

he had become one of those rugged but powerful speakers who have their whole heart in the cause they espouse. The subject of the lecture was, "The Murder of Mark Daker," wherein he charged the laws of this country and the pernicious sale of intoxicating liquors with the death of his brother. Was he right, or was he wrong?—*British Workman*.

A PLEA FOR FANCY WORK.

Men exclaim against it as foolish; utilitarians, as a waste of time; while philanthropists too often denounce it as wicked. We would reply to the first that no work, however small, is worthless if it add to the cheer and attractiveness of home. To the second, that rest, diversity, and change of interest are usually real economy rather than waste of time. And bid the third look to the hill-side, where soon the "blossoming trees" of countless orchards will be tossing their fragrant "foam of promise" against the blue spring skies, and remember that the same Hand crowned the earth not only with fruitfulness, but beauty, so that even the fields of corn slutter soft wealth of silken tassels, and of wheat bending the ripeness of their golden heads, are a perpetual delight not only to the eye of the husbandman, but to the artist. Perhaps the mother may sometimes forget her mending over her tidy, but so she might over her book; and is she for that reason to renounce everything aside from her routine tasks? And true as it is, to whoever strives for self-culture, that spare moments are the "gold dust of time," yet often the mind is too weary with the friction of trial or care to enjoy even the favourite author. But more than all, with most women fancy-work is the one expression for the æsthetic sides of their natures—the artistic taste that lies, though perhaps dormant, in the heart of nearly every woman. Few can be artists or sculptors, but to see silks and worsteds assume form and beauty under their fingers gives something of the same creative delight that in a full measure thrills the heart of Rosa Bonheur or Harriet Hosmer. We know a lady who, embroidering a table spread, and lacking patterns, gathered flowers from the garden for models. Was not hers the artist's skill, though she wrought without palette or brush? Moreover, the love of fancy work is no sign of a weak or frivolous mind. Matilda of Flanders gave to England a history in her Bayeux tapestry, Madame de Maintenon sat at her embroidery in the midst of Louis XIV. and his ministers. Mrs. Somerville, we are told, could turn from her mathematical calculations and translations of *La Placé*, to superintend her household, or embroider her children's frocks. Harriet Martineau, the writer on political economy, the friend of politicians and statesmen, prided herself on her skill in all fine feminine handicraft. Let women, therefore, not decry nor too much neglect their God-given love of beauty; rather let them feel a joy and pride in giving it most perfect utterance, rising, whenever possible, into higher and fuller forms of art, but when nothing better offers, making the most, by taste and skill and originality, of the much despised but by no means wholly despicable fancy-work.—*Christian at Work*.

THE LARGEST ISLAND.

Immediately north of Australia, and separated from it at Torres Straits by less than a hundred miles of sea, is the largest island on the globe,—New Guinea,—a country of surpassing interest, whether as regards its natural productions or its human inhabitants, but which remains to this day less known than any accessible portion of the earth's surface. Within the last few years considerable attention has been attracted toward it by surveys which have completed our knowledge of its outline and dimensions, by the settlement of English missionaries on its southern coasts, by the exploration of several European naturalists, and by the visits of Australian miners attracted by the alleged discovery of gold in the sands of its rivers. From these various sources there has resulted a somewhat sudden increase in our still scanty knowledge of this hitherto unknown land; and we therefore propose to give a general sketch of the island and of the peculiar forms of life that inhabit it, and to discuss briefly some of the interesting problems connected with its indigenous races.

It has hitherto been the custom of geographers to give the palm to Borneo as the largest island in the world, but this is decidedly an error. A careful estimate, founded on the most recent maps, shows that New Guinea is considerably the larger, and must for the future be accorded the first place. In shape, this island differs greatly from Borneo, being irregular, and much extended in a north-west and south-east direction, so that its greatest length is little short of 1,500 miles; a distance as great as the whole width of Australia from Adelaide to Port Darwin, or of Europe from London to Constantinople. Its greatest width is 410 miles; and omitting the great peninsulas which form its two extremities, the central mass is about 700 miles long, with an average width of 320 miles; a country about the size of the Austrian Empire, and, with the exception of the course of one large river, an absolute blank upon our maps.—*Popular Science Monthly*.

SOME WONDERFUL FACTS ABOUT YOUR BODY.

Supposing your age to be fifteen years, or thereabouts, you can be figured up to a dot. You have 160 bones and 500 muscles. Your blood weighs twenty-five pounds. Your heart is nearly five inches in length—it beats seventy times per minute, 4,200 times per hour, 100,800 times per day, 36,792,000 times a year. At each beat a little over two ounces of blood is thrown from it; and each day it receives and discharges about seven tons of that wonderful fluid. Your lungs will contain a gallon of air, and you inhale 24,000 gallons per day. The aggregate surface of the air-cells of your lungs, supposing them to be spread out, exceeds 20,000 square inches. The weight of your brain is three pounds; when you are a man it will weigh about eight ounces more. Your skin is composed of three layers, and varies from one-eighth to one-fourth of an inch in thickness. The

area of your skin is about 1,700 square inches, and you are subject to an atmospheric pressure of fifteen pounds to a square inch. Each square inch of your skin contains 3,500 sweating tubes, or perspiratory pores, each of which may be likened to a draining-tile, one-fourth of an inch long, making an aggregate length in the entire surface of the body of 201,166 feet or a tile-ditch for draining the body almost twenty miles long.

GEOGRAPHICAL PROGRESS.

Within the present generation, and mainly during the present decade, nearly all the great geographical problems left by our adventurous ancestors have been solved, all the great lines of exploration have been taken up, and worked out with a success that leaves to the future only the details to fill in. The North-west Passage was completed more than a quarter of a century ago; the Australian interior has been crossed and recrossed within the past few years; several bright lines now break up the once mysterious darkness of the "Dark Continent"; the sources of the Nile have been traced, and the course of the Congo all but laid down; the Russians have filled up many important blanks in Central Asia; there is now no mystery to speak of for geographers on the North American continent and none of any magnitude on the South; even the great outlines of the ocean bed have been charted, and now at last, after a struggle begun more than three hundred years since, the North-east Passage has been made with an ease that makes one wonder why it was not done long ago. A matter-of-fact Swedish professor has shown that with a suitable ship at the proper season this long-sought for passage to "Far Cathay" is a question of only a few weeks. Of Arctic feats there now remain only the "dash at the Pole," and that the North Pole will be reached sooner or later there can be no doubt.—*London Times*.

CHILDREN'S GARDENS.

I wish every mother in the country knew the great satisfaction to be derived from the little plots of land the children cultivate as their own. No matter how small, it has a peculiar charm, and its mixed and incongruous plantings often yield astonishing results. No radishes so crisp as those your little son will lay beside your plate, the reward for his toil and care. No flowers so beautiful as those your loving daughter brings in some bright spring morning, nurtured and tended by her own hands. The earliest hepatica of the woods grow serenely in the shadow of a "May tree." The wild violets flourish in Annie's gentle care. In our home each child has a plot of ground and an apple tree, the fruit of which, always fair and beautiful, is shared generously, and the surplus sold for pocket money. Sometimes an early melon finds its way to our table from the garden of one of our industrious boys, and is praised and appreciated as a reward for his labour. Little two-year-old has a garden too, and while we try to teach him not to pull up the happy family of flowers and vegetables that thrive there, we delight in his glad murmur as he roars like a true Bohemian in the summer sunshine, saying, "My gardee, my gardee," and taking a whole potato from the cellar where his restless feet often wander he plants it just deep enough for the hens to pick it out, and nothing daunted sows a handful of peas over it. But as he grows older he will learn that this is not the way to success, and try to copy the care and vigilance displayed by his elders. Even "Baby Hope" has a little circle filled with sweet wild flowers brought from the woods this spring, "to be ready when she can gather them," the children say—and our eager young botanists are ever ready to search for a new flower to transplant into "Hope's garden." By such innocent pleasures is home made happy and beautified.—*Rural New Yorker*.

TRUTH IS MIGHTY.

As the little leaven hid in the measure of meal, made all leaven, so truth gradually overcomes all doubt and disbelief. When Dr. Pierce, of Buffalo, N. Y., announced that his Favourite Prescription would positively cure the many diseases and weaknesses peculiar to women, some doubted, and continued to employ the harsh and caustic local treatment. But the mighty truth gradually became acknowledged. Thousands of ladies who had uselessly undergone untold tortures at the hands of different physicians, employed the Favourite Prescription, and were speedily cured. Many physicians now prescribe it in their practice. So sanguine is Dr. Pierce of its power to cure, that he now sells it through druggists under a positive guarantee.

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It appears that in the late contest in the Irish Presbyterian Assembly on the use of instruments in the church praise service, the majority of the ministerial delegates were in favour of their introduction, while a large majority of the lay delegates were opposed, and succeeded in maintaining the Assembly's testimony against the innovation.

THERE have recently been expressions of opinion evoked from Methodist ministers and papers in respect to the forms of desecration which have become so marked a feature of many camp meetings, and the condemnation of the profane practices has been so general and hearty that it is a matter of surprise that they have been suffered to exist so long. What effect this adverse judgment of ministers will have upon the matters complained of remains to be seen, but it is to be hoped that they will be abolished.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

THE Pope has declared his approval of the Irish University Bill.

THE English Church Houses of Convocation met on Tuesday, June 24th.

THE African Methodist Churches of New England have a membership of 1,317.

THERE is a proposal that Evangelical churchmen should purchase Exeter Hall, London.

PENNSYLVANIA has more religious denominations than all the other States of the Union put together.

REV. S. H. TANG, Jr., is recovering from his severe illness, but he will not be able to engage in active work for some time.

REV. DR. PARKER, of London, Eng., will supply Mr. Beecher's pulpit on the last Sunday in August and the first three Sundays in September.

CANON LIDDON says that there are hopes of the reunion of Christendom through the giving up by Rome of some of her untenable positions.

THE General Baptist Association of England has 182 churches, with 24,003 members. It held its hundred and tenth annual meeting in Halifax lately.

THE Primitive Methodist Conference of England met in Leeds on the 10th of June. The total membership of the connexion is 182,877, with 1,135 ministers.

MR. GLAISTONE is expected to attend the Church Congress at Swansea, South Wales, and to read a paper or speak on the condition of the Establishment in Wales.

THE American Sunday School Union organized during the last year 1,087 schools containing 4,915 teachers and 39,769 scholars.

THE tightening up of the doctrinal looseness in the Scotch Churches, which resulted in the suspension of one minister and the arraignment of another for doctrinal unsoundness, the "Methodist" strangely calls "The Calvinistic Thaw."

JOHN KING, a crippled newsboy in Cincinnati, whose eager craving for books led him to devote his savings to the accumulation of a library, has recently made the munificent present to the Public Library of the city of 2,500 volumes of standard value.

AN International Temperance Camp meeting will be held at Thousand Islands July 30th to August 4th. Hon. Neil Dow is announced as one of the speakers, and Miss Frances E. Willard will give an address on "How to reach the better classes."

LATE news from the Presbyterian Mission in Ooromiah, Persia, states that the revival movement continues. Revivals were in progress in three villages, with two hundred converts and enquirers, and there were calls for evangelists from several places.

THERE is no discrimination at the Hartford, Connecticut, High School. It has just graduated a class of fifty-six young men and women, among them being two Chinese students, Kie Kah Wong, and Shou Kie Tsai, both of whom delivered orations, while valedictory and salutatory were given by Mary C. Wells and Lilian M. Bogert. Mun Yu Chung took the second prize for declamation.

THE Irish General Assembly had three Professorships to fill, and did the work thus: The Rev. Matthew Leitch was appointed Professor of Biblical Criticism in Belfast College; Professor Croskery was transferred from the Professorship of Logic to that of Theology in Magee College, and the Rev. J. B. Dogherty, of Nottingham, appointed to the vacancy occasioned by this change.

THE colportage work carried on by Mr. Spurgeon's congregation is very extensive. There are now eighty colporteurs engaged in the work, and about 75,000 families are visited each month. During the last year the number of tracts distributed gratuitously was 162,000; the value of the sales was over \$41,000, in about 927,000 separate publications, and the number of visits paid was 926,290. The subscriptions to the work for the year amounted to over \$20,000.

THE English Church Mission in Bonny, on the Niger, hopes that the period of persecution is over. The favourite wife of the King, who inspired the persecutions, has lately died. The chiefs are yielding very much, and the attendance at the Sabbath services has increased within two months from 120 to 349, including two chiefs, and the richest women in Bonny. The king and chiefs seem ready to yield what they cannot prevent.

"THE SEA-SHELL MISSION" proposes to give some amusement and joy to the poor and, in many cases, sick children in the various homes and hospitals in London, by distributing to each inmate a box of sea-shells, to be gathered by the more fortunate boys and girls who visit or who reside at the sea-side. It is proposed that each box should contain about 200 shells, with the name of the child to whom it is given written on it. This is a simple and inexpensive way to lighten the burden of life inherited by certain children. The small kindnesses will be twice blessed—by collectors and receivers. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto me."

GOD sometimes makes use of strange instruments in carrying forward His work. In Spain, where, since the restoration of the Bourbons, the intolerant priests resist the teaching, the preaching, or circulation of the Word of God, converted heathens are becoming colporteurs of the Gospel. A troop of intelligent Chinese acrobats, who became Christians while living in England, and who are familiar with many of the European languages, are visiting Spain, and besides entertaining the people with their wonderful feats, supply them with Bibles and religious literature which they take with them. They have their own Bible readings on the Sabbath, and always seek for evangelica services wherever they go. What a reproach to bigotted, priest-ridden Spain, that the "heathen Chinese" should be better qualified to teach them "the first principles of the oracles of God."