

more distressed on his account, and very greatly feared lest Satan should in the end overwhelm their much-loved brother with some mighty, yet subtle temptation.

PART III.

The years fly by. Bethlehem, the little Moravian settlement, spreads out her skirts like a proud lady, and daily grows larger and more flourishing; but in the Rothco cottage there had been changes of a different nature. The gentle-hearted mother has passed away. The brother has married, and Johanna laid away her red ribbons and tied the pink beneath her firm little chin, and went away to the quiet shelter of the "Sisters' Home;" and there within its peaceful walls has lived ten years of her quiet life of good deeds and loving words. And many times the message came from the "Council of the Elders" that by lot Johanna Rothe was chosen for the wife of some thriving citizen; but Johanna could not be prevailed upon to leave the "Home" for a home of her own, and no one except Brother Paul, an old and tried friend of the Rothe family, knew the reason why. I say he knew. His own heart told him. Johanna never hinted it, by words or look; but Brother Paul had had a heart history of his own, some thirty or forty years before, and when a man has once learned such a lesson he can readily see whether another man or woman has been taught the same.

It is Brother Paul who has kept up a somewhat desultory correspondence with Bartholomew Richter, and through him the young missionary once sought the aid of the "Council of the Elders," that they should send him a companion; but, though the Council had done its part, yet still Bartholomew remained alone. Perhaps Johanna learned from Brother Paul that Bartholomew had sent for a wife, and, when she knew that he did not marry, perhaps she thought—well, one thing I am sure of, she did not grow sour and disagreeable. She did not speak slightly of marriage, or even bitterly of that perverse little lot; but her heart was as true and tender, her face as bright and beautiful, as on that summer morning, ten years before, when Bartholomew Richter bade her good-bye, and went out alone to his field of labour, with the silent disapproval of his Church and people resting upon him.

Ten years!—and the years between twenty and thirty are longer than any ten afterward. Ten years, and Brother Bartholomew waits on the seashore, for the good ship rides at anchor, and the little boat bobbing up and down upon the sparkling waves comes shoreward with its precious burden of human life. There is a stirring in his spirit, a quicker action of the heart, and a sudden rush of feeling; for he knows that the ship has brought missionaries from America, and among them is his old friend Brother Paul.

Now the keel grates on the sandy shore. The passengers are leaving the boat. There is the tall form of Brother Paul. How white his hair has turned since Bartholomew saw him last! A woman walked by his side. What was there in her attitude that struck Bartholomew Richter with surprise, with interest? Had Brother Paul married? The flutter of a pink ribbon said "No," and the good brother's words, as he gasped his friend's hand, revealed the mystery.

"I sought the Council for you again, Brother Bartholomew, and this time the lot fell on Johanna."—*Cecil Mager, in N. Y. Independent.*

"NOTHING TO READ."

Many and many a time we have all heard this said, I presume, and Flora McFlimsy, with her "nothing to wear," has often arisen, perhaps, as a suitable companion piece. Because the last new novel doesn't lie on the table, or the latest magazine, does it follow there is nothing to read? I confess to have had this feeling myself, sometimes, and so been compelled to take down some of the good old books from their shelves—where they had lain so long that if they had not been very good indeed they would most certainly have spoiled—and have been thoroughly astonished at my own ignorance, in allowing such treasures to lie so idly by me, my soul or intellect going hungry meantime. As there are no better friends than the old friends; no better songs than the old songs; no grander hymns than those that have long been consecrated by church usage; and no music sweeter than the notes to which we listened in far away times and in far away places; so the dear books, those which have been tried and tested by other generations and "pronounced good," may be trusted now. They have an old wine flavour better than the new; an odour of old thyme and forget-me-nots that revives other days and other times, and we grow broader and wiser as we spread the years before us that our fathers knew. The books of to-day are written hurriedly for these swift times—the lighter literature, I mean—and consequently have but a present, fleeting value. The old books—our standard literature—are like rocks that the waves of ocean have beaten and battered without injury; standing the cleaner and the whiter for the washing of the centuries. Let the old books be brought forward. We will find in them a beauty seen only in age; a beauty of silvered hair and the genial sunshine of years.

DEAD STARS.

Like the mad of the sea, the stars of heaven have ever been used as effective symbols of number, and the improvements in our methods of observation have added fresh force to our original impression.

We now know that our earth is but a fraction of one out of at least 75,000,000 worlds. But this is not all. In addition to the innumerable heavenly bodies, we cannot doubt that there are countless others, invisible to us from their greater distance, smaller size, or feebleness of light; indeed, we know that there are many dark bodies which now emit no light, or comparatively little. Thus in the case of Procyon, the existence of an invisible body is proved by the movement of the visible star. Again, I may refer to the curious phenomena presented by Algol, a bright star in the head of Medusa. This star shines without change for two days; then in three hours and a half dwindles from a star of the second

to one of the fourth magnitude; and then, in another three and a half hours, reassumes its original brilliancy. These changes seem to indicate the presence of an opaque body which intercepts at regular intervals a part of the light emitted by Algol.

Thus the floor of heaven is not only "thick inlaid with patines of bright gold," but studded also with extinct stars—once probably as brilliant as our own sun, but now dead and cold, as Helmholtz tells us that our sun itself will be some seventeen millions of years hence.

THE LILAC.

I feel too tired and too old
Long rambles in the woods to take,
To seek the cowslip's early gold,
And search for violets in the brake;
Nor can I, as I used to, bend
My little bed of flowers to tend;
Where grew my scented pinks, to-day
The creeping witch-grass has its way.

But when my door I open wide
To breathe the warm sweet air of spring,
The fragrance comes in like a tide,
Great purple plumes before me swing;
For looking in, close by the door,
The lilac blossoms as of yore;
The earliest flower my childhood knew
Is to the gray, worn woman true.

Dear common tree, that needs no care,
Whose root in any soil will live,
How many a dreary spot grows fair
With the spring charm thy clusters give!
The narrow court yard in the town
Knows thy sweet fragrance; and the brown,
Low, hill-side farm house hides its eaves
Beneath the gray-green of thy leaves.

Loosed by the south wind's gentle touch,
In perfumed showers thy blossoms fall;
Thou asketh little, givest much:
Thy lavish bloom is free to all;
And even I, shut in, shut out,
From all the sunny world about,
Find the first flower my childhood knew
Is to the gray, worn woman true.

DISTANCE OF THE SUN.

Some of the revised figures and opinions concerning the sun, as the result of the most recent observations, aided by improved methods and appliances, are of peculiar interest. Thus, the former calculations, which placed the sun at 95,000,000 miles from the earth, and which remained unquestioned for so many years, are now changed, on the highest authority, so as to present a mean distance of 93,100,000 miles. Not less interesting are those investigations which deal with the solar temperature, respecting which the most diverse opinions have existed until lately among men of science, these opinions differing, in fact, all the way from millions to the comparatively low temperature of 3,632° Fahrenheit. The figures now most generally received are those of Professor Rosetti, of Padua, who, after the most profound and prolonged study, places the sun's temperature at about 18,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Another notable fact is the recent discovery of oxygen in the sun's atmosphere—the first discovery, indeed, of the existence of any non-metallic element there.

PRICE OF ELEPHANTS.

The Moors who drive a trade in elephants throughout the Indies, have a fixed price for the ordinary type, according to their size. To ascertain their true value, they measure from the nail of the fore foot to the top of the shoulder, and for every cubit high they give at the rate of £100 of our money. An African elephant of the largest size measures about nine cubits, or thirteen and a half feet, in height, and is worth about £900; but for the huge elephants of the Island of Ceylon four times that sum is given. Had Jumbo been measured by the same standard, what would have been his real value in money?—*Niles and Queries.*

CHEERFULNESS IN CHILDREN.

A very small matter will arouse a child's mirth. How still the house is when the little ones are fast asleep and their pattering feet are silent! How easily the fun of a child bubbles forth! Take even those poor prematurely aged little ones bred in the gutter, cramped in unhealthy homes, and ill used, it may be by drunken parents, and you will find that the child's nature is not all crushed out of them. They are gleeful children still, albeit they look so haggard and weary. Try to excite their mirthfulness, and ere long a laugh rings out as wild and free as if there were no such thing as sorrow in the world. Let the dear little ones laugh then; too soon, alas! they will have cause to weep. Do not try to check or silence them, but let their gleefulness ring out a gladsome peal, reminding us of the days when we too could laugh without a sigh, and sing without tears.

THE Bishop of London has issued a special prayer to be read in all the churches of his diocese for the restoration of peace and prosperity to distracted and suffering Ireland.

A CASE has just been decided in England, under an old statute passed in the reign of Henry III., which exempts from seizure "beasts of the plough" which "gain the land." Four horses belonging to a farmer in Sussex had been sold under a writ for the payment of "Extraordinary Tithe." A suit against the rector of the parish and the auctioneer has been decided against them with costs.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

THE Queen's birthday was celebrated as a general holiday throughout India.

THE number of Jewish emigrants from Russia at Brody now amounts to 15,000.

MR. JOSEPH COOK expects to resume his Monday Lectures at Boston about the 1st of next December.

THE Czar proposes to celebrate his coronation by inaugurating reforms that will take a year to prepare.

THE British Government has authorized the erection of huts for the shelter of evicted tenants in Ireland.

DURING April last 519 families were evicted in Ireland. Of these 237 were readmitted as tenants or caretakers.

THE Mormons have established a paper in Berne, Switzerland, in the German, to disseminate their doctrines.

GENERAL TODLEBEN has been created Governor-General of Poland, with instructions to form a strategic frontier.

A MOVEMENT is on foot in Portland, Me., to erect a statue of Longfellow in the square near the early home of the poet.

PRINCE HENRY, son of the Crown Prince Frederick William of Prussia, will visit the United States next October.

THE American *Catholic World* calls Monsignor Capers, who Baptized the Marquis of Bute, the "Apostle to the Gentiles."

SERIOUS riots in Alexandria and murderous assaults upon the foreigners show that the state of affairs in Egypt is most critical.

ORTHODOX Mohammedans expect the end of the world this year, the year 1300 of the Hegira. They are looking for their Messiah.

THIS year, though he has now passed fourscore, the Earl of Shaftesbury has presided at no fewer than eighteen of the May meetings in London.

AFTER fifteen years of litigation, the Church Association are about to make an effort to deprive Mr. Mackenzie of the living of St. Albans, Holborn.

THE native war in West Africa, according to the latest news, still continues. The Bonny men have been again victorious in several engagements.

THE heat in Australia this year has been unusually great, and on January 19th, in Melbourne, the temperature reached 110 deg. in the shade and 169 deg. in the sun.

A SPEAKER at the Congregational Union meetings in Edinburgh said that ministers needed to be endowed with the three C's—Grace, Gumption, and Greek.

THE Jewish Commissioners sent to Palestine to explore the country with a view to its colonization, report that it offers good prospects to intending emigrants.

BISHOP STROSSMAYER, the powerful Austrian prelate, has written a letter to the president of the Russian Holy Synod, favouring union of the Greek and Latin churches.

GORKI, a Jewish town in Russia, has been destroyed by fire. Great excitement prevails among the Jews in Brody. They are without bread, or means to continue their journey.

THE question of ecclesiastical disestablishment in India will shortly come up in the British Parliament, a petition for it having been extensively signed by the natives at Madras.

PROF. PATTERSON, the new Superintendent of Instruction in Brooklyn, reports 61,289 children on the public school roll of that city, an increase of 2,753 the past year, with 1,289 teachers.

SIGNOR GAVAZZI is in London just now. He has been speaking at the meeting of the Continental Society, and in Dr. Donald Fraser's church. On Sunday he preached in Regent Square Church, Dr. Dykes'.

ARMENIAN scholars, with the approval of the Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople, and in connection with some of the missionaries of the American Board, are preparing an edition of the Bible in modern Armenian.

A FRENCH Presbyterian congregation, descendants of the Huguenots, has for three centuries worshipped in the Crypt of Canterbury Cathedral. They recently held special services in commemoration of the Reformation.

THE race for the chairmanship of the English Congregational Union was close again this year; but Dr. Parker was again defeated, Dr. Fairbairn being elected on the third ballot by a vote of 459 to 439 for Dr. Parker.

THE worshippers of Kali, the black goddess in Hill Tipperah, India, wishing to offer her a human sacrifice, prevailed on a wife to give her husband for the cruel rite. She has since been arrested, and is awaiting her trial.

REV. R. W. MCALL's stations in France, according to his tenth yearly report, number fifty-six, many of them having Sunday schools attached. More than half are in Paris and its suburbs, the rest being in more than a dozen principal provincial towns.

THE lowlands of the Mississippi, below Memphis, are again overflowed. The spring flood of three months had just subsided, and the people were beginning to plant corn and cotton, when another overflow took place to an extent almost as large as the first. Congress has appropriated \$10,000 for their relief.

A BLIND young Jew is endeavouring to establish a weekly newspaper in Jerusalem, but is meeting with much opposition. This journal, the *Jerusalem Gazette*, the first number of which was published in the early part of this year, has had to suspend its issue till a firm which has been petitioned for arrives from Constantinople.

THE "Publishers' Weekly" gives an idea of the literary activity in Japan, by the statement that 4,910 works of all classes were published last year, or 1,115 more than in 1880. Very many were translations or adaptations of European or American works. One sign of the growing civilization was the starting of 149 newspapers, though a large portion failed to succeed.