

I add another, which is partly my translation: Primarily there was a woman, who whilst attending a feast, was confidently addressed by a person standing behind her. He said, "I love you." It was already dark, and the woman did not know who it was. She left the feast, dipped her hand in soot and came back. She then smeared the cheek of the person who had thus spoken to her. When the lamps were lighted, she stared at him and discovered that it was her own brother. Greatly terrified, she fled; the brother followed. He pursued her even to the uttermost parts of the earth; then the woman leaped into space and became the sun. Her brother leaped after her and was changed into the moon. This is the reason that the moon always follows the sun. Sometimes the moon exhibits a dark shadow; it is turning her cheek that was soiled at the feast, long before, towards the earth.

These, and hundreds of others, only awakened feelings of pity in our hearts for the poor people who are so ignorant in matters pertaining to our solar system. But when we consider their ignorance of our system of salvation through Jesus Christ, and the ideas they entertain on religious subjects, our hearts bleed. Their system of religion is by far more false than their ideas of astronomy; their priests more immoral and corrupt than their astrologers. Through the means of a Christian world, the true light of the Gospel of peace is to shine in this poor benighted land.—*Christian Observer*.

#### LUTHER AS A PREACHER.

In the October "Century" Professor George P. Fisher, of Yale, says: "For moving eloquence in the pulpit no one excelled Luther. He not only knew how to preach, but he could tell the secret to others. One defect, he observes, may eclipse numerous gifts in a preacher. 'Dr. Justus Jonas has all the good virtues and qualities a man may have; yet merely because he hums and spits, the people cannot bear that good and honest man.' Let a preacher stick to his text, and not ramble: 'A preacher that will speak everything that comes in his mind is like a maid that goes to market, and, meeting another maid, makes a stand, and they hold a goose-market.' He despised the hungry for applause: 'Ambition is the rankest poison to the Church, when it possesses preachers.' 'Cursed are all preachers that in the Church aim at high and loud things, and, neglecting the saving health of the poor, unlearned people, seek their own honour and praise, and therewith to please one or two ambitious persons. When I preach I sink myself deep down. I regard neither doctors nor magistrates, of whom are here in this church about forty; but I have an eye to the multitude of young people, children, and servants, of whom are more than two thousand. I preach to these, directing myself to them that have need thereof. Will not the rest here me? The door stands open unto them; they may begone.' 'An upright, godly, and true preacher should direct his preaching to the poor, simple sort of people, like a mother that stills her child, dandles, and plays with it,' etc. 'When they come to me, to Melancthon, to Dr. Pommar, etc., let them show their cunning, how learned they be; they shall be well put to their trumps. But to sprinkle out Hebrew, Greek, and Latin in their public sermons favours merely of show,' etc."

#### FLORENTINE FUNERALS.

"A Foreigner in Florence" says in the October "Century" "The dead are carried to their last resting-place at night. No one must be shocked during the day, while in the midst of sunshine, and light and gaiety, by a reminder of our inevitable doom—by a thought of how some day there will be no sunshine or gaiety for us in this bright world."

"A funeral in Florence is one of the saddest of sad spectacles, with its procession of priests and boys in draggled gowns that once were white, carrying large candles, which drip their waxen tears along the road—or would do so, if they were not caught as they fall in little cups, carried by more boys and priests, chanting, or rather whining monotonously, as they step briskly along, with a most indifferent air. One can judge somewhat of the wealth of the departed by the number of candles furnished. The shorter the purse the fewer the candles, until at last the very poor are thrown into a cart, carried outside the gates of the city, and shuffled into a pit, one on top of the other—a sight to make the angels weep!"

"One of the most grievous characteristics, to me, of a Florentine funeral is the absence of any relative or friend of the deceased. Not one creature who loved or cared for him to follow him to his journey's end or to shed one tear over the grave of a lost companion; left, to be almost thrown into the ground by a few priests, who sometimes, it is to be feared, look upon the ceremony as a disagreeable, though profitable task, to be got over as soon as possible."

#### "PAPA" AND "MAMMA."

An early instance which occurs to me is in the "Beggar's Opera," (1727), where Polly Peachum, I think it is, speaks of "papa." The modern change from "papa" and "mamma" to "father" and "mother" among the upper classes, which began about thirty years ago, seems to have been a reaction against a custom which had gradually crept in among persons of a lower grade. As soon as common people's children began to say "papa" and "mamma," those of a higher class were taught to say "father" and "mother." It was among my High Church friends that I first noticed this adoption of "father" and "mother." One does not see the connection, but truly such is the fact. When I was young "papa" and "mamma" were universal among what may be called the middle and upper classes of society, and to this day "ladies of a certain age" still use the words. King George III., about the year 1762, addressed his mother as "mamma;" so I find it stated in "Granville Memoirs." But I do not think that Charles II., unless he was speaking in French, ever addressed Henrietta Maria by that endearing name, and I feel tolerably sure that the Lady Elizabeth never called Henry VIII. "papa." On the other

hand, I would observe that "papa" and "mamma" are fast being supplanted by the old original "father" and "mother." For ten, or perhaps for twenty years past, children in the upper and middle classes have, so far as my observation goes, been taught to say "father" and "mother"; and "papa" and "mamma," which are words of extremest tenderness to those of my generation, seem now to have sunk into contempt as a "note" of social inferiority.—*Notes and Queries*.

#### MY BONNIE BARK.

My bonnie bark o'er the waters dark,  
Floats with a dreamful motion,  
Toward the west, where the billows' crest  
In the sunset gilds the ocean.

Like wings of snow the white sails glow  
Within the gorgeous splendour,  
That fills the skies with brilliant dyes—  
Half scrawny, half tender.

The waves leap high, and fret, and sigh,  
With soft, regretful droning;  
The fitful wind lags far behind,  
Now laughing, and now moaning.

Yet on, and on, and ever on,  
My bonnie bark keeps gliding;  
Toward the mart my dreamful heart  
Holds sacred and abiding.

For staunch and true, my gallant crew,  
Undaunted, pull together,  
'Neath skies of light, or shades of night  
In foul or sunny weather.

Hope's watchful eyes scan waves and skies  
In loving patience, ever;  
What tho' the storm bring dire alarm,  
She faints or falters never!

Love bravely stands, with steady hand,  
Her trackless pathway steering;  
And true always, the helm obeys,  
My bark bounds on unweaving!

Faith turns her eyes with restful sighs  
Toward the fields Elysian  
That stretch away in endless day—  
Hope's sweet and sure fruition.

Her eyes discern the lights that burn  
Beyond the hills terrestrial,  
To guide us o'er life's ruin and roar,  
Into the port celestial.

So on, and on, and ever on,  
My bonnie bark keeps gliding,  
Toward the mart my dreamful heart  
Holds sacred and abiding.

If sad my lot, I'll murmur not,  
God's fiat is eternal;—  
Beyond life's waves the sunlight laves  
The battlements supernal!  
—*Frank Leslie's Sunday Magazine for October.*

#### LOOK WITHIN.

It is from barren mountain heights  
That pure cold water flows;  
And in the bowels of the earth  
That diamonds dimly glow.

Fast locked 'tween shells, in waters deep,  
The pearl in darkness lies;  
And worthless seems the golden ore  
When viewed with untrained eyes.

So, oft we find, within the breasts  
That outward seem most stern,  
The hearts in which love's purest fire  
Will ever constant burn.  
—*S. H. Manchet.*

CALIFORNIA'S vineyards are rivalling her mines as a source of profit.

A BRISK old lady, Mrs. Russell Green, of Providence, Rhode Island, eighty-nine years old, does all her own work, and recently whitewashed a long board fence between her own and a neighbour's garden. She rises ever morning at four o'clock.

TWO ladies, Misses Harriette and Jane Black, daughters of the late Rev. Moses Black, Kilmare, county Down, have left Belfast for China, as missionaries in connection with the Irish Presbyterian Church. Interesting farewell meetings were held in Albert Street Church.

THE people of central Wales, under the leadership of Principal Edwards of Bala, a fellow-student of Dr. Chalmers, are agitating for a continuance of the grant to the college at Aberystwith, since Bangor has been selected at the site of a college for north Wales and Cardiff for the south.

NEARLY all the Prime Ministers of England reached a mature age before they attained to the honour. Mr. Gladstone was fifty-nine when he first held the position. Lord Beaconsfield was sixty-three, Lord Palmerston seventy, Lord Derby fifty-two, Sir Robert Peel fifty-three, the Duke of Wellington fifty-six, and Earl Russell fifty-three. In striking contrast with these veterans appears the youthful Pitt, who became Prime Minister before he had completed his twenty-fifth year.

## BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

THE most popular poet of Spain has just published a eulogy of Luther.

ONE of the Civil Justices of Philadelphia is the keeper of a gambling house.

CANON LIDLOW has prepared a volume of the private prayers of Dr. Pusey.

SAN FRANCISCO is trying to prevent the landing of lepers from the Sandwich Islands.

SOME Arizona mining companies are about to use the electric light in their mines.

THE collected works of Dean Stanley are to be issued by Mr. Murray in a series of monthly volumes.

THE oratorio of "Elijah" was performed in Gloucester Cathedral lately after a sermon by the Dean of Llandaff.

ONE hundred and twenty-nine life convicts have entered the prison in Joliet, Ill., since 1858, and fifty-three are still there.

DR. W. M. TAYLOR, of New York, preached for his old friend Mr. Kirkwood, of Troon, recently to a crowded congregation.

THE Archbishop of Canterbury has declared that the eastward position is legal. The decision of the courts is exactly the opposite.

THE North Nebraska Methodist Conference has resolved that any member who has fallen into the use of tobacco ought to desist.

THE Lee Association of Mobile ask for \$10,000 for a monument to Raphael Semmes who was captain of the cruiser "Alabama."

CHICAGO's banquet to Lord Chief Justice Coleridge recently is said to have been "on a scale of hitherto unapproached magnificence."

A MINNEAPOLIS man has paid \$3,000 for medical treatment on account of a bite by his dog, and yet has not sought satisfaction by killing the beast.

HANNIBAL HAMLIN proposes to give the town of Paris, Me., his native place, a clock to be placed in the tower of the Baptist church on Paris Hill.

THE number of applicants for admission to the undergraduate classes in John Hopkins University increases as the institution becomes better known.

PHILADELPHIA's Health Board will require householders to remove the grass from their pavements, as it affords a hiding place for garbage and other filth.

VERMONT is delighted with General Hooker's law, under which the State Government is supported entirely by a tax upon the gross earning of corporations.

ON his return from Europe, the famous temperance reformer, Francis Murphy, was accorded a reception at the Cooper Institute, New York, last week.

MR. ARCHIBALD FORBES has returned to England from the antipodes in much better health, and it is said that he thinks of settling permanently in Australia.

AT Greenock, famous for its wet weather, a shelter has been provided at the cemetery for mourners. A fee of five shillings is to be charged for its use at a funeral.

THE new Roman Catholic cathedral to be built on the site of Tothill Fields prison by Sir Tatton Sykes will be about 400 feet in length and 200 feet across the transept.

ILLITERACY has increased in Maine, New Hampshire, Nevada and California, and decreased in Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia within the past ten years.

THE "Boston Post" says that a Vermonter who stole a cow from his neighbour's barn, found on getting her home that it was his own cow, which his neighbour had stolen earlier in the night.

IT is said that Tourguenief's method of writing was laborious. He generally spun out his novels to great length in MS., and then carefully "boiled them down" till they had dwindled into short stories.

THE funeral of Lucy Fish Curtis, who died at West Randolph, Vt., at the age of about 100 years, was attended by all her six children, the youngest being fifty-five and the oldest eighty-three years of age.

THE Rev. Mr. McTavish, Inverness, formerly of Woodstock, has tabled a notice of motion in Inverness Free Presbytery condemning the Assembly's action regarding instrumental music as an act of usurpation.

THE Presbyterian mission in Persia has been granted by the Shah a site for a chapel in Teheran on condition that no Mohammedan of whatever age, will be allowed to attend the services, or receive religious instruction there.

AT the conference of Y.M.C. associations at Liverpool, it was reported that in Scotland there are 168 branches, with a membership of 30,000. The place of meeting next year is Berlin, and the conference will be international.

THE "Morning Star," which is owned by the Freewill Baptists of the entire country, and has been printed in Dover, N. H., for fifty years past, is ere long to be printed in Boston, where there are better mail facilities than in Dover.

THE sheep ranches of California are usually desolate places. For the herders it is a terrible life, how terrible is shown by the frequency of insanity among them. Sometimes, after only a few months, a herder goes suddenly mad.

IN the church that is being built on the site of the old slave market at Zanzibar, a painted window is to be fitted up to the memory of the late Keith Johnston, F.R.G.S., who died at Betsobero in June, 1879. It will be one of a series of memorials to African explorers.

SURREY Chapel on leasehold ground cost \$25,000; its successor, Christ Church, on freehold ground, has cost \$320,000, of which the last remnant, amounting to about as much as Surrey chapel cost, has lately been paid off in commemoration of the centenary of the old place of worship.