

rear corner of the square. They were able, moreover, to meet the attacks with fire, and they were not impeded to the same extent by lagging camels. They would be the last to accept credit which implies undeserved criticism of the left wing of their regiment. It cannot be admitted that the fate of the day depended upon any one portion of the force more than another, and that had it not been for the front and right faces of the square, or, as Lieut. Dawson puts it, the Guards, all would have been lost. All credit to their right good behaviour; but it is not a fact that the whole of the rear face or left face was driven back and only prevented from retreating by the steadfastness of the other forces. The words of the Brigadier in his despatch to the Commander-in-Chief show at all events that he was satisfied. "It has been my duty to command a force from which exceptional work, exceptional hardships and it may even be said, exceptional fighting, have been called. It would be impossible for me adequately to describe the admirable support that has been given to me by every officer and man of the force." It has been asked how it was that the Arabs entered the square. The cause was that it was not closed up when the attack took place. It was not broken, because it was never properly formed. No doubt the masking of the fire from the rear of the square by our skirmishers enabled the enemy to approach comparatively unharmed. The jamming of the rifles was a very serious matter, and added to the difficulties and diminished the volume of fire from all portions of the square; but, on the other hand, it caused the men to use their bayonets, which in a hand-to-hand fight are safer and more effective weapons. It has been hinted that cavalry, fighting on foot, were not suited to the work they were called upon to perform, and again that the Heavy Camel Regiment was wanting in cohesion and *esprit de corps*. No cavalry soldier ever wishes to be separated from his horse except when honoured by being selected for some exceptional service like the advance across the Bayuda Desert. But, having been called upon, their General, at all events, was of opinion that no troops could have done better under the circumstances than those upon whom the shock of the fight fell. Certain it is that no one regiment, either cavalry or infantry, could have supplied an equal number of highly trained, active, strong, efficient men, selected from their regiments for general efficiency and good shooting. As to the *esprit de corps*, which bound together and supported this regiment on many a trying occasion, it was as if it had been the growth of years instead of weeks. Nothing could have exceeded the cordial feelings that existed between each detachment, or the belief and confidence that they had in each other. Cohesion and *esprit de corps* were qualities that existed to a remarkable extent.—Lieut.-Col. Talbot, in the *Nineteenth Century*.

CAPE BRETON MARRIAGES.

Courtship is by no means a necessary preliminary to marriage. To begin at the beginning: When a young man decides that he will marry, he often first builds a house; and it is no trivial matter here, where most of the lumber is sawn by hand in a pit. A man may be said to be in earnest when he begins his suit with months of such hard labour—and that, too, from a disinterested motive, not having the faintest idea, perhaps, as to who will be the mistress of the house. We saw a number of such expectant buildings, in all states and of many ages; for some, failing to get a tenant stood without windows or doors, the image of a desolate and empty heart. John —, a young man duly prepared and determined to marry, had set out the previous week with his spokesman to get a wife. He had no particular preference for any one, but they decided to go first to the house of Mary —, one of the brightest girls of the parish, whom he had often noted, but with whom he had never spoken. When they entered the house, a hint of their object was given to Mary, and she retired from the sitting room. The spokesman then delivered his speech, in which he praised the personal qualities, the fortune, the social position, of his friend, and asked the hand of Mary for him. As the father had no objection to the offer, he at once consented to leave the matter to his daughter. She was called in, and the spokesman conferred quietly a while with her in a corner, and she consented to the marriage. The spokesman then led her out to the middle of the floor, and John came from his corner and took her by the hand; thus the "contract" was accepted, under the usual penalty of forfeiting twenty dollars in case the engagement was broken. The evening was spent in dancing; but if any of the deacons had had wind of the affair, it is probable that they would have come and changed the festivity into a prayer-meeting.

The young man afterward engaged the priest to publish the banns for the first and last time on the following Sabbath. But Mary had her own plans in all this: she knew that the affair would reach the ears of Sandy —, for whom she had a strong preference, and perhaps bring him promptly to a proposal. Sandy did come, and the upshot of it was that he and his father went late on Saturday night, roused the priest, and had Sandy's name substituted in the banns for that of applicant number one.

This new shuffling of the cards was common enough, so that it caused but a passing smile among the friends of the parties most interested. But a certain young man who heard the banns went home in such depression that he asked his father for ten dollars. When questioned he explained that the girl whom he had always intended to marry was to become the bride of Sandy —, and he was going away to the States. "Well, and why don't ye carry her off and marry her yersel', Malcolm? I'll give ye the upper farm this minute. Go, get your brother, see the girl, and bring her home here. We'll keep her safe." Now it happened that Malcolm was the richest of the three applicants, besides being, I will suppose for charity's sake, a good fellow. Suffice it to say that they brought the girl home bag and baggage, by stealth, that Sunday night, and mounted a guard that prevented the success of any stratagem on either her part or the part of others, and they were married on the following Tuesday.

These persons were by no means of the lower ranks: the girl was described to me by an old fisherman as a "noble-minded lookin' girl, sir; a fine specimen of the Highland

craft." A man is all the more highly esteemed for such a feat. The rejected fellow does not lose heart; he generally keeps on with his negotiations, day after day, house after house, until he finds a partner. An intelligent woman, while admitting the general predominance of worldly interests in these matters, and the suddenness with which marriages were very often made, said that unhappy families are nevertheless rare among this people.

The domestic life of the couple even to-day in the most of the peasants' homes will be exceedingly primitive; the woman will do the spinning, weaving and knitting required by the family; and the man will make nearly everything needed in the house and on the farm. A farm and family will require about two hundred dollars' worth of feed, food, and sundries, and this amount represents the average production of the little farms of Cape Breton, together with the fishing that many do at odd times. In the spring, actual want is sometimes felt by many families until fishing begins and the cows give milk once more. But the island is generally free from paupers.—C. H. Farnham, in *Harper's Magazine* for March.

A ROSE OF JERICHO.

' Why do you take my garden rose,
Still fresh and glowing, from the vase,
And give a dry and withered stalk
My favourite's dewy place?"

" Lady," he said, "there came a day
When far across the burning plain
Slow crept, as hour by hour went by,
A winding camel train.

" And none in all that wandering band
Who sought with me the Orient's shrine
Crouched beneath the pilgrim's garb
So sad a heart as mine.

" But while with mournful thoughts I mused,
Light blown, as if from fairy bower,
Came fluttering o'er the yellow sand
To me this magic flower.

" I knew its folded petals hid
The breath and bloom of other days,
And that some happier hour might give
Its beauty to my gaze.

" Through all the paths of Palestine,
And wide across the stormy sea,
My cherished rose of Jericho
I brought to home and thee.

" And now the secret of my soul
I to the wizard rose have told,
And if to-morrow's light shall see
Its dusty scroll unrolled.

" If life and bloom and odour come
Again as from a grave set free,
The rose of Jericho will tell
That secret wish to thee."

The morning beams; the lady steps,
Expectant, to her garden bower;
Behold, the withered stem upholds
A rare, mysterious flower!

A subtle odour steals abroad;
The petal gleam with golden hue:
It is as if the wanderer's heart
Had opened to her view.

A step draws near; there is no need
For words to tell what roses know;
To utter love's own speech has flowered
The rose of Jericho.

—Frances L. Mace, in *Harper's Magazine* for March.

RUSSIAN SADNESS.

What is this quality in the sad tones of Russian writers, as in all Turgeneff's stories, for example, so different from that of any other people? The sadness of the German, in literature, often appears weak, self-indulgent, sentimental; the sadness of the Frenchman is a little too neatly expressed; the sadness of the Englishman or American is oftenest only a dramatic and imagined one, for his own genuine sorrows he is not apt to express, openly and directly. In the Russian mournfulness there lies something heavy, oppressive—terrible in its reality, and in the simple, honest expression of it as if the dark mood were the natural air of the country, that all men breathed, and that no one need be reticent about; as if some weight of national wrong and hopelessness were added to all individual sorrow, so as to make it the common experience, and even the common bond. Turgeneff seems to me one of the greatest figures of our time, and in all ways the most mournful figure. A friend of mine, while on his travels, wrote me some years ago from Paris: "The biggest thing I have seen abroad is Mont Blanc, but the greatest is Turgeneff." Then he referred to the sober existence of the man, and how he spoke pathetically of his own perennial interest in birds and beasts, and affirmed that except for this he did not know how he could get on with human life at all.—*February Atlantic*.

ARCHBISHOP PLUNKET, speaking at Dublin about a contemplated bazaar, confessed that he did not like bazaars, and expressed the opinion that by and by their multiplicity would lead to their extinction. Before that time arrived, however, they must make the most of the interval at the bazaar about to be held on behalf of the training college. He believed a bazaar in this case was a necessary evil.

British and Foreign.

In addition to mission halls there are now over five hundred places in London where the Gospel is preached in the open air on Sunday.

THE newly-elected mayors of Dunedin and Wellington, New Zealand, are abstainers, and both owe their election to the temperance vote.

THE income of Regent Square Church, London, for the past year reached \$23,080. Its total contributions since 1880 amount to \$177,245.

THE Dingwall Free Church Presbytery have adopted an overture by nine to two in favour of reconstruction on the basis of State connection.

KIRKLISTON Congregation, of which Dr. James Chalmers Burns, ex-Moderator of Assembly, is the honoured minister, has raised \$110,775 since the Disruption.

SINCE the induction of Rev. James Paton, B.A., four years ago, 703 new communicants have joined St. Paul's Church, Glasgow, and the number at present on the roll is 657.

OF the seventy students at present in the High School of Marsovan, Asia Minor, supported by the American Mission Board, twenty are preparing for the Christian ministry.

THE Rev. W. L. Walker, of Great Hamilton Street Church, Glasgow, the pastorate of which he has held for five years, has announced his secession to the Unitarian form of theological belief.

THE death-roll of the Society of Friends for the past year is 317 for the United Kingdom. The proportion of deaths of very young children is much below that of the average of the general population.

IN Miss Weston's five sailors' rests there were taken over the counter last year \$62,995, while 65,000 sleepers were accommodated, not counting the thousands who sought shelter for the night.

THE Rev. Dr. Culross, president of Bristol College, has accepted the post of vice-president of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland for 1886-7, and will succeed to the chair the following year.

DR. B. W. RICHARDSON says the country will never be civilized until it has got rid of four burdens—the hospital, the gaol, the asylum and the poorhouse; and this could only be done through teetotalism.

THE English Church Missionary Society are holding one hundred simultaneous meetings, in as many cities and towns of England, for the purpose of setting forth the claims of the heathen and Mohammedan world.

UPWARD of \$650 has been subscribed by the parishioners of Kirknewton and others for a memorial to the late Dr. H. W. Smith. A tablet is to be placed in the burying-ground and two memorial windows in the church.

DR. JAMES MARTINEAU, who last year, at the age of eighty, resigned the principalship of Manchester New College, London, has just been appointed president. The college will celebrate its centenary this year.

AT Rosneath, on the Clyde, there is an echo which repeats an air of music three times. But there is one at Woodstock, near Oxford, which repeats seventeen times by day and twenty by night; the distance is half-a-mile.

THE Rev. J. G. Train, of Buckhaven, a native of Glasgow, has been unanimously called by the Anderson congregation to succeed Dr. Logan Aikman. Mr. Train is also under call to the pulpit at Hull vacant by Dr. Mackay's death.

ST. BERNARD'S Congregation, Edinburgh, have not succeeded in filling their vacant pulpit within the statutory six months; but the Presbytery, which has now the right of appointment, has agreed, at the request of the session, to give them a little more time.

AT a conference at Sheffield of the National Temperance Federation for Yorkshire, Derby, and Notts, it was resolved almost unanimously that no alteration in the law relating to licenses would be satisfactory if it did not contain a provision for the direct veto of the people.

TAKING advantage of the presence of a number of missionaries and other gentlemen from abroad, the Edinburgh Presbytery have had a most successful series of meetings to afford an opportunity to the Sabbath Schools of hearing the story of the peoples among whom these brethren labour.

LORD FRASER has repelled the defender's plea of no jurisdiction in the action raised by Mr. Hastie against Mr. Octavius Steel for \$25,000 for alleged slander, and has ordered issues for the trial of the case to be lodged. Lord Fraser has since granted Mr. Steel leave to reclaim against this judgment.

FROM Mr. Brown's lately-published biography of John Bunyan we learn that the glorious dreamer was a poor man when he died. His grandfather had left him by will only the sum of £100, and his father the sum of one shilling. At the administration of his goods, his own property was valued at about \$215.

SNOWBALLING Salvationists is a novel amusement, originated at Dalry, Scotland. One night the officers had just begun to address an open-air meeting at the cross in that Ayrshire town when a shower of snowballs came from all directions, and finding it impossible to resist the enemy the Salvationists prudently retreated to their hall.

THE revival at the west end of Glasgow originated at addresses in Kelvin-side by Mr. George Clarke, of London. Mr. Campbell White, of Overtown, and Mr. W. A. Campbell, of the well known mercantile firm in Glasgow, have also taken a leading part in the work. At the close of one meeting 127 young ladies and gentlemen stood up to profess their desire to be on the Lord's side.

THE weekly prayer meeting of the employes in the Edinburgh post office has been largely blessed during the past year, and the annual social gathering, held lately in the large hall of the Y.M.C.A., which was completely filled, was the most successful of any that has yet taken place. Mr. John Gifford presided, and inspiring addresses were delivered by Rev. John Smith, M.A., and Dr. Wolston.