Progress in China.

Sir Rutherford Alcock, in the new number of Macmillan, writes:—"The experience of the past few years has, I think, satisfactorily proved that, notwithstanding this proverbial aversion to change, the Ohinese do more or less readily accept an innovation when they come to see in it practical results out of which they can work a benefit to themselves. Take, for instance, the passenger traffix on the China coast, along the Yang-tze, and even seaward in various directions. It is not so very long ago that a Oninamen, and still more a Chinese woman, would have hesitated to embark on beard of a foreign vessel. Yet now our steamer's decks are crowded with a busy multitude of Chinese-mon, women, and children-who gladly avail themselves of the increased speed and sesurity which steam communication affords as compared with their own slow and crazy oraft. And not only comm inplace passengers are seen to avail themselves of our improved means of locomotion, but officials even of the highest rank, to whom such a proceeding would have brought contempt, and probably disgrace, in past years, are now known to travel in all directions by means of foreign sleamers. In this connection I may mention the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company, which has been lately started under the most influential patronage, and promises to take an important place among the commercial companies of China. These are telling and similar experiences might be multiplied. The acceptance of carriages, for instance, in Stanghai -whole families, it is said coming all the way from Foothow, some eighty miles, to secure the

coveted drive in a foreign vehicle. The use of seving machines in every respectable tailor's shop, of moderator lamps, glass windows, and a host of sumilar articles. are all constraine evidences of a readiness to adopt European ideas and inventions suitable to their wants. In Peking, *Bryant and May's lucifor matches have entirely superseded the old flint and steel, and as I sailed down to P iho in 1869, I was met by boatloads of this merchandise. If this one fact stood alone, I should not despair of the progress of civil zation by the adoption of European innovations throughout the empire. The Chinese may not of themselves originate, or show much quickness in promoting plans to facilitate the advancement of Western civilization; but with newspapers and periodicals now o renlating in the Chinese language, and well supported by native readers, the process of conversion and education must go on, and each day will add something to an impetus already given. Let us hope that it may ultimately take a pacific, and not a purely belligerent, direction. It depends not a little upon the Western Powers them-selves, and their representatives, political commercial, in China and whether the result shall be the the developmont of mutual interests and good will or the more or less rapid adoution of all the material elements of our strength and civilization, only to be turned against Western | that Mary of the Gaspel whose fame is nations, and enable the Chinese to fight, second only to that of the mather of our thom with their own weapous.

Curious Customs of the Laplanders.

The Laplanders are very lean in flesh having thick heads, prominout foreheads hollow and blear eyes, short first moses, and wide mouths. They are swift of foot and very strong, so that a how which a Norwegian can scarcely! If bend they will draw to the full, the arrow reaching to the head. Their exercises are running races, and climbing maccessible rocks and high trees. Though nimble and strong, they never walk upright, but always stooping, a habit they got by frequently sitting in their cottages on the ground. Originally pagans, and most superstitions, they have for some centures been Christians, and have produced many emm at and intelligent men. manners and customs of the Laplanders in regard to marriage are very peculiar. First they seek for a maiden well stocked with rei nleer-which, in case of marriage, is secured to the child by its parents—and then comes the offer. Accompanied by his father and one or more friends, who are to intercede for him. he makes for the but of his intended, and waits at the door till he is sun noned. His best min then addresses the father, discloses his strong affection for his daughter, and trusts he will give her in charge to him. He styles him as the high and mighty Fat ier, the worshipful Father (as if he were one of the Patriarchs), the best and most illustrious Father. He gives his consent. The loving couple then meet. Then come the presents, the rarest delicacies that Lapland affords-reindeer tongues, beaver flesh, and other lainties. If she accepts the presents the future mar riage is arranged, but if she rejects his suit she casts them down at his feet. The full approbation of the marriage and the celebration of the wedding is often deterred for a con-iderable time, which they employ in courting. The object for giving time is to equeeze the bridegroom to the fullest extent (i. c., for presents, etc.) The day before the marriage the relations and friends of the bride and bridegroom resort to the I solution. bride's but to del ver their presents. The bridegroom is bound to present the father and mother with presents-the father water a silver cup, a kettle of copper or alchymy, a bed, or at least hands one bedding; the mother a girdle of silver, a robe of honor which they call vospi, a which which they Wear about their neck, and which mange down to their broast, interluced with bus-os of silve which they call kake. In allition, he gives presents to the brothers, to the brother's sisters, and all the near kindred, in the shape of silver spoons, silver bosses, and other ornaments of silver, for ouch of them must have a present if he means to obtain his bride ranged, they proceed to church in the following order, and are married according to the Christian rite. The bride is led by two men, the father and brother it alive, otherby two of her nearest relations. Bhe is dragged to church by them, show ing sadness and dejection, and great un-willingness and reluctance to her marri-

large enough for the company, they climb tions. Not only the phins but the slopes up to the roof of the hut, mostly buys and of the hills which elsewhere come close to girls, and form thence let down a fishing line and hook up the food. The married couple must remain a year in the service of the father, they can then set up for them-selves. The father then bestows upon his daughter the reinder which are her due, given to her in her younger days, also fur-niture, and a dowry of a hundred or more reindeer. Then all her relations return all the presents they have made. The Laps may be said to be in the full sense of the word a mand race. They have no schoolmasters. The father instructs the boy, the mother the sirl. Soon after baptism they bestow on their infant, if it be a female, a reindeer, and upon the horns they engrave her name, so as to prevent all controversies or quarrels. She receive another when she outs her first tooth, which they call panniker -that is, tooth reindeer; and he who first spies the tooth is entitled to a reindeer calf. If the parents die, the nearest relation becomes the guardian .- Selected.

The Lake of Gennesaret.

Palestine contains two beautiful sheets of ater, one in the north called the Sea of Gairlee, the other in the south calld the Salt S a. The latter is now usually known as the Dead Sea, a title which it richly deserves, since its waters are so bring that even fish cannot live in thom. The former might well bout the same name, though for very different reasons. Its waters are fresh and sparkling, bright flowers fringe its shores, and burds of various hun warble on its banks or skim over its surface. nature is gay and animated. But the hum of m in is absent. Not a sail whiteas the Occasionally the keel of a single row boat vexes the placif waves, and it one end a few fishermen spread their nots, but for all practical purposes the sea is doad. Its bold shores, instead of being lined with villas and populous towns, are descried, save in two instances. One of these is the city of Tiberias, not the stately and brilliant capital founded by H-rod Autipas in the beginning of the first century, which has long since disappeared, but a modern town once fortified with lefty walls and a castle, but afterwards shattered by an earthquake, and now occupied only by some in dolent Turks and beggarly Jews. The lat-ter are drawn hither by the reputation of the city as a holy place, since it was in former ages the seat of a great Jewish school, and furnished the scholars from whom came the Masora. Phey come hither to be supported while they live by the alms of their richer brothron elsowhere, and when they die to have their bones laid beside the du t of the honored Ribbis whose tembs are in the adjoining hillside. The other is the Arab village of M jdel, a miserable rookery of stones and st. ks and mad, with a smell equal to the concentrated essence of a thousand stables. Yet it is generally agreed that this wrotched collection of huts stands on the site of the ancient Magdala, the town from which came second only to that of the mother of our Lord. The tradition of Christendom has dishonored her name by appropriating it to tailen women who have been restored, whereas there is not the smallest reason for inferring from the records of Scripture that she was ever anything but a virtuous, although a deedly afflicted woman.

Doc yed Tiberias a. I fithy Meylel, then, represent the present population around the shores of this famous sea, and whatever visitors (except Howalgis from other continents) resort to the furner, are least, not by the lake, but by the hot baths hard by. Three or fou springs, send forth an ample stream of water imprognated with sulpling at a very high iomperature, which is considered very efficacions for all manner of rheumate complaints. In the eyes o the surmounding populations all the glorious mains is of the Granes reserved to the for nothing compared with the benefits of a bath ing establishment! There are many points on this wa from which a min might look out for days and weeks together and see no more signs of life than he would if standing by the Silt Sea. But are dead, the one by nature, the ot or by homen unstate and neglect. This is most apparent in the north western corner, where there is an extensive plain, unequalled anywhere for its exuberant fortility, as is manifest from the small partion now under culture mucher is overgrown with grantic woods and the 's, the bridle paths through which are alike desagreeable to the hise and his rider. Parling branks cross it in several directions, one of which was utilized for a mill, but the mill is a ruin, and indeed ruins abound everywhere. Nature lives, no richer ofean lers and at thous are seen anywhere, but all else breathes the air of decay and death. No there a Fellah entrying a rude sickle or a shepherd going before a flick of slicep or zonts, a vast silence broad ag over land and water, no angler easting his line, no sports man pointing his gan +ast the untrodden wilderness of our own continent conveys and a sense of absolute and a relieved de-

Tais is made more apparent by contrast. Only a few days before coming to Tiberias I had crossed the plain of Estraelou and was surprised to muct eight two horse wag gons loaded with hay after the manner of our own country, while off in the distance were the white tents which choltonel the respect who cut the grass. These wags me were taking their loads by a good road which twice bridged the Kalion (the only bridges I suppose built in Palastine for a contary) to Haifa, the port at the faot of Mount Carmel, where a considerable colony, mainly of Germans, who expect the second advent to remails in the Holy Lind, have made a thriving settlement, and are introducing the improved methods of agriculture. Gennesaret is as rich as Jozceel in ove y respect, but it shows no wagons, no white tents, not the least sign of progress or even stir. Yet the time was when this very region was the centre of a social and political life of the greatest interest. age. A wedding feast follows. Each person invited contributes his share of provisions. At the feast table no person helps himself, but receives his meat from The harvests of the land and the still great-

the hand of a Laplander. If the hut is not stream of visitors from surrounding na-large enough for the company, they climb tion. Not only the plains but the slopes the water, were turned to profitable account. This lake and its confines were the garden of Galilee, as Galilee was the garden of Palestine.

But its greatest distinction was that fact which now draws to us shores every year a crowd of visitors from all parts of the world it was the home of our Lord Jesus Christ. He was born in B thichem, He was reared in Nazareth, but Ho lived in Capernaum, which is called by Matthew, "His own city." From this as a centre He went forth upon His missionary journeys, and to this Ho regularly returned. Here He performed most of his mighty works. Here He delivered many of His noblest discourses. The great light which illuminated the world sund its brightest beams upon "the sea coast in the borders of Z-buton and Naphrah." The capital saw Him only coessionally, but Capernaum had Him for a resident. Its inhabitants behold havitu ally the life that was without sin, and heard repeatedly the words that were full of wisdom and grace. Yet the record is that the very communities which were most favored in this respect made the least improvement of their privileges. The only human career which has successfully defled criticism in every age was without effect upon those who had it before their eyes. Publi-cans and harl its, Samaritans and lepers were won to the great Teacher, but Caper naum, Chorazin and Bethsaida were more impenitent than Tyre and Siden, more insensible than Sodom and Gomarrah. Tue tratiful Saviour "appeaulo1 them for their sin; and their present condition is a fearful commentary upon His words. They have perished so a miletely that even their are matters of a certainty and dis pute. The sea is the same as when Christ once with a word culmed its waves, the shore is the same as when He uttered the exquisite series of parables recorded in Matthew's Gospel, but the cities, the centres of population and influence are gone, utterly gone. An alien race of another faith now roam in ignorant unconcern over the very ground consecrated by the foot-stops of the Son of God, while the original innabitants are known and remembered only as the rejectors of that divine Saviour. Sitting in darkness they saw a great light, but scornfully despising it, they relapsed into a yet blacker darkness, and the deso lats shores of Gennesaret are witness to day that there is no greater carse than a privi-

lege abused. I have no opinion to offer on that poin whother Khan Minyeh or Tell Hum is the site of Capernaum, much less any new theory upon the subject. Far.her investi gation by others than more passing travel lers will, I thick, ultimately solve this much controverted question. Enough for me that here is the sea, the shore, the hilsi os, the plain, the soil, the brooks, the flowers and which our Lord had His earthly home, for outside these few square unles it could not have been. Nature smiled around Him even more than on the hills of Nazareth, and only man made in God's image, man for whom he lived and died, was assensible to His claims. Nature still smiles but all else is bleak and barron.

Rev. T. W Chambers, D. D., in N. Y. Christian Monthly.

The Rights to Reserve Places in Rail-

way Carriages. It is a pity the railway companies have not some well-defined bye-law on this subject. Possibly such may exist; if so, they show great disinclination to put it in forc In the old coaching days there was no diffi culty whatever in the reservation of places; you paid for a definite seat, and you at mit and any one would as soon have thought of turning you out of the coach as disputing your right to a sent that was already entered in your name on the way bill. course the vast numbers that travel by rail would render the system of everybody being entered on the way bill of the guard, and his especial soat accorded to him, an impossibility The consequence is there is a species of unwritten law that is under stood between passengers, and practically acknowledged by railway officials. This up written law does not, however, always work well, nor is it altogether satisfactory in its appropheation. It would seem it is the ous tom for any ody engaging a seat to imagine hat the umbrella, newspaper, great coat, or carpet bag upon it is enough to secure it from intrusion during his absence. This is all very well when a man wishes only to secure a reat for himself; but not unirequently do you find that he will put his umbrella, his new-paper, his carpet bag, and his great coat on different scats, in order that he may secure the carriage to himself, to reserve it for some of his friends, Was that possibly arrive at the last moment. The consequence is that people who really have a right to those seats—who have arrived in good time in order that they may make their selection-have to put up with what chance accomm idation they may get. If you soe articles estenta tiously placed upon the seats you naturally conclude that these sents are engaged, and if you venture to ask the question you probably get a sucly answer that may mean anything; if you press the matter the baggage may be sulkily removed, and you will scowled at as an importinent intruder during the remainder of the journey. This is not as it should be, and we question it guards and offi anis are so particular as they might be with regard to allowing this wholesale reservation of seats. It is by no means easy to know how this matter could he satisfactor by remedical. Possibly the best plan would be the issuing of labels bearing the same number as the ticket. which label the passenger might pin to the seat he wished to retain. It is a somewhat difficult affair to arrange; but as it has already led to not a few unseemly squabbles t would be well if inilway companies would inquire into it, and let the public know ex-netly what the 'an with regard to this sub-

I slept, and dreamed that life was beauty: I woke, and found that life was duty Was my dream, then, a shallowy lie? Toil on, and heart, corraceously.
And thous all finit thy dream to be A accordant truth and light to thes.

jest really is .- Graphic.

"Strong in Him."

"I was requested," said the late Dr. Maolead, "by a brother minister, who was un-well, to go and visit a dying boy. He told me before some remarkable things of this boy. He was eleven years of age, and during three years' sickness had manifested the most patient aubinission to the will of God, with a singular enlightenment of the Spirit. I went to visit him. He had suffered exeruoiating pain. For years he had not known one day's rest. I gazed with wonder at the boy. After drawing near to him, and speaking some words of symmetric and speaking spea pathy, he looked at me with his blue eyes -he could not move, it was the night before he died-and breathed into my ears these few words, 'I am strong in Him.'

"They were few and attored feebly; they were the words of a feeble child, in a poor home, where the only ornament was that of a meek, and quiet, and affectionate mother; but these words senged to lift the burden from the very heart; they seemed to make the world more beautiful than over it was before; they brought hims to my heart a great and blessed truth. May all of us bo strong in Him."

Prayers and Alms.

We have a happy illustration of the pro-pricty of uniting these two exercises in the worship of God in the examples of Corsuelus. His prayers : I alms came up a a memorial before God. Minging together they ascended like smoke of the altar, as a sweet smelling eavor, before the Lord And they returned with blossin; s in the ad vent of the angel, in the coming of Peter, in the descent of the Spirit.

It was not the prayers alone came up for a memorial before God, but the prayers and alms. It was not the alms alone that conson ted the memorial, but it was the alms and prayers. The prayers alone would not have been sufficient; the alms alone would not have been sufficient. But when the prayers and alms came together, they came with such a force as to open the doors of the divine goodness and mercy, and heavonly blessings came down upon the head of the worshipper.

Miscellaneous.

Many observations have been made lately by our naturalists as to the defence winch color supplies to animals: hares, rabbits, stags and goals possess the most tavorable shades for concealing them in the depths of the forest or in the field. It is well known that when the Volunteer corps were enrolled, and the most suitable color for riflemen was discussed, it was supposed to be green. Soldiers dressed in different shades were placed in woods and plains, to try which offered the best concealment. Contrary to expectation, that which escaped the eyes of the enemy was not green, but the fawn color of the doe. Among hunting quadrupeds such as the tiger, the copard, the jaguar, the panther, there is a shade of skin which man has always been anxious to appropriate for his own use. The old Egyptain tombs have paintings of the negroes of Sudan, their lions gut with the fine yellow skins for which there is still a great sale. All the birds which pray upon the smaller tribes, and fishes like the shark, are clothed in dead colors, so as to be the least seen by their victims .- Chambers Magazine.

No one need be afraid to speak a word of judicious praise. It may be a batm and realing to a sick and fainting soul. Besides, it is due to those who are engaged in responsible work that they for whom they labor should compensate them for then toil by a word of reorgantion. Many a pastor grows worn and disheartened bocause he hears no expression of pleasure in of pastoral duty, studies and plods along, but whether he is considered a help or otherwise, he has no means of knowing. Speak to him kindly. Do not flatter, which is detestable; but if you received a benefit from his instruction, by some means let him know it. He will preach better the following Subbath, he will sleep better at night, and he will treasure your word as an offset against many a complaint and repreach that reach him from the unappreciating and unthusking.

I will not call the Church God's committee on earth, "with power to add to its. number," but I will call the Courch God's committee on earth to add to its number, and with abundance of "power from on high for that purpose. It is only minus this power when it contents itself with the formal assertion of it, and ignotes the fact that that is its prime purpose in the world. The power is committed unto it for the task, and the tak is no to be remitted because there is the power. Other committees do not forget this they subject an powers possessed to the object before them -and why this committee of committees should be so guilty in this respect, is matter that may fill the heart of us all with remorse, as it cannot but fill the heart of God, so speaking, with mexpressible grief.

CHILDREN should be trained to give as a duty. They will find pleasure in it as they go along. A Sanday school will always be more prized and more firmly established through calls on teachers and scholars to systematic charitable offerings. This is fould true, even in communities where money is most scaniy. A Sanday school in East Tennessee reports that in their practice of charities ' the little girls give each a chicken, or the precede, to the school; and the boys each plant a dozon hills of corn, and give the proceeds to the school." Although not all have ready m ney, all can give something, and they are succuraged to do what they can .- In dependant.

On! it is a glorious fact that prayers are noticed in heaven. The poor, broken hearted sinner, churbing up to lus chamber, bonds his knee, but can only utter his waiting in the language of sighs and tears. Lot that grown has made all the harps of heaven thrill with music; that tear has been caught by God, and put into the lashrymatory of heaven, to be perpetually preserved. The suppliant, whose foars prevent his words, will be well understood by the Most High.

Scientific and Asselut.

GROUP.

Oroup can be cured in one minuts, and the remedy is simply alum and sugar. The way to accomplish the dood is to take a knife or grater, and sheve off in -mill par-ticles about a toospoonful of alum; then mix it with twice its quantity of sugar, to make it palatable, and administer it as quickly as possible. Almost instantaneous rolief will follow.

EATING BETWEEN MEALS.

If a person on a between mode, the prostomach is arrested, until the last which has been eaten is brought late the condition of the former meal, just as if water is boiling and ice is put in, the whole coase to boil until the ice has been melted and brought to the boding point, and then the whole boils together.

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DISRASE.

A writer in Chambers' Journal speaks of the fact as decidedly noteworthy, that the common opinion that excessive mental ocounation gravitates toward insanity is not only not verified by facts, but that, on the contrary, one of the formost of living physicians doubts whether attention of mind is ever the result of overstrain; it is to physisal, not to mental derangement, he thinks, that excessive work of the brain generally gives rise. Insanity, he points out, finds most suitable material for its development among the cloddish, uneducated classes, while the worst forms of physical diseases are originated and intensified among the aducated, overstrained brain workers.

PREEDOM FROM WORRY PROLONGS LIPE.

One of the most curious discoveries made during a recent investigation of alms-houses is that the paupers live so long. The average length of life after admission is said to be twenty years, though the inmates are, apon entering, most of them well advanced. such is the advantage of being free from Such is the advantage of oring to botheration, worry, fret, trouble, anxiety, disappointment, and the like things, the country of which may be found in Dr. names of which may be found in Dr. Roger's Thesaurus. It was long age settled by agreement of the moralists and the physiologists that fuss kills more than fover and sends greater numbers to an untimely sopulcher. The real bills of mortality are the tradesmen's. We die of our tailors. grocers, bu chers, and shoemakers, and of our collectors of internal revenue. We perish of our great desire to take up our notes. We are the victims of too much heed of to morrow. We expire of too much Dr. Franklin and poor Richard.

ARRANGEMENT OF FLOWERS.

In arranging flowers in beds the principal things to be avoided are: the placing of rese-colored or red flowers next scarlet or orange, or orange next yellow, blue next violet, or resenext violet. On the centrary, the following colors harmonize; white will relieve any color (but should not be placed next yellow), orange with light blue, yellow with violet, dark blue with orange yellow, white with pink or rose, and blue with vellow. By observing these rules, the amateur may have his flower-borders vio in beauty and arrangement with those of greater pretensions, and even surpass many of them.

PLUM PUDDING.

Two eggs, six crackers, three pints of sweet misk, a piece of butter the size of an egg, one cup of raisins, a little selt and nut-STOVE POLISH.

If stove polish is mixed with very strong soapsuds, the lustre appears immediately, and the dust of the polish does not fly around as it usually does.

ARNICA LINIMENT.

Two on ces alcohol; one drachm tineture arnica. Unequaled for pains in the feet and limbs; I rall fresh or recent sprains, brused or contused wounds, and for rhoumatism of the joints and gouty pains.

CLEANING COAT COLLARS.

Obtain a little spirits of ammonia, and mix it in a part of cold water, then well sponge the collar or the other parts until the grea. 3 disappears, which it will quickly do. Or dip a soit flamed in spirits of tur-pentino, and rub the greasy part with

COOKING WITHOUT EGGS.

One cup of sugar, halt a cup of butter, oream of tartar, one of saleratus, spice to your taste, flour enough to roll out thin, and in any form you like.

STEEL FROM SAND.

The great commercial value of the magnetic iron study of New Zeland, worked to so much a lyantage in the manufacture of steel, has called attention to he very exensive deposits of the same substance on the coast of La ander, and several ostablishments are now engaged in gathering this and forwarding it to England. At one place about thirty tons : day are extracted. The separation of this sand from other substarces mixed mechanically with it is greatly facilitated by the use of a new magnetic ore separator, which has also been used to advantage in other localities, where the ore by reasting is converted into a magnetic oxide of tron, then putverized, and the iron extracted .- Harper's Maga-

OATMEAL CRISPS.

To one quart of Scotch oatmeal (the orduary grade), add two tevel spoonstul of sugar, and three gills of boding water, or just enough to wer, without sararating the meat. Then take cut a level poonful lightly, and as fix as you can, and lay it on a baking tin, having it not more than one-fourth of an inen thick. Ween the pan is filled in this way, put it into a moderate oven and bake about half an hour, or until the water it dried out and the error retains its form when han fled. By very careful not to scorch it, nor make it much more than a barely perceptible brown. When done, put away where they will be dry, and serve like crackers. They are brutle and tender, and require to be handled very carefully, or they will crumble to pieces. They are nutty and wholesome, and when nicely made, soon find their way into fa-They eat meely with sweet stowed yor. fruits and with raisins, or dates, or Egs, especially the latter; they make an admirable traveler's lunch.