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## Silence.

Be still: the crown of life is silentness.  
Give thou a quiet hour to each long day.  
Too much of time we spend in profitless  
And foolish talk—too little do we say.

If thou wouldst gather words that shall avail,  
Learning a wisdom worthy to express,  
Leave for a while thy tale, and empty tale—  
Study the golden speech of silentness.

## OVER LAND AND SEA.

The Maelstrom attracts more notice than the quiet fountain; a comet draws more attention than the steady star; but it is better to be the fountain than a maelstrom, the star than a comet, following out the sphere and orbits of quiet usefulness in which God places us.

The English Presbyterian Church, though a small body, has an enviable Foreign Missions record, and it would appear that it keeps abundant wisdom and common sense for home use also. We are led to this remark by noticing that the newly formed Presbytery of Durham met in Sunderland early in July, and initiated a new departure in Presbyterian practice, at least so far as the north of England is concerned. It appears that the Synod, which is the General Assembly of this body, agreed at its last meeting, as a legitimate means of church growth and extension, that in special cases where an unordained man had built up a congregation, the Presbytery should have power to ordain him to that particular charge, with permission to administer sacraments, but without a seat in Church courts. The first case in the Durham Presbytery where this act has applied is that of Mr. Robson, who has wrought with acceptance and success at Willington. The Presbytery has therefore decided to ordain him minister over that particular congregation, his functions beginning and ceasing with that people, he being no eligible to "calls" to other churches.

In reply to the question, "Could not this weekly rest-day be secured without religion?" Dr. Wilbur Crafts, the Financial Secretary of the American Sabbath Union, gave this pertinent and unanswerable reply, "A weekly day of rest has never been permanently secured in any land except as the basis of religion. Take religion out and you take the rest out." Joseph Cook says, "The experience of countries shows that you will in vain endeavor to preserve Sunday as a day of rest unless you preserve it as a day of worship. To make the Sabbath a rest-day by legal enactment is right and should be demanded, but this will not preserve it, and its advantages, unless in practice Christians make it a sacred day."

The Rev. Gilbert Reid has begun a mission in China for the higher classes. He aims to reach the ruling and the educated classes of China, trying to bring them into association with foreigners having kindly intentions. His method is to come into communication with the high class Chinese, enlightening them as to the intentions of missionaries and the worth of their work, so seeking to predispose them favorably to Christianity. He endeavors, further, to bring the rulers into friendly relations with the missionaries

living in their districts. This mission requires great tact and a real Christian courtesy. Mr. Reid has been making and receiving calls, writing Chinese letters, and preparing articles for newspapers in Chinese. He aims also to get the more advanced Chinese officials themselves to prepare documents on moral reform, which Mr. Reid then circulates vigorously. Mr. Reid has already met and conversed with 150 men of rank, and has corresponded with about 350. He has other plans, but all are in the same direction. This is certainly a unique work, and ought to be productive of great good.

The bill for burning the three eminent martyrs of England has turned up in the British museum and is as follows: "Charge for burning the bodies of Cranmer, Latimer, and Ridley: For three loads wood fagots, 12s; item, one load furze fagots, 3s 4d; item, for carriage, 2s 6d; item, a post, 2s 4d; item, two chains, 3s 4d; item, two tables, 6d. item, for laborers, 2s 8d; total £1 6s 8d." Furze fagots came high enough, but it cost more than any mathematician can figure to bind men to the stake. It does not pay to persecute.

*The Idler* is responsible for the following: Mr. Bigelow presented Emperor William with an American canoe; and the Emperor thought it would be a good thing to allow his boys to sail the little craft on the river at Potsdam. But Augusta Victoria did not share his enthusiasm. "I shall never allow my children to sail the canoe," she said, "its too dangerous." Being informed that her husband wished the canoe to be used by his boys, the Empress answered: "He may be Emperor of Germany, but I am Emperor of the nursery."

The most liberal of Roman Catholics hold steadfastly to all the positions that constitute the essence of the Roman system. They maintain that the only true church is the Church of Rome; that there is no genuine Christianity, no true religion but that which Romanism teaches; that the only supreme moral standard is the infallible interpretation of the divine will by the Roman pontiff. That this pontiff can never be the subject of any civil power, but is himself clothed with supreme authority; in a word, that men in every relation, the home, the church and the state, are subject to this vicegerent of God on earth.

The literature of China, says the *London Christian Commonwealth*, was fully developed before England was invaded by the Norman conquerors. The Chinese invented the art of printing five hundred years before Caxton was born, and they made paper A.D., 150. A thousand years ago the forefathers of the present Chinese sold silk to the Romans, and dressed in these fabrics when the inhabitants of the British isles wore coats of blue paint and fished in willow canoes. Before America was discovered China had a canal 1,200 miles long.

The income of the 15,000,000 church members in the United States and Canada is estimated to be \$2,250,000,000 per year. They give \$1.00 out of every \$409 to missions.