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Beyond the land, beyond the sea,  
There shall be rest for thee and me,  
For thee and me and those we love.  
I heard a promise gently fall,  
I heard a far-off shepherd call  
The weary and the broken-hearted,  
Promising rest unto each and all.

## OVER LAND AND SEA.

The New York Sabbath Committee observed its fortieth anniversary last week. Dr. W. W. Atterbury, who has been its executive officer for more than twenty-five years, gave an elaborate and valuable report showing the origin and purpose of the Committee, what it has accomplished, a digest of recent changes in Sunday laws and of judicial decisions, and the condition of the Sunday question in foreign countries.

The question of Sabbath desecration is becoming a vital one in Richmond, Va. As in other places, the failure on the part of the police force and the courts to enforce the law is regarded as the most serious source of evil. The Methodist Sunday School Union, the Baptist ministers' meeting and the Ministerial Association have taken up the matter and are pressing the municipal authorities to more decided action.

The United Presbyterian Church of Scotland, at its jubilee year shows a most flourishing condition. The increase of membership during the past year is 2,582, the largest reported since 1874. The income for congregational purposes shows an increase of \$60,000, and for missionary and benevolent purposes of nearly \$12,000. This is especially interesting in view of the proposed union between that Church and the Free Church, which there is considerable hope of accomplishing very soon.

Among the strong Presbyterian churches of the South is the Independent Presbyterian Church at Savannah, Ga., organized under a charter from King George II. as an offshoot from the Church of Scotland. It has retained its separate and independent character to this day, not being connected with any Presbytery. It has a new and fine church and parsonage. The contributions for Home and Foreign Missions are made through the agencies of the Southern Presbyterian Church.

Legacies are not entirely lacking in these days. The American Board and the Woman's Board of Missions of the Congregational Church, the Congregational Home Missionary and Church Building Societies, and the American Missionary Association receive \$1,000 each from the will of Laura A. Atwood, of Groveland, Mass., while a number of other societies, including the American Bible and Tract Societies, receive \$500 each.

The funds from the "Women of Toronto" for the Indian Famine reaches now in all seven branches between 200 and 300 dollars, that from the Bible House 102 Yonge St. goes to the Rev. Dr. Warden to be dispensed by Presbyterian Missionaries in India, and we thank all who have kindly contributed to this. If any others wish to do so, before the remainder is sent away, will they either give it at the Bible House, or send it to Miss Caroline Machlem, Ighan Towers,

Rosedale, Toronto, specifying that it is intended for the Presbyterian branch of this fund, as she receives it for the others as well. We hope many kind hearts will feel disposed to help these poor people, who still stand in so great need of it. It is heart-breaking to our good missionaries to have to turn away those who come hungry and starving to them for food and shelter; let us gladly do what we can for them during this period of great distress, let us do it "heartily as unto the Lord." He will accept as done unto Him the smallest offering given in His name, and may His love fill many hearts with a desire to save these poor people from starving, and bring them some of the light and knowledge which gladdens our own hearts. The condition of the Lepers is particularly appealing. Mr. Uffmann a missionary among them writes "The famine is felt very heavily and is every day increasing, that the money sent towards the new building is exhausted, and that they are obliged during this golden time for work" to sit idle, he longs to be able to keep those who come for shelter, and to tell them of the Saviour who died for them, and reminds us of our Lord's words in St. Matt. xxv. 35, 36 and 40. Any wishing to help the Lepers particularly may also do so through Miss Machlem, every five dollars will keep one person from starving until the harvest, it is said, we trust many lives therefore may be saved out of the millions to those sending or helping to send this sum.

A burglar in Germany succeeded in frightening an oversuperstitious boy into the belief that he was Satan, and would carry him off if he made any outcry. The ruse worked, for the boy was frightened into insensibility. He was, however, a boy of conscience as well as superstition, and, having recovered his senses before the burglar was through, he thought: "Oh, if I should kill the devil, there would be no more sin." So, creeping quietly to the closet where his father kept a gun, he put a charge of swanshot into the burglar's body. It does not always do to fool boys.

At last slavery has been abolished in Zanzibar. On April 6th the Sultan issued a decree which abolishes the legal status—incredible as it sounds, we have actually been enforcing plantation slavery in the islands ever since we took possession of them—but provides that rights over concubines shall remain as before unless freedom is claimed on the ground of cruelty, the women being treated as wives. Compensation is to be awarded for slaves legally held, and if Zanzibar is unable to meet the expenditure, help is to be given by England. The clauses as to compensation are said to have made the Arabs receive the decree without discontent, and there is reported to be no probability of resistance. The Arabs, say the telegrams, were so cowed by the recent bombardment that they will not show fight. We cannot refrain from saying that the story of our dealings with slavery in Zanzibar is extremely discreditable. Till forced into better ways by public opinion the Foreign Office refused to act upon what was long ago settled to be the cardinal policy of the Empire,—the policy of abolishing slavery whenever and wherever we had the power and opportunity.