

it amounted to a sufficient sum to purchase the place, and it is mine. Now, boys, you take your choice. Smoking without a home, or a home without smoking.' This is common sense as well as religion.

I must say a word to my friends who smoke the best tobacco, and who could stop at any time. What is

YOUR CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE

in this respect? What is your influence upon young men? Do you not think it would be better for you to exercise a little self-denial? People wondered why *George Briggs, Governor of Massachusetts*, wore a cravat but no collar. 'Oh,' they said 'it is an absurd eccentricity.' This was

THE HISTORY OF THE CRAVAT

without any collar. For many years before he had been talking with an inebriate, trying to persuade him to give up the habit of drinking, and he said to the inebriate, 'Your habit is entirely unnecessary.' 'Ah!' replied the inebriate, 'we do a great many things that are not necessary. It isn't necessary that you should have that collar.' 'Well,' said Mr. Briggs, 'I'll never wear a collar again if you will stop drinking.' 'Agreed,' said the other. They joined hands in a pledge that they kept for twenty years—kept until death. That is magnificent. That is gospel, practical Gospel, worthy of George Briggs, worthy of you. Self-denial for others. Subtraction from our advantage that there may be an addition to somebody else's advantage.

*This must be a misprint, the whole annual tobacco bill of the United States is six hundred million of dollars.

There are a great many things in the Old Testament history that appear to us in these days very strange. By way of illustration, the Central Presbyterian says: We wonder why Abraham in Egypt commanded Sarai to pass as his sister. But if we had lived during the times of Twelfth Egyptian Dynasty, it would not have struck us as remarkable. An ancient papyrus in the Berlin Museum represents that at that period the wife and children of a foreigner entering Egypt were confiscated, and became the property of the Pharaoh, which thus incidentally illustrates the accuracy of the Pentateuch.

THE TRINIDAD MISSION.

Letter from Rev. K. J. Grant.

For the Maritime Presbyterian.

Sanfernando, June 16th 1885.

Dear Mr. Scott:—

On Tuesday the 10th, in response to memorial submitted to Presbytery by Mr. Wright, having the signatures of about 30 Scotch people chiefly young men, managers, engineers, and overseers on Sugar plantations, the Presbytery of Trinidad met at Couva to erect memorialists into a congregation. Mr. Aitken successor to Mr. Falconer preached. The services were deeply impressive. We were all glad of heart, and the intelligence of our proceedings will probably gladden many hearts far away from us. Christian life in those in authority, must necessarily influence favourably the heathen laboring under them. Will not prayer ascend that each member of this new congregation may be a lively stone in the spiritual house. Mr. Wright who will have charge of this congregation in addition to his other work is to be congratulated in having been the instrument in drawing the memorialists into this bond of union. May the Lord command the blessing.

Yours Sincerely,

K. J. GRANT.

PARTINGS.

Partings are minor deaths. When the train of cars has rolled away, or the great steamship faded from our sight, our loved ones are, in regard to personal presence, as far removed from us as if the churchyard clay had already rattled on their coffin-lids. Yet we are strong and hopeful, believing that all goes well with them, and that a week—a month—a year will bring them back to us, perhaps with even a fuller life than ever before. Why should we not be as strong and hopeful in bearing that other separation, when our loved ones depart to be with Christ, in that Major parting which we call death? We know that, separated from us by the river of death, they live a fuller and happier life than if they were separated from us by only a continent or an ocean. And no railway or steamship company's schedule is, to the Christian, so sure a promise of reunion as these words of Writ: 'Them also that are fallen asleep in Jesus will God bring with Him.'—*S. S. Times.*