

Sacredness of a Promise.

An eminent British statesman is said to have traced his own sense of the sacredness of a promise to a curious lesson he got from his father when he was a boy.

"O," said the boy, "I should so like to see a wall pulled down."

"Well, my boy, you shall," said his father.

The thing, however, escaped his memory, and during the boy's absence, a number of improvements were being made, amongst others the pulling down of this wall, and the building of a new one in its place.

When the boy came home and saw it, he said:

"O, father, you promised to let me see that wall pulled down."

Instantly the father remembered his promise, and was deeply pained to think that he had been careless about his pledged word.

"My boy," he said, "you are right. I did promise, and I ought not to have forgotten. It is too late now to do just what I said I would, but you wanted to see a wall pulled down, and so you shall."

And he actually ordered the masons up and made them pull down and rebuild the new wall, that as nearly as possible his promise might be made good.

"It cost me twenty pounds," he said to a friend who was bantering him about it, "but," he added solemnly, "if it had cost me a hundred, I should have thought it a cheap way of impressing upon my boy's mind, as long as he lives, the importance of a man of honour should attach to his pledged word."

The Gospel.

The Gospel gloomy! It is an anthem from the harps of heaven, the music of the river of life washing its shores on high and pouring in cascades upon the earth.

The Evangelical Movement in Italy.

"What, we may ask, was the course which it would have been wise for the churches of this and other countries to have pursued with regard to the evangelization of Italy?"

As for music, I should not dare to estimate the amount I have spent in replacing the songs and piano-forte pieces that my dear friends have borrowed, they having chosen to retain them altogether, or to return them so mutilated that they were unfit for further use.

Thou Shalt Not Steal.

Don't be alarmed, dear readers of the Bazar. I am not a clergyman in disguise. I do not propose delivering my views upon the cardinal virtues, nor speculating upon the possible approach of the end of the world.

I do not allude to thefts on an audacious and grand scale, but to something infinitely more vexing—borrowing, by your friends, your books and music for an unlimited number of years, or forever, as best suits them.

How much worse, then, to appropriate a book! I speak with feeling, having lost at least half of a valuable library of books and music, including some European publications that can not easily be replaced in this country.

I will not allude to such trifles as paper-covered novels; when I lend them, it is with my eyes opened to the fact that I shall never see them again, and seldom am I mistaken.

A friend of mine possesses a very extensive library, chiefly of fiction. I asked her once how many volumes she usually lost per annum.

"Seldom one," she said, "for every book on my shelves is numbered, and when I lend one I write it down in my catalogue with the name and address of the party in possession of it."

I have not yet had the time nor the patience to catalogue my library, and doubt much if I should have the moral courage of my friend to send boldly after the abstracted volumes: I presume, therefore, it will be my fate to suffer for the rest of my life.

I have, or had, certain books that I need constantly for reference, and such as I should never think of asking anyone to lend me; I should as soon think of requesting the loan of the family Bible.

When a book is returned to me it is usually, if unbound, bereft of its paper cover; if the cover is too substantial for easy destruction, some of the leaves are missing or loosened.

What could I do but patiently smile at an act of vandalism that I would not have tolerated from a member of my own family? This man, who was almost a stranger to me, had literally destroyed (for me) a great portion of this choice volume.

As a result of Messrs. Moody & Sankey's services in Dublin eighteen months ago an effort is being made by evangelical Christians of all denominations in that city to erect a hall which may be made the centre of united effort in the evangelization of Ireland.

Special Notices.

A DOCTOR'S OPINION.

Messrs. Craddock & Co., 1022 Race Street, Philadelphia.

You will perhaps remember that I sent for three bottles of East India Hemp about ten years ago, when I had a severe cough, and every one thought I was fast going into Consumption, especially as my physician told me I could never get well.

The Queen's Balmoral estate covers 25,350 acres, and is of the gross annual value of £2,892 10s. The Prince of Wales has an estate at Ballater containing 5,801 acres, of the annual value of £816 12s.

Dr. McDonald, representative of the Presbyterian Church in Victoria, Australia, reported to the Scotch Kirk General Assembly that in that Church the lowest stipend was \$1,500 and a manse.

A couple of English missionaries, Messrs. McFarlane and Lawes, began the first real Protestant mission work in New Guinea about two years ago. They have been assisted by sixteen South Sea Island teachers, and report eight stations occupied.

A blessing not in disguise is a church debt, if a writer in the Independent can be believed. He says, "We have a debt on our church. It has been there for a long time. It will doubtless be there for a long time to come."

The Blessing of Good Wives.

"No companion so valuable and safe can a man have as a discreet and godly wife. It is her province and care to make her home neat and attractive in appearance, genial, sweet, and healthy in atmosphere—the place to which her husband shall turn with glad and longing heart."

A Sign of the Times.

Dr. Wallace, Professor of Church History in Edinburgh University, and minister of Old Greyfriars, has resigned his position, to take the editorial chair of the Scotsman.

FIFTEEN years ago there were only sixteen thousand Jews in Paris. There are now over fifty thousand.

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MONTGOMERY, TEXAS, June 20th, 1867. To SETH S. HANCOCK.—A person in my employ had been afflicted with Fits or Epilepsy for thirteen years, he had these attacks at intervals of two to four weeks, and often times several in quick succession, sometimes continuing for three or four days. On these occasions he was so violent that his mind appeared totally deranged, in which state he would continue for a day or two after the fits ceased.

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