

# The Presbyterian Review.

Vol. XIII.—No. 18.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER 5, 1896.

\$1.50 per Annum

Speak low to me, my Saviour, low and sweet,  
From out the hallelujahs, sweet and low;  
Lest I should fear and fall, and miss Thee so,  
Who art not missed by any that outreat.  
Speak to me as to Mary at Thy feet.

## OVER LAND AND SEA.

Changes in the use of buildings emphasize sometimes the fact that Christianity is to take the world, and that its kingdoms are to become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ. The site of the building from which a bishop of London once issued an order for the burning of all the Bibles then published is now occupied by the home of the British and Foreign Bible Society, which issues more Bibles than any organization in the world. Another instance of nearly the same sort is the fact that the Hall of Science in London, which was so long associated with the secularist movement, led by the late Mr. Bradlaugh and Mrs. Annie Besant, has now been taken by Mrs. Bramwell Booth, to be utilized as a shelter and home for women.

The movement in favor of admitting women as delegates to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States seems to be losing ground. The votes taken so far in the Annual Conferences show smaller majorities than before and the needed two thirds can hardly be secured. The Germans and Scandinavians are voting almost unanimously against admission and the opposition elsewhere is better organized, probably because they take the matter more seriously than before.

Cardinal Vaughan evidently hopes to reap a harvest of conversions from the extreme High church party in England as the result of the Pope's recent decision against the validity of their orders. He points out to them that they are now disowned by the Greek, Latin, and Jansenist churches while the great majority of their fellow countrymen have no sympathy with them in their anxiety as to the regularity of their ordination. They can have neither recognition nor peace save by a complete surrender to Rome. A fund is being provided for the temporary relief of such as may sacrifice their livelihood by the change. The responses are not likely to be very numerous, however, and the loss of those who do go to Rome will be a blessing rather than otherwise to the Church of England.

Ireland is about to hold a ter-centenary celebration in honor of the introduction of the potato. There is no doubt it has been a blessing to the Emerald Isle, but not an unmixed one. It was the too complete reliance on it as a food that led to the unspeakable sufferings of '46 and '47. The ease with which it can be grown has also no doubt produced much improvidence among the people.

The Geysers of the Yellowstone National Park are failing. Their force has fallen off fifty per cent. in sixteen years. The Niagara gorge will extend from lake to lake in the course of time, and there will be no cataract. Destruction of forests is reducing magnificent rivers to gravel beds. Verily, the people of this generation may look at the moon and be thankful that they are living while this earth is a live and interesting planet.

The *Revue Scientifique* gives a terrible picture of a rule of alcoholism in Belgium. The 6,000,000 inhabitants support no less than 115,104 grogshops. The annual consumption of alcohol is 70,000,000 litres, which cost 130,000,000 francs. Alcoholic drinks of all kinds cost Belgium about 1,300,000 francs every day of the year, making an annual outlay in a twelvemonth of about one-half billion francs. Between 1871 and 1881 the amount consumed was doubled. Between 1873 and 1876 the increase of wages was 600,000,000 francs while the increase in expenditure for drinks was 416,000,000. It is claimed that fully 25,000 Belgians die each year of the results of alcoholism. In Brussels, as has been statistically shown, more than 80 per cent. of all the deaths in the hospitals result from this cause. Claude, whose report for the year 1887 created such a stir, calculates that the consumption per capita is 4.25 litres, while Prinzing, for 1889 computed it at 4.4 litres. At present, according to the calculation of several of the Senators of the Parliament, the average is 12 litres.

All students of missions know that the Moravians far excel all other bodies of Christians in their devotion to the cause of missions. *The Missionary Review of the World* credits the Friends with the second place in honor, and declares that in proportion to their numbers they send more missionaries to the field than any other denomination. In Great Britain about one in 250 of the whole membership, or one in 166 of the adult members, is a missionary.

The Protestant churches of Sydney and its suburbs have been taking active steps in the prosecution of a crusade in the interests of social morality, and the pulpits have been giving forth no uncertain sound on the subject of gambling. The practice of this vice has become so general, and its ramifications are so widespread that it would seem as if the churches are undertaking to attack an ineradicable instinct of human nature, or to suppress a volcano.

Superintendent Skinner, of the Department of Public Instruction of New York, has introduced child study in the State to collect data that will guide its educators in directing their studies. Superintendent Skinner asks the co-operation of mothers as well as teachers, as he believes that the opportunities possessed by mothers for studying children are greater than the teachers' opportunity. Professor Charles H. Thurber has this department in charge. For the study of children's hopes, compositions on two subjects are requested: 1. "What I want to do next year, and why." 2. "What I want to do when I am a man (or woman), and why." Blanks are furnished by the Department and correspondence solicited.

A non-church-goer, willing to justify himself, explains that he was insulted in church ten years ago, and of course he has not attended church since that time. But Jesus was insulted at church, and yet He went back to the synagogue on the following Sabbath just as though nothing had happened. We do not suppose that any church-goer ever had more to discourage him, in the conduct of the worshippers and in their manifest spirit, than Jesus had, and yet He has set us an example in regular and faithful church attendance. We know a man who was insulted at the polls on election day, and yet he never thought of giving up his privilege of voting.