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Through Love to Light.

Through love to light! O wonderful the way
That leads from darkness to the perfect day!
From darkness and from sorrow of the night
To morning that comes surging o'er the sea.
Through love to light! Through light, O God, to Thee,
Who art the love of love, the eternal light of light.

OVER LAND AND SEA.

"Can't I live a Christian out of the Church?" Yes, my young friend, just as easily as you can make fire with one stick. Look at that wood fire. There must be three or four sticks to make a good fire. Now, take those blazing sticks out of the stove, and put them singly on the ground, and see how quickly they are black and dead.

Unitarianism shows signs of decline in Great Britain. Its churches there decreased from 378 in 1888 to 354 in 1896.

It is estimated that Queen Victoria now rules over 367,000,000 people. If David prayed for grace to wisely rule his little bailiwick on the hills of Palestine there would seem to exist a still greater necessity for continued guidance on the part of the Victoria who when a young queen offered fervently this petition: "God help me to be good!"

On July 21st the Federal Council of the Presbyterian Churches in South Africa met in King William's Town, and constituted itself into the First General Assembly of "The Presbyterian Church of South Africa." The two Presbyteries of the Scotch U. P. Church in Kaffraria have unanimously agreed to accept the constitution of the united Church, and to form a part of it. The three Presbyteries of the Free Church of Scotland, the separate Presbyteries of Natal, Capetown, and Transvaal, and the congregation of Port Elizabeth, have also agreed to enter the united Church, which will then number some 13,000 communicants of whom three fourths are native. Outside the English and native Presbyterian Churches forming this union there are two other Presbyterian Churches in South Africa—the Dutch Reformed, numbering about 100,000 communicants, and the Basuto Church, numbering upwards of 9,000 communicants.

The Louisville Theological Seminary has at last secured better accommodations. The large mansion of the late Thomas L. Barrett has been purchased at half the price at which its former owner held it. The *Christian Observer* says: "The building is a large one, comprising some twenty apartments. Its saloon parlor is large enough for an assembly room for the students." The classes have been heretofore conducted in the lecture-room of the Second Presbyterian Church. The prospect for next year is promising. As many students have applied for admission as they have room for if they all come. We congratulate our old friend Dr F. R. Beattie on the rapid success of the institution with which he is connected.

As the *Belfast Witness* remarks it is not generally known that sixty-three of the missionaries of that noble Institution the Church Missionary Society—give their services gra-

tuitously. Worldlings will hardly credit this. But it is true. One of these—the Rev. A. H. Arden, of India—has written a book on Foreign Missions, in which he takes up the usual objections to them, and discusses the question, "Are Foreign Missions doing any good?" He shows that the current objections to missions are usually brought by those who know little or nothing about them, or by those who are avowedly hostile to the Gospel. The evidence of such witnesses should go for very little. It would be well if this little work by this earnest and capable and disinterested witness had a wide circulation. For it would surely arrest, if not destroy, the wholesale misrepresentations by carpet-baggers and globe-trotters, who, never taking the trouble to investigate the facts, so often indulge themselves in flippant and hostile remarks against Foreign Missions and missionaries.

Recently the whole population of Rocco Pietra, Italy, left the Catholic Church, and 200 of them worshipped at a neighboring Evangelical Church mission.

This is the Roman Catholic system. It can never be anything else, therefore, as a system, than a menace to our government and an enemy to our free institutions.

Rome prizes our civil and religious liberty because the atmosphere of freedom gives her ample opportunity to work out her ambitious schemes. Let these schemes be once wrought out and then the rule of this ambitious and despotic system will smother all the institutions of both civil and religious liberty in the enjoyment of which it has come to the height of its power.

It is an exceedingly shallow and shortsighted patriotism that will permit excellences of character in individual members or officers of the Romish Church to hinder a clear discernment of the character of the church itself. And it is a deplorable confounding of true and false liberty that will permit this menace to our country's highest welfare to develop its dangerous power unchecked until the threatening blow falls upon our nation, and we shall have to assert our national independence and sovereignty under God at heavy cost.—*Christian Statesman*.

"Beware of dogs," a scriptural warning signifying: literally, "Beware of growlers." They have increased greatly since that good advice was given. They are confined to no age, no location, no climate, but are ubiquitous. Like the poor, they are always with us— young, old and older; of every degree of learning and sometimes wholly lacking culture. They growl at everything: nothing pleases, nothing is as it should be. They are nearly related to the "chronic kickers," the latter being the same rose under another name. In society, in church, in our homes and abroad, the growler gets in his snarl and sneer and grumbling. Beware of him, and follow not after his ways. "Beware of growlers" of either sex; let them severely alone. If you pat them it will be on the wrong spot; if you stroke them, it will be the wrong way, if you feed them, it will not be the sort of food they like. Beware of them.