



London, Oct. 26.—"London will be nice when it's finished," an American visitor is reported to have said. And we do not wonder at this remark when applied to the Strand and district which during the summer months has been in a state of chaos. But gradually the much talked of "improvements" are nearing completion and the opening of the new thoroughfare, Kingsway and Aldwych, by the King this week, is a big step in this direction. No less a period seventy years ago was the quietude of this Holborn-Strand avenue first mooted, and the difficulties seemed insuperable in the way of building a direct thoroughfare such as that which has now been opened. The disappearance of the tortuous lanes and byways which formed an unsavoury slum right in the heart of the Strand district is not to be regretted by any one. The cost has been enormous, compensation to property owners in the district forming the greater part of it, but the splendid buildings which will line the site and the extent to a great extent the old city streets. The fact of the Kingsway being opened in state by His Majesty shows the extent of his interest in all that concerns the people of London. Addresses from the various corporations of London were presented to His Majesty at different points on the route, and the presence of Queen Alexandra gave added zest to the demonstration of loyalty from the tremendous crowds that had assembled to see their Majesties pass to and from the new thoroughfare.

The King's Activity.

This is a busy week with the King and it is lucky that the clock of the weather has been in a particularly good mood, sending cloudless skies and brilliant sunshine for the various ceremonies which His Majesty has been attending. Not the least important of these was the laying of the foundation stone of the new post office, the site of which is in the vicinity of "Newgate" in the City. The Lord Mayor, sheriffs and common councilors turned out in all their civic splendor to welcome the King to the city, and awaited His Majesty's coming at the Royal Exchange. The chief magistrate in his robe of purple velvet trimmed with ermine, looked almost regal, and behind him were the sword and mace bearers and a big contingent of municipal dignitaries. Accompanied with an old custom, on the arrival of the King they surrendered to him the great pearl sword which is their symbol of authority. As is usual, however, it was at once handed back and they preceded His Majesty to the scene of the ceremony. Through the acquisition of the telephone the further accommodation has become imperative with the postal business increasing to such an enormous extent. Lord Stanley in his address to the King told a wonderful story of its progress.

Visit of Parisians.

The members of the Paris Municipal Council have come over to visit London and during the week have been the recipients of the most flattering hospitality. The King received them at Buckingham Palace and they also visited and were entertained at Windsor Castle. Their coming has forged another link in the interchange of courtesies between the two nations. The Paris Council are the guests of the London county councilors, and this visit is quite a municipal event. The Lord Mayor entertained them to luncheon at the Mansion House and they have been distinguished guests at the various important functions at which His Majesty was present. Apparently they are delighted with the heart-

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON.

AN ANCIENT BOOKMAN AND PIONEER.

The International Sunday school lesson for November 12th is, "Ezra's Journey to Jerusalem," Ezra viii, 21-32. The golden text is, "The hand of our God is upon all them that seek Him, for good."

By William T. Ellis.

The literary president of the United States, who has shown how to translate the ideals of the library into the deeds of the battlefield, forum and common walks of life, is of the same type as an ancient patriot who has won the title of the second founder of Israel. Ezra was a scholar. He loved books. He spent his life among them and worked with them and for them, with a passionate interest and devotion, incomprehensible to the unlettered. Doubtless many of the thrifty business men among the Jews of Babylon called him "impractical," and a dreamer; their own vision had been so blurred by devotion to things material that they did not perceive that it is only the dreamer who is always the saviour of his people. The salt of every people's life are the men who care profoundly for the things of the intellect, and whose devotion to truth and history is supreme.

When Ezra was a bookman, the Jerusalem of his day was a city of men who were not yet transformed into a modern city. It was only a single phrase that has come into our ears, but it is to him a vision of the pro-

ness of the welcome accorded to them on all sides. This idea of the bringing together of the municipal bodies of the two cities is a very happy one. The joining hands of the democracies which knit the two nations into closer union and have a wide influence in their joint understanding of one of the other.

Death of Irving.

The greatest tribute that the nation could pay to Sir Henry Irving was to allow his remains to be buried in Westminster Abbey. He was laid close to Garrick in the famous Poet's corner. Hardly ever before has such a scene been witnessed as the funeral of this great actor, who was revered by the world at large as much for his own intrinsic worth as for his wonderful genius. His sudden death coming as such a shock to everyone, seemed, if that were possible, to make his loss felt all the more keenly. It is worth Irving's wish to die as he had lived—closely associated with his great art—we cannot expect to get that desire and that he passed away practically on the stage after portraying his favorite character of Becket. For some time past the great actor had been showing signs of mental but of bodily decay, and those who saw him perform during the last few months have marvelled that he could have stood the strain of the great high reputation he gave. In the very part of Becket, to which his death has given an added touch of tragedy, he looked so ethereal as to be almost spectral. And in the final scene Becket dies rather than one spectator is said to have felt a thrill of terror lest the semblance of death that he really had come, to the eyes of the spectators, and that he might have died before the performance was over.

The Royal Tour.

The Prince and Princess of Wales left amidst the loyal good wishes of thousands of spectators for their long-planned Indian tour. Both the Prince and Princess looked very well and departed in apparently the best of spirits. But it is well known that His Royal Highness, who is a devoted mother, feels keenly the prospect of so long a separation from her children. During her stay in London, previous to her departure, she was to be seen constantly about the court, and her little ones. She spent several days in the West End shopping in the most informal manner, buying presents for the children like any ordinary fashionable lady. In the chocolate department of one of the big stores the Princess and her five children were choosing sweets one afternoon, quite unaccompanied by attendants in the shop. Not until they had left the establishment did the attendants find they had been waiting on the future Queen and her children. Her Royal Highness had also been taking them for informal drives, "doing" London in fact quite unrecognized, few people realising that the happy mother and children were the Princess and her family.

Interchange of Stamps.

The suggestion that there should be an interchange of stamps at ordinary post offices seems a good one. It would certainly be a great convenience if it were possible to buy current foreign stamps in English post offices. It seems absurd that while one can transmit a million telegrams to a foreign country by a few words in the post, when it comes to the matter of postage it is impossible to send the amount. The problem is a vexing one. There are various reasons for sending small sums abroad, and emmer-



meled land, and then he has no rest except he follow that gleam. One of the most distressing commentaries upon much of our modern "society," so-called, is that with all its wealth and leisure it does not take time for worthy books. It buys big libraries by wholesale, but they are never touched except by the servants who dust them. It is the old Par's instruction to young Timothy is forever applicable, "Give heed to reading."

Narrowness and Effectiveness.

Like a red rag to a bull, the spectacle of a "narrow" man enrages the modern man who is so "liberal" that he is willing to give away all the fundamentals for the sake of a better view of the universe is one of tolerant geniality. Of course there is a narrowness and an intolerance that are inseparable from the highest mental culture and with deeds of Holy Writ. But they are no more incompatible than the gelatinous do-nothing-and-critique-everything attitude of others. Men who accomplish things have no time to quarrel with the narrowness of the Puritan stamp to establish a new country. It is the Ezra-like man, with a tremendous passion for one idea, who revolutionizes a nation, and holds it steadfast to its best purposes.

There is just now a considerable to-do among the uninformed because Unitarians were not invited to the inter-church conference on Federation in New York City this month, and when they invited themselves their delegates were not made welcome. The discussion has been profitable, because into these dilapidated times it has injected a

reminder that there are still men who believe mightily in what they do believe, and who are willing to be called "narrow" for holding these convictions. If there is a danger of being too "narrow," there is also danger of being too "broad." Ezra typifies the man with convictions who brings things to pass.

Without Vision and Persuading.

Back in Jerusalem, to which three-quarters of a century before a great host of exiled Jews had returned with rejoicing, religious enthusiasts had died out. Spiritual deadness obtained through out the community. The enthusiasts had lost sight of the star which had led them home to the city of David. A similar condition obtains today, when the city of Jerusalem cent of Palestine, the birthplace of the Christian religion, has become a mission field for Christians in lands that were unknown when the Gospel was first promulgated. In the day of Ezra conditions had grown very bad at Jerusalem. The Jews, even the priests, had intermarried with the surrounding heathen, and, as always, laity of some life meant laity in everything else. Where the ideals of the family are low, the ideals of religion are bound to be even lower. The problem with the community was that the majority were not of one mind, but of a "lulled" people. Their religion itself had become tarnished.

Ezra saw it as his mission to help his compatriots to be true to type. He remembered their past, in his life with the vision of his ancient glory. False is the proverb, "Happy is the nation that has no

The Threatened Monopoly.

In theatrical circles the news that a new theatre had been established in America, and that arrangements had been completed for the building of a new theatre in New York, were heartily welcomed. The news is very interesting, especially to those who are not of the theatre-going class. It means that there are now two great theatrical organizations in the United States for them to choose from, whereas previously they had performed to one under the auspices of the original Frohman syndicate, and the monopoly that placed all theatrical affairs in America in the power of one man. It means, too, that the Frohman syndicate was very liberal in its arrangements for contracts, etc., yet the fact remained that they were entire masters and completely free, therefore, to do pretty well as they were told. But a rival combination of equal importance will considerably restrict their powers of control.

The Fashionists.

Distinctive touches both eccentric and daring are the feature of the smart gown of to-day. The note of originality must be sought, whether it be in the tying of a bow or the color of same, the size or shape of a button, the trimming of a collar. But we must have something that no one else has—the something which is everything and so very difficult to find! Styles are so plain—one could almost say severe—at the moment, that discovery of ornamentation must be introduced to save them from being commonplace. The smart Parisienne, of course, has no difficulty in giving to a gown just the required touch of novelty—her instinct guides her in these matters. But alas! We English are an unimaginative race and one shudders to think what sins against taste and artistic values and the liberty in the way of decoration will lead some of us.

Lace ranks first in the lines of materials for houses and frocks for evening wear, mounted over cream or a color. All sorts of lace boleros and costumes are worn. One very charming one was of cream lace with a raised flower pattern, made over cream tulle and was very fitting at the back and had a short full basque. The front turned back from a vest of deep apricot velvet and the semi-long neck had soft folds of chiffon. In varying shades of cream and gold, low, inside the revers and finishing in a small roselle at the top of the velvet vest. Frills of the three shades of chiffon adorned the sleeves and the collar was edged all round with pinups of lace in the same shades also. The lace skirt which accompanies this costume was adorned with stripes of the same shades of lace, and the effect of this smart toilette could be seen by the men who were in the hall, and gold colored slippers would give an effective finish.

A Message to Garcia.

Like the officer who carried the message from the United States to the distant island of Cuba, the leader of the Cuban revolution, Ezra performed his long, hard journey well and said nothing about the hardships by the way. What he said was that he had a message to carry to the island. A modern novelist could have made a library of books out of it; yet Ezra omits all mention of the hardships that he had to undergo, and he tells how they arrived—the two important facts about the enterprise. As Lord Roberts marched to Bahadur and never told how near he came to falling by the way, so Ezra said nothing about the hardships that he had to undergo, and he tells how they arrived—the two important facts about the enterprise. As Lord Roberts marched to Bahadur and never told how near he came to falling by the way, so Ezra said nothing about the hardships that he had to undergo, and he tells how they arrived—the two important facts about the enterprise.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY TOPICS.

THE DANGER SIGNAL.

These comments upon the uniform prayer meeting topic of the Young People's Societies—Christian Endeavor, Epworth League, etc.—for November 12th, "The Danger Signal," Prov. xxiii, 29-32; Isa. vi, 22-23.

By William T. Ellis.

"Is it not strange," remarked a man of keen outlook, the other day, "that one of the great magistrates has undertaken to do for the temperance question what they have done for the Standard Oil Company, the Great Northern Railway, and so forth, through an investigation of a calm, thorough, unbiased investigation of the situation would be tremendously interesting and tremendously valuable. Everybody could get a much bigger idea of the trusts and any other phase of life finance. Why not, then, let us have an expert study of it?"

BEYOND QUESTION, THE WORLD IS TAKING NOTICE OF THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION AS NEVER BEFORE. IT MAY BE SAID TO HAVE PASSED OUT OF THE HANDS OF THE TEMPERANCE REFORMERS; NOW IT IS BEING CONSIDERED BY THE MAN, THE STATESMAN AND THE ECCLISI- AST.

Instead of being the engrossing theme of the few, temperance has become the concern of the many. Daily newspapers treat it vigorously, without fear of being called narrow. Business concerns set a high standard of temperance for their employees because cold calculation has convinced them that commercial efficiency and indulgence in intoxicants are incompatible. Social economists, those unsentimental experts in the massing of statistics, show that temperance is a saving word, and that the life of the family, the neighborhood and the nation. In a word, we have come to the characteristic American conclusion that temperance "does" not "dry." The argument that is being presented with the most force to the youth of to-day is that he will largely diminish, or else entirely eliminate, his chances of success if he goes in for liquor.

SUGGESTIVELY ENOUGH, THE QUESTION HERE ARISES AS TO WHETHER THE CHURCH STILL SHOWS THE OLD TIME ZEAL IN BEHALF OF TEMPERANCE. While the political, social and commercial arguments for abstinence from strong drink are gathering added force every day, it may be asked: "Is the church as keen against indulgence in liquor as she was fifteen years ago?" Possibly the temperance movement has become so normal a part of religious activity that it creates less commotion than formerly; certainly we hear less about temperance meetings, pledge-signing crusades and work for the redemption of the drunkard.

history." In history are restraint and responsibility and inspiration. A past is a plumb line for the present. Israel's former days, and the messages that had come to her from of old, were finger-boards for present duty.

The revival that Jerusalem needed, this Sabbath that was perishing, because it lost its vigor in a revival of the law. It needed the sacred books with their stimulus and restraint. Emotion may sweep across into Jerusalem, but only the roots of God can be from them true after reaching there. The revival that is now based on Holy Scripture, and which does not exult in the inspired truth and make it a part of the life of all converts, can only be a passing phase.

When all had been made ready and the desert was before them, they entered upon a fast. Man's best can only be done along the line of God's plan of guidance. The "straight way" to success is the way of God's will. Therefore, at Ahava the caravan tarried for a prayer and consecration meeting.

On the 10th day of the month of Nisan, the Torrey and Alexander meetings in London, great right has been made of a card, "Get up with God." The same card has been circulated by thousands throughout America. It indicates the first condition of a religious revival, or of any other divine blessing. A period of waiting before God should precede every period of work. A man should not expect a great blessing until he has first waited for God's blessing. It is not to be expected until he has first waited for God's blessing. It is not to be expected until he has first waited for God's blessing.

Faith ever? Never! The spectators thought so on this occasion, even as did Abraham's neighbors in Ur of the Chaldees, when he set out, knowing not whether he would see his home again. His journey was not an escort of troops, although carrying an immense treasure. He had represented to Artaxerxes the great king the right way of his hand. He had asked for soldiers. This great national leader was keen for God's glory—a characteristic of every man who has been largely good. He is not a man who is without the blessing of his own name and place. He is inside upon being God.

The vicarious principle is in all things the way of salvation. The person who says, with Paul, that he will not be freed, if it means a weak brother to offend, is acting from the noblest motives. He is exercising his highest right—the right to surrender his rights for the sake of his fellow man.

Self-denial is Christian; heedless self-indulgence is un-Christian. Do as you please, and you please Satan. Unbridled passion means soul runaways that end in destruction. Only by keeping a tight rein on the body can the soul be made free.

A man's manhood is measured by the strength and fitness of his soul fibre. Whatever weakens the will—and who denies that self-indulgence does—impairs man's manhood. "Even Christ pleased not himself."

NEWS AND NOTES.

The famous theologian and higher critic, Professor Adolf Harnack, has been appointed librarian of the Royal Library in Berlin.

The souvenir postal card craze has penetrated into religious circles, and the Wesleyan Book Room, of London, is publishing a series of Methodist postal cards.

The well known missionary authority, Rev. Harlan P. Beach, has been elected professor of the Theory and Practice of Missions at Yale Divinity School, the first professorship of its kind to be created in America.

Before starting on his around-the-world trip, Mr. William Jennings Bryan transferred his church membership from the strong First Presbyterian church, of Lincoln, Neb., to the Westminster church, a little mission near his home. He said the little church needed him more.

At present there are 1,526 Young Men's Christian Associations in North America, with 281,882 members, of whom more than three-fifths are not connected with churches. The associations own 517 buildings and other property worth \$2,004,888.

Changes in native costumes and customs may be called the by-product of foreign missions. Now the American fall dress wedding has penetrated to the equator. Presbyterians' missionaries at Barak, West Africa, tell of a native wedding at which the bride was dressed in white, with a train and veil, and wearing her first corsets. The groom and some of his friends were in evening dress. At the wedding supper the guests were supplied with knives, forks and plates, and some even had napkins.

SEVEN SENTENCE SERMONS.

We hear men often enough speak of seeing God in the stars and flowers, but

HOW THE OWL GOT HIS WISDOM.

A very, very long time ago there lived in the centre of a great green wood a goblin called Timothy. Timothy was not very large; in fact only about the size of a mouse; but he was a great explorer, sometimes going as far as two hundred yards into the wood in different directions, and when he went even farther than that, on and on and on until he came to a place where the wood opened out to a broad green pathway leading to a town, and in the middle of the path he found an Encyclopedia.

Perhaps you don't know what that is. Well, it's a fat book that you sit on when your chair is not high enough, and if by any chance you open it it tells you all about everything—slumpy pounds and pounds of solid wisdom.

Well, Timothy didn't know it was there. He walked all round it, peeped between the leaves, and at length concluded that it must be some strange sort of house, as it was standing upon its edges like a tent.

HE SAID TO HIMSELF, "IT WAS SUCH TOO BIG TO MOVE, BUT HE DIDN'T LIKE TO LEAVE IT BECAUSE HE THOUGHT IT MUST BE VALUABLE."

Now, it happened just then that a large grey owl woke up and saw over his head, and wanted breakfast very badly. "Crums," it thought (you see, the owl was a vulgar sort of bird—that's why it thought "crums")—"crums—there's a goblin; I haven't seen a goblin for three weeks," and with a great shriek it swooped down.

But Timothy saw it just in time, and he jumped between the pages of the fat book, and as the owl snatched at it, he got a mouthful of information about Julius Caesar instead of getting Timothy. He was very hungry, so it swallowed it; but when you I can do always, just it—and then Timothy appeared at the other side of the book, and the owl made another snap, but only succeeded in getting a lump of Henry the Eighth.

A SPECIMEN LETTER.

(Supposed to have been written by a child of four years old.)

Cousin Dorothy, dear, The thoughts are so queer, That tumble about in my mind. So I thought I'd write you, Like the basket upset, And the spoons Kitty tried to unknit. For I always keep thinking— Things bob up like winking— I can't keep them down if I will; And when I am sleeping, In dreams they come peeping— My mind it never e'er still. Then it sets my tongue going, And the words they come pouring— Where they come from I never can find. To be sure, I asked Dolly, But she says "it's all folly— I think them out of my mind. But both Dolly and me In this fully agree: We must hurry and write you a letter; For we've read your words through, And we hope they're all true. For we're sure they couldn't be better. On my birthday I wondered If my mind was a hollowed nut. Years older than poor little me; I think it was grown up Before it was sewn up In my body—but where I can't see. But we won't talk about ages. For my doll it cringes— She's too old any husband to please! Though maybe he'd love her. If he didn't discover, I'll tell her. That her legs stop short at her knees. It would be the hardest thing To put on her marriage ring. For to have arms she has none; He will surely make a mess. If he tries his bride to kiss, For her head from her shoulders is gone. So my mind about her looks, For she's very fond of her looks, And I read her nearly all day; So my dearest doll and I, We'll be happy till we die. That's all, my dear. From your loving little Max. (J.)

A SONG OF THE ROAD.

As you're marching along the world's highway, That ever doth wind and wind, A capital way to be always gay, Contented and sweet and kind. Be to carry your troubles in front, my dear, And hang your troubles behind. There are briars besetting the world's highway, But I have heart will not mind. Then march on straight to the Golden Gate, And sure on the road you'll find. So carry your mercies in front, my dear, Your troubles will go behind. There are fears and signs on the world's highway That ever doth wind and wind. But Love is there with her face so fair, To pity and heal and bind. So carry your mercies in front, my dear, And hang your troubles behind. There is laughter gay on the world's highway, But I have heart will not mind. And Happiness, too, you'll find. And peace and joy for each girl and boy. But this you must bear in mind— To carry your mercies in front, my dear, And hang your troubles behind.

the innocent party, and even then the marriage is not to be solemnized within a year of the granting of the decree of separation, progress.

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Children's Column.

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DICKY'S STORY.

My name is Dicky. I am a canary, and I want you to let me come into the Corner. Kate says I sing very nicely, so I try to make the most of my only accomplishment. Kate is my particular friend in the family where I live, and she is a very pretty little girl, with lovely hair, which she let me play with at my best, unless I tug too hard. Then she says, "Naughty Dicky," and pretends to be ever so angry. Most of my life I spend in a cage. Kate tells me that is to keep me safe, because

they will never be truly religious till they learn to behold Him in each other's face where He is most easily, yet most rarely, discovered.—J. R. Lowell

Not in the clamor of the crowded street, But in ourselves are triumph and defeat.—Longfellow.

Resolve to perform what you ought; perform without fail what you resolve.—Franklin.

'Tis not what man does which exalts him, but what man would do.—Robert Browning.

One might as well expect to thrive, typically while his portion of food is being eaten by others as to expect mental development and not do his own thinking.—C. Morse.

Not until you make men self-reliant, intelligent, and fond of struggling for the good, then of help.—Phillips Brooks.

Bodily vigor is good, and vigor of intellect is better, but far above both a character.—Roosevelt.



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