

They stood in silence for a minute or two. Then she said: "Come into the manse. No one will be there till I have time to say what I must say."

They moved on till they came to the lane that led thither, and passed out of the moonlight into the shadow.

"Allison," said John, pausing, "you can not surely mean to cut me off from all hope? You might come to—care for me in time."

"Care for you? Oh, yes! I care for you. You are my friend, and Willie's. But I have done you a wrong, and with no will to do it."

Instead of going into the house they turned aside at the end of the hedge, and entered the garden. On the summer-seat, under the tall fir-trees, they sat down in silence. After a time Allison rose, and stood before her friend.

"John," said she, "when I heard your voice to-night I was glad. My heart has been heavy with a great dread all the week; and when I heard your voice I said to myself, here is a friend who will help me. John," she said, after a moment's silence, "it is my secret I am going to tell you—my secret that I have kept all these long months. I trust you, John. You will tell me what I must do."

"Well," said John, as she paused again.

"John—I am a wife already. It is from—from the man who married me against my will that I have been hiding all this time. You must not think ill of me, for I was like a lost creature when my father died, and I knew not what to do. I came away hoping that God would let me die, or keep me hidden till my brother should get away to the other side of the sea. And God has kept me safe till now. John, will you forgive me and help me?"

The hands she held out to him trembled. She was shaking with excitement, and the chill of the night. He rose and wrapped her shawl close about her.

"Allison, sit down. Or shall we go into the house? I will do all that I can to help you—so help me, God!" said John, with a groan, fearing that he was past help.

"No, I will not sit down. Sometime I will tell you all my story, but not to-night. This is what I must tell you. It was in our parish of Kilgower where Mr. Crombie laid down his wife. There he heard something of Allison Bain. He saw the man who married me against my will—who has sworn to find me and to take me home to his house, alive or dead. It was in my hearing that he took that oath. But whether Mr. Crombie really knows about me, or whether he was only speaking for the sake of saying something, or whether it was to find me out, or to warn me, I cannot say. And oh! I have been so safe here, and I have come to myself among these kind people."

"What do you want me to do?" said John, as she paused.

"If Crombie should know who I am, and should speak of me to any one, you would hear of it. He may even speak to you. You are his friend. Then will you warn me, and give me time to go away? I should be sorry, oh! so sorry, to leave the kind folk here and go away again among strangers. But I will never go with that man, never."

(To be continued.)

ACROSS THE SEA: ROUNDEL.

Across the sea! Oh restless, tossing waves
Bring you no message hitherward to me
From that dear shore your other margin laves,
Across the sea?

Outward and farther out, triumphant, free,
A freighted ship the swelling current braves
And spurns the spray with swift, untrammelled glee!

With weary pain my lonely spirit craves
Eastward, to shape my course to thee—to thee
Mocking and loud the wind-tossed water raves—
Across the sea!

Montreal.

HELEN FAIRBAIRN.

SOME RUSSIAN SKETCHES.

THE editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, Mr. Stead, in his just-published book, *Truth About Russia*, sketches the Czar thus: "The Emperor is a strong man who takes short views. He sees what he believes to be his duty from day to day and he does it honestly to the best of his ability, in the spirit of the maxim that 'sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.' The Emperor feels that he and his are in the hands of God, who alone sees the end from the beginning; and will find tools to carry on his work when the day comes for that work to be done. That deep, silent and abiding conviction has grown much upon the Emperor of late years. . . . The Emperor has a horror of war. The kindly, humane affections of a *père de famille*, which are so strong in him, exemplify the repugnance with which he contemplates any and every disturbance of the peace. It is his ambition, one of his ministers remarked to me, not to be a great sovereign, but to be the sovereign of a great people whose reign was unstained by a single war. He is a level-headed, conscientious, sure-footed sovereign, conscious of such responsibilities as he has realized, and only afraid of doing that which seems to him to be wrong. For the good relations of England and Russia and for the peace of the World it is simply of inestimable importance that a monarch so steady and self-possessed should be directing the policy of Russia."

Of Count Tolstoi, with whom he spent a week, he makes this portrait: "He is a man of sixty, with iron gray hair, sun-burned countenance, plentifully furnished with gray beard and mustache. His hair is parted down the middle and is thick and full. His brow, furrowed with the ploughshare of thought, is broad and massive; his eyes, small and piercing, gleam out from beneath bushy brows. His nose, large and prominent, has thick and expressive nostrils. The features are so strongly marked that once seen they cannot be soon forgotten. The countenance is one of earnest gravity, with a background of sad and sombre thought. There is sometimes a childlike sparkle of joy-

ousness in his eye; there is always a kindly accent in his voice, but sometimes the furnace, usually banked up within, blazes forth; the face becomes as black and lowering as a thunder cloud, and the whole man trembles and quivers with overmastering passion. Tolstoi is a loyal and affectionate husband and father, but the reader will not be surprised to learn that, like most men who want to regenerate the world, he has an enormous number of children and gives little or no attention to essential details of family management. Were it not for his wife's tact and ability the family would be as poor and uncomfortable as that of any Russian peasant. Says his friend, the author, 'Count Tolstoi is, as it were, an honoured guest in his wife's family. He takes no part in its domestic economy, even as an adviser.'"

GROWTH OF A LANGUAGE.

OCCASIONALLY we read of men who know fifteen or twenty languages, and no doubt, some do understand that number—after a fashion. But if we refer to a thorough mastery of a language it is pertinent to inquire, Who understands one? Even our best scholars may learn a lesson of humility by taking a copy of Webster's Unabridged, opening it at random, and ascertaining by actual test what proportion of the words on the page before them they can define with precision. Twenty-five years ago it was commonly said that there were forty thousand words in the English language of course excluding the usual derivatives. Now it is announced in connection with the prospectus of a forthcoming dictionary, which will comprise 6,500 pages, that it is expected to contain 200,000 words. It is claimed that the last edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* alone has added ten thousand new words to our vocabulary. Many of these, perhaps most, are purely technical terms that are not seen or heard except by the students of certain special branches of knowledge. Nevertheless, they have made good their standing in the language and demand recognition of the lexicographers. In all this, however, there is no reason for discouragement. Students of particular branches must, of course, master the technical terms peculiar thereto, but apart from these, the knowledge of a few thousand words is all that is demanded even of the great masters of style. And it is a rather significant fact that the most fascinating and popular writers are those whose vocabularies comprise the smallest number of words. —*Louisville Courier-Journal*.

THE CANADA BUSINESS COLLEGE, CHATHAM, ONTARIO.

The report of the above college, just issued, shows that the recent opening has been most successful.

The report states that in the month of January of last year eighty students were enrolled, and at the time of writing, the number is exactly twenty per cent. in advance of last year.

The institution now occupies nearly 8,000 square feet of space, and is located on the principal street of the town. It has become one of Chatham's greatest sources of revenue, through the number of young men and young women drawn to it from all parts of Canada and the United States, and even from the West Indies and Mexico.

During the past year there were between 350 and 400 students in actual attendance.

A large number of the students are from the vicinity east of Toronto.

Eleven States, Territories and Provinces and twenty-three counties in Ontario were represented in the attendance last year.

Mr. McLachlan, the principal and founder of the institution, may well feel proud of the college over which he presides, and of the success of his students.

Among his former pupils there are seventeen who are to-day teachers in business colleges, six or seven of whom are principals.

The separate department for shorthand and typewriting is entirely distinct from the business school and under a special teacher.

It appears from statements in the English papers that the Dutch Cocos, and the imitations of them, contain a considerable percentage of chemicals which are deleterious to health. They are introduced for the purpose of making the mixture more soluble and to give colour and apparent strength to the decoction. The use of chemicals can be readily detected by the peculiar odour from newly opened packages, and from a glass of water in which a small quantity of chemically treated cocoa has been placed and allowed to remain for several days. The Chocolate and Cocoa Preparations of Messrs. Walter Baker & Co. are absolutely pure and free from chemicals or other deleterious substances.

ALDEN & FAXON, Newspaper Advertising Agents, Nos. 66 and 68 West Third Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, have just issued a very neat catalogue of the leading American and Canadian newspapers. It is very attractively gotten up, the typographical work being above reproach. A very interesting feature of this catalogue is the publication of sample advertisement, and instructions to new advertisers as to the best method of making money out of newspaper advertising. This firm are especially good counsel in the direction of newspaper advertising, from the fact they have written the advertisements and made successful some of the most prominent firms in the United States. This list will be sent free on application.

British and Foreign.

THE class of 1891 at West Point and of 1892 at Cornell have voted to have no wine at class banquets.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON has been defeated by the brewer whom he opposed in the election of the Cumberland county council.

THE English Court of Appeal has decided in favour of allowing income from trusts for Foreign Missionary societies to be free from income tax.

THE two Paisley thread manufacturing firms of Coats and Clark had not more than 1,000 workers thirty years ago; now they have upwards of 10,000.

THE Rev. James Paterson, of Ballater, has accepted the call to Belgrave Presbyterian Church, London, as successor to the Rev. Dr. Adolph Saphir.

IN Rev. Mr. Spurgeon's library is the precious copy of one of the sermons which was found in Dr. Livingstone's box, in Africa, after the explorer's death.

THE Rev. Dr. Thain Davidson has during the past year travelled upwards of ten thousand miles, mainly in the interest of Young Men's Christian Associations.

THE President of Michigan University remarks in his annual report that a larger proportion of women than of men are taking by choice the full classical course.

MR. JOHN TOD, "John Strathesk," author of "Bits from Blinkbonny," etc., delivered a lecture in College Park Church lately, on "Bits from a Rambler's Scrap-Book."

AT the annual meeting of Regent Square congregation, held lately, the report showed that the membership is now 739, and that the amount collected during 1888 was \$18,715.

DR. PENTECOST is attracting large congregations in Glasgow at his afternoon Bible readings in Mr. Stalker's Church, and the Evangelistic meetings at night in Berkeley Street U.P. Church.

AVR Presbytery have had a Conference with the Synod deputies, and a special committee has been appointed to confer as to the best way of carrying on Christian work among the mining class.

DR. McLAREN, of Manchester, intends spending a week in New Zealand. On 11th February he sails from Adelaide for Colombo and will start from Ceylon for home about the beginning of March.

DR. ADOLPH SAPHIR is to give a second course of Thursday lectures on the Bible in St. John's Presbyterian Church, Kensington (the Rev. Charles Moinet's). The subject will be "The Old Testament."

It is on the recommendation of Dr. Dale that the Rev. Frederick Hastings has been invited to and has accepted the pastorate of the North Adelaide Church. Mr. Hastings is not unknown in the literary world.

ARCHDEACON FARRAR'S busy pen has all but completed a new work on the Fathers of the Church, which will be issued very shortly. It connects the history of the Early Church during the first four centuries with the lives of her principal fathers and doctors.

THE fourth anniversary of the fall of Khartoum and the death of General Gordon occurred lately. Many of the lamented General's admirers paid a visit to his statue in Trafalgar Square, and the base of the statue itself was almost entirely covered with floral tributes.

A LECTURE in connection with Mourne Presbyterian Young Men's Association was delivered lately in the lecture hall by Mr. Samuel Ormsby, Kilkeel, the subject being his "Experience in India." Rev. W. M'Mordie, M.A., president of the association, occupied the chair.

SPECIAL services were held on a recent Sabbath in First Ardstraw and in First Newtonstewart on behalf of Second Newtonstewart Manse Building Fund. The Rev. R. J. Lynd, B.A., Moderator of Assembly, preached, and sustained his reputation as one of our most brilliant pulpit orators.

Another revolution has taken place in Uganda, and Kiwiwa gives place to a brother on the throne. This is the work of the Arabs, who were not pleased with his rule. The missionaries, it will be remembered, escaped when Mwanga was de-throned. Many native Christians were massacred by the Arabs.

ON a recent Sabbath the Rev. W. W. Shaw, M.A., occupied the pulpit of Second Omagh in the morning and addressed the united congregation in First Omagh in the evening. He gave a most interesting and helpful account of the difficulties and encouragements of the mission work in China.

A VERY large audience assembled in the lecture hall of the Second Presbyterian Church, Raphoe, to hear an address on Zenana Mission Work in India from Miss M'Dowell, one of the agents of the mission, who is home at present on furlough. The room was crowded to its utmost capacity. Rev. W. L. Berkeley occupied the chair.

LADY ABERDEEN gave one of her earnest and suggestive addresses lately, at the inauguration of the new institute in Bath-street of the Glasgow Y.W.C.A. Sir James King, lord provost of the city, presided. The annual meeting of the association was held on Tuesday evening in the Queen's rooms under the presidency of Mr. J. Campbell White.

AN old friend of the Foreign Missions, Mr. Grant, of Grant's House, near Berwick, has recently died, leaving half the residue of his estate to the Foreign Mission Fund of the Presbyterian Church of England, which is estimated to realize at least \$10,000. The advisory committee, feeling encouraged by such a prospect, are now looking out for another missionary for Formosa.

MR. SPURGEON hopes to resume his ministry at the Tabernacle on February 17. In a recent letter he says: "I have to sing of the mercy of the Lord towards me. This morning I feel as if within sight of harbour. I cannot yet walk, nor could I even stand for five minutes, but there is every sign that the knee is gathering strength and recovering from its injuries."

THE Rev. J. H. McCulloch, B.D., of North Leith, in acknowledging the gift of a grand piano from his congregation on the occasion of his approaching marriage, mentioned the fact that for a period of nearly one hundred years, no minister of the parish had passed from the position of bachelor into that of benedict, with one single exception. There are now fifty-four elders and 2,750 communicants in Mr. McCulloch's congregation.