

Christmas Carols.

BY FLORENCE PERCY.

The children sang a song this Christmas morning,
Mellow and clear outside my chamber door,
Waking me softly from my pleasant dreaming
Of forgotten Christmas days of yore.

Sweetly they sang, my neighbor's happy children,
Two merry girls and one glad-hearted boy,
Repeating of their own rejoicing burden,
"On Christmas morn the angels sing for joy!"

Sweetly they sang; but ah! their cheerful voices
As if they sang a song of hidden woe;
And pressing down my face against the pillow,
I let the bitter tears overflow.

Musing the little child that warbled softly
Two years ago to-day a song like this,
And when the joyful melody was ended,
Hail up her sweet mouth for a Christmas kiss.

Only one Christmas Eve my fair-eyed darling
Lied of dear Santa Claus he dreamed among;
Only one Christmas morn, white-robed and joyful,
Lifting her clear voice in a Christmas song.

I see her little figure standing tiptoe,
To hang her dainty stocking on the wall;
Oh, sinless heart! oh, perfect faith of childhood,
Believing everything and trusting all!

Peace, aching heart; oh let me trust entirely,
With faith and strength that nothing can destroy,
That my sweet baby is among the angels,
Who on this Christmas morning sing for joy!

"When A Man Comes Home."

When a man comes home,
Don't begin to wrangle;
Better far to sleep
In the hungry deep,
Nest white sheets of foam,
And of sea-weed tangle.
Peace, peace, peace;
Cease, cease, cease.

When a man comes home,
Don't begin to wrangle.
When a man comes home,
Let him enter smiling;
Take the children sweet,
Playing round his feet;
Throw off grief and gloom,
And the world's beguiling.
Peace, peace, peace;
Cease, cease, cease.

When a man comes home,
Let him find all smiling.
When a man comes home,
He should still remember
"Tis not always May"
Either work or play—
Sure as June will come
There will come December.
Peace, peace, peace;
Cease, cease, cease.
Evening brings all home,
And sunshine in December.

Hell Bridge.

There is a narrow pass between the mountains in the neighborhood of Bendareg, in the Highlands of Scotland, which, at a little distance, has the appearance of an immense artificial bridge thrown over a tremendous chasm; but on nearer approach it is seen to be a wall of nature's own masonry, formed of vast and rugged bodies of solid rock, piled on each other as if in giant sport of architecture. Its sides are in some places covered with trees of a considerable size; and the passenger who had a head steady enough to look down may see the cry of birds of prey beneath his feet. The path across is so narrow that it cannot admit of two persons passing, and, indeed, none but natives attempt the dangerous route, though it saves a circuit of three miles; yet it sometimes happens that two travellers meet, owing to the curve formed by the pass preventing a view over it from either side, and, in that case, one person lies down while the other creeps over his body.

One day, a Highlander walking along the pass, when he had gained the highest part of the arch, observed another coming leisurely up, and, being himself one of the patriotic order, called to him to lie down. The person addressed disregarded the command, and the Highlanders met on the summit. They were Cairn and Bendareg, of two families in enmity to each other. "I was first at the top," said Bendareg, "and called out first. Lie down, that I may pass over in peace." "When the Grant prostrates himself before the McPherson," answered the other, "it must be with a sword through his body." "Turn back, then," said Bendareg, "and repossess as you came." "Go back yourself, if you like it," replied Grant, "I will not be the first of my name to turn before the McPhersons." They then threw their bonnets over the precipice, and advanced with a slow and cautious space closer to each other. Both were unarmed. Preparing for a desperate struggle, they planted their feet firmly on the ground, compressed their lips, knit their brows, and fixing fierce and watchful eyes on each other, stood prepared for an onset.

They both grappled at the same moment; but, being of equal strength, were unable to shift each other's position, and stood fixed on the rock with suppressed breath and muscles strained to the "top of their bent," like statues carved out of the solid stone. At length McPherson, suddenly removing his right foot so as to give him greater purchase, stooped his body, and bent his enemy down with him by main strength, till they both leaned over the precipice, locking into the terrible abyss. The contest was doubtful, for Grant had placed his foot firmly on an elevation at the brink, and had equal command of his enemy; but at this moment McPherson sunk slowly and firmly on his knee, and, while Grant suddenly started back, stooping to take the supposed advantage, whirled him over his head into the gulf. McPherson himself fell backwards, his body partly hanging over the rock; a fragment gave way beneath him, and he sank further, till, catching with a desperate effort at the solid stone above, he regained his footing. There was a pause of death-like stillness, and the bold heart of McPherson felt sick and faint. At length, as if compelled by some mysterious feeling, he looked down over the precipice. Grant had caught with a death-like grip by the rugged point of a rock—his enemy was almost within his reach. His face was turned upwards, and there was in it horror and despair—but he uttered no word or cry. The next moment he loosed his hold, his brains were dashed out before the eyes of his hereditary foe;

the mangled body disappeared among the trees, and his last heavy and hollow sound arose from the bottom. McPherson returned home an altered man. He purchased a commission in the army, and fell fighting in the wars of the Peninsula. The Gaelic name of the place where this tragedy was acted signifies "Hell Bridge."—*Ober Times.*

ANOTHER CORROBORATION.

Evidences of the truth of the statements about the Bulgarian outrages is continually accumulating. Sir George Campbell has visited that country in person. He found that, with reference to the report, published by the press, of the outrages, the massacres, and the plundering of property, there had been no exaggeration. Of many of these things, plenty of ocular proof was still left. The pro-Turkish party had endeavored to make out that a large proportion of those supposed to have been killed had returned to their villages, but Sir George Campbell had ascertained there was not the least foundation for this statement. He was perfectly satisfied that no such atrocities had been committed in modern days. He says that, in the district round Philippopolis, the French Consul states that not less than fifteen thousand had been killed. Sir George thinks that, while England does not take the position she ought, in actually securing that such occurrences shall not again take place in Turkey, Russia is perfectly justified in the course she has so far pursued.

SELFISHNESS is poverty: It is the most utter destitution of a human being. It can bring nothing to his relief, it adds soreness to his sorrows, it sharpens his pains, it aggravates all the losses he is liable to endure, and when goaded to extremes often turns destroyer, and strikes its last blows on himself. It gives us nothing to rest in or fly to in trouble, it turns our affections on ourselves, self on self, as the sap of a tree descending out of season from its beaverward branches, and making not only its life useless, but its growth downward.

Special Notices.

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An old Physician, retired from active practice, having had placed in his hands by an East India Missionary the formula of a simple Vegetable Remedy, for the speedy and permanent Cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma, and all Throat and Lung Affections, also a Positive and Radical Cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints, after having thoroughly tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, feels it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellows. Actuated by this motive, and a conscientious desire to relieve human suffering, he will send (free of charge) to all who desire it, this recipe, with full directions for preparing and successfully using. Sent by return mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper, Dr. W. O. Stevens, 126 Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.

Missionary Wanted.

The Presbytery of Owen Sound is anxious to obtain an Ordained Missionary for the Parry Sound District immediately. Salary at least \$600 per annum. Address
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IN THE PRESS

AND

Shortly to be Published,

THE PRESBYTERIAN

YEAR BOOK

For The Dominion of Canada
and Newfoundland,
for 1877.

Edited by the Rev. James Cameron,

OUR OWN CHURCH.

The Year Book for 1877 contains full, accurate, and detailed information regarding the Presbyterian Church in Canada. It gives a summary account of the Proceedings, Acts and Remits of the last General Assembly, with lists of its officers, and of the members of the various presbyteries. It also contains a full and complete account of the work of the Church in the Dominion of Canada, and of the various branches of its benevolent and educational work. The information is given in a clear and concise manner, and is of great value to the members of the Church and to the public generally.

PAPERS.

There are in the Year Book, also, able Papers, brief, and to the point, from the pen of
PRINCIPAL OAVEN, Toronto.
PRINCIPAL MCGILL, Montreal.
DR. MCGREGOR, Halifax.

DR. PATTERSON, Nova Scotia, and
REV. GEORGE GRANT, M.A., Halifax,
along with a great deal of editorial writing and remarks.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES OF THE UNITED STATES.

The information in regard to the ten Presbyterian Churches of the United States is very full and complete; this year, the only annual exhibit indeed of this kind as yet published on this continent.

ALLIANCE OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES.

The Constitution, and (as far as it is possible to ascertain this in the meantime) the Constitution of congregations and Churches belonging to the Alliance of Presbyterian Churches in the Dominion of Canada, are given in full. There follows the usual information in regard to the Universities of the Dominion, Postal Laws, etc., etc.

OPINIONS.

The Year Book has established for itself a high character, not only in Canada but in the United States, for editorial ability and care, fairness, clearness, and correctness in matter and arrangement. In witness of which statement we append one or two of the many notices and reviews that have reached the Publisher.

We seldom find, in so modest and unpretentious form, so much and so various ecclesiastical information. It is a work of great value to the members of the Church, especially its officers and leaders.

The Christian Guardian, (Methodist), says:—
"This is a pamphlet of over 100 pages, giving a large amount of valuable information concerning the Presbyterian denomination of this country. Interesting papers are contributed by Dr. Kemp, on 'Colleges for Young Ladies'; by Dr. Patterson, on the 'New Method of Mission'; by Dr. Stoddard, on the 'Union of the Church'; and by Rev. Robert Torrance, on 'The Union of the Church'."

In addition to the information given respecting the several Presbyterian Churches which now form the United Church in the Dominion of Canada, valuable statistics are furnished of Presbyterian Churches in Great Britain and Ireland, in the United States, on the continent of Europe, in Australia, etc. The chapter on "Union" is particularly readable, and, as the record of a memorable year in the history of Canadian Presbyterianism, the Year Book for 1877 will find a permanent place in the history of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. — Yours respectfully, J. T. COOPER, D.D., Clerk of U. P. Church, U. S. A.

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