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OVER LAND AND SEA.

God, give us men! A time like this demands
Strong minds, great hearts, true faith, and ready hands;
Men whom the lust of office does not kill;
Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;
Men who possess opinion and a will;
Men who have honor; men who will not lie;
Men who can stand before a demagogue,
And damn his treacherous flatteries without winking;
Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog
In public duty and in private thinking,
For while the rabble, with their thumbworn creeds,
Their large professions, and their little deeds,
Mingle in selfish strife, lo! Freedom weeps,
Wrong rules the land, and waiting Justice sleeps.

—DR. J. G. HOLLAND.

The Presbyterian Churches of South Africa have taken an important step towards union in the formation of a Federal Council on the basis of the twenty four Articles of Faith of the Presbyterian Church of England. Thus far the union includes "285 churches and preaching stations, 57 ministers and 6 probationers, 804 elders and deacons, 13,000 members and 7000 scholars in the Sabbath schools." Overtures have also been made to the Synod of the Dutch Reformed Church which have been received in a sympathetic spirit, though without leading to action as yet. The various churches among them number altogether well on to half a million adherents. There is no doubt that their effectiveness would be greatly increased by a consolidation of forces.

The English *Bookman* for March contains an interesting account of the most popular books sold in the book shops of the larger cities and towns of Great Britain, which is indicative of the character of the inhabitants. It is pleasing to note that in Glasgow the "Apostolic Gospels" by J. Fuiton Blair, B.D., takes the lead, followed by "Nineteenth Century Literature" by George Saintsbury, while in Dublin, "Owen Roe O'Neill" by F. F. Taylor leads, followed by "The Life of Cardinal Manning."

The young Empress of Russia is showing an earnest interest in the line of temperance reform. Recently she has had interviews with several provincial governors regarding the best means of checking the fearful increase of intemperance among the peasantry. It is understood that she intends to found a woman's temperance association.

Chaplain McCabe wants the working people of the United States to get rich, and tells them that if they will put the \$750,000,000 that they pay for beer and whisky per year into starting savings banks, in three years time they could have 10,000 banks with an aggregate capital of \$2,250,000, and then have a surplus of one hundred millions a year to be divided among them! These are tremendous figures, and the singular thing about them is their truthfulness. How many of the laboring men and women will improve their privilege and secure the benefits of abstinence?

We need not worry ourselves about the time of our Lord's second coming. That he has not revealed, nor are we expected to know it. What now should concern us most is readiness for it. We are to be found watching and waiting for our Lord, not in heated discussion about

the season and mode of his manifestation, nor in rhapsodies over it, but in fitness of spirit for it and in faithful performance of every-day duty. He who is always in a holy frame of mind and in zealous work for his Master has all the needful preparation for meeting his Lord howsoever and whensoever he may come.

From the wealth of Bible knowledge presented by Dr. Brooks in recent special sermons, the following facts sank deep into the memories of all his hearers: In the Old Testament, "thus saith the Lord" appears 2,500 times. In the book of the Prophets, "thus saith the Lord" is used by them 1,306 times. In the shortest book, Obadiah used "thus saith the Lord" 4 times; in Hosea, "thus saith the Lord" appears 22 times; in Joel, 4 times; in Amos, 64 times; in Jonah, 8 times, and so on to the book of Malachi, where "thus saith the Lord" is found 28 times. "Thus saith the Lord" is the keynote for Christians in this day of destructive Biblical criticism.

It is wonderful, says the *Presbyterian*, how sensitive people are, upon the Sabbath, to bodily aches and pains. No sooner does the church bell ring than the head-ache, bad feeling, nervous ailment, bodily weakness and mental depression become worse and prevent attendance upon the House of God. The Sabbath has largely become a time for doctoring, for nursing and for taking things easy. To some extent these complaints are the re-action from over-work during the week, but oftener they are the effect of a low state of piety and of an effort to ease conscience on account of a known neglect of duty.

The papers are telling an amusing story at the expense of the wife of a Cincinnati clergyman. It appears that a year ago at the spring cleaning time she traded a barrel of her husband's sermons for a new bread pan. 'This spring, the ragman came around again, and asked if she had any more sermons to sell. "Why do you want sermons?" "Because I did so well with those I got here a year ago. I got sick in the summer and a preacher in the country boarded me and my horse three months for that barrel of sermons, and he has since got a great reputation as a preacher up there. I will give you five cents a pound for all you have got."

The late Dr. Thomson, Archbishop of York, when he was bishop of Gloucester, suffered from toothache, and by medical advice, resorted to narcotics to relieve the pain. One morning, after a night of great suffering, as he left the house to consult the doctor, Mrs. Thomson begged him not to allow the physician to use a narcotic, as it affected his brain for several hours after taking it. On his way the bishop met the postman, who handed him a large official envelope. He opened it in the street and read his appointment to the see of York. Instead of visiting the doctor he hastened back to communicate the surprising news to his wife. "Zoe, Zoe," he exclaimed, "what do you think has happened? I am Archbishop of York!" "There, there!" rejoined the wife, "what did I tell you? You've been taking that horrid narcotic again and are quite out of your head."