

Foolish Virgins.

"Well, after all, I think the wise virgins were very selfish. They should have shared their oil with their companions. Don't you think so?"

Many desire to enjoy the bliss of heaven who will not fill their vessels with the oil of faith and repentance during life.

A Profitable Pastime.

A newspaper writer, speaking of the annoying way in which many persons correct others in the pronunciation of words, makes the following suggestion:

The Humming-Bird's Umbrella.

In front of a window where I worked last summer was a butternut tree. A humming-bird built her nest on a limb that grew near the window, and we had an opportunity of watching her closely, as we could look right into the nest from the window.

About a ton of ice is used every night to cool the air that is pumped into the British House of Commons. The air is filtered and rendered absolutely pure.

The fall of King Coffee seems to have been greater than was first imagined. He has now to appeal to the British for protection.

The Dean of Canterbury appears to allow the Roman Catholics to make what use they like of the Cathedral. "Pilgrims" visit the shrine of Thomas a Beckett, and go through strange performances without let or hindrance.

The Jews are strangely crowded in Rome. They have five Synagogues in that city, all in one building, with separate entrances from different streets.

Bunyan's "Hoy" "ai," which, according to the Spectator, was almost dead when it was published, and is kept alive now chiefly by the fact that it was written by the author of "Pilgrim's Progress," has made, through a translation, a deep impression upon the Christian natives of Bengal, who buy it in thousands.

The Rev. Dr. Cuyler writes—"Say what we may of the rapid growth of our American towns, the monster strides of the British metropolis always overwhelm me.

MISSIONARY NOTES.

Perhaps the largest thankoffering ever made by any individual to the cause of foreign missions was the gift of \$20,700, or more than \$100,000, sent by Mr. Walter C. Jones, of Manchester, to the Church Missionary Society.

An analysis of the census lately taken of the Madras Presidency, which has been drawn up for the Government by Mr. Cornish, notices the progress of Christianity in Southern India. During the last 15 years the whole population has steadily advanced.

Mr. Crane, of the A. B. C. F. M., reports a favorable opening at Adrianople, 140 miles northwest of Constantinople and now connected with the latter city by railroad. The Church there numbers 26 members and during his visit the services were crowded.

The frontier mission in Northeastern India is that of the Missionary Society, at Peshawar. Situated beyond the Indus, in British Afghanistan, the missionaries are brought into contact with the rude Afghan clans, and are eagerly watching for opportunities to carry the Gospel into Afghanistan.

The "Morning Star's" mails from Micronesia give the lights and shadows of that interesting work. On Apia (Gilbert Islands) the shadows decidedly predominate. Intemperance rages fearfully.

While the work of Protestant missions is flourishing to so gratifying a degree in Mexico, there being now 98 Protestant churches in that country, where five years ago there were no half-a-dozen, it is especially desirable that certain mistakes be guarded against.

There are dark nights for us all; we are in them now, or have just found the dawn, or, perchance, are just entering the twilight. But there is a psalm for every over-creeping gloom, and if the heart but take it up and chant it, the dreariness will surely vanish, and there will come in its stead hope, and light, and cheering warmth, and we shall grow glad again with the morning.

A portion of the members of the Church of England are now protesting that their Church is not a Protestant Church at all, but is and always has been a Catholic Church, while a still larger section of its members of the establishment are protesting against the absurdity involved in this declaration.

The Allgemeines Missions Zeitschrift

gives an account of the work of the Reformed Presbyterian Church (Scotch) in the New Hebrides. These islands are about 30 in number, a third of which are now under the influence of this mission.

The prospects of the A. B. C. F. M. Mission in Japan are bright. Two churches have been organized—one at Knobs and one at Osaka. Additions were expected which would swell the former to 26 communicants and the latter commences with 10.

The Catholic Review, taking up the statement of a correspondent of The N. Y. Christian Intelligencer, to the effect that the Protestants have over 90 men and women of various denominations at work in Japan and but 200 converts in all, makes this the text of an unfavorable comparison with the Catholic missions to the same country, which are said to have some 15,000 converts and which claim some 60,000 more "descendants of the martyrs" in the as yet unreached interior of the islands.

The ruins of Iona, so venerable in the history of Presbyterianism, are about to be repaired. Mr. R. Anderson, of Edinburgh, has been commissioned by the Duke of Argyll to repair and restore as far as possible the long neglected ruins of Iona.

I wish woman to live first for God's sake. Then she will not make an imperfect man her God and thus sink to idolatry. Then she will not take what is not fit for her from a sense of weakness and poverty.

The Lunatic has a startling paragraph in which it complacently assumes the speedy adoption of Sir Henry Thomson's famous proposal for burning the dead bodies instead of burying them, and details with great gusto the arrangements which have been made by the German Cremation Society in New York—an association comprising some 500 members—for carrying out the scheme of which they are enamored.

The faith of the Church of Rome. The faith of the Church of Rome. The faith of the Church of Rome. The faith of the Church of Rome.

Ingratitude is always a kind of weakness. I have never seen that clever men have been ungrateful.—Goethe.

Ritualism in England still enlarges its boundaries, and reached the extreme recently in the saying of mass for the dead at a funeral in a London Episcopal Church.

The new Act to vest in the congregations of the Church of Scotland the appointment of masters will come into force on the 1st of January next, under regulations to be formed by the General Assembly.

It is asserted that in a Jesuit Church in Chili the figures of Emperor William and Bismarck figure in a representation of purgatory, contrived by the priests for the edification of their people.

The London Weekly Review says that the American Presbyterian Mission work is accomplishing great things in Damascus. The Arabs have manifested a remarkable interest in hearing the Gospel.

The Sierra Leone Church is sending out men to the mission fields beyond. Seven have joined Bishop Crowther on the Niger during the year. Yoruba is showing how the grace of God can maintain the native Church even when the fostering care of the European missionary is withdrawn.

Hats off in Hebrew! An order has been issued to all classes of Hebrew religious schools in Berlin that the Hebrew must be taught with heads uncovered. The Hebrew teachers, who acted against this order, have received written notice to comply with it, otherwise they will be discharged.

An accident at a wako in Dublin illustrates the danger attending these festivities which are still popular in Ireland. The floor of a room fell, in which nearly thirty persons were assembled around the body of a child only two months old, and ten persons were so seriously injured in consequence that they were removed to the hospital, where they lie, some with broken legs and arms. There has been no death.

In the Catacombs of Rome it has been found that baptism is always represented as performed by sprinkling or pouring, and administered to infants as well as adults. Several baptistries have been found, but they are all too small to admit of immersion.

Students entering the theological seminaries of the Church of Scotland not only have to be previously examined, but the new system has been put in operation of making the examination a strict and written one, which prevents incompetent young men from beginning a theological course.

The Congregationalist is responsible for the following story which is too good to be lost:—"Once, goes the story, Rev. Mr. Talmage entered an Episcopal church in Philadelphia during the communion and was proceeding by the middle aisle, when the sexton stopped him, saying, 'Sir, the communion service is being observed.' 'I see that it,' replied Mr. Talmage, starting on in front of him, none but communicants are allowed in this aisle, 'Very well,' said the clergyman, again starting up the aisle. 'Sir,' said the sexton, seizing him by the collar and pointing across the church, 'the unconverted sit over yonder.'"

The German papers report the following incident which occurred the other day at Dresden:—The Hereditary Grand Duke of Oldenburg, who is studying at the University of Leipzig, happened the other day to be at the station at Dresden, and while waiting for the train, entered the refreshment room and seated himself without ceremony at a table ready served. The waiter requested him to take another place, as that one was engaged, but the Duke very rudely refused. The master of the establishment then came and remonstrated with the Prince, to which the latter replied by a blow. The master returned it with interest; the travellers present took the master's part, and His Highness was hustled about and beaten with canes and umbrellas, and at last turned out of the room. The police shortly after intervened, and rescued the young man from the indignant public, who knew nothing of his rank, but saw that he had acted with great rudeness.

A South German newspaper relates the following, and vouches for its truth:—In a Bavarian town of the most pronounced Catholic orthodoxy, the priest preached lately against the Old Catholics, and related such horrible things about them that his pious hearers were literally horror-stricken at Old Catholic impieties. At last the preacher cried out, "The Old Catholics are so vile that they will all be cast into the pit, and if what I tell you is not true, may the devil take me now on the spot!" His excitement was terrible; and he so struck the cushion that the book fell from it. Not far from the pulpit there sat an American who had a negro servant with him, to whom he beckoned to take book up to the priest who perhaps had never seen one of those sons of Ham in his life. The negro at once obeyed, and as he mounted the lowest of the pulpit steps the clergyman repeated his wish that the devil might come and take him if what he said was not true. Although the negro went very softly the preacher heard his footsteps, and turning round saw a black object slowly, steadily, and surely approaching him. He started at him with terror, and believing that he would be the next instant collared by his Satanic Majesty, he cried out, with trembling voice, "It is after all, possible that there may be good people among the Old Catholics!" Turning then round to see if the object had disappeared, he saw it still steadily approaching. The perspiring burst out on his brow, and full of despair he called out, "There are even many good people among the Old Catholics!" Thinking that this would suffice he turned round, but what was his horror? find that the object was close at hand. Imagining himself in the grasp of Belzebub, turning partly to the negro and partly to the congregation, he cried out, "May the devil come and take me if all the Old Catholics are not better than we are!" The terrified priest fainted from the fright, and it was only after some time that he recovered.