

but the time is short. You have much to answer for already, and the door of hope is just closing; and if once that door be shut your cries for mercy will be disregarded. Every Gospel sermon that you have heard will soon rise up in judgment against you, and you will find yourselves undone without hope of remedy. Why slumber on in the dreams of sin? Arise and call upon God that you perish not. Every sinner shall be awakened before long—for ever awakened; but how dreadful will it be to awake up in hell! If you ever wish to be saved, begin to cry for mercy with the earnestness of dying men. And you that yet are young, let me most affectionately admonish you to seek the Lord earnestly. Till you are pardoned and saved in Christ you will never taste of true happiness. The joys of sin and delights of the world are miserable things at best, and bitter is the remembrance of days and years spent in folly. Do you resolve to forsake the ways of sin? Alas! Your best resolutions will fail unless God give you a new heart. Never cease to implore His Holy Spirit, shun the company of the ungodly, read the Bible, commit your souls into the care of Jesus, and look for salvation by Him."

OUR NOTE-BOOK.

MR. STANLEY'S African discoveries will stamp him as one of the most successful, if one of the most daring, of modern explorers. The "Alexandra Nile" (such being the name given by Mr. Stanley to the Kagera), which falls into the Lake Victoria, and which Speke and Grant crossed, but attributed little importance to, has been traced 310 miles, and it is supposed that its entire length will be found to be over 600 miles. He has also traced to its source a river hitherto unknown—the Shimnyu—the length of which, from the Lake Victoria to its watershed, is 290 miles.

The presence of Mr. Gladstone, and his contribution to the "Pulpit and Pew" debate at the City Temple conference, has been freely commented upon by the press, and has led to much inquiry on the subject. The cry that "the Church is in danger" is an old one, and is about as reasonable as that which we might suppose to have issued from the lips of Uzzah in the ancient days, when the oxen shook the ark of God—"The Ark is in danger!" The Church will be preserved by One to whom it is neither Anglican nor Roman, Presbyterian nor Methodist, Congregational nor Baptist. Besides, there is too much vigour manifest to indicate decay or dissolution. There may be a battle for forms, but the life of the Church is immortal, and cannot die. A healthy sign is afforded by the interest shown by what is nowadays called "the lay element." There were never so many lay workers, whether as preachers or visitors, missionaries or deaconesses; and when we see the best talent of the legislature, the law, and commerce, exercised in earnest work for the Kingdom "which is not of this world," we cannot fairly conclude that the Church is in danger.

"The Religious Difficulties of the Day" was the subject of Dean Stanley's valedictory address to the students of St. Andrew's University, of which he was Lord Rector. The dean beheld nothing to fear in the conflicts of the present day, and deemed them only "a passing malady." His belief in the progressive tendency of religion is sufficient to satisfy him as to its future. More recently, the dean has been lecturing at Darlington, on "Our Common Christianity," and he is announced to deliver an address at the Festival of the Children's Home (the Rev. T. Bowman Stephenson's) Bonner-road, thus further evincing that catholicity of spirit which to him is the ruling principle of his life.

It is stated that Her Majesty the Queen will be one of the exhibitors at the Caxton Exhibition, to be held in June. At a meeting held in the Mansion House the sum of £700 was raised towards the expenses.

A deputation from the Anglo-Oriental Society for the Suppression of the Opium Trade, comprising several M.P.'s and other gentlemen, recently waited upon the Chinese Ministers in London. An address was presented by Lord Shaftesbury, who introduced the deputation, expressing a hope that means might be discovered whereby Great Britain and China could unite in a mutual effort for the suppression of the traffic. His Excellency Kuo (chief Minister of the Imperial Court) thanked the deputation, and while he promised to bring the matter under the notice of the Chinese Government, said that they sincerely believed that the opium trade had injured the condition of the Chinese people, and they were anxious to stop the traffic; but they were certain that it could not be

done without the co-operation of other Governments besides that of Great Britain.

The Alexandra Palace has been leased for twenty-one years to Messrs. Bertram and Roberts, and it will be reopened the first week in May. The whole of the interior will undergo considerable change, and the new proprietors have determined that the entertainments shall be of a high-class character.

The Pope is seriously indisposed. He has lost the use of his legs, and grave doubts are expressed as to his recovery. Meanwhile rumour is busy forecasting the name of his successor. Cardinal Manning is spoken of amongst others, both by the British and a portion of the Continental press; but it is considered by others that the large number of Italian cardinals who are presumed to be looking seriously towards the Papal Chair will reduce his chance of success. Efforts are to be made for the restoration of the temporal power of the Pope, and large sums of money are said to be promised for the enrichment of the Holy See and sovereignty. The movement receives popular support from the Irish Catholics.

The *Liverpool Mercury* says that the White House at Washington will scarcely know itself again. General Grant scarcely ever had a cigar out of his mouth, but Mr. Hayes never smokes at all. Moreover he is a staunch teetotaler. He has great nerve and immense calmness of temper, so that throughout the whole of the late exciting time he never showed either elation or depression.

Mr. Frederic Douglass, whose freedom from slavery was purchased by English people several years prior to the general emancipation of slaves in the United States, and who is as well-known in this country as in America for his powerful oratory in behalf of his enslaved brethren, has received from President Hayes the appointment of Marshal of the District of Columbia.

A work is being done in St. Giles's, which is deserving of notice. Mr. George Hatton and his friends have opened a home for reformed thieves, in Earl-street, Seven Dials, in connection with which is a *Thieves' Honest Labour Society*. The labour afforded so far is that of wood-chopping and knife-grinding, but efforts will doubtless be made to secure situations for those who are capable of more skilled employment. At the opening meeting of the Home, nine men were received who sketched their sad experiences of criminal life, and all of whom were believed to be truly sincere in their professed change of heart and life.

A large gathering of the friends of Wesleyan education met at Exeter Hall on Tuesday evening, April 10. It was the twenty-third annual meeting, and was characterised by much enthusiasm. A well-trained choir of 600 voices—consisting of students from Westminster and Southland Colleges, day and Sunday scholars, as well as the children from the Rev. T. B. Stephenson's "Home," discoursed excellent music; and the speeches of the chairman (Mr. Alderman Mitchell, of Bradford), the Revs. T. B. Stephenson, J. E. Clapham, and J. Walton, were thoroughly practical without attaining to any high flights of oratory. The subjects severally dwelt with were "The Children's Home," "The Sunday-school Union," and "Day School Education;" and from the addresses, as well as the exhaustive report of the Rev. G. O. Bate, it appeared that in each of these departments there was no lack of vigour nor any meagreness as to the results.

After all that has been said and done, there are ominous signs in the East, and with a strange perversity, the Turkish Government seems bent upon a policy which it will probably be left to carry out single-handed, and which will as probably end in utter confusion. With an overwhelming force against it on the part of Russia, and the abandonment and withdrawal of sympathy on the part of former allies, the almost inevitable conclusion of the matter will be disastrous in the extreme. Thomas Carlyle's idea of extermination thus seems nearer its fulfilment than was thought of when, some months ago, he advocated it in the columns of the *Daily News*.

The Advertising Art Agency (whose advertisement appears in the present number) is issuing a most elegant and artistic rendering of the twenty-third Psalm. The psalm itself is very tastefully illuminated, and is surrounded with a border of flowers executed in the best style of chromo-lithography. The whole is printed on a superfine stout card (25in. by 19in.) for framing, and we can unhesitatingly say that it is honestly worth double the money asked for it.

They that deny a God destroy a man's nobility, for certainly man is of kin to the beasts by his body, and if he is not