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OVER LAND AND SEA.

My bark is wafted to the strand
By breath divino,
And on the helm thero rests a hand
Other than mine.

One who has known in storms to sail
I have on board;
Above the raving of the gale
I hear my Lord.

He holds me when the billows smite.
I shall not fall;
If short, 'tis sharp; if long, 'tis light;
He tempers all.

The Bible never grows old, but increases in interest and power. There is no more widely circulated book to day. All talk about its unpopularity and decline is so much wasted breath in the light of the fact that during the past year more Bibles have been printed and circulated than were produced in all the years preceding 1880. This demand for the Word of God is one of the most cheering signs of the times. Mankind wants it. Let all people under the sun have it.

Writing recently from Egypt Dr Jayce says that Professor Hommel the distinguished Orientalist paid him a visit on his way from Palestine to Munich and that he told him he had just been writing an article in which he had arrived at precisely the same conclusions as himself regarding the antiquity and trust worthiness of the Pentateuch and the baselessness of the philological analysis of it. He ended by saying—"Ten years hence the school of Wellhausen will be no more." Evidently the destructive critics are not going to have things all their own way for some little time yet. Ordinary believers may possess their souls in patience that the Old Testament will find its full vindication at the hands of the highest learning.

The statistics just published of English Methodism show a remarkable decline in numbers. There is a fall of 2,275 in the full members, and 774 in the juniors. These figures are serious enough in themselves, but more so when the increase in the general population is considered. More remarkable still is the fact that the decline is greatest in the large towns and in Cornwall, just the places where Methodism was most successful. The only increases worth mentioning are in Wales and Scotland. Thus Methodism would appear to be losing hold of the large English towns and of London itself. The special causes for this at the present time are not apparent, but a general cause is probably to be found in the fact that the Church has lost something of its old time fire and the absence of any substitute markedly characteristic of itself. The Episcopal Church is also working more jealously than before and when that is so, dissent has an uphill task. Whatever the causes may be they have not yet affected the Presbyterian Church in England which for the same year shows an increase.

On Sabbath afternoon, the 24th inst., at 3-45, the Rev. Wilton Merle Smith, D.D., in the Association

Hall New York will begin a series of addresses on "Athletic Sports in the Bible." The subjects will be such as these: "The Race and the Cloak that Hinders," "Olympian Games and the spirit behind them," "Boxing, or striking hard from the shoulder." Dr. Merle Smith was active in athletic sports while a student at Princeton. He is a man all over, and a Christian man at that. It will do young men good to listen to him. They will find him a sympathetic and useful friend.

The drink bill of the members of the House of Commons, according to the latest official returns, amounted to £6,500 in five months. Referring to this statement *The Irish Temperance League Journal* remarks: "Lyman Beecher once prayed. 'O Lord, grant that we may not despise our rulers, and grant that they may not act so that we cannot help it.'"

The dram drinker is apt at saying tea and coffee are stimulants, and that those who use them are on a par with the liquor consumer. But, did coffee or tea ever make a husband beat his wife, stain his hands with blood, or dishonor his own name? Does the mayor have to issue a proclamation on election day, closing the coffee houses from fear of riot?

Bishop Paret of Baltimore tells a good story at his own expense. He was recently in a train, and near him sat two drunken men. Presently one of the men, with a forcible expletive, remarked to the other that some one had robbed him of a twenty dollar bill. His friend remarked, "O, I guess not; you must have it about you somewhere." But the other insisted he hadn't and that he had the bill when he came aboard the train. Some one had robbed him, and he proposed to find it if he had to search the whole crowd. "As it happened," says Bishop-Paret, "I had a twenty dollar bill, and that was all, and as I was the nearest man to them, and the first likely to be approached. I felt a little uncomfortable. Then it occurred to me to pretend to be asleep. Sure enough, in a minute more I was accosted with 'I say, neighbor!' but I made no answer. Then the man grabbed my arm and shook me but to no use, as I didn't wake up. He kept on shaking, however, and always a little more forcibly, until at last his friend interposed with, 'I say, Bill, let him alone, will you; he's drunker'n you are!'"

The Duke of Westminster has sent to Lord Salisbury a fourth remittance of £1,000 for the Armenian relief fund for the assistance of the destitute fugitives of the Sassoon district.

An organization has been formed in New York for the purpose of gathering such data concerning all religious and charitable work done in the city as will be helpful towards securing co-operation to the extent of avoiding overlapping as well as neglect of any parts. It is styled "The Federation" and aims at furthering the extension of the Kingdom of God in New York by wise interdenominational co-operation. Would not similar co-operation with reference to the charitable work in this city be desirable.