

for the contrary change of climate—from warm to cold winters—which history tells us has taken place in other countries than those named. Greenland received its name from the emerald herbage which clothed its valleys and mountains; and its east coast, which is now inaccessible on account of the perpetual ice heaped upon its shores, was, in the eleventh century, the seat of flourishing Scandinavian colonies, all traces of which are now lost. Cold Labrador was named Vinland by the Northmen who visited it in the year 1000, and who were charmed with its then mild climate. The cause of these changes is an important inquiry.

A pamphlet by John Murray, civil engineer, has recently been published in London, in which he endeavors to account for these great changes of climate by the changeable position of the magnetic poles. The magnetic declination of the needle, is well known. At the present time it amounts in London to about twenty-three degrees west of north, while in 1659 the line of variation passed through England, and then moved gradually west until 1816. In that year a great removal of ice took place on the coast of Greenland; hence it is inferred that the cold meridian, which is now supposed to pass through Canada and Siberia, may at one time have passed through Italy; and that if the magnetic meridian returns, as it is now doing, to its old lines in Europe, Rome may once more see her Tiber frozen over, and the merry Rhinelander drive his team on the ice of the classic river.

Whether the changes of climate mentioned have been caused by the change of the magnetic meridian or not, we have too few facts before us, at present to decide conclusively; but the idea, once spread abroad, will soon lead to such investigation as will no doubt remove every obscurity, and settle the question.—*Scientific American.*

#### CONSTANTINOPLE.

**HONESTY OF A JEWISH CONVERT.**—It will, doubtless, interest you occasionally to hear of the state and progress of our church members, and I should not omit communicating to you a cheering incident of recent occurrence, which we cannot but consider as a fruit of solid Christian principle. One of our young men, who was baptised four year's ago, and has since distinguished himself by the steadiness and consistency of his Christian conversation, has a shop in the great bazaar in Stamboul. One Monday morning, a Turkish customer purchased some of his goods and went his way; some time after, whilst clearing the counter, our young man observed small, dirty-looking cotton bag—the common native purse—lying on the table, and on opening it he found two costly bracelets richly set with diamonds, besides two bills of exchange. Jacob did not hesitate in regard to his course of duty, and it being impossible for him to discover the owner, he consulted a friend the same evening, who advised him not to apply to the authorities, which, however natural a suggestion in Christian countries, affords no ground for trust or dependence in this, but rather to wait till the *bekgee* or watchman—who likewise holds the office of public advertiser—would announce the loss, and direct him to the owner. As the sequel proves, the advice was well judged, for next day the watchman, taking his stand exactly opposite Jacob's shop, intimated the loss at great length, valued the property at 25,000 piastres (£240,) and in truly Oriental style, with large quotations from the Koran, promised to the honest finder long life, health, and the sure prospect of happiness here and hereafter.

At the close of the announcement, Jacob beckoned the *bekgee* to come and speak with him, and said: "I have found the bag, send the owner to me." The news rapidly spread among the neighbours, not a few of whom came to him making many inquiries, and most unceremoniously calling him a "great fool," thus to throw away his recently acquired fortune. Some ventured to affirm he must have lost his senses, while others hinted how much more wisely they would have acted. Meanwhile the Turk made his appearance, accompanied by his wife, and after giving a minute description of the lost property, it was restored to them. The mussulman's wife burst into tears, her husband blessed our young friend, and concluded by saying; "*You are indeed a Giaour (infidel), but you have the heart of a true Mussulman.*" He left three hundred piastres in token of his gratitude, part of which Jacob distributed among his poor Spanish-Jewish workmen.

In our country much importance would not be attached to such an occurrence, but in a country where dishonesty and cheating are the order of the day, and where fraudulent actions are not merely overlooked and tolerated, but honest men publicly denounced as fools, such conduct indicates nothing short of stern Christian principle, and in proportion to its extent must the impression on others be powerful and deep. By similar conduct the Armenian Protestants have gained a high character and reputation among the Turks, and by thus letting their light shine, they have demonstrated to many that they have right and truth on their side.—*Letter of Rev. R. Koenig, Free Church Record.*

#### SEASONABLE, AND PROBABLY GOOD.

**A COMPOSITION FOR RENDERING BOOTS AND SHOES WATER-PROOF.**—Take one pint of boiled linseed oil, two ounces of beeswax, two ounces of spirits of turpentine, and two ounces of Burgundy pitch. Let them be carefully melted over a slow fire. With this mixture, new boots and shoes are to be rubbed in the sun or at a little distance from the fire, with a sponge or brush. This operation should be repeated without wearing them, as often as they become dry, until they are fully saturated; which will require four or five times brushing. By this, the leather becomes impervious to water. The boot or shoe thus prepared, lasts much longer than common leather; it acquires such pliability and softness that it will never shrivel, nor grow hard, and in that state, is the most effectual preventive against colds, &c. It is necessary to remark that boots and shoes thus prepared, ought not to be worn till they become perfectly dry, and elastic; as in the contrary case, the leather will become too soft, and wear out much sooner than it otherwise would.

The floating batteries in course of construction in England, will be the most formidable ever projected. They are of forged or hammered iron plates, four a half inches thick, lined inside with wood, and will measure 1,500 tons. From actual experiment it has been proved that they will be impervious to any shot or shell. The construction of those engines of war is a very difficult and extensive task.

Every second of time throughout the busy hours of the day, and during the silence of night, an immortal soul is passing from time into eternity.