

in progressive euchre is quite familiar to them. The ladies of their own homes and their lady friends all join in it. Of course, they are thereby taught that it is not wrong. As a result, the professional gamblers find the young men trained to their hands, and they are saved all trouble in the matter."

#### "A new Application of an Old Miracle"

Rev. Wm. Shearer, pastor of St. Andrew's church, Sherbrooke, on a recent Sabbath, preached a forcible sermon to a large congregation from the text, 14:22-30, and said:

I purpo e making a new application of this remarkable incident in the life of our Lord. We have here four objects: the sea, a man in a boat and the Master himself.

1. THE SEA I take to represent this present evil world, with all its godlessness, selfishness and carnal corruption. I am justified in doing so from the fact that in all the other miracles of the sea which Jesus wrought the same analogy holds good. I am also justified in calling this world evil because, (1) The Word of God calls it so. Gal. 1:4. (2) Satan is its God and its Prince, 2 Cor. 4:4; John 12:31. (3) It hates Jesus and His disciples, John 15:18. (4) A man cannot be friendly with it and friendly with God at the same time, Jas. 4:4.

An old country paper recently said, "The picture of the world to-day as we see it on every side fills many with deep distress and alarm. Even the secular press is beginning to share this deepening dread as to what all this lawlessness, godlessness, recklessness and mad secularism foretokens." Perhaps there is no one place where the world reflects its true character more faithfully than in the secular press to-day. Lift up any paper and you will find more or less full accounts of the committal of atrocious crimes and filthy abominations. These things are going on every day, and a large proportion of the world's inhabitants gloat over such reading.

2. A MAN SINKING INTO THE SEA. Just as the law of gravitation demands that a human body shall sink down into the waters of the sea, so another law and affinity which exists between fallen human nature and this present evil world, causes that the one should absorb the other. It is as natural for the human heart to revel in sin as it is for a human body to sink into the sea. The floors of the ocean are in places carpeted with the remains of human beings cast on its merciless waters. So this present evil world teems with the souls of perishing millions who have not learned the secret of being saved from its damning influence. Peter sinking into the waters of Galilee is a type of thousands. They know the awful consequences of being overwhelmed by the lusts and passions of this world. They find themselves being sucked down. They realize their helplessness and they cry to Christ, "Lord save me."

3. A LOT OF MEN IN A BOAT. The boat I take to represent all manner of restraining influences, such as home, friends, self-respect, and the church. And by the men in the boat I understand all that class of men who are restrained from open, flagrant sin by personal, selfish considerations and surrounding influences. The only thing between these men and the absorbing waters of the sea was their boat. So the only thing between some men and utter profligacy is self interest or the restraining hand of others.

And though all this is not the highest reason for right living yet it is something for which we should be profoundly thankful. There is more hope, humanly speaking, for

the salvation of a man brought up under restraining influences than for the man who had had nothing under him to prevent him from sinking into the lower depths of iniquity.

4. THE LAST OBJECT IS CHRIST HIMSELF. Note (1). He walked on the waters without the slightest fear of sinking into them. Not the smallest fraction of an inch of his feet were wet. The man never lived who could do such a thing by his own power. So Jesus was the only man this world ever saw who could live in this world and not be contaminated by it. He who is the prince of this world did his utmost to draw him down but could not. He was in all points tempted like as we are yet without sin. His every step from Nazareth to Calvary was like his walking on the sea, for it was an everyday contact with that which whilst it had no power over Him was sucking others down to hell.

(2). He is the only True Saviour. It was He who called Peter out, and it was He who gave him power to walk on the water. So long as he fixed his mind on Jesus he was safe, but the moment he lost mental connection he began to sink. So it is with every Christian whom Christ calls to walk with Him in this present evil world. Only He can give the power to walk without sinking and the power comes by mental and spiritual contact with Himself. He does not give the power apart from Himself. "Without Me ye can do nothing." Apart from Him we are helpless; with Him we are strong.

"Who Owns the Vatican," is a question which is being discussed with some interest in Italian papers. In 1870 it will be remembered, the Italian government took possession of the States of the Church. The Tribuna, which is the chief government organ in Rome, recalling this fact, says: "The Pontiff was never granted the ownership of the Vatican Palace, but out of courtesy to the Pope he is allowed to use it as his residence. The Vatican is national property, and the Italian State can at any time legally assume the support of the whole Palace and Museum with all its age-long accumulated treasures, and along with the support, of course, the proprietorship."

The Churchman says: "To day, according to the Student Volunteer Chart, the Roman Catholics count 231,000,000; Protestants not of the historic episcopate, 150,000,000; Anglicans, 30,000,000; so that if these were to be included with the others, more than three in every seven inhabitants of Western Christendom are in protest against the claims of Rome. Besides there are 110,000,000 adherents of the Eastern churches that refuse to recognize the primacy of the Pope, the larger part, nearly 100,000,000, being of the Orthodox Eastern church. Altogether 290,000,000 Christians are not Roman Catholics—a clear majority of 59,000,000. Out of every 1,000 Christians to day we may expect to find about 450 Roman Catholics, 250 members of the Greek church, 200 Protestants not of the historic episcopate, and 55 Anglicans. A Pope who represents but a minority of Christendom stands inevitable in a different position from one representing a majority."

Joseph Parker said that he who thinks his work is beneath him and not worthy of his powers is "only a fussy idler in a garden of weeds."

#### Notes on New Books.

THE MAIDS OF PARADISE, by Robert W. Chambers. Price \$1.50. The Book Supply Company, Toronto. The scene of this charming story is laid in France in the stirring days of the Franco-Prussian war, and Mr. Chambers has managed to show very clearly the effect of that great struggle on the whole of France: but while there is much of fighting and intrigue in the book the dominant interest is love, and the romance is a most interesting one. The book is well illustrated and handsomely bound in red linen and will certainly prove a very attractive gift book.

THE SOUTER'S LAMP, by Hector MacGregor. Price, \$1.25. Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto. Some of the sketches in this volume of short stories of Scottish village life are quite equal to Ian MacLaren's best work, having the same charm of simplicity and dealing with the same class of Scottish characters. The author has the story teller's gift and carries us with him into the homely lives of the villagers, and we enjoy with them their evening's gossip, grieve with them in the death of little Mary, and sympathize with the little school children under the harsh rule of "Crookit Sol." The book is well worth careful reading, being strong in the delineation of Scottish characters, than which there are no more interesting ones in the world.

THE COUNTRY BOY, by FORREST CRISSEY. Price, \$1.50. Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto. In this book we have a typical American country boy portrayed with an intimacy no other boy book has surpassed. In a score or more of short sketches, each complete in itself, we are given pictures of the main scenes of the boy's life. The Lion by the Roadside, Wiping Dishes for Mother, The New Teacher, Getting His First Gun, and The Girl with the Brown Braids, these are some of the subjects; and all are treated in the lightest, most delicate manner, with no waste of words and with the best effect possible on that account. The cover, illustrations, and entire get up of the book add attractiveness as a holiday book.

SONS OF VENGEANCE, by Joseph S. Malone. Price, \$1.25. Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto. Mr. Malone says that some of the worst fights that came to his knowledge occurred when the opposing factions met at church. Anyone expecting to find a typical feudist, breathing fire and thirsting for blood will be disappointed to find him a deacon in a hardshell Baptist church, and much more inclined to long prayers and endless theological arguments than to threatenings and boasts. "We never quarrel, we fight," is a very good description of the mountain character on one side. The story is a vivid picture of this life, and a charming romance, is interwoven with the more sombre details.

THE HEART OF ROME. A Tale of the "Lost Water." By F. Marion Crawford. Copp, Clark Company, Toronto. Crawford has the art of writing books of vivid interest. They may have little depth to them, his recent ones certainly have, but one reads them from cover to cover before laying them down. This new story comes between "Cecilia" and "In the Palace of the King" in interest. It has more life than "Cecilia" but less dramatic quality than the last mentioned. The heroine is an Italian of noble family, one of the sweet, unsophisticated type which Crawford is fond of picturing, and her love story is of course the central point of the book. The introduction of the "lost water" incident adds to the interest of this very readable book.