

There, in the golden sunset, they lay. The sun kissed their little faces, and touched with a loving hand their curly hair. It lingered lovingly round them, as if it knew that the lambs would be frisking when it arose again, the birds would welcome it with their glad song; but that never again would it rest on the nestling forms and clasped hands of the two little brothers!

Sir Everard, bending over them, saw a troubled expression over Humphrey's face.

"What can it be that ails the child?" he mentally questioned; "is it physical pain, or is something troubling his thoughts? Is the fear of death coming over him?"

He did not like to speak for fear of disturbing him, but as the look deepened almost to pain, he could not restrain himself any longer.

"Humphrey, my darling," he exclaimed, in his longing to do something, be it ever so little, to soothe his boy's dying hour, "what is it? What can I do for you?"

Nothing! With all his love and all his yearning, nothing!

For surging once more in the boy's brain is the noise as of rushing and singing, and with its sound a fear has risen in his breast. Shall he ever, ever catch the music of that wondrous song? Doubts of his own power to learn it are troubling his wandering thoughts; dim misgivings that children cannot learn it, founded on his own inability to follow the singing in church. Always too soon or too late! Do children ever learn it? "And no man could learn that song save the hundred and forty and four . . . nothing about children there!"

Vain is the father's endeavour to reach a trouble of this kind; vainly, bending over him, does he seek to discover its cause, in his longings to remove or alleviate it.

Is the child, then, to pass away uneasy, without a cloud upon his happiness; or must a miracle be worked in his favour? Must heaven open, and show him the army of innocents standing at the right hand of God? No, God's ways are not as our ways; infinite in power, He yet reveals Himself by the simplest means.

As once before He sent the child consolation so will He send it now. As once before, not by signs and wonders, but by the gift of sleep, so now, not by miracles and visions, but by the voice of his baby brother.

"Talk to me, Humphrey. Don't go to sleep yet. I haven't said my hymn. Fardie said I might say it to you to-night. Shall I say it now?"

Without waiting for an answer, Miles raised himself on his knees, and put his little hands together. Then arose the sound of the baby voice:

"Around the throne of God in Heaven  
Thousands of children stand;  
Children whose sins are all forgiven.  
A holy, happy band,  
Singing Glory, Glory, Glory."

Faster and louder comes the rushing and singing, but the misgiving is lulled to rest. Faster and faster, louder and louder, surging around him. But hushed are the doubts at once and for ever, and the fear has vanished away! Loud in his brain sounds the song of the children, throbbing there almost to pain; beating so loud as to stun and confuse him. Everything seems to be turning and whirling; and, as if to save himself, he opens his eyes. On what a sight did they fall! There, close before him, bathed in light and a glory round her brow, stands the figure of his mother, looking down upon him with a smile. And with a glad smile of welcome he stretched out his arms, and cried, "Has God sent you to fetch me at last, mother? Oh, mother, I'll come! I'll come!"

Those who were standing round, saw only the expression of pain change to the old sunny smile. His lips moved, and he lifted his head, as his eyes were raised for a moment, to the picture above him, on which the sun was pouring a dazzling light. They closed; but the smile, intensely radiant, lingered about the parted lips; the short breathing grew shorter . . . stopped . . . and then . . .

"It's no use saying the rest," said little Miles in a whisper, "for Humphrey has gone to sleep."

THE END.

#### PATMOS NOW.

Before the Christian era the name of Patmos only occurs in a few passages of ancient writers, and of its history, if it had one, nothing is known; it was when it became the place of banishment of St. John the Divine, and the scene of his apocalyptic vision, that it once for all attracted the attention of mankind. At the present day it is one of the least accessible of the Ægean Islands, for owing to its remote position and the unproductiveness of its soil no steamers ever touch there. Long before we arrived, the monastery of St. John, the most conspicuous building in the island, had been in sight, crowning the summit of a high hill, like a vast sombre castle, with the white houses of the town clustered round it; behind this rose the peak of Hagios Elias, which reaches the elevation of more than 300 feet. The *scala*, or village at the landing place, has a very peculiar aspect, for each of the small two-storied houses of which it is composed resembles a square, flat-topped box, as white as whitewash can make it. This mode of building prevails throughout this island, and, as we afterward found, in those that lie to the southward of it.

In shape Patmos may be roughly described as forming a crescent, the horns of which face eastward; but its outline is broken by up innumerable promontories enclosing land-locked creeks, so that, when seen from above it presents somewhat the aspect of a strange polypus. Its length from north to south is about eight miles, and its area is rugged and broken; but the most marked peculiarity is that it is almost divided in two in the middle, for in this part, within a little more than half a mile from one another, are two isthmuses only a few hundred yards wide, and rising but slightly above the sea-level. On the southernmost of these

the *scala* is situated, while between the two stands the steep hill on which the acropolis of the Hellenic city was built. The narrow waist thus formed serves for a boundary line to determine the domain of the monastery, for while the southern half of the island belongs to the monks, the northern part is the possession of the civil community. At the time of the foundation of the convent no women were allowed to pass this limit, but within a short time the restriction had to be abandoned. The soil of which the island is composed is everywhere volcanic, and very barren, and its coasts are flanked with red and gray rocks, which ever and anon break into quaint pinnacles. The absence of running water is shown by the numerous windmills, and there are only three or four wells in the whole area; the want of these, however, is made up by cisterns, and the inhabitants are never obliged to use salt water, as sometimes happens in Santorin. The male population are chiefly employed in the sponge fishery, which is carried on in many of the Sporades. The island is most commonly known by its mediæval name of Patino, in like manner as Astypalea is still called Astropalea, and Carpathos Scarpanto.—*Academy*.

#### THE BRITISH NATIONAL ANTHEM.

ADAPTED FOR THE YEAR OF JUBILEE.

God save our gracious Queen,  
Long live our noble Queen,  
God save the Queen.  
Send her victorious,  
Happy and glorious;  
Long to reign over us,  
God save the Queen.

Thy choicest gifts in store  
On her be pleased to pour,  
Long may she reign.  
May she defend our laws,  
And ever give us cause  
To sing with heart and voice,  
God save the Queen.

Seed sown through fifty years,  
Sown or in smiles or tears,  
Grant her to reap;  
Her heritage of fame,  
Her pure and stainless name,  
Her people free from shame,  
Guard Thou and keep.

O'er lands and waters wide,  
Through changing time and tide,  
Hear when we call;  
Where'er our English tongue  
To wind and wave hath rung,  
Still be our anthem sung;  
God save us all.

—Dean Plumptre, in *Good Words*.

#### A VISIT TO THE ACADIANS.

Embarking again on the placid stream, we moved along through a land of peace. The houses of the Acadians are scattered along the bayou at considerable distances apart. The voyager seems to be in an unoccupied country, when suddenly the turn of the stream shows him a farmhouse, with its little landing wharf, boats, and perhaps a schooner moored at the bank, and behind it cultivated fields and a fringe of trees. In the blossoming time of the year, when the birds are most active, these scenes are idyllic.

The Acadians are fond of their homes. It is not the fashion for the young people to go away to better their condition. Few young men have been as far from home as New Orleans; they marry young, and settle down near the homestead. Mr. Le Blanc has a colony of his descendants about him, within hail of his door. It must be large, and his race must be prolific, judging from the number of small children who gathered at the homestead to have a peep at the strangers. They took small interest in the war, and it had few attractions for them. The conscription carried away many of their young men, but I am told they did not make very good soldiers, not because they were not stalwart and brave, but because they were so intolerably homesick that they deserted whenever they had a chance. The men whom we saw were most of them fine athletic fellows, with honest, dark, sun-browned faces; some of the children were very pretty, but the women usually showed the effects of isolation and toil, and had the common plainness of French peasants. They are a self-supporting community, raise their own cotton, corn and sugar, and for the most part manufacture their own clothes, and articles of household use. Some of the cotton jeans striped with blue, indigo dyed, made into garments for men and women, and the blankets, plaid yellow (from the native nankeen cotton), curiously clouded, are very pretty and serviceable. Further than that their habits of living are simple, and their ways primitive, I saw few eccentricities. The peculiarity of this community is in its freedom from all the hurry and worry and information of our modern life. I have read that the gallants train their little horses to prance and curvet and rear and fidget about, and that these are called "courting horses," and are used when a young man goes courting, to impress his mistress with his manly horsemanship. I have seen these horses perform under the saddle, but I was not so fortunate as to see any courting going on.—*Charles Dudley Warner, "The Acadian Land," in Harper's Magazine for February*.

THE German Socialists of New York, it is said, have resolved to raise \$5,000 to aid in defeating Bismarck in electing members to the new Reichstag.

It is said that some friends of Princeton College have provided funds to send an expedition in charge of Professor Charles A. Young, to observe the eclipse of August 19th in Russia.

## British and Foreign.

KING OSCAR of Sweden lately gave 75,000 crowns to the Deaconesses' Home in Stockholm.

It is said that a lineal descendant of Admiral Coligny is a French station-master on a small salary.

LAST year 45,524 Bibles were presented to immigrants at Castle Garden by the New York Bible Society.

THE Prince of Naples is about to set out on a long yachting tour, visiting the Holy Land and the East.

EMPEROR WILLIAM has invested 500,000 marks of his private money in the stock of the German African Company.

PROFESSOR EDWARD L. YOUMANS, the distinguished writer and lecturer on scientific subjects, died last week in his sixty-sixth year.

THE 1,000th edition of the German Bible was recently published by the Constein Society of Halle. The first edition appeared in 1712.

THE Scottish Protestant Alliance has sent to Queen Victoria a memorial calling attention to the aggressions of the Papacy in Great Britain.

THE largest parishes in the Lutheran Church are to be found in Central Russia. One of these numbers 300 villages, and comprises 35,000 souls.

ONE hundred German congregations exist in Brazil; they are served by thirty-three pastors. In Chili there are two churches and two missions.

THE centenary of the birth of the Rev. R. H. Barham, author of "The Ingoldsby Legends," will be celebrated by erecting a museum and public library at Canterbury.

A YOUNG woman has been excommunicated by the rector of the Catholic Church at Orange, N. J., for marrying a Protestant after the priest had declined to unite the couple.

THE curious fact is stated that in the last twelve months 11,640,000,000 letters and cards were posted throughout the world, sufficient to give eight to every human being on the globe.

THE preaching of the Gospel at the bazaars in India has led so many to the truth that the enemies of Christianity are now spreading their materialistic and rationalistic views in this way.

EX-PRESIDENT WHITE has given to Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., his historical library of 30,000 volumes, which he has been thirty-five years collecting at a cost of \$100,000.

WILLIAM DUGDALE, lately a Unitarian minister at Smith Mills, Mass., was, after examination, ordained as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Fall River, Mass., on December 17.

THE census of France for 1886 shows a total population of 38,218,903, against 37,772,048 in 1881. The population of Paris has increased only 75,000, against an increase of 280,000 recorded in 1881.

FREDERICK AMERLING, the Austrian painter, who died recently, bequeathed to the city of Vienna his collection of art antiques, valued at \$125,000, on condition that it be kept intact for public inspection.

THE British National Lifeboat Institution in 1886 saved 601 lives by its own boats, and gave rewards for the saving of 160 lives by shore boats, making the grand total of 32,671 lives saved since its formation.

THE wife of a Japanese senator has started a "Society of Love" for Japanese women, whose members make fancy work to raise funds to support a school or a Bible woman. The Bible is read aloud at every meeting.

IT is stated that Mr. McKinley has entered into contract with James G. Blaine, Senator Voorhees, Henry Ward Beecher and Dr. T. DeWitt Talmage to deliver a course of lectures throughout the country this year.

MASSACHUSETTS is to have another great university. Mr. Jones Gilman Clark has given \$1,000,000 to found Clark University at Worcester. Religious instruction is to be imparted, but the institution is to be undenominational.

THE Emin Bey Relief expedition, under H. M. Stanley, will go by way of Zanzibar; the enterprise will cost \$100,000, and it will leave Zanzibar composed of 1,000 men. Of these eight will be English and the rest natives of Zanzibar.

PHILADELPHIA is about taking measures to change its House of Refuge to a Reform School, after the plan of Morganza, in Washington County, Pennsylvania, which now takes the lead of all similar institutions in the United States.

MME. JENNY LIND GOLDSMIDT is this winter living at Cannes, in a handsome villa, with her devoted husband. She is a gentle-faced, silver-haired old lady, with very quiet manners and a remarkable simplicity of nature underneath them.

FROM 3,000 to 4,000 of the 31,325 teachers employed by the State of Pennsylvania drop out every year, and betake themselves to some other employment. As the average salary paid is about \$500 a year, the result is not to be wondered at.

THE Rev. Dr. Withrow, who recently assumed the pastorate of the Third Presbyterian Church, of Chicago, is accounted the first minister in a Western city to wear the Geneva gown. The practice is, however, being revived in the Presbyterian Churches eastward.

LOUISA DE LA RAME, better known as "Ouida," is in London, having difficulty with her publishers. She is described as a sour and discontented old woman, practically destitute of human sympathy and companionship, deriving no comfort from the fame her work has secured.

THE Communal Council of Milan has finally approved, by sixty-eight votes against six the proposal to erect the monument of Napoleon III. in that city. The monument has long been ready, but because of the opposition has been kept waiting. It will be erected in a new square near the Arco della Pace.