

councillor, an honour to which professional scholars seldom attain. He had so many degrees that it was difficult for him to keep track of them all, and he had been decorated by the French, German, Italian, and Russian governments."

#### A LOSS TO LITERATURE.

During the month two great writers of strikingly different character, have passed away. Charles Dudley Warner, the genial American humourist, was a man of much more delicate fancy than his only compeer, Mark Twain. The latter strikes us as sometimes farcical and in his exaggeration absurd; but Warner never overpassed the line of refined and elegant badinage. His books of travel are amongst the most instructive we have read, while his essays possess a grace and literary charm unsurpassed. It is a note of the higher moral tone of the close of the century that neither of these professional humourists has written a line which "dying, they would wish to blot." How different from the coarseness of Fielding and Smollett, and even of ecclesiastics like Swift or Rabelais.

As this year commemorates the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Charles Goodyear, whose life and work have been such a benediction to mankind, we thought it appropriate to give a *résumé* of his remarkable story. As both this article and the one on "Early Christian Life and Character" were announced for the current volume, the editor felt under obligation to include them in its last number, although it may give a disproportionate amount of contribution from his own pen.

#### GAMBLING IN CANADA.

It is alleged that in many of our Canadian cities the return of prosperity has caused an increase of the vice of gambling, that the pool-room, bucket shops, and other gambling devices are more in evidence than ever. In Montreal a scarcely veiled lottery exists. In Vancouver the Rev. E. D. McLaren makes a strong appeal before the Police Committee for interference with the gambling evil which threatens its welfare. The ministers' meetings of our cities might well appoint committees to investigate the condition of this and other forms of evil, and seek to arouse the energies and to strengthen the hands of those in authority for their suppression.

#### ITEMS.

The Jewish population of Palestine numbers 100,000, and is constantly increasing.

The British and Foreign Bible Society reports that the work of translation is in progress in not less than 120 languages, a number great beyond precedent. Its 724 colporteurs sold last year more than 1,500,000 copies of the Scriptures.

In Beirut, forty-two years ago, there was one little day-school for girls and another for boys, and a few Mohammedan schools in the mosques for teaching the boys the Koran. Now there are not less than 15,000 children in the schools out of a population of something more than 100,000, and Mohammedans are sending not only their boys, but many of their little girls to school, thus changing their customs and ideas.

#### CHRISTMAS.

This is the month, and this the happy morn,  
Wherein the Son of Heaven's eternal King,  
Of wedded Maid and Virgin Mother born,  
Our great redemption from above did bring;  
For so the holy sages once did sing,  
That He our deadly forfeit should release,  
And with His Father work us a perpetual peace.

That glorious form, that light insufferable,  
And that far-beaming blaze of majesty,  
Wherewith He went at Heaven's high council-table  
To sit the midst of Trinal Unity,  
He laid aside; and here with us to be,  
Forsook the courts of everlasting day,  
And chose with us a darksome house of mortal clay.

—Milton.