

"We will," cried both the children, clinging round her as she rose from her chair, until they caught sight of Phebe standing in the doorway. Then with cries of delight they flew to her, and threw themselves upon her with almost rough caresses, as if they knew she could well bear it. She received them with merry laughter, and knelt down that their arms might be thrown more easily round her neck.

"See," she said, "I was up so early, while you were all in bed, finding May-roses for you, with the May-dew on them. And if your father and mother will let us go, I'll take you up the river to the oyster island; or you shall ride my Ruby, and we'll go off a long, long way into the country, us three, and have dinner in a new place, where you have never been. Because it's Felix's birthday."

She was still kneeling on the floor, with the children about her, when the door opened, and the same troubled, haggard face which had peered out upon her under the archway, looked into the room with restless and bloodshot eyes. Phebe felt a sudden chill again, and rising to her feet put the children behind her, as if she feared some danger for them.

"Where is Mr. Sefton?" he asked in a deep, hoarse voice; "is he at home, Madame?"

Ever since the elder Mr. Sefton had brought his young foreign wife home, now more than thirty years ago, the people of Riversborough had called her Madame, giving her no other title or surname. It had always seemed to set her apart, and at a distance, as a foreigner, and so quiet had she been, so homely and domesticated, that she had remained a stranger, keeping her own habits of life and thought, and often yearning for the old pastor's home among the Jura Mountains.

"But yes," she answered, "my son is late this morning, but all the world is early, I think. It is not much beyond nine o'clock, Mr. Acton. The bank is not open yet."

"No, no," he answered hurriedly, while his eyes wandered restlessly about the room; "he is not ill, Madame?"

"I hope so not," she replied, with some vague uneasiness stirring in her heart.

"Nor dead?" he muttered.

"Dead!" exclaimed both Madame and Phebe in one breath; "dead?"

"All men die," he went on, "and it is a pleasant thing to lie down quietly in one's own grave, where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest. He could rest soundly in the grave."

"I will go and see," cried Madame, catching Phebe by the arm.

"Pray God you may find him dead," he answered with a low, miserable laugh, ending in a sob. He was mad; neither Madame nor Phebe had a doubt of it. They put the children before them, and bade them run away to the nursery, while they followed up the broad old staircase. Madame went into her son's bedroom; but in a few seconds she returned to Phebe with an anxious face.

"He is not there," she said, "nor Felicia. She is in her own sitting-room, where she likes not to be followed. It is her sacred place, and I go there never, Phebe."

"But she knows where Mr. Sefton is," answered Phebe, "and we must ask her. We cannot leave poor Mr. Acton alone. If nobody else dare disturb her, I will."

"She will not be vexed with you," said Madame Sefton. "Knock at this door, Phebe; knock till she answers. I am miserable about my son."

Several times Phebe knocked, more loudly each time, until at last a low voice, sounding far away, bade them go in. Very quietly, as if indeed they were stepping into some holy place barefooted, they crossed the threshold.

(To be continued.)

UNCLASSED MEN.

If any one wishes to know something of the unclassified and their despair, he has only to advertise for a junior clerk, a time-keeper, night-porter, or other employee of the untrained sort. For days he will be overwhelmed with letters from many parts of the country. Some of them will be couched in Addisonian phraseology, betraying evidence of high culture and considerable mental power. Others will be pathetic appeals for a trial, concluding with assurances of life-long devotion if engaged. Others will contain recitals of a struggle for bread so painful as to equal anything found in fiction. But if the advertiser wishes to know the darker depths in which many of the unclassified dwell, he will receive the applicants in person. The veil which hides the obscurer movements of society will then be lifted, and the spectator will be amazed at what he sees and hears. What waste of life, what corrosion of energy, what desperate tragedies! The terrible epoch for the unclassified lies from the twentieth to the thirtieth year. Friends and relatives of the same age are then entering upon the solid paths of life. They marry, set up establishments on their own account, become absorbed in new worlds, and forget bachelor acquaintances. The unclassified human being also longs, like others, to form those ties which are the dearest and the purest. He desires a wife and a bright home, an arena and a prize to stimulate what powers he has. But position and assured prospects are needed. The maintenance of his own existence is difficult and problematical. What parent would entrust a daughter to such an anomalously situated man? What girl would embark upon such a mad enterprise? The intolerable misery of the position sometimes so rouses the forces of the man thus placed, that he cuts through all impediments and makes a successful career after all. The affection of a good woman supplies a motive for exertion and perseverance which has saved thousands of men from the consequences of youthful mistakes and ineptitudes.—*Chambers's Journal.*

LITTLE THINGS.

More depends on little things than we think. It is said that Voltaire, when five years old, read an infidel poem, and he was never able to free himself from its effects. Scott, the commentator, while despairing, read a hymn of Dr. Watts, and was turned from a life of idleness and sin to one

of usefulness. Cowper, about to drown himself, was carried the wrong way by his driver, and went home to write "God moves in a mysterious way." The rebuke of a teacher roused Dr. Clarke to great action, who had up to that time been slow in acquiring knowledge. Ole Bull, the great violinist, rescued from suicide by drowning, and taken to the near residence of a wealthy lady, became her *protégé* and soon acquired fame. Robert Moffat, the distinguished missionary, reading a placard announcing a missionary meeting, was led to devote himself to work for the heathen. One step downward often leads men into the greatest guilt. It is the little words or actions that make or mar our lives.

SOMETIME, SOMEWHERE.

Unanswered yet? The prayer your lips have pleaded,
In agony of heart these many years?
Does faith begin to fail; is hope departing,
And think you all in vain these falling tears?
Say not the Father hath not heard your prayer:
You shall have your desire sometime, somewhere.

Unanswered yet? Though when you first presented
This one petition at the Father's throne,
It seemed you could not wait the time of asking,
So urgent was your heart to make it known.
Though years have passed since then, do not despair;
The Lord will answer you sometime, somewhere.

Unanswered yet? Nay, do not say ungranted;
Perhaps your part is not yet wholly done.
The work began when first your prayer was uttered,
And God will finish what He has begun.
If you will keep the incense burning there,
His glory you shall see sometime, somewhere.

—Robert Browning.

[Montreal (Canada) Post.]

A GOOD THING FROM THE STATES.

In this age of quackery, it is consoling to discover that there is something solid in existence, and that, though there are vendors who lie most cheerfully about their wares, there are others who tell the truth, and allow time to test the merits of what they offer for sale. As year after year rolls over, the frauds and the shams sink away out of sight in the pools and morasses of obscurity, while what is good and true stands boldly forth all the grander for its age and solidity. Thus while within the present decade thousands of patent medicines, puffed at one time to imitation, have shrunk before the test of analysis, *St. Jacobs Oil* has bravely borne the strain, and is to-day renowned all over the world for its famous curative powers. It is truly one of the phenomena of the age we live in. The sale of this article is incredible. It is to be found almost everywhere in the civilized world, and in a good many places where the people are not civilized—for, unfortunately, the bones of sorrowful men are racked and ache with pain no matter what region the inhabitants, and we believe it is yet destined to be found in every house, and to supersede the many nostrums which still remain abroad to rob and defraud humanity of its money and its health. The firm of A. Vogeler & Co., Baltimore, spend half a million dollars yearly in advertising *St. Jacobs Oil*, and hence we may guess at the full extent of their enormous business. It is truly marvellous, or would be did we not know the circulation of this inestimable blessing.

DR. JESSUP, of Beirut, reports that unusual crowds have been attending services in the Greek Church, and that it is the preaching of Mr. Moody's sermons, obtained from the Beirut press, that has caused the stir.

MRS. GARFIELD has announced her intention to have arranged and published a life of her husband, including his literary remains. The material for both are said to be abundant and easily accessible. It will be prepared in good measure under Mrs. Garfield's personal supervision.

THE Presbyterian Synod of Kansas might properly be called the "Polyglot Synod," for within its bounds, which extend over the Indian Territory, the Gospel is preached by members of the Synod in no less than nine different languages—English, German, French, Bohemian, Welsh, Cherokee, Choctaw, Nez, and Perce.

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE.

A lawyer in Central New York gives the following account of one of his first cases:

My client sued a neighbour for the alleged killing of a favourite dog. The proof consisted in the mysterious disappearance of the animal, and the possession of a dog's skin by the defendant, which, after considerable argument, was brought into court in evidence. It was marked in a singular manner, and was positively identified, with many tears, by the plaintiff's wife and daughter, as the undoubted integument of the deceased B. &c. In summing up to the jury, I was in the midst of a highly coloured picture of the virtues of the deceased, and of the love of the children for their four-footed friend, when I was interrupted by a slight disturbance in the crowd near the door of the little school house which served as court house. Looking around, I saw my client's youngest son, a tow-headed urchin of twelve, coming forward with a dog whose skin was the exact counterpart of the one put in evidence. The dog wagged his tail with good-natured composure, and the boy cried, in his childish treble, "Paw, Bore has come home." I gathered up my law-books and retreated, and I never had perfect confidence in circumstantial evidence since.—*Harper's Magazine.*

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

THE Free Italian General Assembly met lately in Florence. Father Gavazzi was re-elected moderator.

SPURGEON'S Pastors' College has 355 graduates preaching in Great Britain, who have gathered 43,336 persons into the churches.

PRINCESS BEATRICE has given £2,000 out of the proceeds of her Christmas book to the support of the Belgrave Hospital for Children.

A SEMI-CENTENARY festival is shortly to be held by the Preston Temperance Society, which was the first "teetotal" organization in England.

ALEXANDER BAIN, LL.D., has been elected Lord Rector of Aberdeen University, Sir James Paget, F.R.S., D.C.L., was the unsuccessful candidate.

At the meeting of the Free Synod of Lothian recently a decrease of £6,000 was reported on the Sustentation Fund for five months of this year.

MR. SIR MOON, the pastor of the Chinese church at Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, reports that 248 of his countrymen in those islands are Christians.

QUEEN VICTORIA has now reigned longer than did Queen Elizabeth. On October 25th she completed the 45th year of her reign, which was the term of Elizabeth's.

INCREASED observance of the Sabbath in Paris is shown by the fact that in the St. Rock quarter six thousand tradesmen now close their place of business on the Lord's Day.

THE women of Chicago Presbytery contributed \$10,000 last year to missions, recently sent out two young ladies to India have 62 flourishing societies in the 46 churches and the various Sunday schools of the Presbytery.

MR. SAMUEL POPE, Q.C., the recorder for the borough of Bolton, England, declared at a recent local option meeting, that during the twelve years of his recordership no total abstainer had been brought before him for trial.

SIR MOSES MONTEPIORE, of London, the greatly honoured Jew, recently celebrated his 98th birthday by distributing, for different charitable purposes, several packets, each of which contained 98 golden sovereigns.

THE conferences between the English and French Commission for the conclusion of a commercial treaty have terminated. It is semi-officially stated that many delicate questions were discussed in a most conciliatory spirit.

THE English Liberation Society has issued a circular for a new campaign, in which the opinion is expressed that the present is a favourable time to press the question of Disestablishment, with a view of moving Parliament to action.

THE Irish Presbyterian Church has organized an Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund. Two donations were given toward it at the start, one of nearly \$10,000 and the other of \$5,000, which placed the project beyond the risk of failure.

REV. STUART ROBINSON, D.D., among other benevolent bequests, left \$25,000 as a disabled ministers' and widows' Fund, on condition that the General Assembly of the (Southern) Presbyterian Church organize an effort to increase it to \$100,000.

It is understood that Mr. Spurgeon will leave London almost immediately for the south of France where he will remain for some weeks. Towards the end of November Mr. Moody will probably preach one Sunday in the Metropolitan Tabernacle.

THE Dowager Duchess of Athole, who is a member of the Established Church of Scotland, in a published letter, gives expression to the annoyance she has more than once received by being represented in Roman Catholic prints as being among the latest of Rome's recruits.

PRINCE BISMARCK is reported to have declared his opposition to the anti-Semitic movement which has played such a large part in the recent German elections, and to have said that he would never entertain any proposal to curtail the constitutional rights of the Jews.

AT Liverpool, on a recent Sunday, there were only 63,576 in attendance at the 218 places of worship with sittings for 169,242. In 1853, a similar census showed 101,982 in attendance, when the population was 150,000 less, the places of worship only 154, and the sittings 132,393.

THE Queen, says the "World," never forgets her old servants. During one of her drives over the hills from Deeside to Donside, recently, her Majesty called on the parents of the man Philip, who died at Windsor in June, and placed a bouquet of flowers on his grave in the old kirkyard at Strathdon.

THE last portion of the ancient prison associated with the burning of Cranmer, Ridley and Latimer, known as the "Bocardo," or "Bishop's Hole," situated at the back of the "ancient hostelry, or Ship Hotel, in the city of Oxford, is about to be demolished, to make way for the extension of furniture warehouses.

THE Silver Star Brigade is the name of a somewhat peculiar juvenile organization which extends throughout England. It has a membership of 5,750. Each member, on joining, promises to abstain from all intoxicating liquors, tobacco, gambling, and bad language, and to uniformly strive to be loving, kind, and useful.

THE authorities of the city of Hamburg have arrested and imprisoned a Mormon elder, who had been some time since expelled from that city for endeavouring to make proselytes, and persuading them to embark for Salt Lake City. His offence consists in his return to the scene of his former operations for the purpose of renewing his propagandism.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH at Rome will hold 54,000 persons; the cathedral at Milan, 37,000; St. Paul's, at Rome, 32,000; St. Paul's, at London, 25,000; the cathedral at Florence, 26,300; at Antwerp, 24,000; at Bologna, 24,000; St. Sophia's at Constantinople, 23,000; and the Notre Dame, at Paris, 20,000. The cathedral lately built in New York will hold only 6,000.