

will send Fanny over to see you, and, if you get no relief, I will attend you."

The doctor felt that she wished to get rid of him, and lost no time in leaving her. Going directly to his home, he bade Fanny visit the schoolmistress, and went about his affairs oppressed with an unsatisfied, uneasy feeling that he could neither explain to himself nor shake off.

Fanny made the visit, and while Miss Hammett reclined in her chamber, entertained her with a long account of her father's adventures in New York and by the way. The story seemed to possess almost miraculous powers of healing. Miss Hammett listened with the profoundest interest, and made a great many inquiries, particularly with relation to the publishers visited, and seemed to be interested in the minutest particulars. Then she rose from the sofa and sat with her hand in Fanny's, and told her how much good she had done her. "Tell your father," said Miss Hammett, "that his prescription has wrought wonders, and that if he will visit my school again I will not turn him out of doors."

Fanny went away very much puzzled, after promising Miss Hammett that she would faithfully communicate to her the result of the negotiations with Mr. Frank Sargent.

(To be continued.)

THE GOLDEN ERA OF ELIZABETHAN LITERATURE.

The golden era of Elizabethan literature may be said to date its commencement from the seven years which lie between 1579 and 1587—in other words, with the first characteristic poems of Spenser and the first characteristic plays of Marlowe, with the publication of "Euphues," and with the composition of the "Arcadia." Never, perhaps, has there existed an age so fertile in all that inspires and nourishes poetic energy as that which opens the third decade of Elizabeth's reign. It was commensurate with a great crisis in European history, and with a great crisis in European thought. The discomfiture of the partisans of Mary of Scotland, the execution of Mary herself, and the destruction of the Armada in the following year had paralyzed that mighty coalition which had long been the terror of Protestant Europe. The effect of the events of 1588 on the world of Marlowe and his contemporaries was indeed similar to the effects of the Persian victories on the world of Phrynichus and Æschylus. In both cases what was at stake was the very existence of national life. In both cases were arrayed in mortal oppugnancy the Oremasdes and the Arimenes of social and intellectual progress. In both cases the moral effects of the triumph achieved were in proportion to the magnitude of the issues involved. Joy, pride and hope possessed all hearts. The pulse of the whole nation was quickened. The minds of men became preternaturally active, and every faculty of the mind preternaturally alert. Nor was this all. The forces at work in that mighty revolution which transformed the Europe of Medievalism into the Europe of the Renaissance were everywhere fermenting. It was the fortune of England to pass simultaneously through two of the greatest crises in the life of States, and the excitement of the most momentous of epochs in her spiritual history was coincident with the excitement of the most momentous of epochs in her political history. The energy thus stimulated operated on materials richer and more various than perhaps any other age could have afforded. Philosophy, having cast off the shackles of scholasticism, had entered on the splendid inheritance which had descended to it from antiquity. Astronomy was unravelling the secrets of the skies, and natural science the secrets of the land and sea. Heroes, second to none in the annals of endurance and adventure, were exploring every corner of the habitable globe, and coming home to record experiences as marvellous as those which Ulysses poured into the ears of Alcinoos and Arete. The muse of history had awakened with Grafton and Stowe and Hall and Holinshed, and the muse of romantic fiction with Malory and with Malory's numberless successors. The translators of the Bible had unlocked the lore of the East. Scholars were revelling among the treasures of that noble language which, in the fine expression of Gibbon, "gives a soul to the objects of sense and a body to the abstractions of philosophy," and which has during more than twenty centuries been to the world of mind what the sun is to the physical world. The study of Roman literature had been rendered more fruitful by the precedence now given to the classics of the republic and early empire over the writers of the later ages. "The youth everywhere," says Strype, "addicted themselves to the reading of the best authors for pure Roman style, laying aside their old barbarous writers and schoolmen." All that had been contributed to the general stock of intellectual wealth by modern Italy was becoming more and more familiar to Englishmen, and scarcely anything of note appeared either in France or Spain which was not sooner or later pressed into the service of English genius. — *The Quarterly Review.*

PROSPECTS OF AFRICAN CIVILIZATION.

The prospects of African civilization are aptly summed up in the elder Gortschakoff's terse definition of the equally undeveloped vastness of Siberia as "a good bill payable at a long date." Vast as are the results achieved during the last few years, they are as nothing to the work which still remains to be done; but the outer world is at all events beginning to learn for the first time what Africa really is, and what she really needs. As lately as 1830, civilization hailed as a great discovery the announcement that "John and Richard Landor, having voyaged down the Niger from Yauri to the sea, have satisfactorily ascertained that it is not the Congo!" Even after this amazing revelation, and, indeed, almost up to the date of Stanley's famous "finding of Livingstone," the few Europeans who thought of Africa at all, thought of it as a vast sandy desert, with a floating population consisting chiefly of hungry lions and robbers more ferocious still, the latter being in the habit of "careering over the waste" on swift horses without any obvious cause for their hurry, living comfortably where there was nothing

to eat, and amassing stores of ill-gotten wealth where there was no one to rob.

But the great tidal wave of civilization which is now bursting into the Dark Continent has swept away these delusions at once and forever. The supposed "desert" proves to contain wide tracts of alluvial soil as fertile as the Cashmere Valley, forests vast enough to swallow up all the woods of Northern Russia, lakes to which Ladoga and Onega would be mere pools, mountains as high as the steepest peaks of the Alps or the Caucasus, and rivers forming a series of watery high-roads as magnificent as those of Siberia itself, with the additional advantage of having no winter to impede them. Indeed, the future history of Africa will be written along the lines traced by the Nile, the Niger and the Congo, as certainly as that of Central Asia has followed the course of the Syr Darya and the Oxus; and with these three great natural highways any survey of Africa's development must necessarily begin.—*David Ker, in Harper's Magazine for March.*

A MOTHER'S REVERIE.

In the quiet of my chamber,
When the daily tasks are o'er,
And the voices of the children,
Hushed in sleep, resound no more,
Comes the question, oft-repeated,
"What this day have I divined
Of the vast and wondrous workings
In the kingdom of the mind?"

What great thoughts have filled my vision,
Fired my soul with purpose high—
From the wells of hidden knowledge
Have I drawn a rich supply?
And my restless spirit answers,
In its unfulfilled desire,
Vainly have its baffled pinions
Sought the heights it would aspire.

In the lowly vale of duty
Have I trod the way along,
Pausing not to cull the flowerets,
Nor to hear the wild bird's song.
For life's burdens—be they light or
Be they heavy—must be borne,
And the rest is not till evening
From the tasks begun at morn.

Yet, O patient, tired mother,
Is there naught to cheer thy toil?
Canst thou not some treasure gather
From the rich and fruitful soil
Of the garden where thou plantest,
Which shall aid thy downcast eyes
To look upward to the summits
Of the higher destinies?

Ah, thou hast a mission holy:
To instruct the mind of youth,
And to sow the seeds of goodness,
Which shall bloom in love and truth.
Thou canst lead the tottering footsteps,
By thy gentle, guiding care,
O'er the rough and thorny pathway,
Till they reach the golden stair!

Thou art working out a poem
Grandier than the "bard's" sublime,
Which shall live in glowing numbers,
Far beyond the bounds of Time;
For the song, though feebly chanted
Mid life's dark and toilsome way,
Angel voices shall re-echo
Through the realms of endless day!

—*The Press.*

THE SON OF A PEASANT.

Lord Erskine and Curran met at dinner at Carlton House. The royal host directed the conversation to the profession of the guests. Lord Erskine took the lead. "No man in the land," said he, "need be ashamed of belonging to the legal profession. For my part, of a noble family myself, I feel no degradation in practising it—it has added not only to my wealth, but to my dignity." Curran was silent, which the host observing called for his opinion. "Lord Erskine," said he, "has so eloquently described all the advantages to be derived from his profession that I hardly thought my opinion worth adding. But perhaps it was—perhaps I am a better practical instance of its advantages than his lordship. He was ennobled by birth before he came to it, but it has, bowing to the host, "in my person raised the son of a peasant to the table of his Prince."—*Temple Bar.*

THE Rev. Dr. Walter C. Smith, in a lecture to young men on a recent Sunday afternoon on "Books," said that sometimes what was called religious did not bear the semblance of religion. There were many books which, though they did not pretend to be religious, brought diviner messages than others seemingly more pious.

THE Rev. John F. Linn, of Airlie, has received leave of absence from the Presbytery of Meigle with a view to visit Palestine. He is to travel in the East in company with Drs. R. Taylor, Moderator of the English Presbyterian Church, Monro Gilson, Thain Davidson, and Rev. Mr. Baxter, son of Dr. Baxter of Blairgowrie.

THE special evangelistic services held recently in all the Belfast churches were remarkably well attended. A large number of country ministers took part in the meetings, and several congregations carried out a system of house-to-house visitation. Dr. Elder Cumming and Rev. John Sloan, Glasgow, rendered valuable assistance in conducting the mid-day meetings.

British and Foreign.

THE Rev. Dr. A. K. H. Boyd opened the new church of St. George's-in-the-Fields, Glasgow, lately.

PERRÉ DIDON, the Dominican preacher, is writing an elaborate reply to Renan's "Life of Jesus."

PROF. CALDERWOOD became a total abstainer in his first year as a student at Edinburgh University, 1847.

OF the forty-two students who have entered the U. P. Divinity Hall this session forty are total abstainers.

MR. WM. RETTIE, Aberdeen, a Disruption elder, has died in his eighty-ninth year. He had been in the eldership fifty-nine years.

THE Rev. Dr. W. Fleming Stevenson's church in Dublin raised last year nearly \$11,500, an advance of \$500 on the preceding year.

A BAPTIST missionary in Japan has just lost his whole church membership because they will not tolerate the practice of close communion.

A VOLUME of Latin hymns and poems by the present Pope, one, *De Se Ipso*, virtually a metrical autobiography, has just been issued by Prof. Brunelli.

A THREE-DAYS' conference on the Coming of the Lord will be held at Midway this month, beginning on the 2nd. Seven years ago a similar conference was held.

MR. MACADIE, elder, Westerdale, moved in the Caithness Presbytery that action should be taken against innovations, "such as the use of hymns and popish organs."

BISHOP MOORHOUSE, the newly appointed Bishop of Manchester, will leave Mellourne on March 11, and is expected to arrive in England the week before Easter.

It is stated that Lord Selborne's retirement from public life has not been caused by political reasons, but from a desire to spend his remaining years in close personal communion with God.

DR. SCOTT, of Rutherglen, has offered to hand over a sum of between \$60,000 and \$65,000 to the Free Church Foreign Mission Committee to promote foreign mission work in India and Africa.

THE Rev. Mr. Brown, Ruthwell, is to have a helper and successor. The successor of Dr. Henry Duncan, the founder of savings banks, whose colleague he was, Mr. Brown is now in his seventy-fifth year.

AS room cannot be found in the cathedral at Manchester for the diocesan monument to her husband, a recumbent effigy, the widow of Bishop Fraser has resolved to add a chapel to the cathedral for its reception at a cost of \$5,000.

THE Rev. Alfred Ainger, of the Temple Church, the genial editor of Charles Lamb, has given a couple of admirable Shakespeare lectures at the Philosophical in Edinburgh. He contended that Shakespeare was deeply indebted to Marlowe.

OUT of 263 students in the six Nonconformist colleges in London included in the Students' Total Abstinence Union, 233, or eighty-eight per cent., are teetotallers. In the Wesleyan College at Richmond all the students, fifty-four in number, are abstainers.

BY twenty-nine to thirteen Glasgow Town Council declined to consider a memorial from the elders of Blackfriars Church, that the city should contribute \$105 additional to the minister's stipend, so as to raise it to \$2,105, the sum received by the other city ministers.

THE Rev. M. Cochrane, of St. Peter's, Glasgow, is to have an assistant and successor. He will retain the endowment of \$600 which, with \$400 from the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, will give him a stipend of \$1,000. The kirk session guarantees \$1,000 to the assistant.

THE Rev. Dr. Mitchell, in the first of a series of lectures in South Leith Parish Church on "Our Hymns and Hymn-writers," expressed regret that Dryden, who spent his powers in pandering to the vices of a corrupt court and a slanderous generation, had found a place among their hymn-translators.

THE Swedish Government has promised the Good Templars a state subsidy to enable them to fight all over Sweden against alcohol. The King of Sweden is unreservedly in favour of Prohibition as the only cure for the drink evil. He declares that almost all the crime and abject misery in his realm are caused by drink.

THE Countess of Aberdeen addressed a meeting of ladies at Perth the other day, at which it was resolved to form a branch of the Young Women's Improvement Society. Within the last few years a deadly foe, she said, was going about among young women, working terrible mischief, and it was to overcome that foe that the Haddo-house Association had been originated.

THE Rev. James Milne, M.A., who died at Paddington, New South Wales, on December 10, in his eighty-seventh year, was a native of Ellon, Aberdeenshire, and took his master's degree at Aberdeen in 1818. From that date till 1823 he was parish schoolmaster in his native village, where one of his pupils was Dr. Andrew Findlater, editor of "Chambers's Encyclopædia."

THE Rev. Dr. Marshall Lang presided at a conference in Glasgow lately on Temperance and Home Mission work in connection with the Church of Scotland. It was originated by ladies connected with the temperance association who are associating the two kinds of work. Mr. Blair, of Cambuslang, directed attention to the importance of improving the homes and food of the poor.

DR. HENRY DUNCKLEY, "Verax," of the *Manchester Examiner*, gave a lecture in the church at Withington on the 2nd ult., on "St. Margaret of Scotland." Queen Victoria traced her descent to William the Conqueror; but she had a more illustrious descent, said Dr. Dunckley, from our old English kings, who ruled for five hundred years before the Normans came over. This more illustrious descent she found on Scottish soil; she owed it to St. Margaret of Scotland.