

swept away. At length they reached the point where the river divides, and the water stands for an instant almost still, hesitating whether to take the Canadian or American plunge. Out a little way from the shore the waves leap and tumble, and the two currents are like race-horses parted on two ways to the goal. Just at this point the water swirls and lingers, having lost all its fierceness and haste, and spreads itself out placidly, dimpling in the sun. It may be a treacherous pause, this water may be as cruel as that which rages below and exults in catching a boat or a man and bounding with the victim over the cataract; but the calm was very graceful to the stunned and buffeted visitors; upon their jarred nerves it was like the peace of God.—Charles Dudley Warner, in *Harper's Magazine* for October.

#### PREACHING IN COUNTRY CHURCHES.

I drove into a lovely village in the north country one Saturday evening last fall. The Sunday morning found me in an Episcopal Church. I went to worship God with the people. Young men may be safely trusted with the service which is the chief purpose of the Sunday morning assemblage. But now when a robed boy began to preach to his little congregation of country folks, he opened with this statement, in almost these words: "A few weeks ago I told you that after much study I had come to the conclusion, from the teaching of our Lord and of the apostles, that the choice for eternity which is laid before you, and before all the human race, is salvation by the atonement of Christ or annihilation. I feel, however, that I ought to tell you that others have thought, and thought differently." And the rest of the sermon was a brief statement of the views of some people that there is a future state of punishment for the wicked, with a restatement of the preacher's profound study and his conviction, from his personal investigation, that the Church was wrong and his belief in the annihilation of the wicked was right. Another sermon which I heard in a Congregational Church, within the next two weeks, was based on something the preacher had read in one of the now many books made up by ignorant men, professing to give philological and archaeological information, but full of errors. The most extraordinary misstatements were made of history, of ancient customs, of the testimony of hieroglyphic inscriptions in Egypt and cuneiform tablets from Assyria. The *melange*, which the preacher had accepted as truth, from the flimsy book he had read on Saturday, and now retailed to a group of listeners, was shocking. These are not exceptional illustrations. Such sermons I hear constantly, and this in country parishes where a former generation heard sermons from men who, whatever their abilities, knew that in theology, as in all other sciences, the true teacher is very humble and preaches only the unchanging faith of the Church. Those men never preached themselves; and if they sought to extend in any way or to explain the words of Holy Writ, bowed their souls reverently to the authoritative teachings of the Church, and the great minds in the Church, before they ventured to tell the people, whom they loved, what might be for their eternal weal or woe.—W. C. Prime, in *New Princeton Review* for September.

#### THE SPHINX AND NEW DISCOVERIES.

The Sphinx occupies a position where the encroachment of the desert is most conspicuous. At the present day nothing is to be seen of the animal except its head and its neck; but the old Egyptian monuments on which it is figured show not only the entire body down to the paws, but also a large square plinth beneath, covered with ornaments. Since the time of the Greeks, perhaps even since the reign of Thothmes IV., this plinth has disappeared beneath the sand, and its very existence has been forgotten. It is generally supposed that the Sphinx is hewn out of a large isolated rock, which overlooked the plain. But M. Maspero's researches suggest that it is a work yet more stupendous. He has proved that the Sphinx occupies the centre of an amphitheatre, forming a kind of rocky basin, the upper rim of which is about on a level with the head of the animal. The walls of this amphitheatre, wherever visible, are cut by the hand of man. It seems probable therefore that in the beginning there was a uniform surface of rock, in which an artificial valley has been excavated, so as to leave in the middle a block out of which the Sphinx was finally hewn. The excavations now being carried on will doubtless verify the existence of the plinth shown on the old paintings, and also furnish evidence by the ornamentation of the plinth, of the true age of the monument. M. Maspero is inclined to assign to it a very great antiquity—possibly higher than the early dynasties, i.e., than the first period of Egyptian history. As the result of last winter's work the sand around the Sphinx has already been lowered by about thirty metres.—*The Academy*.

#### THE SAILOR-FISH.

In the warm waters of the Indian Ocean a strange mariner is found that has given rise to many curious tales among the natives of the coast thereabout. They tell of a wonderful sail often seen in the calm seasons preceding the terrible hurricanes that course over those waters. Not a breath then disturbs the water, the sea rises and falls like a vast sheet of glass; suddenly the sail appears, glistening with rich purple and golden hues, and seemingly driven along by a mighty wind. On it comes, quivering and sparkling, as if bedecked with gems, but only to disappear as if by magic. Many travellers had heard with unbelief this strange tale; but one day the phantom craft actually appeared to the crew of an Indian steamer and as it passed by under the stern of the vessel, the queer "sail" was seen to belong to a gigantic sword-fish, now known as the sailor-fish. The sail was really an enormously developed dorsal fin that was over ten feet high, and was richly colored with blue and iridescent tints; and as the fish swam along on or near the surface of the water, this great fin naturally waved to and fro, so

that, from a distance, it could easily be mistaken for a curious sail.

Some of these fishes attain a length of over twenty feet, and have large, crescent shaped tails, and long, sword-like snouts, capable of doing great damage.

In the Mediterranean Sea a sword-fish is found that also has a high fin, but it does not equal the great sword-fish of the Indian Ocean.—From "Some Curious Mariners," by C. F. Holder, in *St. Nicholas* for October.

#### OCTOBER.

October comes across the hill  
Like some light ghost, she is so still,  
Though her sweet cheeks are rosy;  
And though the floating thistle-down  
Her trailing, brier-tangled gown  
Gleams like a crimson posy.

The crickets in the stubble chime;  
Lanterns flash out at milking time;  
The daisy's lost her ruffles;  
The wasps the honeyed pippins try;  
A film 's over the blue sky,  
A spell the river muffles.

The golden rod fades in the sun;  
The spider's gauzy veil is spun  
Aneath the drooping sedges;  
The nuts drop softly from their burrs;  
No bird-song the dim silence stirs,  
A blight is on the hedges.

But filled with fair content is she,  
As if no frost could ever be,  
To dim her brown eyes' lustre;  
And much she knows of fairy folk  
That dance beneath the spreading oak  
With tinkling mirth and bluster.

She listens when the dusky eyes  
Step softly on the fallen leaves,  
As if for message cheering;  
And it must be that she can hear,  
Beyond November grim and drear,  
The feet of Christmas nearing.  
—Susan Hawley, in *St. Nicholas* for October.

#### ANONYMOUS LETTERS.

But we suppose every one chiefly associates the idea of anonymous communications with everything cowardly and base. There are in all neighbourhoods perfidious, sneaking, dastardly, filthy, calumnious, vermin-infested wretches, spewed up from perdition, whose joy it is to write letters with fictitious signatures. Sometimes it takes the shape of a valentine—the fourteenth of February being a great outlet for this obscene spasm. If your nose be long, or your limbs slender, or your waist thick around, it will be pictorially presented. Sometimes it takes the form of a delicate threat that if you do not thus or so there will be a funeral at your house, yourself the chief object of interest. Sometimes it will be denunciatory of your friend.

Let every young man know that when he is tempted to pen anything which requires him to disguise his handwriting, he is in fearful danger. You despoil your own nature by such procedure more than you can damage any one else. Bowie-knife and dagger are more honourable than an anonymous pen sharpened for defamation of character. Better try putting strychnine in the flour barrel. Better mix ratbane in the jelly-cake. That behaviour would be more elegant and Christian.—"Shots at Sunday Targets" by T. DeWitt Talmage, D.D. *E. B. Treat, New York*.

Two stained-glass windows, executed at the works of Mr. William Morris at Merton Abbey, from designs by Mr. Burne Jones, have been placed in Kirkcaldy U. P. Church, by friends of the late Mr. James Russell.

A HISTORY of Germany, by Rev. S. Baring Gould, will be the next volume in Mr. T. Fisher Unwin's series, "The Story of the Nations." Mr. Unwin will also publish this month "The Touchstone of Peril," a two-volume novel delineating life in India during the mutiny.

THE Rev. Dr. Somerville, Moderator of the Free Church General Assembly, opened recently the new church in the island of Benluecula. It has been erected with a manse, mainly through the influence of Principal Rainey, and presented to the congregation free of debt, with an endowment of \$5,000.

MR. SAMUEL MORLEY is said to have left \$10,000,000 and it is rumoured that Mr. Arnold Morley, M.P., his third son, will be the largest legatee. His income, they say, averaged \$750,000 a year, and it is stated that he never gave away less than \$15,000 per annum for religious and charitable purposes.

DR. DALZELL and his newly-appointed staff for the Gordon Memorial Mission in South Africa were present at a large farewell meeting in Kinning Park Church, Glasgow. Prof. Lindsay presided, and the meeting was addressed by Dr. A. A. Bonar, Mr. J. Campbell White and others. Mr. White is sending out a representative to take charge of the "Overtown Branch Mission."

THE Rev. James Jolly, who visited Canada a few years ago, the devoted colleague and afterward the efficient successor of the late Rev. William Tasker in Dr. Chalmers' model mission church in the West Port of Edinburgh, died lately. He was in the prime of life, being only in his forty-second year. Mr. Jolly's work during his fourteen years' ministry in the West Port was prosperous and successful, and two years ago a new church was built for the congregation in Lady Lawson's wynd.

## British and Foreign.

DR. STORY, of Rosneath, preached at Balmoral recently, and afterward dined with the Queen.

ARCHBISHOP SMITH opened on Sabbath the Romish Church of the Sacred Heart in John Street, Penicuik.

DR. OSWALD DYKES is to preach the missionary sermon at the approaching autumnal congress of the Baptists at Bristol.

MR. EHRENEZER RITCHIE, Shottsburn, has been ordained as pastor of the Original Secession congregation at Paisley.

MR. GLADSTONE, while in Harvaria, made a mountain excursion with Dr. Dollinger, leader of the Old Catholic movement.

DR. HONEY'S jubilee was celebrated at Inchture lately, when he was presented with a congratulatory address and a cheque for \$1,450.

WHEN Bishop Cornish, of Madagascar, left Sydney, where he had been begging for his church, only two laymen went to see him off.

AN Indian missionary points out that living Hindu thought is everywhere moving out of the old benumbing Pantheism toward belief in a personal God.

DR. JOHN CLIFFORD, of Westbourne Park, who is at present sojourning at Olan, has a new work in the press, entitled "The Dawn of Manhood."

THE Rev. Dr. Fleming Stevenson, Dublin, and Rev. Dr. Meneely, Belfast, have been suffering recently from severe illness, but are now recovering.

DR. WALTER C. SMITH has published his recent address to the students of the Lancashire Independent College under the title of "Progress in Theology."

MR. SAMUEL SMITH, M.P., writes that the only logical issue of "the tithe war" is the speedy disestablishment and disendowment of the Episcopal Church in Wales.

Two stained-glass windows have been placed in Dunblane Parish Church, one on each side of the pulpit, one representing Christ, the sower, and the other an angel reaper.

CLASSES are to be formed in Trinity College, Dublin, for the instruction in Scripture of Presbyterian students; they will be conducted by Revs. J. L. Morrow, J. S. Hamilton, and R. M'Cheyne Edgar.

THE Rev. Neil Taylor, of Dornoch, in a letter to the *Times*, denies the statement of Mr. Baumann, M.P., that the authors of the disorder and discontent in the Highlands were the Free Church ministers.

THE Rev. J. G. Paton, who has returned to Sydney from the New Hebrides, where he was at the time of the French hoisting their flag, reports that the natives are greatly concerned about the threatened annexation.

EVERYWHERE in England, according to the *Congregationalist*, the crusade of the Establishment is being carried on against every form of dissent, which has not for many a year had so hard a fight to maintain as at present.

AN anti-tithe league has been formed by the farmers attending the monthly fair at Ruthin, in North Wales. At an open-air meeting it was resolved that the time had come when the tithes should be utilized to lighten the farmers' burdens.

THE Rev. Thos. Hamilton, Belfast, has withdrawn his name from the list of candidates for the vacant chair of sacred rhetoric in the Assembly's College. Revs. Dr. T. Y. Killen, Dr. W. Rogers and A. Robinson are now the candidates.

THE Rev. Arthur Roberts, for fifty-five years rector of Woodrising, Norfolk, author of the "Labours of Hannah and Martha More," and editor of the "Correspondence of Hannah More and Zachary Macaulay," died lately at an advanced age.

THE foundation stone of a new Independent Church for Whiteabbey, near Belfast, was laid recently. Mr. DeColain, M.P., Captain M'Calmont, M.P., and a number of the leading ministers and merchants of Belfast took part in the proceedings.

THE *Australian Churchman* complains that its subscribers are extremely averse to paying for their paper. "Many of them, it says, like to see their doings chrouched, and their thoughts given to admiring readers; but too many do it at others' expense."

A FLERISLITE of Haddington East U. P. congregation, the pastorate of which is vacant owing to the resignation of Mr. Dickie, shows eighty-seven opposed to union with the West congregation and five in favour, while twenty-two papers are not returned.

THE Rev. Dr. W. M. Taylor, of New York, on his return to America, was accompanied by his friend, Rev. John Kirkwood, of Troon, who purposes being absent two months. Mr. Kirkwood was presented with a purse of sovereigns by the managers of his church.

THE aborigines of the Nilghiri hills, in South India, who seem to be of quite a different lineage from both the Hindus and the Mohammedans, have of late years acquired a fatal liking for the "fire-water." They are known, though poor, to pay as much as three rupees, \$1.25, for a bottle of brandy.

THE Rev. James Fullerton, LL.D., of Sydney, has died in his eightieth year. A native of Ireland, he was the fourth son of Rev. Archibald Fullerton, of Aghadowey, County Londonderry; and forty-nine years have elapsed since he joined the Synod of Australia in connection with the Church of Scotland.

RECENTLY an order came from the South to Inverness for two gallons of smuggled whiskey. The order being urgent, and no immediate prospect of securing the genuine article, a dozen bottles of new raw grain spirit were sent to a well-known smuggling locality, and were thence despatched south as "real mountain dew."