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Oh, trifle not with life—'tis but an hour;
Redeem its every moment, day by day,
Press forward to the front!
Live for the future life; watch, watch and pray;
Remember, child of Time,
'Thou art immortal! fling not Heaven away.

OVER LAND AND SEA.

The people of Toronto are to have the privilege of entertaining The Worlds Womens' Christian Temperance Convention which meets in this city October 20th and 22nd, 1897. Some two or three hundred delegates representing Great Britain and her Colonies, The United States, Continental Europe and all other parts of the world are expected. It is not often that a community has the privilege of entertaining a company of women so cultured and representative and it is to be hoped that the citizens of Toronto will appreciate the privilege and obligation. It is desired that they will help to entertain and encourage delegates so far as they are able and make the convention a magnificent success.

The Maharajah of Darbhanga, India, is famous for his charity. When the famine broke out he declared that no one in his dominions should die for want of aid. Every year he gives large sums to feed the poor, during the last famine he expended \$1,500,000, in alleviating distress. Now, according to a correspondent of the *London Standard*, on his relief work or within the circle of his relief agencies, there are nearly 40,000 people, who would but for his aid be dying of starvation. This is in addition to at least 214,000 persons, who, in the same district, are receiving government relief, with the assistance of contributions from England.

It has been known for some time past that the well-known Assyriologist, Dr. Fitz Hommel, has been engaged on an important work on the ancient Hebrew tradition, in which he proposes to demonstrate the utter inadequacy of the purely literary methods employed by the so-called "higher critics" of the Old Testament. Dr. Hommel has amassed a large body of new material which has enabled him to direct a very destructive attack against the whole Graf-Vellhausen hypothesis. The book, which will appear early in next May, will be published simultaneously in Germany, England, and the United States.

Harvard University is to place in St. Savior's church, London, three memorial windows in honor of John Harvard, who was baptized in that church three hundred years ago.

Mrs. Spath, the widow of Mr. Spath, who labored among the Jews at Smyrna for twenty-one years, has sent an urgent appeal for help in consequence of the delicate health of her eldest daughter, who has been obliged to be boarded away from home. Previous to 1885 Mrs. Spath herself taught for twenty-three years in the Girls' School, assisted by her daughter, and then left for Stuttgart, her native place. Her daughters and herself have added to their small income by teaching

and otherwise, but from failing health they are unable to continue, and are in consequence in very poor circumstances.

It is announced that Germany has given definite notice to the Russian Government that it will not be represented in any way at the forthcoming International Congress of Medicine at Moscow, unless all restrictions with regard to the passports of the Hebrew members of the German delegation are at once withdrawn. This is creditable to the German Government. A large proportion of the greatest physicians and surgeons in Germany are Jews.

The Mississippi floods cover 16,000 square miles of country and 4,000 farms are under water. Much of the best cotton land is included.

According to statistics prepared by the Engineering and Mining Journal, of New York, the output of bituminous coal in the United States during 1896 reached a total of 141,770,099 short tons (2,000 pounds), showing a gain over 1895 of 4,371,752 tons. On the other hand, there was a decrease of 6,782,057 short tons in the anthracite production. The total coal production was, therefore, 193,351,027 short tons, and the total decrease, as compared with 1895, was 2,410,305 tons. The production of coke showed a gain of 445,276 tons, chiefly due to the activity of the iron and steel trades in the earlier part of the year. The price of coal continues very low, the average for bituminous coal at mines being below \$1 per ton. The production of pig iron last year was 8,768,869 long tons (2,240 pounds). The depression in business which made itself manifest in the latter part of the year had less effect than might have been anticipated, the decrease from 1895 being only 677,430 tons, or about 7 per cent.

To ridicule sacred things is to announce one's self as vulgar, and the minister who, to attract public attention, assumes the role of clown and degrades his high office by resorting to cheap buffoonery, forfeits his self-respect and the regard of his friends, brings reproach upon his noble calling, and is no longer a safe spiritual counsellor. One of the faults of the modern pulpit is thus pointed out by Dr. Charles J. Little, President of Garrett Biblical Institute, who, in a recent address, said: "The fault of the pulpit to day is slippancy—treating the Bible and the great truths of religion as though they had comical aspects, and as though these were of surpassing interest. In the twentieth century it will be seen that a man who deals with the grave questions of the hour and of the ages must be grave himself—a man of tremendous earnestness. Something more than gilded galle, fluent chatter, is demanded by the needs of the human heart."

The late Professor Blackie was found one day in Princess street inquiring of the amazed pedestrians if they had seen an angel pass that way. It turned out that he was looking for his wife.