

THE TRUE WITNESS

AND CATHOLIC CHRONICLE

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1889

FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY.

Among British governing classes there is a section which appears determined to again assert English supremacy over the Soudan. It is almost needless to say that this section is composed or controlled by those holders of Egyptian bonds, who fancy they see in the lucrative trade of that region a means for recovering the enormous interest on their somewhat dubious investments. As usual, a philanthropic motive is not wanting to excuse the true object of aggression, and of all things the suppression of the slave trade is the most likely to touch the sentimental side of the British public. But the terrible experience of the army sent to relieve Khartoum should warn these people of the folly of attempting the subjugation of the Arab children of the desert.

In one of Mr. Gladstone's addresses to the electors of Middlethorpe on the following passage concerning the defeat of the British army by the Soudan Arabs:—

"Our mistake in the Soudan I cannot now state in detail. The task belongs to history. Our responsibility for them cannot be questioned. Yet its character ought not to be misunderstood. In such a task misadventure was inevitable. They are the proper and certain consequence of undertakings that were against nature, and that lie beyond the scope of human action and the first authors of these undertakings are the real makers of this mischief."

This declaration by the ex-Premier has prompted many stinging rejoinders, all of which were based on the political aspects of the question at issue. There is, however, another view of a war undertaken for the subjugation of Arabs, which we will as briefly as possible unfold.

It may appear singular to some persons, but we are willing to appeal to history from the point at which we propose to start down to the present time, in proof of the irrefragable correctness of our argument. The author of the book of Genesis has recorded a prediction relating to the posterity of Ishmael which so profound a scholar and consistent a Christian as Mr. Gladstone should not have overlooked. Chapter xvi. contains the prophecy to which we refer. We there read v. 11, 12: "And the Angel of the Lord said unto her (Hagar): Behold! thou art with child and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the Lord hath heard thy affliction. And he will be a wild man; and his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren."

The Hebrew words translated "a wild man" ought to be rendered "a free and savage man." The Hebrew word translated in our version into "wild" is used frequently to signify the wild Arabian ass and sufficiently expresses the nature of that animal. It was absolutely free and unconfinned, and would never submit to the bridle. Hence the Deity asks Job: "Who sends out the wild ass free?" (Job xxxix. 5.) i.e., who at the original constitution of things formed the ass of such a nature as not to endure the bridle and submit to be man's beast of burden? How exactly this sense answers to the genius and disposition of the descendants of Ishmael, and also how the prophecy has been fulfilled that he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren, will, we think, be made clear by what follows. Perhaps it would be in place here to observe that the Hebrew word translated in the testament "hand" signifies, figuratively, power or empire, force or dominion, and is so translated in several parts of the Old Scriptures. Thus, according to the prediction vouchsafed to Hagar, Ishmael's posterity, to the remotest period of time, were to be wild men, living in a state of hostility with their neighbors, opposing and baffling the efforts of all other nations to enslave them. That is, they were never to be thoroughly subjugated by any foreign power, but to maintain their independence forever. To prove that this prophecy has been literally fulfilled is the object of this article.

The first empire of which we have any record is that of Egypt, which seems to have been established by Ammon and his son Sesostria. Now, if, according to Sir Isaac Newton, we take Sesostria to have been the same Sishak, or Seso, it does not appear from Scripture that in his time the Arabs were dependent on the Egyptians. For, in the account of the nations that formed his army when he undertook an expedition against Jerusalem, there is no mention of Ishmaelites or Arabs. Still, it must be admitted that Diodorus Siculus asserts that Sesostria subdued Arabia before he mounted the throne of Egypt. This same author, however, destroys the value of his statement by assuring us that Sesostria found himself obliged to draw a line from Heliopolis to Pelusium in order to secure Egypt from the incursions of the Arabs and Syrians. Again we are told by this historian that it was extremely difficult either to attack or subdue this nation of robbers, because, Diodorus says (the British expedition will bear him out), they had wells dug at proper distances in their dry and barren country known only to themselves. Thus, if any body of foreigners invaded or pursued them, they fol-

lowed the most part died of thirst or were consumed by the fatigues which they were obliged to sustain.

Diodorus Siculus is doubtless open to the reproach of self-contradiction, but the above passage is as true to-day as when it was written. Nevertheless, we must add that the water difficulty here mentioned was afterwards successfully overcome by Pompey, Trajan and Severus; yet, none of these conquerors could extirpate or subdue the descendants of Ishmael. Continuing down the stream of time, we find that when Egypt fell under the Ethiopians, after the drowning of Sesostris' successor in the Nile, and Zerab, the Ethiopian, advanced against Ase, King of Judah, with 300 chariots and 1,600,000 men, no Arabs served in the expedition. From that time till Shalmaneser, King of Assyria, put a period to the Kingdom of Israel, there is no record of the Ishmaelites having been subdued. Nor is there a whisper of their ever having been subject to Assyria or Babylon. And Herodotus distinctly asserts that Arabia did not belong to any of the satrapies into which Darius Hystaspis divided the Persian dominions immediately after his accession. But, in order to throw the fullest light on this curious subject, let us quote Herodotus: "The son of Hystaspis was declared King, and all the people of Asia submitted to his government except the Arabs, who, though they had been overcome by Cyrus and afterwards by Cambyses, were never reduced by the Persians to the condition of subjects, but were accounted their friends, and opened them a passage into Egypt. This, without the assistance and permission of the Arabs, would have been utterly impracticable." And, again: "The fifth satrapy comprehended all the countries situated between the city of Posideum, built in the mountains of Cilicia and Syria by Amphilocheus, the son of Amphiarous, and Egypt, excepting only the Arabian territories, which are free from any tribute."

Thus we find the Arabs not only free but actually able to open or close the passage of Persian conquerors into Egypt. We may dismiss in passing as wholly exploded that passage in the historian just quoted which describes Sennacherib as King of Arabia as well as Assyria, unless indeed we admit that Assyria was then a part of the Arabian Empire. For Herodotus tells himself that Sennacherib's army was composed of Arabians, not Assyrians. It has been pretty clearly demonstrated, however, that the Egyptian priests gave Herodotus their own version of the destruction of Sennacherib, transposing the scene from Judaea after he had defeated Tirhakah King of Ethiopia. This branch of our inquiry would not be complete without reference to the express statement by Xenophon that Cyrus conquered the Arabs. Such a quest was impossible, for how could Cyrus conquer the whole nation of Ishmaelite Arabs in his direct march from Sardis to Babylon? He could not have done so without taking Petra, and yet Xenophon nowhere mentions that wonderful city. The Arabs mentioned by him may have been some wandering tribes roaming about the confines of Syria.

Thence onward the Arabs remained independent. Alexander the Great meditated the reduction of Arabia, but died while his preparations were proceeding. The vastness of Alexander's army and the number of his ships engaged for this enterprise attest the formidable power of the Arabs at that time. They alone of all neighboring nations had so little apprehension of his might that they sent no ambassadors to him, nor took the least notice of him. Exactly as they treat the British to-day. That any successor of Alexander should rule Arabia when his expedition never marched against Arabia is absurd. The disaster that befel Demetrius in his attack on Petra is well known; likewise the severe punishment inflicted on Antigonus for attempting to collect bitumen on the Dead Sea, is well known.

Continuing our researches down to the Christian era, we find that, although engaged in constant wars with neighboring nations, especially the Jews, the Arabs remained powerful and independent. But it may be urged that Pompey was able to do with Roman arms what no previous commander could achieve. It is asserted that he marched on Petra and compelled Aretas, King of Arabia, to accept terms of peace. Pompey, however, performed this feat with the assistance of Agbarus, an Arab Emir. But on his return through the desert he was only rescued from destruction by Hyrcanus and Antipater, the latter prevailing upon Aretas to negotiate a new treaty of peace. This shows that though Pompey did get to Petra he was afterwards worsted by the Arabs in his retreat through the desert. The fact that Arabia Petra was not reduced to the form of a Roman province by Pompey settles this point. Following the course of time, we find the Arabs aggressively independent, though enduring occasional reverses, till long after Titus had taken Jerusalem and overthrown the Jewish kingdom. In the reign of Trajan it is asserted that Arabia was subjugated by Aulus Cornelius Palma. Coins still in existence were struck to commemorate this alleged conquest, bearing the legend, Arabia, Aquila, Provincia, Arab, Aquila. The statement and the coins, however, were no more than evidences of the exuberance of Roman brag and boast in the days of Trajan, for the same prince also had it recorded, and confirmed the record with coins, also still to be seen, bearing the inscription Ind. P. R. India Pro. P. R. By these the Romans inflated their vanity and undoubtedly intended to intimidate either that Trajan had actually conquered India or, at least, imagined himself master of that country, when he projected an expedition against it. Flatterers of his time are credited with the assertion that he subdued the Indians. Yet, it does not appear from history that he ever undertook such an expedition. On the contrary, it is an established fact that

he did not. So that, notwithstanding the pompous legends on Trajan's coins, it is highly probable that the emperor never penetrated into Arabia proper. Certainly there is no record of Aulus Cornelius Palma having captured Petra. Some towns or ports on the coast may have been taken. All that Roman writers have said on the subject can be brought to infer no more than this. Neither in the time of Severus nor in any subsequent period do we find Arabia mentioned among the provinces of the Roman Empire. From the days of Severus to the overthrow of Palmyra by Aurelian, the Romans kept clear of the Arabs. Aurelian, though he made many conquests in the east, is not shown by any historian to have made any remarkable achievement in Arabia. But Arab independence is proved later by the fact that in the reign of Constantine the Saracens ravaged Mesopotamia, a Roman province, without obstruction. We also know that Julian and some of his successors paid pensions to the Saracens that they might always have a body of troops on foot for the service of the Romans. But when this pension was withdrawn they went over to the Persians; a fact which proves their freedom and the high estimation in which they were held as soldiers. Subsequently Constantinople itself was saved from destruction by the Goths, when Maria, Queen of the Saracens, forced them to retire. Thenceforward until the rise of Mohammed, who was himself an Arab, this wonderful people maintained their freedom, frequently against tremendous odds, but always with success. The empire founded by the Prophet in the year 631 A. D. continued above 300 years.

This brings our review down to the middle of the 10th century. But the dissolution of the Saracen Empire did not destroy Arabian independence. It rather increased it by permitting wider liberty than was possible under the control of the Caliphs. But the bulk of Ishmael's descendants were, and are to this day, the Bedouens who inhabited the desert and uncultivated parts of Arabia. From thence they spread into Africa at a very early date and took possession of the Soudan country, both desert and fertile. Even in the days of the Saracen Caliphs these African Arabs were a free people, living under the government of their Emirs, as they had done from time immemorial, and as they are living still.

In this sketch, which necessarily covers a vast period of time, we have not referred to such instances as the destruction of the army of Cambyses, or the many futile attempts of the Sultans of Egypt to establish their authority over the Arabs of the Soudan. As in the case of the recent invasion of that country by the British, all ended in the retreat, defeat or annihilation of the invaders.

Selim Khan, ninth Emperor or Sultan of the Turks, overthrew the Mamluke Empire in Egypt, but he did not conquer Arabia, nor penetrate into the Soudan, which was no way affected by the change of Government on the lower Nile. Turkish historians, like Roman flatterers, were prone to magnify the achievements of their generals. We frequently find the value of these exaggerations exposed in the course of their narratives. Thus, in one reign we read of the conquest of the Arabs, and in the next we are told how these "conquered" people laid waste whole provinces belonging to the conquerors; and, in fact, asserted again their unsubdued aggressiveness and independence. And, although Turks and Arabs professed the same faith, little love has ever been lost between them. True to his Ishmaelite instincts, the Arab would plunder the Turk with the same indifference that he would a Christian. An incident that took place in the year of the Hejra 1105 gives a curious illustration of this. Emir Mohammed, a prince of the Arabs, assembled a body of troops with which he plundered a Turkish caravan going on a pilgrimage to Mecca. Not content with this, he afterwards advanced to Mecca and laid siege to that city, but, being touched with reverence for the place, he soon retired into the desert. A powerful Turkish force was sent against him, but the Emir, by a stratagem, defeated and dispersed it.

The incident above related furnishes a curious and emphatic proof of the correctness of our position. It is stated on the authority of Demetrius Cantemir that the Bedouens inhabiting the deserts between Damascus, Bagdad and Mecca frequently infested the road to Mecca and rendered it dangerous to the pilgrims who went to visit Mohammed's tomb. The Ottoman Sultans, therefore, after Selim I., conqueror of Egypt, paid them yearly 40,000 crowns in gold out of the treasury of the women's Seraglio; by way of bounty, under the name of surra. This sum they pretended to pay the Arabs for securing the roads and fountains, though they did it in reality because they could not otherwise remove these troublesome enemies from the path of the Hadjis. But the money not having been sent for several years, Emir Mohammed, with his tribe, inclosed the pilgrims in a narrow place and forced them to surrender for want of water. Selim Gherai, Khan of Tartary, being one of these pilgrims, they compelled him by the Arabian Rai to carry their complaints to the Sultan and procure the continuance of the usual bounty; and so they dismissed him upon his parole. Upon his arrival at Constantinople he never ceased to importune the Ottoman Court till the arrears of the surra were sent to the Arabs, which done, they for some time remained quiet. Hence it appears that in the year of the Hejra 1105, and even from the reign of Selim I., the Turks paid a sort of tribute to those Arabs, and consequently seem rather to have been dependent on them than on the Turkish Sultan.

Passing over intervening time, during which we observe no change in the relations between Turks and Arabs, we find in the reports of travellers of the 18th century,

notably M. de la Merville, a Frenchman, and Dr. Shaw, an Englishman, that the Turks still continued to pay tribute for right of way to the Arabs. Furthermore, it is related by Dr. Pococke, whose authority will not be questioned, that so late as the year 1739 the Arabs of Arabia Petraea resembled in many respects the old "Arabes Scimitars," or Ishmaelites, whose posterity they undoubtedly were. They were then formed of different clans, or tribes, each obeying the orders of its great Shirkh, and every engagement those of its particular Shirkh. The Shirkh of the Beni Soliman seemed to be the most powerful of all, and had a great influence over all the rest. But, however divided the Arabs might appear, they were all united together in a sort of league. From thence we may conclude that they were at that time far from owing themselves subject to the Turk or any other foreign power whatever. Again in 1748 the Grand Emir, at the head of a numerous army of Arabs, invested Bagdad in order to force the Sultan of Turkey to confer on one of his friends the Pashalik of that city.

Coming down to our own times, the experience of European travellers and British soldiers confirms every particular of our contention. To-day the Arabs live as they have always lived, unconquered and unconquerable. And this paper has tolerably well proved the futility of any attempt to establish foreign domination in the Soudan or any country which the Arabs have made their own. From the death of their great ancestor Ishmael to the present time "their hand has been against every man, and every man's hand against them." None of those formidable empires celebrated in ancient history, none of those puleasant monarchies, of which we meet such pompous descriptions in writers of later date, nor any of the nations that now exist, could ever deprive the Arabs of their independence.

Since writing the above the cable despatches have announced the withdrawal of the British troops from Suakin, the wisest thing Salisbury could do. And so the descendants of Hagar defy the English as they defy every alleged empire that attempted to conquer them.

THE POPE AND IRELAND.

On a recent occasion we had to remark upon the fabrications of correspondents at Rome for English Tory papers. The correctness of the views we then expressed has been confirmed. The invention of strange and startling utterances and attributing them to the Pope is simply an effort to supply what the Tory market demands. When the truth is not suitable these correspondents draw upon their imaginations for their facts. The refutation follows in regular course, but still they go on inventing just the same. The statement which his Holiness was reported to have made to Archbishop Kirby with reference to the Irish people was authoritatively branded in a telegram to Archbishop Walsh as "an impudent fabrication."

As the Liverpool Catholic Times says, any one who has the least knowledge of the Pope's character is aware that he has too much prudence to indulge in such extraordinary expressions. Leo XIII. is too conscious of the devotion of the Irish priests and people to the Holy See and to his sacred person to doubt the fidelity of their sentiments, much less to assert that "the people of Ireland are disobedient, and prefer the gospel of Dillon and O'Brien to the Gospel of Christ." Those who are cognizant of the manner in which the London telegrams from Rome are concocted from the reports, based on eaves-dropping that come out from the staff of one of the Roman papers are well able to judge of the amount of reliance to be placed upon them.

But the best refutation is that contained in the message from the Pope, read from the pulpit by Archbishop Walsh of Dublin, on New Year's day. His Holiness wrote:—"We have always held in special affection the Catholics of Ireland, who have been long sorely tried by many afflictions, and have cherished them with a love which is more intense because of their marvellous fortitude and their hereditary attachment to their religion. In the counsel we have given from time to time and in our recent decree we were moved not only by the consideration of what is conformable to the truth, but also by the desire to advance your interests. Our affection for you does not suffer us to allow the cause for which Ireland is struggling to be weakened by the introduction of anything which could fairly be brought in reproach against it. In order to specially manifest our affection we send you a number of gifts which are specially blessed."

RAILWAY POLITICS.

During 1888 there were 7,120 miles of main track of new railways built in the United States and at the same time the stock of old roads declined in value to the extent of over \$100,000,000. These two facts make a seeming paradox. If the railroad business is as unprofitable as the managers claim, who is it that furnishes the money to build the new lines? The truth is that the railroad business is very profitable, if the return on the actual investment is considered. That is how it comes that 30,000 miles of new track have been built in three years. The greater part of this new mileage is the result of the extension of lines which claim to be getting rates too low to afford a profit. And yet they go on building more road. On an average every mile of new road contracted for is bonded for more than its actual cost, and then an equal or greater amount of stock is issued representing nothing excepting the cost of printing it. This stock is sold at a discount to a too confiding public, and the money frequently used to pay a dividend on other watered stock. This is "boomed" in that way and disposed of at par, as a dividend payer, to the future sorrow of the purchasers. This

kind of swindling has been carried on to an enormous extent in America, and a few men have made colossal fortunes by it, while many thousands have invested in such stock only to meet with great loss. If only the actual cost of the roads were considered they could in nearly every instance pay fair dividends. In fact, in paying the interest on their bonds, as a rule they are paying a fair return on more than the investment. When there is legislation to stop the issue of bonds and stocks, excepting as the representatives of money actually invested, the greatest evil which we suffer from will have been corrected.

The truth is this—If railway men would attend to business and not undertake to run governments they would be wiser than they are. Long ago, when the first railway in Canada was projected, between this city and Kingston, Isaac Buchanan said:—"Henceforth the politics of Canada are railways." He was right.

REGRET is generally felt and expressed at the result of the Laurier election trial, whereby Hon. Jas. McShane was disqualified. His loss will be felt most by the poor people, especially in Montreal, for he was ever their friend, ready and willing on all occasions to help them. At most his action in Laurier was an indiscretion and, being against the law, he has to suffer the penalty. But, perhaps, after all, the result will be beneficial and enable him to devote himself to other duties than those of public life, where his usefulness will be as great and as worthy of record as it has been in the sphere of public life from which he retires. A generous whole-souled Irishman has again, in the case of Mr. McShane, been hunted down by Tory enemies.

MR. PATRICK EGAN received the following cablegram dated Dublin December 31st:— DUBLIN, December 31, 1888.

TO PATRICK EGAN: Statement that relations between Farnell and myself are totally ruptured in consequence of O'Shea's evidence, and that I am likely at an early day to lead revolt against Farnell is lying effort of slanderers after a year of lies.

MICHAEL DAVITT.

This is only another illustration of the fact that a large part of the work that falls to the Irish leaders is contradicting and disproving the lies set afloat by enemies of the great cause.

LITERARY REVIEW.

OCEAN.—J. W. Gould at Aldrich Court, 45 Broadway Court, New York.

The Christmas number of this monthly bears promise on its face of great improvements for the incoming year. The covers are gems of lithographic art. The portraits as well as the minor illustrations are always the best of their kind. It contains much information for the use of seamen and others interested in nautical matters.

ONCE A WEEK, P. F. Collier, Nos. 104 to 110 Attorney Street, New York.

Collier's Once a Week may best be described in its own terms as containing fiction, fact, sensation, wit, humor, news. It is just now bringing out portraits of the belles of society contained in Ward MacAllister's "Four Hundred." Most of the well known American writers contribute to it. In the department of correspondence some novelties are introduced in the shape of phrenological and ethnographical descriptions of persons writing for information on these points. The poetry is in some instances quite above the average.

PARIS ILLUSTRÉ, International News Co., New York.

The issue for December 22, of Paris Illustré besides the usual Paris Gossip, a new serial, "Jesse Rousseau," by Etienne Carjat, and the conclusion of "Mademoiselle de Bardelys." The chief illustrations are a colored one on the front page after a water color drawing by E. Grivaz, the title of which is "Il faut qu'un poète soit converti en fermier." There are some tiny gems of drawings by Madeline Lemaire, illustrating M. Ludovic Halévy's now celebrated "L'Abbe Constantin" with accompanying descriptive letter-press by Gaston Jullivet. A page of small tinted drawings illustrating the same subject, also by Madame Lemaire, comes in near the end. These drawings are charming in their minuteness and delicacy of tinting. "Mademoiselle de Bardelys" comes in for a grand finale in a full page exquisitely colored drawing by Marchetti, the subject being the reconciliation scene between the redoubtable heroine of the story and the lover, to whom her bravery has restored his patrimony. "The Pilots" from a painting by J. Gavi Melchers, is true to life in every respect. The countenances and surroundings seem drawn from nature. "Gulliver at Brobdignag" is the double page supplement, from a painting by Amleto Adan, which accompanies the present number.

THE AVE MARIA.—The present monthly part of The Ave Maria commends the volume. The last is certainly not the least; on the contrary, this is one of the strongest numbers of the year. It includes five weekly numbers and is embellished with a representation of the Immaculate Conception, very artistic in design and elegantly printed on enamelled paper. The contents are pleasantly varied, and there is a bountiful supply of reasonable articles in prose and verse. The sketches and short stories this month are especially bright. In the Youth's Department we find some very creditable poetry, along with an unusual number of stories and sketches, all eminently readable and stimulating.

THE MESSENGER OF THE SACRED HEART for the New Year announces its final installation in city offices (at 114 South Third Street, Philadelphia, Pa.). It puts this forward as "a guarantee that it has come to take its permanent place among the magazines of the country." The January number, enlarged and with an increased space devoted to illustration, would seem to argue as much. The Frontispiece—according to a specialty of this magazine—reproduces, from a recent painter, a charming domestic scene, "Christ Child's Come!"

The first installment is given of a richly illustrated article—"A Flight into Egypt"—on "the blessed tree which, tradition says, gave shelter to the Holy Family on their arrival in Egypt." The other illustrated article, evidently by some travelled American lady, deals with "Two Mailed Saints' Tomb," at Anney in Savoy. Of the two poems, also, each beautifully illuminated: "The Favorite Madonna" is by Helen Grace Smith, a name beginning to appear in the secular magazines;

"Ireland's Golden Noon," with its fine 14th century border, is by Joseph E. Barnaby.

The complete long story of the number—"The Holdings of a Vest-Pocket," by Harry Vincent—is a remarkably real, almost photographic, delineation of the struggle and fall of a young man in hopeless search after employment in the great city of New York. The sad truth of the story, apart from its lesson of devotion, is an important instruction for parents and children alike.

A biographical sketch is given of "The American Knight of St. Sylvester" (Col. Garreth, killed at Murfreesboro, 1862), by one whose fifty years of experience well enable to resume the interesting life lately published by the hero's son.

"The Reader" reviews the Church, at home and abroad, and the "Evangelical Alliance." A series of articles of popular theology on "The Promises of the Sacred Heart" is begun; the "Genuflection of the French Revolution; and besides the usual devotional articles, there is an interesting and detailed account of "The Present State of the Universal League" of the Sacred Heart, of which the 29 Messengers, issued in 14 languages through the world, are the official organs.

THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW, January, 1889. New York, No. 3 East Fourteenth Street.

The Initial New Year number of this standard Review comes richly freighted with articles by leading writers on the popular topics of the times. An article by Erasmus Wiman, entitled "The Greater Half of the Continent," will be particularly interesting to Canadians, as it gives a good idea of the magnitude and resources of the Dominion. The other articles are: "Naval Wars of the Future," by Admiral Porter; "The Stage and Society," by Mary Anderson; "Letters to Prominent Persons," by Arthur Richmond; "Wit and Humor—Old and New," by Edmund Kirke; "Is Yellow Fever Contagious?" by John B. Hamilton; "A Captain's Work," by Capt. C. W. Kennedy; "The Next National Reform," by Allan Thorneike Rice; "Robert Elmore's Mental Struggles," by a number of writers, including Mr. Gladstone. The usual amount of short monographs complete a most attractive and instructive number.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST, 751 Broadway, New York.

With 1889 commences the forty-eighth volume of the American Agriculturist, a journal devoted to the Farm, Garden and Household. It is ably managed in all its departments, and treats of rural matters in a scientific manner, and has only to be glanced at to become popular. The many practical hints given on farming and horticulture topics make it a real boon and a help to farmers; and the woman's department, edited by experienced writers, will make it equally prized by farmers' wives and daughters. It contains about 38 pages of closely printed original reading matter, and is published at the astonishingly low price of \$1.50 per annum, or single numbers for 15 cts.

THE NEW MOON, New Moon Publishing Co., Lowell, Mass., U.S.

With the new year comes this ever welcome little magazine, bright and new as ever. It leads off this month with an article on "How Men Propose;" "Merry Belle," a short story; "Old Year's Night," a poem; "Smith's Widow," a New Year Greeting; poetry; "What is the New Year?" a poem of unusual merit; "The Withered Hand," "Old Time Eloquence," "Bye Bye," "A Cat's Intelligence," with the latest intelligence concerning matters dramatic, domestic, political, juvenile, literary and humorous, "Answers to Correspondents" and Advertiser's Miscellany, just as interesting reading as any other portion. While the tone of this little favorite is exceptionally high and pure, there is none at the price that excel it in interest.

PARIS ILLUSTRÉ, International News Co., New York.

The issue for December 29 of this periodical has on opening page a prettily designed water color, by Geoffroy, entitled "Good Year;" also a speaking likeness of Queen Christina of Spain and the Infant King Alfonso XIII.; "Excursion in Norway" from a painting by Skoulen-Hald; a portrait of a lady heading "A Parisienne's Life," presumably that of the heroine of the story; the prettiest calendar yet, in delicately shaded tints for the opening month of the New Year; a two page drawing, by Lunel, "New Year's Gifts;" a charming portrait, in colors, of the boy violinist Gauthier; by J. V. Verdier; the conclusion of "Jean Rousset," by Etienne Carjat; and "Caught," a series of humorous drawings, by Louis Wain.

THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED, G. E. Desbarats & Son, Montreal.

This is a very full number, pictorially considered. The list of engravings are large, containing portraits of some of the most prominent members of the M. A. A. and their different parties of meeting; also illustrations of the Toronto Gaiety Club, "At the Etobicoke River" and "An After Dinner Rest;" "Ready for a Walk, and Full Speed," by Sargent.

CHARIOT RACE FROM BEN-HUR.

A realistic representation beautifully engraved upon a handsome 1889 calendar, by John A. Lowell & Co., Boston, can be procured by sending six cents in stamps to P. N. Eustis, General Passenger and Ticket Agent, C. & Q. R. R., Colago, Ill.

SUICIDES IN FRANCE.

No less than 7,572 persons sought a voluntary death in France last year. Of this number 2,168 are attributed to mental afflictions of different kinds, 975 to domestic troubles, 900 to drunkenness, 483 to poverty, 305 to pecuniary difficulties, 202 to the desire to avoid imprisonment, 100 to the loss of employment, 80 to the fear of exposure, 56 to the loss of relatives, 25 to the dread of military service and 227 to jealousy and crossing in love.

The Reforma has published an interview with Mr. Gladstone, in which he repudiated the idea that Ireland under Home Rule would become a mere papal instrument. In support of his belief he instanced the fact that the Irish had chosen Protestants as their political leaders, beginning with Mr. Parnell. In regard to the papal question his views had not changed. He considered the possession of temporal power by the Pope as incompatible with the unity and liberty of Italy. But the person of the Pope was very near his heart, and he desired to see him surrounded with all the respect which prestige guarantees for his authority.

At the New Year's reception held by the Emperor William, Count Von Moltke advanced to the Emperor and expressed the good wishes of the army. In reply, the Emperor said: "The campaign upon which you are first assembled around me will be specially remembered. I hope that in the labours before us you will serve with the same fidelity you displayed toward my father."