

replied, looking directly into her eyes, "since I am indebted for them to two friends instead of one."

"There's a great difference in friends," she said significantly.

"Yes, indeed," I replied, smiling as frankly as if I had been talking to Zillah; "and your mother is the best friend I have or ever expect to have."

Adah had sighed deeply, and had gone on with her reading in a girlish, plaintive voice that was quite different from her ordinary tones.

Unconsciously she had imbibed the idea—probably from what she often heard at meeting—that anything read or spoken consecutively must be in a tone different from that used in ordinary conversation, and she often lifted up her voice into an odd, plaintive little monotone, that was peculiar, but not at all disagreeable. It would not have been natural in another, but was perfectly so to her, and harmonized with her unique character. The long words even in the simple stories were often formidable obstacles, and she would look up apprehensively, and colour for fear I might be laughing at her; but I took pains to gaze quietly through the window in serene unconsciousness. She also stumbled because her thoughts evidently were often far away from her book, but at my cordial thanks when finishing the story her face would glow with pleasure. And yet she missed something in my thanks, or else saw, in the quiet manner with which I turned to my letters or paper, that which was unsatisfactory, and she would sigh as she left the room. Her gentle, patient efforts to please me, which oddly combined maidenly shyness and childlike simplicity, often touched the depths of my heart, and the thought came more than once, "If this is more than a girlish fancy, and time proves that I am essential to her happiness—which is extremely doubtful—perhaps I can give her enough affection to content a nature like hers."

But one glimpse of Emily Warren would banish this thought, for it seemed as if my very soul were already wedded to her. "The thought of another is impossible," I would mutter. "She was my fate."

Four or five of the days during which I had been sufficiently strong to sit up had passed away, and I was able to give more of my time to my mail and paper, and thus to seem preoccupied when Adah came to read. I found Zillah also a useful though unconscious ally, and I lured her into my room by innumerable stories. Reuben and Mr. Yocomb were now very busy in their harvest, and I saw them chiefly in the evening, but they were too tired to stay long. Time often hung wofully heavy on my hands, and I longed to be out of doors again; but Mrs. Yocomb was prudently inexorable. I am sure that she restrained Adah a great deal, for she grew less and less demonstrative in manner, and I was left more to myself.

(To be continued.)

#### SHORT RULES FOR HOME USE.

Put self last.

When others are suffering drop a word of sympathy.

Tell of your own faults rather than those of others.

A place for everything, and everything in its place.

Hide your own little troubles, but watch to help others in theirs.

Take hold of the knob and shut every door behind you without slamming it.

Never interrupt any conversation, but wait patiently your turn to speak.

Look for beauty in everything, and take a cheerful view of every event.

Carefully clean the mud and snow from your boots before entering the house.

#### BOB ACRES ON LAZY PEOPLE.

There are some people who love to work as fondly as a cat loves to lick mustard; such people have generally their hands quite full in attending to their neighbours' affairs. I suppose it would take a mathematician to tell how much humming goes to the making of a jar of honey, but much clatter and little work is the rule with those drones in the human hive. It is certainly difficult to find a man who is too indolent to attend to his neighbour's affairs, but it is easy to find a man who is too lazy to mind his own. A lazy farmer is generally a great proficient in the art of *sky-farming*; his cultivation is shallow, and he does not waste much muscle in deepening the soil. His system is not so much the four or five course rotation as the hand-to-mouth system. He would rather drive a goose to market to sell than stay at home and save his hay crop; for though he is no worker, yet his shoes are made of running leather. In fact, you never find him going without an errand of some kind or other, even if it should be to buy a ha'porth of yard-wide pack thread. It is true, the lazy man is frequently a harmless sort of individual, and though a bad bread-winner, he is to be preferred to the envious or malicious man who, like Goodyer's pig, is never well but when he is doing mischief. The morning hour has gold in its mouth; then let us be up and stirring betimes, for idleness is the key to beggary. There is no man more mercilessly pilloried for public scorn in Solomon's proverbs than the sluggard. Want is travelling to meet him like an armed man, and when the twain embrace each other it will be with the iron grip of poverty. There are different kinds of laziness both natural and acquired; for instance, some people do their work in a make-believe way that is neither real nor thorough. They are serving an apprenticeship to laziness, and will, no doubt, acquire an admirable degree of proficiency as they advance in the art of going backwards. Then there is the loafer, who loves idleness for its own dear sake. He has reached the sublime of the condition, and is as lazy as Ludlam's dog that laid his head against the wall when he was going to bark. When I use the word "loafer" I do not mean alone the fellow who lounges at the corner of the street, for many a man may be a loafer on a farm or on an income of £500 a year. Sir John Falstaff used only a ha'porth of bread to a vast quantity of sack, and in like manner we have many advocates for a

limited amount of work and a great deal of play, as if the world had reached its holiday afternoon, and we had entered on a dispensation of idleness, music, and banners. Some of us will, however, have to put on a grimace when the piper comes to be paid. Let us, then, have plenty of solid bread, and sack in limited quantities—a good deal of honest work and play in moderation, for all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy."

#### THE SHADOW OF THE ROCK.

A hiding place from the wind and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place; as the shadow of a great Rock in a weary land."—Is. xxxii. 2.

In the shadow of the Rock

Let me rest,

When I feel the tempest's shock

Thrill my breast;

All in vain the storm shall sweep,

While I hide,

And my tranquil station keep

By Thy side.

On the parched and desert way

Where I tread,

With the scorching noon-tide ray

O'er my head,

Let me find the welcome shade,

Cool and still;

And my weary steps be stayed

While I will.

I in peace will rest me there

Till I see

That the skies again are fair

Over me;

That the burning heats are past,

And the day

Bids the traveller at last

Go his way.

Then my pilgrim staff I'll take,

And once more

I'll my onward journey make,

As before;

And with joyous heart and strong

I will raise

Unto Thee, O Rock, a song

Glad with praise!

PRAYER is the pulse of the renewed soul; the constancy of its beat is the test and measure of the spiritual life.

OUR life is like Alpine countries, where winter is found by the side of summer, and where it is but a step from a garden to a glacier.

THE will of God is the light by which we ought to be guided. Nothing grievous can ever happen to us so long as we follow it. When we walk without light in the night of our evil will, we cannot avoid either stumbling or going astray. Let Thy will, O Lord, be always the lamp which may enlighten my steps, and the light which may direct me in Thy ways.—*Quemal*.

GIRLS, if they intend to become useful members of society, and make good wives for "honest men and true," ought to be perfectly acquainted with all kinds of domestic work. They should know how things are done. "Knowledge is power," and such power renders a woman very independent in this age of inferior servants. She may perhaps never be required to use her knowledge in a practical way by performing household work, but it is well to possess the knowledge.

IF God does not forsake the work of His hands *let us not forsake the work of our hands*. Are you labouring for Him? Whether your efforts are directed to the sick or the young, the poor or the family-circle, cleave to it. Frequently we allow difficulties to destroy our zeal, and our courage gives way before strenuous opposition. "Be not weary in well doing." Resemble the sun-flower which follows the sun on cloudy as well as bright days. "In due season ye shall reap if ye faint not."—*Star in the East*.

A GOOD mother, when her son was leaving the home of his childhood and going out into the great world, knowing that he was ambitious, gave him this parting injunction: "My son, remember that, though it is a good thing to be a great man, it is a great thing to be a good man." No sounder, no truer words were ever spoken. A great many may dazzle, but a good man is a beacon shining afar, by whose beneficent light a multitude are enabled to walk in safety. The best success is very often achieved by the humblest; and an obscure life well spent is better than a wicked renown.

COLLECTORS of statistics in regard to intemperance say that in the year 1879 there was paid out for intoxicating drinks in the four great nations of the world \$2,700,000,000. The greatness of the sum is confusing. It suggests not only a vast waste of means, but an amount of misery that is incapable of being expressed in figures or language. It suggests, also, that if there are forces of evil in Christian communities that are described in statistics so appalling, the Church has a work to do—a work of resistance and overthrow—that must tax its utmost energies.

THE celebrated author and philosopher, Thomas Carlyle, whose death is announced, has several relatives in Canada; among them are a sister, Mrs. Henning, a widow lady in Hamilton, Ont.; a family of nephews and nieces in Burford, Ont., the children of his brother Alexander, who settled there; a family of nephews and nieces in Brant township, the children of his brother John. One of these nieces is the mother of Mr. Ellis, of Barber & Ellis, of this city. Dr. Carlyle, of the Normal School, is a nephew. Alex. Carlyle, B.A., son of the late Alex. Carlyle of Burford, married the niece who was present at the deathbed.

## BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

THE cost to England of the Afghan war has been figured out at eighty-seven and a half million dollars—nearly three times as much as at first expected. 50,000 men were in the field for the greater part of two years.

EIGHTEEN years ago the first Protestant church established in Brazil was formed in Rio Janeiro. Now there are several churches, with about one thousand members. The whole country is open to Gospel work among twelve million people.

THE London correspondent of "Harper's Bazar" says: "The Queen and Mr. Gladstone never now meet if the latter can avoid it. Her Majesty makes no secret of preferring Lord Beaconsfield to him, and there is no love lost on either side."

M. REVEILLAUD states that in the province of Ain, France, in 1870, there was but one Protestant church, one minister, and a single school of thirty-six pupils. Ten years later there are fourteen churches, four ministers, and five evangelists, eight schools with 400 pupils and a Sabbath school with 380.

A MOST suggestive fact shown by the census statistics of the United States is the growth of the cotton industry in the South. In 1879 the Southern mills had 11,000 looms and 417,000 spindles. They now have more than 15,000 and 714,000 spindles. In 1870 the consumption of cotton amounted to 45,000,000 pounds. In 1880 it had swollen to nearly 102,000,000 pounds.

THERE is an African chief named Matola, living in the Rovuma Valley, East Central Africa, who speaks six languages. Perhaps the most remarkable thing about him is that he is a total abstainer. He became such from principle, and has for many years never touched the native beer or any other intoxicating liquor. By his aid a church has been built, to which he summons his people every Sabbath, acting as interpreter when there is occasion.

THE Supreme Court of Madrid has recently confirmed the sentence to two months' imprisonment of a man who refused to take off his hat on meeting a religious procession, and the same sentence on a minister who had addressed some peasants in a threshing yard and distributed tracts among them. No wonder that King Alfonso, in opening the Cortes last week, informed them that the relations of Spain with the Vatican are "most cordial."

THE Creek Town congregation in connection with the mission of the Scottish United Presbyterian Church in Calabar, Africa, has just sent to market palm oil valued at \$1,800, to help pay for the church building it occupies. They have in all paid \$4,475. It is also stated that King Eyo has ordered that children must not run about the streets any more, but must go to school. In consequence, the school attendance has increased from 90 to 200.

THE iron hand of Bismarck has again made itself felt in Germany, in a further reduction of constitutional liberty. The chancellor's bill to establish biennial budgets and quadrennial parliaments has just been passed by the Federal Council. The ostensible purpose is to reduce the expense and bother of so many sessions of parliament. The real purpose is to concentrate the government in the hands of the emperor. This last step follows naturally the restriction of the right of speech in parliament, and tends to the abolition of the Federal Council entirely, unless the German people assert their constitutional rights by revolution.

At the recent meeting of the Presbyterian General Assembly of New South Wales the Moderator, the Rev. Henry Macready, called attention to the fact that, though the Church was comparatively small, it extended over a territory larger than the largest country of Europe and which had a population of nearly 800,000. Most of the ministers came from the different branches of the great Presbyterian family in the British Isles, and yet all were united under the same scriptural form of government, without any compromise or difficulty. All their churches were free, and never had been in bondage to any man. As Presbyterian Christians, they were specially one with all the members of the great Presbyterian community throughout Christendom. The Sustentation Fund Committee reported, and was authorized to raise £5,000 at once for initial expenses of the fund for working capital and for the expenses and outfit of ministers from the British Isles for the colonial field. Mr. Robert Morton was appointed honorary agent in London, to supervise the sending out of ministers.

THE news from the west Coast of Africa, is of a most serious character. The King of Ashantee, the renowned Coffee, who gave the famous umbrella to Sir Garnet Wolseley, is again up in arms and threatening war against Great Britain. The Hon. Herbert Ussher has appealed for aid to the Governor of Cape Coast Colony. Coffee, however, is one of those warlike monarchs who maintain a standing army, and before the aid solicited arrives, he may do a good deal of mischief. It would also seem from one of our despatches, that the Cape Coast authorities are not in a very flourishing state as to ammunition, as orders have been given by the Home Government that such necessities for defence or attack should be sent to them from Madeira. Twice already England has had unpleasant dealings with the Ashantees. In the first instance, 1827, the war waged with them by Sir C. MacCarthy proved most disastrous and on the last occasion, although the haughty King was quelled by the able tactics of General Wolseley, the expense incurred made a heavy bill—about \$3,000,000 we believe. The Fantees were once the most powerful nation on the Gold Coast, but in 1806, some of the rebel chiefs having fled from Coomassie into their territory, they refused to give them up and the King of Ashantee pursued them and took possession of the Fantee capital. Since then the Fantees have occupied a position of inferiority to the Ashantees. It was in a quarrel between the two races that the last Ashantee war had its origin. It must be said that of late England has not had much comfort with her African possessions.