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Speak kindly, for our days are all too few
For any angry strife;
There is deep meaning, if we only know,
In our brief life.
No nobler mission can be ours, if we
A pang can stay;
Or if, amidst the rush of tears we see,
Wipe one away.

OVER LAND AND SEA.

We often distress ourselves greatly in the apprehension of misfortune which after all never happens at all. We should do our best, and wait calmly the result. We often hear of people breaking down from overwork; but in nine cases out of ten they are really suffering from worry or anxiety.

On a vast plain, the 350,000,000 subjects of Queen Victoria are assembled before her throne, and on a table near the throne are the five sacred books of the East—the Bible, the Vedas, the Koran, the Tripitakas and the Zend Avesta. Rising from her throne the Queen says: "Let all those who believe in the divine inspiration of the Vedas take their sacred books and pass out and away." Two hundred millions go out and 150,000,000 remain. Sadly the Christian Queen again speaks: "Let those who believe in the Koran now leave." Her grief increases as 60,000,000 more go out, and but 90,000,000 remain. Again she speaks; and again there is an exodus of those who believe in the Tripitaka, the sacred book of the Buddhists, and in the Zend Avesta, the Parsee Bible—40,000,000 more. Out of the 350,000,000 only 50,000,000 remain, who accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as their Bible, and only a part of these are heart believers in God's Book. This parable shows that the disciples of Jesus still have much to do before it can be said that the glad tidings have adequately been made known to every creature. We need be in no doubt as to which of these five sacred books will ultimately triumph.—*Advance.*

There is such a thing as the Bible becoming lost in its own literature. In these days of many books about the Bible close and constant study of the Scriptures themselves cannot be too earnestly urged. No lesson leaves, for example, are "helps" that divert from the scrutiny and memorization of the simple Word. The Bible is not the only, but it is the best commentary on itself.

The following programme of Conferences has been arranged for the next meeting of the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa:

FIRST, THE LORD'S SUPPER,

1. Preparation for the Lord's Supper, the Rev. Jas. Fleck, Montreal.

2. The Administration of the Lord's Supper, the Rev. Dr. Crombie, Smith's Falls.

SECOND, THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,

1. In the Life of the Church at Home, Rev. J. McLeod, Vankleek Hill.

2. In the Mission Work of the Church, Rev. D. McLaren, Alexandria.

Silly people who indulge in all sorts of superstitions about the number thirteen may be interested to learn that Dr. Nansen, the distinguished explorer, not content with being born on the thirteenth of the month, went off on his last expedition with a company of thirteen, all of whom returned safely. The Fram got clear of the ice on the thirteenth of the month, on the same day on which Nansen arrived at Tromsø, and to crown all, he was entertained by the Royal Scottish Geographical Society on the occasion of its thirteenth anniversary, held on Feb. 13th. After all this, the number thirteen should be reinstated in the good graces of the most superstitious.

Presbyterianism seems to thrive in the Dark Continent. The Presbyterian Church of South Africa has now its General Assembly in which are represented the Free Church with three Presbyteries, the United Presbyterian Church, with two Presbyteries, the separate Presbyteries of Natal, Cape Town and the Transvaal, and the congregation of Port Elizabeth. The united body claims to have 13,000 communicants, of whom three-fourths are natives. Outside this community, there are two other Presbyterian Churches in South Africa—the Dutch Reformed, with 160,000 members, and the Basuto Church, with over 9,000 members.

The Missouri River is one of the most lawless of the great rivers of the world. It cuts dikes, ruins farms, and demoralizes whole communities along its banks. By a change in the river's course about 9,000 acres of land have been transferred from Nebraska to Iowa. The owners of the land along the old channel claimed the disputed acres as accretions, and the lower courts sustained them. Meanwhile the Government surveyed it and sold it as government land. The Supreme Court ruled that gradual accretions belong to the owners of the property to which they add, but that in case of a sudden change of course the territory involved goes to the Government. But the muddy, murky stream goes right on shipping land to neighboring States or sending it down to the Eads jetties and the Gulf.

A number of Presbyterian clergymen and laymen met recently in New York city to form the "Church Service Society of the United States of America." The object is to inquire into the present conduct of public worship in the Church and the various orders at worship in actual use; to study the modes used in the different branches of the Church, with a view to the preparation of form of service which will guard against the "contrary evils of confusion and ritualism, and promote reverence and beauty in the worship of God in His Holy House, unity and the spirit of common praise and prayer among the people." Dr. L. F. Benson, of Philadelphia, was made president, Dr. Henry Van Dyke, of this city, vice president, and Dr. S. T. Clark, of Buffalo, secretary. Among the prominent men connected with it are Drs. Murray and Purves, of Princeton Seminary; Dr. Henry M. Booth, of Auburn; Dr. Robert Ellis Thompson, of Philadelphia; Dr. Teunis S. Hamlin, of Washington; Dr. Charles Cuthbert Hall, of Union Seminary, Dr. George Alexander, of New York, and others.