

mother's in thar, an' the doctor. Mother said, tell you to hurry."

The news had spread rapidly; people knew what it meant when they saw Maria hurrying down the street, without her bonnet, her gray hair flying. One woman cried when she saw her. "Poor thing!" she sobbed, "poor thing!"

A crowd was around David's cottage when Maria reached it. She went straight in through the kitchen to his little bedroom, and up to his side. The doctor was in the room, and several neighbours. When he saw Maria, poor old David held out his hand to her and smiled feebly. Then he looked imploringly at the doctor, then at the others in the room. The doctor understood, and said a word to them, and they filed silently out. Then he turned to Maria. "Be quick," he whispered.

She leaned over him. "Dear David," she said, her wrinkled face quivering, her gray hair straying over her cheeks.

He looked up at her with a strange wonder in his glazing eyes. "Maria"—a thin, husky voice, that was more like a wind through dry corn stalks, said—"Maria, I'm—dyin'—an—I allers meant to—have asked you—to—marry me."—*Harper's Bazaar.*

ANECDOTES OF DR. CROSBY.

Dr. Crosby was one day walking through a street in which a collector of swill had left her little cart, with her shaggy dog harnessed in for its motive power, in charge of her little child. A hack-driver, waiting in the street for his "fare," who had gone to make a call at a mansion near by, thought it would be fine to see if he could bring his vehicle round with a sweep that would take the shaky wheels right off the little cart. His plan was evident, and Dr. Crosby walked slowly with his "eye out." Round swept the carriage with the neatest turn, and the snap of the little wheels, the barking of the big dog, the cry of the child, and the laugh of the driver as he rode off and picked up his "fare" again were almost simultaneous. Dr. Crosby had noted the number of the hack, and when the poor woman came out he told her to take the cart to a certain shop and have it repaired in the very best style and send the bill to him. He then called at the stable where the hack belonged, told the story to the owners, and added that he held them responsible for the payment of the bill. They tried to deny that they could be so held, and said that they would have nothing to do with the matter. In the course of time a bill of items, which must have made a complete "one-hoss-shay" out of the rickety little vehicle, and which footed up fourteen dollars, was presented to the Doctor. He paid it promptly, and as promptly sent it, receipted, to the hack office, with a note saying that if the money was not in his hands by six o'clock legal proceedings would be begun. At five o'clock a messenger appeared with the amount.

Once, in a Broadway stage, Dr. Crosby saw a lady hand up a bill, and when she called for the change the driver insolently told her he had returned it. Dr. Crosby went out of his way to ride to the end of the stage route, and when near it he sprang out and ran ahead. The guilty driver, guessing his errand, came running into the office, and handing him the money stammered out that "it fell on the seat." But a new "whip" adorned that stage box next day.

SINGING IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Theodore Thomas indorses, in the June *Century*, William L. Tomlins's views "On the Training of Children's Voices," by way of introducing them to the readers of "The Century," and Mr. Tomlins says in part: "When the study of singing was first introduced into the public schools of Boston, the most utopian anticipations were indulged in with regard to the degree and value of the musical culture that would then become the acquisition of every child. Two advantages, in particular, were counted upon: That fluent singing by note would become common, and that a foundation would be laid for a genuine appreciation of good music. To some extent, these expectations have been realized. A certain very moderate knowledge of musical notation has become general among the younger people—not only of that city but of almost all other cities throughout the country, for into nearly all of them music has been introduced. Even this moderate facility in reading music has served as a means of enlarging the pupil's practical acquaintance with musical literature, and to that extent the school instruction has done something to advance musical taste.

"But, on the other hand, it is very far from the truth, that the ability has become general to sing accurately by note any but the simplest music, even among the more musical of the students in these schools. It is equally doubtful whether the wider dissemination of musical taste is to any considerable extent related to the public school instruction in music.

"There is, however, a more serious question which deserves to be considered. It is, whether the exercise of singing as commonly conducted in the public schools is not positively harmful to the voice and destructive to future ability to sing artistically.

"Briefly mentioned, the faults of current instruction are these: Everything is sacrificed to a knowledge of musical notation. The voice is developed only in respect to power, and this, unfortunately, in a way which must be entirely undone whenever the study of artistic singing is begun. Instead of soft, pleasant, expressive voices, one hears in school almost universally a hard, shouty tone, unsympathetic and inexpressive. This tone is produced by an improper action of the throat which absolutely prevents the production of an emotional tone. In this way is formed a bad habit which must be entirely undone before expression can be acquired. Singing thus conducted is not even a healthful exercise, for it engenders vocal habits which react unfavourably upon the throat.

Nor do the musical text-books exhibit a real progressiveness toward higher and nobler ideas. How far this is the case will appear as soon as we compare the singing-books with the ordinary school readers. In the latter the child

begins with easy words and very simple thoughts. From this he is led to longer words, more involved sentences, and more mature ideas. The progress does not stop short of Shakespeare and Milton. Instead of such a progressive course in music, the pupil is held to the lower grade. Even where the difficulties of music-reading are gradually increased, the musical ideas are not correspondingly raised.

"All of these short-comings finally reduce themselves to two, namely: Ignorance of, or indifference to, the physiological relation between singing and the vocal organs; and second, apathy with regard to all kinds of musical relations beyond the simplest and most obvious.

"This state of things, which prevails for the most part throughout the country; is to be accounted for or, at least, has been influenced by two or three circumstances. The music teachers are chosen mainly for their knowledge of notation and the sight-reading of music. They are generally earnest, practical teachers, with perhaps a turn for music, but with no systematized training in the physiology of the vocal culture, and without practical acquaintance with the technic of vocal culture. They are precensor-like singers, with loud, unsympathetic voices, and with a low grade of musical ideas."

A PERSIAN SERENADE.

Hark! as the twilight pale
Tenderly glows,
Hark! how the nightingale
Wakes from repose!
Only when, sparkling high,
Stars fill the darkling sky,
Unto the nightingale
Listens the rose.

Here where the fountain tide
Murmuring flows,
Airs from the mountain side
Fan thy repose.
Eyes of thine glistening,
Look on me, listening;
I am thy nightingale,
Thou art my rose.

Sweeter the strain he weaves,
Fainter it flows
Now, as her balmy leaves
Blushingly close.
Better than minstrelsy,
Lips that meet kissingly
Silence thy nightingale—
Kiss me, my rose.

—Bayard Taylor (*hitherto unpublished*)

THE LATE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

In the long roll of Primates of all England who have made Lambeth their home, few names will be remembered with more reverence and affection than that of the late archbishop, Dr. Tait. He knew much of personal sorrow, and the readers of that tender and touching book, the memorial of *Catherine and Crawford Tait*, compiled partly by the husband and father himself, will remember Mrs. Tait's own account of the affliction which befel them in 1856, when her husband was Dean of Carlisle, in the deaths of five lovely little daughters by scarlet fever within as many weeks. And though he lived in a comparatively happy period of English history, the Church knew troublous times, in which its head needed to be the strong, true, broad man that he was. The words of one writer, that "his kindness, wisdom and moderation entitle him to the lasting gratitude of the English Church," may be truly cited as expressing the general opinion of his labours. In his summer home at Croydon and at Lambeth Palace he appeared, among the daughters left to him, a loving father and a most gentle host. I heard him speak of Garfield's death from the pulpit of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and I thought it the justest and fittest utterance made on that theme in England. On his death-bed he remained still mindful of the work that was given him to do, and his last efforts were directed with successful tact to the removal of one of the difficulties in the way of the reconciliation of the parties in the Church. To the new primate, Dr. Benson, who comes from vigorous and able work in his see of Truro, he has left that best of legacies—the fruits of the life of a man who was both good and wise.—*Mrs. Z. B. Gustafson, in Harper's Magazine for June.*

PROF. ROBERTSON SMITH has been giving a course of three lectures at Cambridge on "The Early Relations of Arabia with Syria, and particularly with Palestine."

THE Irish authorities know that the murderer of Lord Leitrim died in gaol; so they are not likely to pay attention to any one charging himself therewith, as the man Kinsella has done.

REV. D. HUNTER of Partick, at the last meeting of Glasgow Established Presbytery, gave the following statistics: membership 59,321, an increase of 694; voluntary contributions £48,537, an increase of £8,504.

THE Earl of Aberdeen, on May 2nd, laid the memorial stone of the new Church which is being built in Pont street, Belgrave, for Crown Court congregation, Rev. Donald M'Leod's. It will cost £20,000, of which £12,000 have been subscribed.

MR. WILLIAM CARRUTHERS of the British Museum has published a reprint of the Westminster Confession from the original edition printed under the care of the Assembly in 1647; and collated with the edition issued by Parliament in 1648.

PROF. FAWCETT resumed his University work at Cambridge after his long illness, by a lecture recently on "Socialist Schemes," in which he pointed out what he conceives to be the fallacies and difficulties of theories of "land nationalization."

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

SPAIN is to have an illustrated Protestant newspaper.

QUEEN VICTORIA has bestowed the title of baronet upon sixteen physicians.

THE town of Dundee has had gifts and bequests of late amounting to over \$1,250,000.

A BAPTIST Church is in course of erection adjacent to the Mormon Temple at Salt Lake City.

MOST of the Treasury girls at Washington are said to have their salaries mortgaged three months ahead.

THE Presbytery of Utah has three candidates for the ministry under its charge—converts from Mormonism.

BISHOP PECK of the Methodist Church has given all his property to Syracuse University, having "an ambition to die without anything."

IT has been decided to employ the electric light for the illumination of the Grand Opéra at Paris. About 1,800 Edison lamps will be used.

FRANZ LISZT has given 2,400 gulden to the Conservatorium of Vienna to found an annual scholarship of 100 gulden for the best pianoforte player.

OF thirty-nine female students of medicine attending the lectures of the Paris Faculty last year, eleven were English, five American and one Indian.

THE United Presbyterian Church of Scotland, which has been reporting a decline in numbers several years, will this year be able to report a large increase.

A LONDON journal says that the native Christians of Madagascar have given more than a million dollars during the past ten years for the spread of the Gospel.

LORD SHAFTESBURY, who is eighty-two years of age, says the improvement in the religious condition of the English working classes during his memory is wonderful.

THE census of missions to be taken next year will, it is estimated, show an increase of 200,000 native Christians in India, Ceylon and Burmah for the last ten years—500,000 in all.

THE woman's missionary societies now in successful operation number forty-eight; of these thirty-seven are in the United States, four in Canada, four in England, two in Germany and one in Sweden.

IN the French Chamber, M. Delafosse dwelt in trenchant language on the anomaly of a Government at once "republican and atheistical" being represented in grand state at the coronation at Moscow.

ON May 10th there was a holocaust of gambling implements at Nashville, Tenn., in consequence of the act which makes gambling a felony, followed by an extensive emigration of gamblers, most of whom went to Chicago.

IN one of the Washington churches one recent night the minister in opening the prayer-meeting remarked that with the clouds threatening rain on one side and Jumbo drawing out yonder (pointing) he was surprised at the good attendance.

THE Quakers feel a certain umbrage from the recent marriage at a Church of England altar of the illustrious John Bright's son. Both bride and bridegroom were members of the Society of Friends and there was a regular meeting-house close by.

THE good old Quaker poet of Boston, it is reported, has destroyed many of his letters lest they should be published and cause his friends and readers such pain as Mrs. Carlyle's letters have caused Mr. Whittier. This is the more amusing because Whittier is a bachelor.

DR. PEDDIE's offer, with regard to the amount of his estate to be surrendered to the Friendly Society, has been increased to £4,250, but the directors have resolved not to accept anything less than £4,500, and have raised an action against him for the £20,000 deficient.

A BILL has been introduced into the House of Commons to allow an appeal to prisoners convicted of capital offences. The Attorney-General, says that it is designed to protect the innocent, inasmuch as miscarriages of justice do occur, men being convicted through the ignorance or prejudice of juries.

THE Brown College juniors have handed the corporation a formal resolution asking that the marking system be discontinued, on the ground that it encourages superficial work, discourages hard-working but not brilliant students, prompts to dishonesty, and fails of necessity to indicate a student's true worth.

WHAT is alleged to be a piece of the true cross has come to light at Poitiers in an old chest. It was sent to a saint in the second half of the sixth century by the Emperor Justin from Constantinople. It is mounted in gold and enamel of exquisite Byzantine manufacture, and excites great interest. It disappeared during the revolution of 1789.

THE vicar of Plumpton, Rev. A. M. Kennedy, seconded one of the resolutions at the conference of the Liberation Society. It was not right, he said, that the whole nation should be taxed for the support of a few, and those the aristocracy of the land, especially as the Establishment was the main cause of the infidelity prevailing among the aristocracy.

OF the 923 Episcopal Churches in London, within a radius of twelve miles, there are thirty-seven in which eucharistic vestments, in ten incense, in sixty-four altar lights are used; in fifty-one are candles unlighted on the altar; and in 304 the clergy take the eastward position at the communion. The seats are free and open at 335; and 128 are open for private prayer.

THE Committee on Instrumental Music are to report to the Free Church Assembly that "there is nothing in the existing law or constitution of the Church to prevent the introduction of instrumental music," and that its use is not contrary to the Divine Word. An anti-organ petition signed, it is said, by 50,000, is to be presented to the Assembly.