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Note and Comment.

The Lord does not save men merely to get them to heaven. He saves them to bless them and make them a blessing to others.

A convention of five thousand Freethinkers recently held a week's session in the city of Rome. They assembled about the Bruno Monument and indulged in their usual harangues. That Rome should tolerate such a demonstration under the shadow of the Vatican argues a condition of things somewhat different from the old.

The blindness of labor strikers is shown in New York City where 90,000 children are kept out of school because the builders' strike has stopped work on the new school buildings. The strikers in this case hit their own families the hardest.

The London Daily News finds as a result of its investigations that 1,226,783 persons are employed in one way or another in the drink traffic of Great Britain. It takes great skill and vast resources to wage war successfully against an army so large as that, whose members all gain their living by what they unitedly defend.

Through the women's rescue work of the Salvation Army in England last year 2,806 women whose calling was vice were withdrawn from the streets, and it is said that 2,474 of the number have given evidence of permanently changed lives and have entered on reputable occupations. They will be subjected to supervision for at least three years.

The power of caste in India is such that one of the Christian lepers at Kothara in Berar refused to come to the communion because a low caste man had been received into the Church. He left the leper village with his family. But in April of this year he returned, worn, feeble, and repentant. He said: "God has punished me for my sin; I confess and ask him to forgive me. Now I want to obey him and am ready to take the Lord's Supper at any time that you are willing to give it to me." The victory over caste gave the poor man perfect peace at last.

Under the caption of "Sabbath Bells," a correspondent of the London Presbyterian, noting what he saw "Among the Kentish Hop-pickers," says: "But man's world ceases at the close of the sixth day; o'er heather hill and pasture land comes the sweet monotone of Sabbath bells, bidding the sons of labour cease from daily toil and hold communion with their Maker: The peaceful groves become a temple, whilst zealous workers, obeying the Divine commission, unfold heavenly truths to the ignorant and outcast." Unfortunately the greed of modern mammon-worshippers threatens to deprive the toiling masses of the blessedness and glory of the Sabbath, a result which would relegate the "Sabbath Bells" to a mere memory of the past.

At the International Hydrographical Conferences recently held at Copenhagen, the Scottish delegate, Mr. Robertson, of Dundee, described some recent and interesting and new discoveries he had made concerning the Gulf Stream. It has been heretofore popularly believed that the section of the Gulf Stream which reaches the Faroe Islands goes direct to Norway. Mr. Robertson has discovered from the result of his investigations that the section, however, travels first to the Shetland Islands and then to Norway. He also pointed out that the Southern Gulf Stream sends a section to the North Sea, which runs along the coast of Scotland and the north of England, touches Jutland, and then travels north.

"Grape-growers in the United States may derive a useful hint from a process as yet unknown on this side of the water, by which wine-growers in France are enabled to market fresh outdoor grapes all through the winter." Says *The American Inventor* (September 15): "The method which is a recent invention, is both curious and interesting. Bunches of the finest grapes, when ripe in autumn, are cut in such a way that to each bunch a piece of the vine five or six inches long remains attached. From this piece the stem of the bunch hangs—an arrangement which, as will presently be seen, is essential to the operation. A large number of wide-necked bottles, filled with water, are ranged in horizontal rows on racks in a cellar, and in the open end of each of these receptacles is placed a bunch of grapes—that is to say, the piece of vine-stem is inserted into the mouth of the bottle, and the grapes hang outside. The grapes do not touch the bottle, but are supplied with moisture through the vine-stem, which is immersed in the water. In this manner 'black Hamburgs' and other choice table grapes are kept fresh and perfect through an entire winter."

Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, who died in Paris a few days ago, will be remembered in this country by reason of his friendly attitude toward Americans, and the gigantic Statue of Liberty which stands in the harbor of New York. He had been ill about three years, but continued his work in his studio to the very end, and spent his last days designing his own tombstone, which was completed the day before he took to his bed. His artistic talent was early recognized by Ary Scheffer, who took the boy into his studio, where he showed great interest in sculpture. His first statue was exhibited when he was at the age of twenty-two. A trip to the Orient gave him the opportunity of studying Egyptian art. During the Franco-German War, he was attached to the Army of the Vosges, and displayed unusual energy and bravery. The Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World was presented to this country by France in 1884. It is the largest bronze statue in existence. In 1876 the French government sent M. Bartholdi to Philadelphia to be judge of the section of arts.

The proposal to provide baths for colliers at the pitmouth is now engaging the serious attention of the directors of the Bolsover Colliery Company, who are the owners of a number of pits in Derbyshire and Nottingham. The idea was first mooted by the managing director of the company, Mr. E. Bainbridge, who had seen it at work in the mines of Germany and Nova Scotia. Before it is adopted the miners will be asked to express their opinion upon the scheme, and it will be interesting to see whether they will decide to go to and from their work in a clean and tidy condition, or in dirty clothes and faces and hands black with coal dust. By the scheme the men will be able to leave home in their ordinary suits, which they will change for their pit clothes at the colliery. After working their shift they will proceed to the baths, and there leave all the dirt and dust behind them. Then, donning their ordinary suits, they will return home in a comfortable and presentable condition, leaving their working clothes at the colliery to be dried.

The prayer meeting is quite a problem in some churches. Here is a suggestion by the Rev. H. W. Pope of the Northfield Extension Movement: "The ideal meeting is cheerful, social, and hearty. Have a bright carpet on the floor, appropriate pictures on the wall, flowers on the table, and the room seated with chairs. Make it look as little like a church and as much like a home as possible. Lay off hats, wraps and overshoes. Let the whole atmosphere of the service be bright, breezy and cheerful." Mr. Pope says further: "Into this 'rest for the weary' come with your thanksgiving and rejoicing. Make the welkin ring with song. Let the most spiritual members lead in prayer until a strong devotional atmosphere has been created, which will make it easy for any one to confess Christ. Be simple, and above all, sincere, especially in prayer. Be cheerful! Paul had his discouragements, but he kept them to himself. Cultivate the habit of handshaking, and do not wait for an introduction."

A writer in a London magazine says concerning the work of the Salvation Army: "The first step in the Salvationist's work of reformation is often the offer of a meal and a night's shelter to the homeless vagrant of the city. For these, with breakfast, a charge of four-pence is made, but if the visitor is destitute he is fed and housed free. It is the opening of the aviary door to the hunted bird. Finding food and protection, with free ingress and egress, he comes again in time, drops his Ishmael attitude, becomes interested, thinks he would like to hear somewhat from these people who are so good to him, would like to give a helping hand here or there if he might, and thus his initiation begins: At this time he is either a jail-bird or the material from which felons are made. But once the Army gets hold of him the chances are that he will become a decent man and a Christian." Unquestionably the social work of the Salvation Army has been of marked advantage in enabling it to reach and win men to the better life.