

how many do you suppose would have entered the promised land, of the children of those who sinned in the wilderness? Forty years, the term of their sojourn in the wilderness, is not sufficient time for the rise and fall of three or four generations. Men in our day, practicing those things which destroy vitality and create disease impart the same to their children.

Now, to prevent such among His people, God gave the law: "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them (the false gods) nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of them that hate me," "and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments;" an inducement to act righteously before God. If it is admitted that we receive a diseased body and a weakened intellect through the sins of our parents, then there is no controversy, although the majority of the ills of this life are contracted by ourselves and can not be attributed to our ancestors.

R. W. STEVENSON.

St. Thomas, Ont., July 9th, 1881.

## THE FAMILY.

### Z E R O.

Few of our readers, it may be, are familiar with the origin, or hardly with the definition of the term "zero," which is in constant use upon the Fahrenheit thermometer. Coming into our speech from the Arabic through the Spanish, it perpetuates its original force, which is "nothing," or "empty." There is a manifest solecism in the use of the word *force* as thus applied, though, in another sense, our readers have need only to appeal to their very recent experience to realize that there is a decided fitness in its practical significance. The inventor of the zero scale upon which the zero point is marked, was a Prussian merchant, who lived upon the borders of the Baltic Sea, and whose name was Gabriel Daniel Fahrenheit. A hundred and eighty years ago he availed himself of a bitterly cold day, of a memorably cold winter, to experiment with mingled salt and snow to produce artificial cold. He supposed he had thus found the very lowest point of cold, and constructed a rude thermometer with "zero" at the lowest point, and graduated from that to the boiling point, 212 degrees above zero, while he fixed the freezing point at 180 degrees below the boiling point, both these degrees being estimated by the supposed contraction of quicksilver, the thirty-second part of its bulk in sinking from the freezing point to zero, and by its expansion the one hundred and eightieth part in being heated from the freezing to the boiling point. Of course this was unscientific and entirely arbitrary; and as soon as this became apparent, other scales were devised upon true principles. These are Reaumer's and the Centigrade, which are accommodated to Fahrenheit's by agreement. The latter is used in Holland, in England, and in our own country, and its continued use is in proof of the power of habit, which in early days gave this cumbersome system of the Dutch philosopher a hold upon the public mind.—*The Standard*.

### MINISTERS' SALARIES.

Some one curious in such matters has made a calculation in regard to the salaries paid to ministers in this country, and the number of sermons preached, and finds that the average price paid for a sermon, take the land through, is only three cents. Commenting upon this the *New York Observer* says: "Doubtless some ser-

mons are worth just that, and others three cents less; but, considering how large are some of the salaries paid in our cities (not too large, but large in proportion), we see how poorly paid must be the mass of our preachers. The standard is too low, always was, and it has not risen at all in proportion to the increase in the cost of living. Granted that some sermons are poor, is it not, in part, because the preachers are so poorly paid? You cannot expect first-rate work for half-wages. We do not mean by this that the work is done merely for the pay, but a man must live, and how can he work with any freedom or effectiveness with such a burden on his heart? How can he preach all the Gospel? How take the text, "Owe no man anything, but to love one another," when his grocer sits just before him, to whom he owes money for the necessaries of life? We say necessaries, for many do not go beyond them; nay, many are poorly fed, denying themselves in quantity and quality. "We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen." And then the people complain that the preacher is tame, that he lacks vigor and animation. So does any man or animal who is underfed. You can tame a lion by starving him.

### TO CHARLIE IN HEAVEN.

BY SIMPSON ELY.

#### Dedicated to Broken Hearts.

Tears have passed like shadowy visions  
Since the grave received my child;  
Yet the sorrow sweeps my heart-strings  
Like a storm so fierce and wild.  
Can I e'er forget thee, darling?  
Oh, the very thought is pain;  
I will meet you, I will greet you,  
When the Saviour comes again.

#### CHORUS.

When the Saviour comes again,  
When the Saviour comes again;  
I will meet you, I will greet you,  
When the Saviour comes again.

Golden ringlets decked your forehead,  
Eyes lit up with heaven's blue;  
And your guileless, charming manner,  
Taught me o'er to be true.  
Like a crushed and buried flower,  
Leaving perfume for its pain,  
So your memory will go with me,  
Till the Saviour comes again.

Oh my darling, will you waft me  
Blessings from your heavenly home?  
Will you wait at heaven's portal,  
Till the father bids me come?  
Wait and watch, for I am coming,  
Join me in this hopeful strain:  
I will meet you, I will greet you,  
When the Saviour comes again.

What a meeting! what a greeting!  
When I clasp you in my arms;  
Smoothing back your golden ringlets,  
Never fearing death's alarms.  
Hark! in faith I hear my darling  
Singing now the glad refrain:  
I will meet you, I will greet you,  
When the Saviour comes again.

An Italian philosopher expressed in his motto that time was his estate; an estate indeed which will produce nothing without cultivation, but will abundantly repay the labors of industry, and generally satisfy the most extensive desires, if no part of it be suffered to lie waste by negligence, to be overrun with noxious plants, or laid out for show rather than for use.—*Rambler*.

## CURRENT EVENTS.

### DOMESTIC.

The Scott Act has been carried in the County of Arthabaska by a majority of twelve hundred. This is the first Quebec County to adopt the Act.

Laying track was commenced on the Northern and Western (Miramichi) Railway. In ten days it is expected that the road will be completed to Marysville. A temporary track is to be laid connecting this road with the terminus of the New Brunswick Railway. An engine will be at work in a day or two with a gravel train.

The morning papers contain the particulars of a sad accident that happened in St. John on 28th inst. by which a young man and his sister, while walking across King Street, were run over by a team driven by one Dennis Costigan, proprietor of a liquor store on Pond Street. Costigan, in a drunken state, was driving his horse in a reckless manner, and when turning from Prince William up King Street, struck Heber and Ida Hayes. Miss Hayes was picked up dead. Her brother escaped with slight injury. Costigan was afterwards found in his own house speechlessly drunk by the police, arrested and taken to the lock-up to await the result of the coroner's inquest.

### UNITED STATES.

The estimated reduction of the public debt of the United States for July is about \$5,000,000.

A severe thunder storm visited Beatrice, Neb. The lightning struck the farm house of Nathan Miller, near Marysville, killing his four daughters while asleep. Their ages were 17, 13, 9 and 7 respectively. The mother is in a critical condition from the bereavement.

The total estimated expenses of the Groody relief expedition, just returned, is \$700,000. This includes all purchases and repairs. The expense will be materially reduced if the Government disposes of the vessels and outfits not exhausted by the expedition.

Governor St. John, of Pittsburg, Pa., has been nominated for the presidency by the prohibitionists. He received a full vote of 602 on the first ballot amid great enthusiasm, a picture of Mr. St. John being exhibited from the stage, and the delegates and spectators joining in singing "Glory, glory, hallelujah! our cause goes marching on!"

### FOREIGN.

The number of deaths since the outbreak of cholera will reach 1,000. About 500 persons who were attacked have been cured. The ratio of cures would be greater if those rendering assistance were better organized. Much prejudice exists among the lower classes against the doctors. Some force physicians to taste their medicines before they can be prevailed to take them. The doctors often are afraid to enter houses owing to the hostility of occupants. The city of Marseilles is threatened with a meat famine, owing to the fact that many of the butchers have shut up their shops. The rate of mortality is decreasing in cities, but increasing in the country among the peasants.

Parliament will be prorogued Aug. 9, and will be re-opened Oct. 23.

The crop prospects throughout England are most encouraging. The recent rains have proved the salvation of the grass and a good hay crop is insured. All the root crops have been greatly benefited, and wheat is in a very promising condition.

A persecution has begun against earnest evangelical Christians in Russia. Col. Paschkoff and Count Korff, who have been active in holding religious meetings and in labors for the poor, are banished. It is also declared illegal to distribute the publications of the Religious Tract Society, though they bear the printed permission of the censor.

The Queen and the Duchess of Albany will have the sympathy of the nation in their joy over the birth of a posthumous son and heir to the Duke of Albany. Prince Leopold resembled his father more closely than did any of the Queen's sons and his death was an undoubted loss to the nation. That his son may inherit his good qualities will be earnestly hoped.