

slanders were preparing to repose themselves. From this, taking advantage of the many facilities for concealment which the ruins afforded, he drew near and looked down upon them. There they lay, ten, twenty-eight men; all evidently Jews. One of them kept guard, and three or four appeared to be suffering from wounds more or less serious; but no female form, dead or living, was to be seen, although the entrance to the girl's place of concealment was actually within the circle of recumbent forms. She was safe for the present at least.

The knowledge of this fact was as a momentary reprieve to the mind of Adriel, but a consciousness of the deep peril of the situation, even at its best, gave him short time for congratulation. Either the maiden was still hidden in the ruin or else she had seen the party approaching and had had time to make good her escape. If the latter were true she would unquestionably have sought the hut, her old place of refuge.

Twice then he bent his steps with the hope that an escape even on foot might be effected before the day broke. As he drew near, the open entrance filled him with apprehension—apprehension too soon substantiated, for the place was empty as on the day he first discovered it.

For a moment the man stood gazing into the hollow darkness, and then he leaned against one of the stone doorposts and his strong frame seemed to sway and shiver under the shock of contending emotions.

He did not weep; he did not cry out; but the pallor of his dark face, the working lips, and the clenching and the unclenching of his hands told of feelings which voice or tears were powerless to interpret.

This then was the end of all. Even at the moment when he had deemed himself past all obstacles the tide of battle had turned, and the new deity in whom he had put his trust had gone down before the irresistible might of the ancient God.

The fiat had gone forth, and the lot had been against him. With the strong sentiment of fatality characteristic of the Oriental mind he prepared to compose himself for the stroke. It was useless to struggle longer. If he remained, also; for his continued absence and the discovery of the episode of the captured asses, would put men upon his track whose pursuit he could not hope to escape, encumbered as he would be by a delicate woman. No! Fatalism and reason united to drive him back to the camp, before a march should be instituted. In case he were questioned as to his unperformed task, the pretext stood ready. His horse had escaped from him, and without them it were useless to go on.

Making a long detour in order to avoid being seen, he commenced his journey back with a heart full of grim forebodings. For the immediate safety of Eliisa there was nothing to fear, at least nothing which he had any chance of preventing. She had evidently not been discovered as yet, and the chances of her ultimate concealment were therefore increased. When the scouting party should rise up to move, there would be haste to return to Gilgal, and merely nothing to tempt a close scrutiny of such unpromising surroundings. On their leaving the ground, he felt positive that she would go back at once to the hut, where she would be at least as safe as she had been before the unfortunate events of the night.

Thus musing he entered the camp unnoticed, and made his way to his tent as the first glimmer of the morning began to tadden the distant hill-tops.

(To be continued.)

MONOSYLLABLES.

Mine be the force of words that tax the tongue
But once, to speak them full and round and clear,
They suit the speech, or song, and suit the ear,
Like bells that give one tone when they are rung;
Or bird notes on the air, like rain-drops flung,
That pour their joy for all who pause to hear,
Their short, quick chords the dull sense charm and cheer,
That tires and shrinks from words to great length strung.

Strong words, of old, that shot right to the brain,
And hit the heart as soon, were brief and terse,
Who finds them now, and fits them to his sling,
Smooth stones from brooks of English are his gain,
Which shall make strong his thought, in prose or verse,
Will be with scribes to write, or bards to sing.
—William C. Richards, in *Harper's Magazine* for July.

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY LITERATURE.

Deficient in the highest intellectual beauty, in the qualities which awaken the fullest critical enthusiasm, the eighteenth century will be enjoyed more thoroughly by those who make their special study than by those who skim the entire surface of literature. It has, although on the grand scale condemned as second rate, a remarkable fullness and sustained richness which endear it to specialists. If it be compared, for instance, with the real Augustan age in Rome, or with the Spanish period of literary supremacy, it may claim to hold its own against these rivals in spite of their superior rank, because of its more copious interest. If it has neither a Horace nor a Calderon, it has a great extent and variety of writers just below these in merit, and are more numerous than what Rome or Spain can show during those blissful periods. It is, moreover, fertile at far more points than either of these schools. This sustained and variegated success, at a comparatively low level of effort, strikes one as characteristic of an age more remarkable for persistent vitality than for rapid and brilliant growth. The Elizabethan period is absent, the Georgian glow has not yet dawned, but here is a suffused prosaic light of intelligence, of cultivated form, over the whole picture, and during the first half of the period, at least, this is bright enough to be very attractive. Edmund Gosse, in *New Princeton Review* for July.

THE TROPICAL TOWN OF ST. PIERRE.

We are ashore in St. Pierre, the quaintest, queerest and the prettiest withal among the West Indian cities; all stone built and stone-flagged, with very narrow streets, wooden awnings, iron balconies and peaked roofs of red tile pierced by gabled dormers. Most of the buildings are painted in a clear pale yellow tone, which contrasts delightfully with the burning blue ribbon of tropical sky above; and no street is absolutely level. Nearly all of them climb hills, descend into hollows, curve, twist, describe sudden and amazing angles. There is everywhere a continuous chant of running water, pouring through the deep gutters contrived between the paved thoroughfare and the absurd little sidewalks varying in width from one-foot to three feet. The architecture is very old; it is seventeenth century probably; and it reminds one a great deal of that characterizing the antiquated French quarter of New Orleans. But one must imagine New Orleans idealized by artistic conception, made intensely tropical, and projected audaciously upon the side of a huge volcanic hill. All the tints, the forms, the vistas, would seem to have been especially selected or designed for aquarelle studies, just to please the whim of some extravagant artist. No ruin was ever more picturesque than these living streets in their perfect solidity and undegraded quaintness. The windows are frameless openings without glass; some have iron bars; all have heavy wooden shutters with movable slats, through which light and air can enter as through Venetian blinds. These are usually painted green or bright bluish gray.—*Lafadio Hearn, in Harper's Magazine* for July.

THE SUBSIDENCE OF MOUNTAINS.

According to *La Gazette Geographique* the Cordillera of the Andes are gradually sinking. In 1745 the city of Quito was 9,596 feet above sea level, in 1803 it was only 9,570; in 1831, 9,567, and scarcely 9,520 in 1867. This amounts to a lowering of seventy-six feet in 122 years, or at the rate of about seven and a half inches per annum. We are also told that the farm of Anisana has sunk 154 feet in sixty-four years, or more than two and a half feet per annum. This is the highest inhabited spot on the Andes—about 4,000 feet higher than Quito, the highest city on the globe. The peak of Pichincha was, according to the same authority, 218 feet lower in 1867 than in 1745, a sinking of nearly two feet per annum. Assuming the accuracy of these figures, they present a curious geological problem, especially as there is no record of a corresponding change at sea level or at the foot of these same mountains, which descend rather steeply to the Pacific. If the plasticity or viscosity of the earth's crust be such as I have contended in this magazine, it follows almost of necessity that such a mass of mountain land as that in this region of Quito and Chimborazo must be squeezing itself downward into the subcrust of the globe by its own enormous weight. Although the highest of these peaks are not quite so high as the highest of the Himalayas, the concentration of elevation in a given area, or, otherwise stated, the mass standing above sea level in proportion to the base on which it stands, is greater than can be found in any other part of the world, and its downthrust is similarly pre-eminent. Such down squeezing and sinking must be accompanied with corresponding lateral thrust, or elbowing that should produce earthquake disturbances on every side. The facts fully satisfy this requirement of the theory, as the country all around the region in question is the very fatherland of terrible earthquakes.—*W. Mattieu Williams, in the Gentleman's Magazine*.

MAMMOTHS IN SIBERIA.

The existence of ivory in Siberia in a subfossil condition, but still sufficiently durable to be used for all the purposes to which recent ivory is applied, has been known since the Middle Ages, and formed one of the earliest exports from Siberia to China. The very name given to the gigantic creature which produced it, mammoth or mamont—probably a corruption of bemoth—was introduced by the Arab traders who initiated the traffic in fossil ivory in the tenth century. It was not, however, until the middle of the eighteenth century that the trade became considerable. In or about 1750, Liachof, a Russian merchant, discovered vast stores of elephant tusks and bones in the northern districts of Siberia, and especially on the islands off the mouth of the Lena, which have since borne his name. The ivory brought thence, says the traveller Wrangell, "is often as fresh and white as that from Africa." Since Liachof's discovery it has been computed that the tusks of at least 20,000 mammoths have been exported, while even a larger number are too much decayed to be worth removal, and others are so large that they have to be sawn up on the spot where they are found. These buried hecatombs of elephants abound throughout the frozen soil of Siberia, but they are more numerous the further we advance northward, and most plentiful of all on the islands above-named and in those termed New-Siberia. More remarkable still are the mammoth mummies—several of which have been disinterred, whole carcasses not infrequently standing upright in the frozen soil, with their flesh "as fresh as if just taken out of an Equisetum cache or a Yakout subterranean meat safe." The most widely known of these is that discovered in 1806 by an English botanist named Adams, and the skeleton, or such parts of it as could be recovered—for in the interval between part of it being laid bare and the information reaching Adams wild animals had preyed on the flesh and carried off many of the bones—is now in the museum of St. Petersburg. Carcasses of the rhinoceros have also been found under similar conditions.—*Saturday Review*.

Dr. KING, the Bishop of Lincoln, is about to be prosecuted in the court of the Archbishop of Canterbury for ritualistic practices.

British and Foreign.

THERE has been a gain of 791 members in the Irish Presbyterian Church during the past year.

OWING to his continued ill-health the resignation of Rev. D. Patterson of Sunderland has been accepted.

THE Presbytery of Carlisle will arrange Sabbath services at Keswick during July, August and September.

THE municipal elections in Rome have gone completely against the candidates nominated by the Vatican.

IN Hamilton Church of Scotland Presbytery tent services were commended by several brethren as a means of reaching the lapsed masses.

THE statue erected in Aberdeen by the clad Gordon to the memory of General Gordon, was unveiled by the Marquis of Huntly lately.

GLASGOW Presbytery has appointed a sub-committee to receive the statements of the petitioners in the case of Mr. Mackie of Manchester.

THE Rev. Robert Campbell of Carleton has been elected Moderator of Glasgow North United Presbyterian Presbytery for the next six months.

IN the action against Rev. J. P. Lang, of Stirling, it has been decided that a parish minister is not exempt from the cost of paving before his door.

COLONEL OLCOTT, the high priest of the Theosophists, has abandoned spiritualism and now proclaims his faith in the sublime mysteries of Aryanism.

CANON LIDDON, offered a fee of \$500 per night by Major Pond if he would go to the States and lecture, has, like Mr. Spurgeon, politely but firmly refused.

IN the historical trips at Cambridge the ladies have secured another triumph, four of their number being in the first class, which included only two men.

ALL the musing students of the Madras Christian College but seven have expressed sorrow for their unjustifiable actions and returned to their classes.

THE Rev. P. T. Muirhead, of Kippen, died lately at Inverness; he was in his ordinary state of health when he left home to attend the Free Church General Assembly.

THE Rev. A. Marshall, late of Inveresk, was inducted to the Scots Church at Melbourne on April 23 in the presence of a large congregation and received a most cordial welcome.

MR. J. T. MORTON, who in so many ways is assisting the Churches, offers a prize of \$500 for the best essay on the Sabbath to be competed for by ministers of the Irish Presbyterian Church.

DR. ROSS of Reading, having accepted the call of Trinity Church, Newcastle, the short vacancy caused by the removal to Crouch Hill of Rev. J. B. Menary has been brought to a close.

THE vicar of St. John's Newport, Isle of Wight, has had a baptismary constructed in his church for the administration of the ordinance by immersion. This step is taken to meet the views of some of his parishioners.

AFTER forty-one year's honourable service as professor of Hebrew in the Theological College at Belfast, Dr. James G. Murphy has obtained leave to retire. Mr. Thomas Walker, M.A., has been appointed his successor.

MR. W. J. WHITTAKER, who has taken the first place in the law trips at Cambridge, is a son of a Baptist deacon at Harlow. He went direct to Cambridge from the Nonconformist grammar school at Bishop Stortford.

INTEREST in Bible circulation is becoming so general in Holland, Germany, Switzerland and Denmark that it is expected the Bible society may shortly withdraw and leave the work to be done wholly by the local societies.

MR. SPURGEON was sufficiently recovered to enable him to preach. The obsequies celebration, which is always held on his birthday, took place as usual. Mrs. Spurgeon's health is also improving, though she is still very weak.

THE Rev. Mr. Robson, of Inverness, who is chairman of the Northern Counties' Institute for the blind, presided at the annual conference of teachers and missionaries of the blind, assembled from all parts of Scotland in the Highland capital.

AN Austrian who has been engaged in his own country in Bible distribution for forty years says of the book: "It has made my heart happy, my life-work both delightful and useful, my house cheerful, my family united, my present joyous, and my future glorious."

THE Rev. Gordon Muncell, M.A., of Kilmadock has been presented by Dunblane Presbytery with a congratulatory address on reaching his ministerial jubilee. Ordained at South Snields in January, 1838, he was translated to Kilmadock in the June of the same year.

THE new play "Luther and his Time," was produced in Berlin lately; the first act had been entirely altered, an official journal of the government pointed out that in its original form it cast a slur on the Roman Catholic faith and its rituals. The veneration of saints and relics, indulgences and fastings were derided. The principal scenes were were loudly applauded by the people.

THE *Dumfries Standard* gives a description of an interesting manuscript volume of sermons in the possession of Dr. John Cunningham, of Dumfries, which is believed to have belonged to Zachary Boyd, the Principal of Glasgow University, who had the courage to preach against Oliver Cromwell in his presence. A leaf bound in at the end of the volume associates the book with John Knox, minister of Melrose.

DR. MACFADYEN, of Manchester, having completed the twenty-fifth year of his pastorate at Chorlton-Road, the event was celebrated at a commemorative soiree of the past and present members of the church and congregation, including those connected with the two branch churches and the three mission stations. On the following Sunday, Dr. Macfadyen preached two sermons, having special reference to his semi-jubilee.