

cost me. Next time I let those boys have my horses they'll know better than to run them on broken bridges. Well, it is just my luck," he concluded, gloomily, seating himself again in his chair and only rousing, as Helen was leaving the room, to say: "I wish you would light the lamp, Helen, and let us have tea as soon as possible."

Helen complied with her father's wishes. The tea was soon served, and just as it was over Fred and Philip came in. They, too, were tired and hungry, and in great dread of what their father would say. But Mr. Humphrey, having once expressed his opinion, did not condescend to do so the second time. He only inquired particularly as to the hurt of the horse, and what had been done, and satisfied from the boys' report that it was only—as it proved to be—a temporary injury, took up his paper and devoted the remainder of the evening to its perusal.

"Helen," said Sibyl, as Helen was undressing her for bed that night, "Helen, won't Christmas be here very soon now?"

"Yes, dear, in about three weeks."

"Well, Helen, I've thought just what I want for a Christmas present; shall I ask God to give it to me?"

Helen would not chill the sacred child-faith.

"Yes, dear, if it is something right for you to have," she said; "what is it?"

"I want a new doll, Helen; a new, pretty, lady doll. I've had Celeste Angelica Louise until I'm tired of her, and this afternoon in the sleigh she broke her nose. Look here!" and Sibyl exhibited her disfigured doll with an expression of great disgust.

"You might have a new head for this body; how would that do?" Helen asked.

"It wouldn't do at all," Sibyl replied, decidedly. "Don't you see, Nellie, then there'd be two heads and only one heart between them. I want a new dollie with a new heart, and I'll keep Celeste to sit in her chair, just as old Mrs. Grant, who was hurt, does, and when I look at her I'll think—" Sibyl stopped suddenly and looked at Helen as if a new idea had entered her mind.

"What will you think, dear?"

"I'll think," Sibyl spoke very slowly, "how glad I am it is her nose and not mine that's broken, and I'll remember always to say,

"I thank thee, gracious Providence,
That thou hast kept me safe this day."

Can't I have the doll, Nellie?"

"I'll see," and, with a curious, mingled feeling of amusement and pain, Helen took her little sister in her arms and offered a short, fervent thanksgiving prayer.

"She is a curious child," she thought, as she kissed her and laid her in her bed; "sometimes she seems so worldly-wise, and again so full of child-like, almost angel-like simplicity. I do not know how to teach her, but the Good Shepherd does. His lambs are safe with Him."

(To be continued.)

KINDNESS TO ANIMALS.

A teacher or a large public school in England has, during many years, been carefully teaching the children in his school, kindness to animals—to feed the birds, to pat the horses, and enjoy making all God's harmless creatures happy; and he now tells us that out of about 7,000 children that have gone out from his school, not one has ever been charged with a criminal offence in any court.

A celebrated French teacher (M. De Sully) has been teaching the children in his school, ever since 1851, kindness to animals. He says it has had the best influence on their lives and character. He has found them "not only more kind to animals, but more gentle and affectionate toward each other," and he hopes that principles of kindness to animals will soon be taught in every school. In more than 5,000 French schools, regular lessons are now given the children on this subject, and hundreds, perhaps thousands of children's societies have been formed in the schools of England, France, and other countries, to protect animals from cruelty. Out of about 2,000 criminals in American prisons inquired of on the subject, it was found that only twelve had any pet animal during their childhood.

About 600 prizes are now given every year to the scholars in English schools who write the best compositions on kindness to animals. They have been presented to these scholars by the daughters of the Queen, and other distinguished persons, in the presence of large audiences, numbering at one time nearly 10,000 people.

WHAT A BLIND MAN DID.

John Metcalf was a native of the West Riding of Yorkshire, born in the year 1717, only a few miles from Harrogate. He lost his sight from the effects of measles when four years old, and very shortly became totally blind—utterly unconscious of light! His first efforts toward sustaining himself were made upon the violin. He became an expert performer on the instrument when a mere boy, and for many years attended as a musician at the "Queen's Head," in High Harrogate. At the age of five-and-twenty he had saved money enough with which to purchase a wheeled carriage and horses, for the conveying of people to and from places of public amusement. A few years later he sold his horses, and enlisted as a volunteer in Colonel Thornton's Volunteers, and was taken prisoner at the battle of Falkirk. He was soon released, however, and returned to Knarborough, where he was born, and commenced the business of a common carrier between that town and York, a distance of sixteen miles; and whilst thus engaged he served as a guide at night through the intricate passes, or when the tracks were covered with snow. As might be expected, strangers often hesitated about placing themselves under the guidance of a man so utterly blind that even the glare of the sunlight upon the snow was not perceptible to him; but he never failed them. Over the trackless waste he would conduct travellers, when, as far as the eye could reach, only a sheet of unbroken and unmarked snow lay upon the earth; and

he never went wrong, and never hesitated. But more than this; at the age of forty he could follow the chase as well and as keenly as the rest. He had his own horses, and could follow those hounds as surely as the keenest sighted man of the country. John Metcalf was on a visit to his native place in the year 1788; being then seventy-one years of age—healthy, rugged and strong. He had come from Huddersfield, in Yorkshire, where he had just finished the building of a piece of road and the construction of a splendid bridge.

THE BETTER LAND.

I know not where that city lifts
Its Jasper walls in air,
I know not where the glory beams,
So marvellously fair;

I cannot see the waving hands
Upon that farther shore,
I cannot hear the rapturous song
Of dear ones gone before;

But dimmed and blinded earthly eyes,
Washed clear by contrite tears,
Sometimes catch glimpses of the light
From the eternal years.

—L. M. Latimer.

A CENTURY OF PROGRESS.

The last hundred years have seen the most sudden change in the British material and external life that is, perhaps, recorded in history. It is curious how many things date from that 1770 or 1780. The use of steam in manufactures and locomotion by sea and land, the textile revolution, the factory system, the enormous growth of population, the change from a rural to a town life, the portentous growth of the empire, the vast expansion of sea power, of commerce, of manufacture, of wealth, of intercommunication, of the post; then the use of gas, electricity, telegraphs, telephones, steam presses, sewing machines, air engines, gas engines, electric engines, photographs, tunnels, ship canals, and all the rest. Early in the last century Britain was one of the lesser kingdoms in Europe, but one-third in size and numbers of France and Germany. Now it is in size twenty times—twenty twenty times as big as either, and six or seven times as populous as either. London then was only one of a dozen cities in Europe; hardly of the area of Manchester or Leeds. It is now the biggest and most populous city in recorded history, nearly equal in size and population to all the capitals of Europe put together. One hundred years ago to have lit the theatre as it is now lighted, would have cost £50, and the labour of two or three men for an hour to light and snuff and extinguish the candles. It is now done for a shilling by one man in three minutes. A hundred years ago to have taken us all to our homes at night would have cost on an average 5s. a head and two hours of weary jolting. We may get home now for 4d. or 6d. a head at the most in half an hour. If you wanted an answer from a friend in Dublin or Edinburgh it would have cost by post (one hundred years ago) about 2s. in money and a fortnight in time. You now get an answer in thirty hours for twopence, or a penny if you are as brief as the Prime minister. A hundred years ago, if you wanted to go there, it would have taken you a week, and you would have to make your will. You can now go in a day, and come back the next.—Fortnightly for April.

THE CHILD IN THE PRINTING OFFICE.

Who is the Man that is looking so hard at the Piece of Paper? He is an Intelligent Compositor. Why does he hold the Paper so close to his Eyes? Because the Correspondent who wrote it makes Hen-tracks. What is he saying? He is saying, "I can't make out this stuff." And who is the Other Man going to the Case? That is the furious Foreman. What does he Want? He is going to Help the Intelligent Compositor decipher the hen-Tracks. Do you think he Can do it? I don't know; he can do most Anything, but I Guess that will be Too Much for him. Now I see an Other man Coming. What is he Going to do? That is the Precise Proof Reader. He is Going to Cast his eagle Eye over the Hen Tracks to See where they Lead to. Do you think He can Find it out? No; not without a Guide or a Calcium light. Now, here comes Another man—who is the Man? That is the Able Editor. Where did he come From? From his Den. Now all the Men are close together—see! their Heads most touch—and they are Looking every One of them at the Piece of Paper. What do they do That for? Because they Are Concentrating their Giant intellects upon the piece of Paper to see What the hen-Track Correspondent means by his Hieroglyphics. Have they Found out? No, they are stumped. Now they are going Away from the Case. Yes, And one of the Men has chucked the Piece of Paper into the Stove. Why does he do That? Because he can't read the hen-Tracks. Who is the Small Boy that has a Grin on his face, and his Hat turned up in Front? He is the Office Boy. What is the Able Editor Saying to him? He is telling him "to go after the Long Range shot Gun. What for? Because the Able Editor wants to go hunting after the hen-Track Correspondent. Will he hurt him? Yes he will, if he Catches him. Do you think the Correspondent ought to be Killed? Certainly.

THE fruit crop in Scotland has been a complete failure. It is the worst season for the last fifty years. At one well-known orchard in the Carse of Gowrie, which is rented at £200, the crop consists of one barrel of apples.

AN Englishman has described coffee as "a noxious berry, drunk to keep used-up Londoners awake." Noxious or not, the fragrant beverage has so increased in popularity that from a total product of 338,000 tons in 1860 the supply now exceeds 600,000 tons. America alone furnishes a demand for between 180,000 and 200,000 tons of it a year.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN STAFFS.

LONDON has a population of 4,764,312.

ONE of the candidates for Governor of Connecticut was a newsboy thirty years ago.

IT is estimated that 5,000 Egyptians and 300 English lost their lives in the late war in Egypt.

H. M. S. ALEXANDRA has arrived at Malta from Port Said with Midshipman De Chair on board.

MANCHESTER, in England, is to be made a seaport by means of a ship canal cut between it and Liverpool.

FIFTY Mormon missionaries have left Salt Lake City on a proselytizing tour in Norway, Sweden, and Denmark.

INSTRUMENTAL music is to be introduced in St. James's Church, Kirkcaldy, the congregation being unanimously in favour of it.

IT is in contemplation to nominate Rev. Dr. Taylor, Thurso, as Moderator of the next General Assembly of the Free Church.

FOUR thousand five hundred immigrants landed at New-York last week—the largest number ever actually landed there in a single day.

ONE result of King Kalakaua's trip around the world is probably seen in the recent landing at Honolulu of 1,200 Portuguese immigrants.

HARVEST thanksgiving services have been held in many of the English churches and chapels, which were decorated with fruits and flowers.

AN express train on the Shore Line between Boston and Providence, last week ran a distance of ten miles at the rate of eighty miles an hour.

THE Pittsburgh Y. M. C. A. has secured \$75,000 for a new building, 60 feet by 90, to be erected on the corner of Penn avenue and Seventh street.

THE higher schools of Ceylon are doing a good work. In Jaffna college fifty out of seventy-three students have renounced Paganism for Christianity.

THE President of the People's Passenger Railway in Philadelphia has forbidden all smoking on his cars. His name is Charles J. Harrah—Hurrah!

THE Tenth Cincinnati Industrial Exposition, which closed October 7th, was most successful, the attendance aggregating 351,000, and the profits reaching \$15,000.

JAY GOULD'S capture of the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railway gives him, in all, control of \$24,000,000 in corporate capital, and 42,000 employes in Missouri.

A RECENT cyclone in Florida carried a man 300 yards through the air, and then dashed him to the ground. Five persons were killed and several houses blown down.

THE year 1900 is a leap year, but nevertheless February will have but twenty-eight days—a curious fact that happens every 200 years, and always when the hundreds are odd.

TWO Mormon missionaries who attempted to conduct a Mormon service on Clerkenwell Green, London, were set upon by a violent mob, and compelled to take flight.

THE comet has brought thousands of North Carolina negro sinners to repentance. They regard it as a forerunner of the world's end, and are making preparations accordingly.

EACH of Garibaldi's children is to get \$2,000 a year for life from the Italian government. Yet their late father was in 1834 condemned by the grandfather of the present king of Italy to be shot.

THERE are 610 Chinamen on the rolls of the Chinese Sunday schools in New York, and the average attendance of these reaches 331. Forty of these scholars have confessed their faith in Christ.

MISS BURKE (the late Under-Secretary for Ireland's sister) has never quite got over the shock caused by the news of her brother's assassination in Phoenix Park, and her health is still feeble.

AND now Mr. Gladstone is added to the frightful catalogue of "great deceivers," some writer proving that the sum of the numbers corresponding to the Greek letters of his name just foots up 666!

THERE is a sermon in the fact that Stanley, the African explorer, has won the confidence of the natives so completely that the white men at the posts he has established do not carry weapons any longer.

A MAJOR and two lieutenants of the Salvation Army in Bombay were fined, and in default, imprisoned, for disturbing the public peace. The conditions of society in England and India are quite different.

JUDGE HILTON, the executor of the late A. T. Stewart, who not very long ago excluded Jews from his hotel at Saratoga, has now offered \$10,000 for the relief of the Russian-Jewish refugees in America.

HENRY M. STANLEY says he has not, in his three years with the Belgium Exploring Expedition on the Congo, had the least difficulty with the natives. He has established four stations, or *stables* of commercial towns.

THE Australian eleven's share of the gate receipts of the two matches last played by them at Manchester amounted to \$10,000. During the last two days of the latter match—that with the north of England—32,000 spectators paid entrance. They take away £11,000 in hard cash.

NEW YORK has 10,000 saloons, and spends \$60,000,000 a year for liquor, while its schools, justly its pride, cost only \$4,000,000 annually. Philadelphia spends \$23,000,000 for liquor, and about one-tenth as much for schools. Baltimore spends \$8,000,000 for liquor, and less than \$1,000,000 for church and school purposes.

DURING one of the engagements at Kassassin in the late Egyptian Campaign a Torontoian, named Cooper, lost his life. Cooper, who belonged to the 4th Dragoon Guards, observing an infantry soldier writhing under his wounds, dismounted to give him a drink from his water flask. While performing this humane duty, he received a bullet wound in the breast, and died two days afterwards.