosopher. *Candente nitens elephanto*, "Leaning on a fiery elephant" is a graphic picture from the battlefield; but I have my doubts whether the following, related from a public school, is not apocryphal, *Rusticus quidam publicos lusus spectabat*, "A country gentleman was inspecting the national schools." *Vere fabis satio*, says Virgil: "Truly I am full of beans," says a translator. *Vivax apium* had been not unaturally rendered "The busy bee," but this was the work of an Oxford undergraduate. More boylike, perhaps, is the following: "*Virtue à la Grecque*," "Virtuous in Greek."—*Macmillan's Magazine.*

ALLIGATORS.

The alligator is a strange, unsightly object, living in the swamps and marshes of the warmer parts of America only, for it is not known in other countries, although it resembles the crocodile, which is found in many tropical climes. The alligator is smaller, lives in swamps and marshes, and often basks in the sun on the sands, while the crocodile's element is the water. The back of the alligator is covered with what might be called a coat of mail, for the thick, bony covering looks like plates of metal with points projecting from it. On the under part of the body, however, is the peculiar skin of which pocket-books, slippers and many useful articles are made.

There is also an oil extracted from them which burns well in lamps, and the flesh has been used by Indians for food.

Although they are classed with the family of crocodiles, they differ from them in the formation of their heads, which are smaller and flatter. They live chiefly on fish, but also eat animal food, and at times are fierce, for they have been known to chase and attack men while swimming and bathing.

The alligator lays her eggs, twenty and often over that number, in the mud, and leaves them for the heat of the sun to hatch, but keeps constant watch over them to protect them from harm and keep them from being destroyed. The creatures vary in size from three to sixteen or eighteen feet in length, and the tails are nearly, if not, as long as the bodies. There is great strength in the tails, and it is with them and the partly webbed feet that they propel themselves through the water, and with the tail they easily overturn a canoe or small boat.

Many are found in Florida and other parts of the South, and as they lie on the bank of a river, hidden partly by the thick moss and foliage, they look like a log or trunk of a fallen tree, so motionless are they at times.

In the colder weather they are torpid, and appear so lifeless that it seems as if they must be dead, yet when warmed by the sun they very soon regain their animation. They are very curious creatures, and their general aspect not only means prepossessing, but on examination there is beauty in the peculiarly marked skin and the armour which they wear.—*Vick's Magazine for November.*

must be learned young, and Peter's simplicity and common sense, which did him good service at other times, were rather apt to be at fault when "tackled by auld Saunners and his metaphysics."

The subject under discussion to-night was the "old law" (la, like the sixth musical note), and its relation to the life and duty of those who had the privilege of living under the new dispensation of grace, and it had fallen, for the most part, to these two to discuss it. The minister's turn would come next; but in the meantime auld Saunners, with his elbows on his knees, and his Bible held far away from his too youthful horn spectacles, laid down the law in a high, monotonous voice, never for a moment suffering himself to be disturbed by the frequent but timid interruptions of Peter, till his own say should be said. Peter fidgeted on his seat and appealed to the minister with his eyes. But the minister only smiled and nodded and bided his time.

How earnest they were, Allie thought. It was a great matter to them, apparently. Yes, and to the rest as well. For all the folk were looking and listening, and some nodded an approval of the sentiments of one, and some of the other. Even Robert sat with a smile on his face, and his eye on the speakers, as though he was enjoying it all—and indeed he was—and waiting till a few words from his father should reconcile common sense and metaphysics again.

What did it all mean? And what did it matter what it meant? And where was the use of so many words about it? Allison looked from one face to another in amazement. Then Marjorie's little hand touched her cheek.

"Which side do you take, Allie?" said she softly. But Allie shook her head, and the ghost of a smile parted her lips for an instant.

"I ken naething about it," said she. "Well, I'm no' just sure about it myself to-night. But wait you, till my father takes them in hand. He'll put them both right and bring them to see the same way. At least they'll say nae mair about it *this time*," said Marjorie, and then she added gravely, a little anxious because of her friend's indifference. "It's very important, Allie, if we could understand it all."

"Oh! ay, I daur say," said Allie, with a sigh, coming back to her own sad thoughts again. But the gloom had lightened a little, Mrs. Hume thought, for she had not lost one of the changes on Allison's face, as she looked and listened, nor the smile, nor the doubtful look with which she had answered the child.

To be continued.

THE KING'S DAUGHTER.

She wears no jewels upon hand or brow,
No badge by which she may be known of men;
But though she walk in plain attire now,
She is a daughter of the King, and when
Her Father calls her at His throne to wait,
She will be clothed as doth befit her state.

Her Father sent her in His land to dwell,
Giving her a work that must be done;
And since the King loves all His people well,
Therefore she too cares for them, every one.
Thus when she stoops to lift from cart and sin,
The brighter shines her royalty therein.

She walks erect through dangers manifold,
While many sink and fall on either hand;
She heeds not Summer's heat nor Winter's cold,
For both are subject to the King's command.
She need not be afraid of anything,
Because she is the daughter of the King.

Even where the angel comes that men call Death—
And name with terror—it appals not her,
She turns to look at him with quickening breath.
Thinking "It is the royal messenger!"
Her heart rejoices that her Father calls
Her back to live within the palace walls.

For though the land she dwells in is most fair,
Set round with streams like pictures in a frame,
Yet often in her heart deep longings are
For that "imperial palace" whence she came;
Not perfect quite seems any earthly thing,
Because—she is a daughter of the King.

—New York Sun.

THE MAKERS OF NEW ITALY.

Victor Emmanuel was the standard-bearer, the incarnate symbol, of the Italian cause. Around him the majority of soldiers, statesmen and citizens rallied. Their traditions and habits were still monarchical, and he was a monarch of the best type. Personally brave, devoted to his country even more than to his dynasty, downright and sincere, familiar but dignified, shrewd in selecting able advisers, but not servile in following their advice when it conflicted with his own judgment, he early won the respect and affection of his countrymen, and kept it to the end. They called him *Re Galantuomo*—King Honest-Fellow—and no epithet describes him better. Cavour was the statesman; he laid out the course on the chart, and steered the ship by it, let storms rage as they might. It has been said that no great question can be settled by ignorance: Cavour embodied the wisdom and common sense without which the Italian question could never have been settled. Garibaldi, on the other hand, was the hero, the representative of those popular emotions and sentiments which need but a proper channel in order to make their power irresistible. He has been compared to the mediæval knight-errant, eager to do battle for liberty at all times and in behalf of all distressed peoples, but above all for Italy whose tricolour device he bore upon his shield. Garibaldi was the heart, Cavour was the head; and as often happens, the impulses of the heart sometimes clashed with the judgments of the head, and needed to be checked and resisted.