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"Some lives there are to angels' seem akin,
Dwelling on earth, yet keeping ever near
The golden city gates, so they may hear
The harmony before they enter in.
Through all the discords of this world of sin
They hear the voice of God and feel no fear;
They look above and see with vision clear
The purer life, the happy walls within.
They live as on a space of holy ground
By some invisible defence hedged round,
So near to evil, and yet so far away
So close to God, waiting the welcome day
It may be early, or it may be late,
When He shall take them in within the gate."

OVER LAND AND SEA.

The claims of God on us are stronger than any human demands. What we have, He gave us; what we are, He has made us; and what we shall be, will be due to His grace. It will be seen by our lives and conversation whether we recognize and submit to the reasonable requirements of His just laws. In demonstrating our position regarding our Maker, no words can equal the force of the example set by a consistent Christian life; no verbal testimony can be as effective as the patient bearing of the Saviour's cross; no sacrifice is so acceptable to God as the faithful performance of daily duties, however trivial.

The pessimist, by continually talking "hard times," not only sours himself, but tends to deepen the general gloom, Christ was the personification of optimism, and it is our duty to copy His example. This country has seen troublous times, but no one can aid matters a whit by contributing to the general depression. Look behind the clouds for silver linings and sun-shiny days.

In the strong appeals which are going out for special contributions to save home and foreign missions from crushing debts, should not more emphasis be put on faith in the good hand of our God? Our efforts may degenerate into confidence in the arm of flesh. Dependence upon human expedients and alliances almost ruined Hezekiah of old in presence of Sennacherib. While using the proper means at command would it not be the wisest thing to go first into the house of the Lord and Hezekiah-like lay the whole matter before God in agonizing prayer?

In 1895 the public debt of Turkey amounted to about \$600,000,000, held largely in Great Britain, France and Germany. It is probable also that a considerable amount was held in Russia. Besides this debt there was about \$155,000,000 due to Russia on the indemnity demanded and obtained at the conclusion of the last war between Russia and Turkey. This sum, according to the terms of the treaty, was to be paid off at the rate of about \$3,000,000 a year. Turkey, however, has not been able to maintain her part of the agreement and is in default on much the larger part of the payment. A few years ago the yearly revenue of the Turkish government was reported to be \$81,000,000 and the expenditures \$94,000,000. These facts have great influence in regulating the policy of the Powers. The holders of Turkish bonds naturally wish to have their interest, and are anxious that the principal shall

be preserved intact. They constitute an influential body in Great Britain, France and Germany. The loss of \$600,000,000 by European capitalists would be a serious matter. The maintenance of peace will be strenuously advocated by them. The results of a war upon Turkey would be very uncertain. The annual revenue from Crete is important to a treasury as hard pressed to meet its engagements as that of Turkey. These facts are not presented in extenuation of the action of the Powers toward preserving the domain of the Sultan, but to make known one of the potent factors in European politics.

The Secretary of State for India has recently made this strong statement: "The Government of India can not but acknowledge the great obligation under which it is laid by the benevolent exertions made by missionaries, whose blameless examples and self-denying labors are infusing new vigor into the stereotyped life of the great population placed under English rule."

An English paper tells of an inspector of schools, who was one day examining a class of village school children, and who asked them what was meant by a pilgrim. A boy answered: "A man what travels from one place to another." The inspector, with elaborate patience, hoping to elucidate intelligence, said: "Well, but I am a man who travels from one place to another. Am I a pilgrim?" Whereupon the boy promptly exclaimed: "Oh, but please sir, I meant a good man." The inspector enjoyed the jest exceedingly.

One of the first subjects to be considered by arbitration is the territorial dispute between Alaska and British Columbia. As two hundred of the valuable gold mines are in this disputed territory, the settlement is of great importance. The value of gold products realized in Alaska in the last three years reminds one of the early days in California. The figures show that in 1895 the products were \$3,000,000, in 1896 \$5,000,000, and this year they will probably reach \$12,000,000.

A French statistician has calculated the cost of the Franco-German war to France and Germany. France lost 136,000 men, 80,000 by wounds, 36,000 by sickness, accidents, suicides, etc., 20,000 by death in German prisons. The wounded on the battlefield who survived numbered 138,000, those hurt in marches or by accidents 11,421, those who recovered from illness 328,000, making a total of 477,421. Some 40,877 Germans were killed, 17,255 died on the field, and 21,023 in the ambulances. The wounded who survived numbered 18,543 men. The monetary loss suffered by France makes a grand total of 12,666,478,522 francs, including 2,386,412,558 francs for military expenses, 5,742,938,814 francs paid to Germany, loans 1,156,327,955 francs; loss suffered by the State, 2,033,939,090 francs; public works, 207,239,800 francs; indemnities paid by the State to departments, 604,622,425 francs; damage borne by the communes and not reimbursed by the State, 535,007,000 francs. Germany, according to Herr Meitzen, suffered a loss of eight milliards. The war cost France over 500 millions sterling.