

SPEAK A WORD.

It is not easy wisely to speak words of divine wisdom. It is an awkward thing to obtrude religious conversation "out of place" and "out of time."

The embarrassments thus recognized too often lead to an utter neglect of religious suggestion. Lamps are put under bushels, and possible good buried in a napkin.

There is a divine art—a masterly tact—in religious suggestions which it is the duty of every one to learn.

On a train one day, in a group of men, one rude fellow was swearing boisterously, when a minister at his side simply touched his knee, and with a smile whispered, "Those are very strong words, my friend. Immediately a blush mantled the brow of the swearer. He bowed assent, promptly apologized, confessed that it was "a very bad habit," resumed his conversation, but not once again during that ride was guilty of an oath. The reproof was given so gently and delicately that it stirred within the man every noble impulse he had, and the very blush with which he received the reproof was a token of good.

At a railway station a young fellow was swearing in every sentence. The facts he narrated, the comments he made, abounded in oaths. A minister, apparently giving him no attention, walked up and down the waiting-room in a quiet, musing way, singing very softly, "Rock of Ages, cleft for me." In a few minutes the profane youth touched the minister on the arm, stopping him as he passed, and saying, with tears in his eyes: "See here, sir, my sister sung that when she was a-dying, and it makes me feel awful bad to hear it." A religious conversation followed; the two went out of the railway station into the darkness. After a short and earnest prayer by the minister, the young man firmly resolved to give his heart to God.

Riding in an elevator, a gentleman said to the boy who ran the machine: "You have a life of ups and downs, don't you?" "Ay, ay," answered the boy. "Well," said his friend, "I hope that your last move will be up." A smile and cordial indorsement and serious look told the speaker that his words would not soon be forgotten.

In manifold ways we may, with no violation of propriety, but in most perfect taste, guide others to a knowledge of the truth which Christ has given us; truth which we hold as a treasure from Him; truth which, though we hold it, is still His, and for which we as His almoners are to give faithful account when He makes requisition.—*Family Friend*.

FACTS IN HUMAN LIFE.

There are about 3,064 languages spoken in the world, and its inhabitants profess more than 1,000 religions. The number of men is about equal to the number of women. The average of life is about thirty-three years. One quarter die previous to the age of seventeen, and those who pass this age enjoy a felicity refused to one-half of the human species of the earth. To every 1,000 persons only one reaches one hundred years of life; to every one hundred only six ever reach the age of sixty-five; and not more than one in five hundred lives to eighty years of age. There are on earth 1,000,000,000 inhabitants; of these 33,333,333 die every year, 91,824 every day, 3,730 every hour, and 60 every minute, or one every second. The married are longer lived than the single, and, above all, those who observe a sober and industrious conduct. Tall men live longer than short ones. Women have more chances of life in their favor previous to fifty years of age than men have, but fewer afterwards. The number of marriages is in the proportion of seventy-five to every one thousand inhabitants. Marriages are more frequent after equinoxes—that

is, during the months of June and December. Those born in the spring are generally more robust than others. Births and deaths are more frequent by night than by day. The number of men capable of bearing arms is calculated at one-fourth of the population.—*Every Saturday*.

CURRENT EVENTS.

DOMESTIC.

The annual celebration of the founding of Picton will be held on Sept. 15th.

Six life boats just completed for the Dominion Government, are to be placed as follows: Two at Sable Island; one at Devil's Island; one at Duncan's Cove; one at Scatari Island, and one at Yarmouth.

Reports from various quarters lead to the impression that the apple crop of Nova Scotia will be a light one. The hay crop, on the contrary, has been above the average, while grain and root crops promise a large yield.

The warerooms of the Hampton match factory on Stanley street, Portland, where the matches were "dipped" and made up into packages, have been closed and all the material has been shipped to Hampton, where the business of the concern will be transacted in future. A number of young women who were employed in the factory have also removed to Hampton.

The action of the Halifax city council, says the *Recorder*, in passing the resolution to light the city by electricity, will be of great benefit to business, a boon to the public, give more life to honest pedestrians and prevent the hoodlum element from showing off too much. The idea is to do away with 159 gas lamps and a number of oil lamps, and replacing them with 39 electric lights.

It is estimated that there have been shipped from Yarmouth to Boston this season, no less than 9,000 cases of live lobsters. These cases contained 70 lobsters each, making a total of 630,000. Their average value in Yarmouth was \$3.50 per case, or \$31,500.00. Besides these, there were about 1,260,000 lobsters, under shipment size, viz., 10½ inches, sold to the canning factories at 60c. per hundred, or \$7,560.00. This, added to the above sum, makes a total of \$39,060.00. It required the services of 5 small steamers and a number of sailing smacks to carry them from the different depots to Yarmouth. About 200 men were employed throughout the season catching, pounding and casing the lobsters. Notwithstanding this enormous catch it is the opinion of experts in the business that the supply increases yearly.—*Herald*.

A melancholy drowning accident occurred at the G. M. A.'s pier on the afternoon of the 24th ult. Two of the seamen of the brig, "Aquatic," of St. John, N. B., were painting over the quarter on a staging, one at each end, when the stage upset and both were thrown into the water. One was rescued by two men, who jumped into a boat, but the other sank before he could be reached, and did not rise again, until he was grappled, when life was extinct. When the men were seen struggling in the water it was not thought for a moment that either would sink so quickly. The verdict rendered by the inquest held by Coroner McPherson, M. D., was "accidental drowning." The name of the unfortunate man was Wm. Valentine, and belonged to Plymouth, England. He was 45 years of age.—*North Sydney Herald*.

UNITED STATES.

James W. Marshall, the discover of gold in California, died at his home in Kelsey, Cal., aged 74. He died a poverty stricken and disappointed man.

There are 25,000 miles of railway in the United States, enough to encircle the earth five times. During the past half century the mileage constructed in each ten years would go once round the world.

BOOTHBAY, Me., Aug. 24.—Schooner "H. P. Bridges," of Portland, from St. John, N. B., laden with laths, for Philadelphia, has arrived here water-logged and with loss of deck load.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Aug. 25.—Charleston was struck by a cyclone this morning, and one-fourth of the houses in the city are unroofed. Part of the spires of St. Nicholas and St. Matthew's churches

were blown down, and the spire of the Citadel Square Baptist church is demoralized. Wharves and warehouses are badly damaged. At Sullivan's Island two steamers are aground, and New Astley river bridge, now constructing, was swept away. Four vessels, which arrived yesterday, are wrecked. Telegraph wires are down, and there are no cars running. The loss is estimated at \$1,000,000.

FOREIGN.

LONDON, Aug. 29.—The famous timber yard in Kennington, a suburb of London, is burning.

MADRID, Aug. 28.—Returns from all Spain for yesterday show a total of 4,639 new cases and 1,435 deaths.

CAIRO, Aug. 23.—Information has been received of a great massacre at Berber. The populace is starving and have seized the city treasury.

GIBRALTAR, Aug. 28.—Five new cases of cholera and two deaths from that disease occurred yesterday just outside of Gibraltar, and the cholera panic has been revived in this vicinity.

MARSEILLES, Aug. 25.—The cholera panic has now extended to all classes in the city and all who can get away are resorting to flight. Deaths from cholera have occurred in many of the towns and villages in the department of the Rhone. It also prevails in other departments. The report that cholera had broken out in the French squadron anchored near Toulon is confirmed.

MADRID, Aug. 24.—The total number of deaths from cholera in Spain since the outbreak of the disease has been 72,347, out of a total of 187,565 cases.

A pulley thirty-four feet in diameter and eighty-three tons in weight has been made in England. The rim will have a velocity of more than a mile a minute. There are grooves for thirty-two ropes, and together they will transmit 1,280 horse power.

The Bank of Scotland is to issue a bank note printed in colors, brown, yellow, and blue, instead of the plain black and white of the Bank of England notes. This is to guard against counterfeiting by photography. The color device has been tried in greenbacks, but we believe that the quality of engraving is still considered the surest test.

An invention has been exhibited in London, which may be of great use in future warfare. It consists of the application of electric lighting to balloons for the purpose of flashing signals over great distances. The balloon is made as translucent as possible, the lights being inside, and the rope by which the captive balloon is secured contains wires to transmit the electric current. The Morse system is used, long and short flashes corresponding to dashes and dots.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 27.—Details of the destruction in Canton and vicinity by the great rain storm there, have been received by private parties in this city. The flood was the most serious which has visited Canton in 30 years. More than 10,000 persons lost their lives, and a far greater number were left in a starving condition. Entire villages were engulfed, and the rice and silk crops were almost ruined. Many of the streets of Canton were flooded for over a week. At Sz Ni city the water broke through the city wall. It is reported that several thousand people were drowned in that place. The embankments of the rivers were broken in many places, and the waters swept across the surrounding country, carrying everything before it. At other points it rose as high as 40 feet during the night. The inhabitants fled from the villages and camped on the hillsides. Some escaped to a piece of rising ground in the neighborhood, but the water continued to rise, and gradually overtopped the elevation, drowning those who stood on it. Seventeen Chinese graduates in Canton, hearing of the distress and suffering prevalent in their native villages, took passage on a boat with a view to proceeding home to render what assistance they could. On the way the boat was capsized, and all who were in it were drowned. In some places parents tied their children on the high branches of trees, while they instituted measures for their general safety. The trees were washed up by the roots, and the heartrending cries of the children were silenced in the surging waters. The body of a bride dressed in her bridal robes was found floating in the river at Canton. A large tub was also seen. It was picked up and found to contain a boy and a girl. With them was a paper stating their names and the day and hour of their birth. Their parents had instituted this means to save the lives of their offspring.