

work, 'Penological and Preventive Principles,' by Mr. William Tallack, the devoted secretary of the Howard Association, London.

### In a Mining Camp.

We sit at home in our comfortable houses, replete with luxury and elegance, and little do we know or think of the suffering and privation which are going on in the world about us. A few days ago I heard a lady who had visited many Home Mission stations on the Western frontier of our country, relate her experience in going to several mining camps. She told how these camps were girdled about saloons; the cabins being dark and dreary, with almost nothing attractive to please the wearied-out man, while brightness and warmth and cheer were found in the saloons, where, also, Satan had his stronghold in many forms of vice in the poisonous drink which stole the manhood of their victims. The missionary told this lady that men were constantly killed in brawls in these places, and that one part of his exhausting life was the constant attendance at the very sad funerals of those who had died a violent death. She described how she stepped into the car with the miner's lamp attached to her bonnet, and presently found herself far under the ground in a world where men were moving about, their little lamps in their coats the only light. There were great fields of coal and men like gnomes were working away with their picks. Fuses were laid for blasting; cars were passing about loaded with the black diamonds which give heat and light in our homes, and a busy scene of activity was going on far below the light of the sun. Many of these poor miners seldom hear the name of Christ and most of them know nothing of the joy which the Christian religion can give. Surely it must be a duty for us to lay aside from our superfluity something which can help send the Gospel to the perishing in our own home land. All over the great West, in some parts of the South, in neglected and abandoned corners of New England, in the mountains of Virginia and North Carolina, in fastnesses of New York and New Jersey, there are places where the light has not penetrated; where people are ignorant, superstitious, and benighted, needing the light of Divine love to cheer them on their way. They can receive this only as it is given them. The ideal Christian life is the missionary one. Not alone on our home missionaries, and on our foreign missionaries does the responsibility lie of carrying the Gospel; every Christian is a torch-bearer, and we must pass the light on from hand to hand; from year to year; from age to age.—'Christian Intelligencer.'

### Answered.

A number of years ago I was in a position of peculiar liability to spiritual pride. Alarmed, I laid the matter before God, with the specific request that he would allow me to continue the work in which I was engaged, and would use me in converting souls, but in such a manner that it would be impossible for me to take an atom of the credit to myself.

Among the women attending my little meetings for prayer and bible exposition, held in the artisan quarter of a small American town, was a Scotch woman of considerable intelligence. She was eager to become a Christian, and seemed to understand perfectly what was necessary; but, to her intense and increasing distress, and my complete bewilderment, was held back by an inexplicable inability. Again and again,

prayerfully and with the open bible, we went over the ground; but always with the result that just as she seemed about to grasp the prize she became like one lost in a fog.

About this time I had bought some religious booklets which I did not wish to distribute until sure of their fitness; so, as I was too busy to read them myself, I said to my humble friend:

'Mrs. C—, will you look through these and pick out the ones you think would be suitable to give to the women after the meeting?'

She cheerfully assented, and, very much relieved, I handed the package over, without a single thought as to what effect might be produced upon her by the reading. The next week when I called, she met me joyfully, seized my hand, and with face all aglow, exclaimed, "God himself must have put it into your heart to give me those books. As soon as I read this one, called, "More Light," everything became perfectly clear to me.'

It was true; the mysterious hindrance had vanished, and she had accepted Christ as simply as a little child; and thus was my prayer categorically answered. I had been used in her conversion, but in such a manner that it was impossible to take an atom of credit to myself. Meanwhile the writer of the little book has never known how it proved indeed 'more light,' on an obscure way.—'The Christian.'

### A Brilliant Missionary Leader.

('Ram's Horn.')

One of the most promising missionary leaders of the day, is Robert E. Speer, a young man with a brilliant college record, an athlete, an orator, and the author of an inspiring study of the life of Christ. At thirty years of age he is secretary of the



ROBERT E. SPEER.

Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, and has just completed a missionary tour of the world. The story of his career reads like a page from a romantic novel.

Born in Pennsylvania, in 1868, he entered Princeton College, in 1885. His rare traits of leadership were early manifested in his college life. He was regarded by his fellow students as the best debater in college, and at the same time he was the favorite athlete, serving one year as captain of the football team. He soon became a leader in Christian work, exerting a strong spiritual influence in the college; and during his college course he consecrated his life to the cause of foreign missions. His scholarship was of

the very best, and he was graduated summa cum laude, being one of the three men who have been thus honored in all of Princeton's history. Although but twenty-one years of age at this time, he entered immediately on his work for the promotion of foreign missions, becoming at this time travelling secretary of the Student Volunteer Movement. That year will always be regarded as most fruitful in deepening the inner life of the movement. During nine months he visited 110 institutions, a larger number than had ever been visited in one year by any man in the college field. Many new colleges were reached, especially in the south and south-east. One thousand one hundred new volunteers for foreign missions were gathered along the pathway of his tour, and he sought incessantly to bring the groups of volunteers in the various colleges to the great sources of spiritual life and light. Since that year Mr. Speer has been greatly used of God in giving inspiration to these college men and women who have offered their lives for foreign service. In the fall of 1890 he entered Princeton Theological Seminary, and after two years' study there he was called to become secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, a position he still holds. He was the youngest man ever appointed to such a position.

At the first international convention of the Student Volunteer Movement, in 1891, held at Cleveland, he was one of the leaders; and at the second convention, held in Detroit, in 1894, he gave the opening and closing addresses; and his personality and addresses were leading factors in the marvellous influence of the third convention, just held in Cleveland. He has been of great usefulness as a bible teacher, and as a platform speaker at the various summer schools and conferences. At the invitation of the British students he visited England in the summer of 1894, giving a number of talks at the Keswick meetings. He has written several pamphlets, one on 'Acts,' one on 'Luke,' one on 'Prayer and Missions,' and a longer work on 'The Man, Christ Jesus,' which is, without doubt, one of the most original, thorough and comprehensive studies of the life and work of Christ ever prepared.

Mr. Speer has recently completed a tour around the world in behalf of the Presbyterian Board, visiting and assisting the mission stations in the different nations. While in Persia he was stricken with fever, but happily his life was spared, and he was able to proceed on his journey. He is now busily engaged in the mission board's work of administration and in public work at synods and presbyteries, where his services are ever in demand. He, with the few other young men who have done so much, under God, to promote the cause of missions during this decade, will go down into history among the strongest religious leaders of our generation.

### It Never Comes Again.

There are gains for all our losses,  
There are balms for all our pain;  
But when youth, the dream, departs,  
It takes something from our hearts,  
And it never comes again.

We are stronger, and are better,  
Under manhood's sterner reign;  
Still we feel that something sweet,  
Followed youth, with flying feet,  
And will never come again.

Something beautiful is vanished,  
And we sigh for it in vain;  
We behold it everywhere,  
On the earth, and in the air;  
But it never comes again.

—Richard Henry Stoddard, 1825.