

was evidently hurt sorely hurt, notwithstanding the lawyer's disclaimer; and was therefore not disposed to receive very favourably any explanation which might be offered. The minister simply said:

"Do so, Mr. Craig. I always had the hope this little knot might be untied."

"Well," said the lawyer, with the formality of court language, "the whole thing seems to be this: I have lately come to know that Archibald Graham and my niece (I am speaking in confidence) are engaged to be married. In token thereof the young man, when at Monte Carlo, sent a ring to Carrie through Roderick McKay. This is the acknowledgment the student received, but it happens to be so peculiarly, I might say remarkably, worded, that the ring might seem to have been a loving gift from Mr. McKay himself. I must ask your friend here for a present of this letter; it is quite a curiosity in its way—a sort of utterance of the Delphic oracle, in the double construction one can put upon it. I don't wonder you were deceived, Miss Morrison. I hope you understand matters now."

"What you say certainly throws new light on the matter," said Miss Morrison stilly. Then her more generous feelings rose to the surface, and she said:

"If I have done you any injustice, McKay, I am very, very sorry. My brain is not clear yet. Perhaps I shall see it all by and by."

Miss Morrison was still agitated and ill at ease, so she left the gentlemen to themselves, shaking McKay warmly by the hand as she retired from the room. No further reference was made to the misunderstanding, which had been so entirely and happily removed, at least from all minds but one; and in a short time Mr. Craig and the student took their departure.

(To be continued.)

SALISBURY CLOSE.

Salisbury Cathedral was my first love among all the wonderful ecclesiastical buildings which I saw during my earlier journey. I looked forward to seeing it again with anticipations of pleasure, which were more than realized.

Our travelling host had taken a whole house in the Close, —a privileged enclosure, containing the cathedral, the bishop's palace, houses of the clergy; and a limited number of private residences, one of the very best of which was given over entirely into the hands of our party during our visit. The house was about as near the cathedral as Mr. Flower's house, where we stayed at Stratford-on-Avon, was to the Church of the Holy Trinity. It was very completely furnished, and in the room assigned to me as my library I found books in various languages, showing that the residence was that of a scholarly person.

If one had to name the apple of the eye of England, I think he would be likely to say that Salisbury Cathedral was as near as he could come to it, and that the white of the eye was Salisbury Close. The cathedral is surrounded by a high wall, the gates of which—its eyelids—are closed every night at a seasonable hour, at which the virtuous inhabitants are expected to be in their safe and sacred quarters. Houses within this hallowed precinct naturally bring a higher rent than those of the unsanctified and unprotected region outside of its walls. It is a realm of peace, glorified by the divine edifice, which lifts the least imaginative soul upward to the heavens its spire seems trying to reach; beautified by rows of noble elms which stretch high aloft, as if in emulation of the spire; beautified by the holy memories of the good and great men who have worn their lives out in the service of the Church of which it is one of the noblest temples.—*Oliver Wendell Holmes, in June Atlantic.*

THE GROWTH OF CORPORATIONS.

The question arises, What are the causes which have led to such momentous changes in the organization of industry during the past fifty years? The answer is not difficult. Owing to discoveries and inventions, especially the application of steam to industry and transportation, it became necessary to prosecute enterprises of great magnitude, such as could not be compassed by the resources of an individual or a combination of individuals in the ordinary copartnership. This applies especially to the means of communication and transportation. To provide these instruments of economic life has been generally regarded as one of the functions of Government, municipal, State and Federal. There were two alternatives. This might be done either directly, or the duty might be transferred to private corporations. There was in either case the same problem to solve, namely, the management of enterprises of unparalleled magnitude by delegated action. In one case managers would be chosen by the citizens to promote the welfare of the community. The electors would have the prosperity of their business interests more or less at stake, and would in so far have a motive to induce them either themselves to select good men to manage such important undertakings, or to see that their elected agents appointed such men, as the case might be. The managers themselves would as citizens be interested in the success of the enterprises entrusted to them. On the other hand, there would be the danger of an abuse of public trust. In the case of the adoption of the corporate principle, the stockholders, in so far as their interests are not merely speculative, must desire to elect directors who will so manage their property that it will yield large dividends, while the directors, themselves stockholders, wish a return on their investment. In the other hand, as has already been pointed out, the interest of the directors is often not identical with that of the property which they manage, and they are, as experience demonstrates, oftener faithless to their trust than public servants, while the opportunities for their exposure and punishment are less favourable. They may wish to injure the undertaking in which they exercise control in order to buy shares at a lower price than they are really worth, or they may desire to sacrifice its future to the present for the sake of high dividends, so that the price of stock may rise unduly, thus enabling them to "unload" with a profit on a too credu-

lous public. Again, directors may find it to their advantage to neglect their interests as stockholders in a corporation in order to promote their interests as individuals or members of a firm engaged in some other enterprise. An example is seen in railway directors who give themselves special freight rates.

Then our States had tried some experiments in internal improvements, including railway construction, and had encountered, very naturally, grave difficulties. So in the enthusiasm for *laissez faire*, which it was held was certain to usher in an era of peace and wealth, we abandoned the attempt to perform many public functions which corporations were only too anxious to assume.

Thus did we transfer to corporations our railways, and in general all the chief means of communication and transportation, save the post office, upon which the covetous eyes of promoters have been fastened, happily in vain. Even our municipal water works were occasionally handed over to corporations, gas supply was, as a rule, entrusted to them, and street-car lines without an exception. —*Dr. Richard L. Ely, in Harper's Magazine for June.*

WAIT A BIT.

When Johnny came a-courting,
I thought him overbold,
For I was but a young thing,
And he no' very old.
And though I liked him well enough,
I sent him on his way,
With, "Wait a bit, bide a bit,
Wait a week and a day!"

When Johnny passed me in the lane,
And pleaded for a kiss,
And vowed he'd love me evermore
For granting of the bliss;
Although I'd like it over well,
I ran from him away,
With, "Wait a bit, bide a bit,
Wait a week and a day!"

When Johnny fell a-ranting,
With, "Jenny, be my wife?"
And vowed I never should regret,
However long my life;
Although I liked it best o' all,
I turned from him away,
With, "Wait a bit, bide a bit,
Wait a week and a day!"

Oh, Johnny was a ninny,
He took me at my word!
And he was courting another,
The next thing that I heard.
Oh, what a ninny was Johnny,
To mind me when I'd say,
"Wait a bit, bide a bit,
Wait a week and a day!"

Heigh-ho, I've met my Johnny,
I gin him a blink o' my eye,
And then he fell a-raving,
For want o' my love he'd die!
I ne'er could be so cruel,
So I set the wedding-day,
With "Haste a bit, nor waste a bit,
There's danger in delay!"

—*Jennie E. T. Dove, in the Century.*

HARSH JUDGES.

I was taken frequently when a boy into the different criminal courts of the metropolis, and while there still exist great anomalies and many serious imperfections, there can be no doubt that the machinery is much improved since those days. Among the changes is that in cases of felony, involving as they did then in many, I might say most of them, the penalty of death, counsel were not permitted to address the jury, and a theory was in many quarters triumphantly enunciated that the judge was the prisoner's counsel. Such fact was scarcely discoverable by an unscientific observer, and the demeanour of some judges certainly produced a different impression. Baron Gurney, whom I remember well, exhibited great harshness of manner and considerable impatience, but this probably arose from his own rapidity of perception, and certainly not from any innate cruelty of mind. He extended much kindly hospitality to the junior members of the Bar, and he is the last of the old gentlemen that I remember who, in his own house, received his guests in knee breeches and silk stockings.—*Sergeant Ballantyne, in Temple Bar.*

THE BURNING OF CHAMBERSBURGH.

It would be impossible for me to relate all of the remarkable incidents which occurred among our friends and neighbours. A feeble old lady, living opposite our house, was seated in her arm chair when a soldier entered and set fire to a work basket near her. It was extinguished by her grandson and again kindled. She must have perished in the flames but for the timely arrival of her son, whose own beautiful home was burning. He carried her out, and, placing her in a carriage, got into the shafts and drew it out of town. Another aged couple were detained by the soldiers in their house until too late to escape by the street, and they were forced to sit in the rear yard until the surrounding buildings were consumed. A minister, intent on saving his barrel of sermons, hearing of an invalid lady next door, who was alone, abandoned his precious load to the flames and just had time to rescue her. I've always considered that act of self-denial as good a sermon as any lost in the barrel.—*Emma C. Cooke, in the American Magazine.*

British and Foreign.

DR. BEVAN has the largest congregations of any preacher in Melbourne.

PRINCIPAL CUNNINGHAM has intimated that he will resign his office as minister of Crieff.

DR. STORY has now resigned the parish of Rosneath, in consequence of his professional appointment.

THE Fleming Stevenson Memorial Fund has reached \$5,000, and subscriptions are still coming in.

THE English Presbyterian Synod is to meet next year in Westmoreland Road Church, Newcas-le-on-Tyne.

DR. BLACKIE, of Glasgow, laid the memorial stone of the new church, which is being built at a cost of \$11,500, at Galston.

DR. BRUCE, of Huddersfield, after a second ballot, was elected chairman of the Congregational Union of England and Wales.

AN overture has been sent from Arbroath Free Presbytery to the Assembly in favour of the Church insuring its own buildings.

MR. JOHN SERVICE, postmaster, Kilwinning, who has died in his seventy-sixth year, was an elder for forty years and session clerk for over thirty-five.

THE overture of Mr. Barry, of Lochmaben, that the Confession of Faith or the subscription to it be modified, did not find a seconder in Lockerbie Free Presbytery.

ON the island of Ngan, one of the Fiji group, which has a population of 2,000 no fewer than 700 are pledged to teetotalism, 400 of whom abstain from tobacco also.

DR. SMITH, of Cathcart, the venerable clerk of Glasgow Presbytery, has agreed at their request to reconsider his application for the appointment of an assistant clerk.

THE eighty-eighth anniversary services of Hutchesontown U. P. Church, Glasgow, were conducted by Revs. G. L. Carstairs, J. L. Skerret, and W. H. M'Farlane, Keith.

MR. STEWART GRAY, of Kinfauns, laid the foundation stone of the new Free Church in Lossiemouth, which is to cost \$10,000. The old building was burned down in October.

DR. BREDENKAMP, the successor at Greifswald of Wellhausen, suffered seriously from mental aberration, but is now lecturing again, and has just published a commentary on Isaiah.

MR. RALPH ERSKINE SCOTT, C.A., who was connected with St. Stephen's Church, Edinburgh, from the time it was built, and an elder for many years, has died in his eighty-third year.

BISHOP PARKER, writing from Freetown, Africa, declares that the state of spiritual darkness and degradation of the people there is more pitiful than anything he ever met with in India.

THE London council of the Guild has now been constituted and its members believe that their best work meantime will be to endeavour to retain in the Church young Scotsmen going to the metropolis.

THE centenary of Portsburgh U. P. congregation, Edinburgh, was celebrated lately in Lauriston Place Church. The services were conducted by Principal Cairns, Dr. Joseph Brown, of Glasgow, and the pastor, Dr. Robert Whyte.

MR. R. STEWART WRIGHT has been ordained in Augustine Church, Edinburgh, as a missionary to Lake Tanganyika, Central Africa. Mr. James S. Mack, S.S.C., presented Mr. Wright with a medicine chest and other useful articles.

A MAN that lived up in a tree near Freetown, Africa, had a copy of Luke's Gospel. The people gathered round him to hear it read, with the result that several were converted and learned to read, and have now built for themselves a little church.

MARKED success has attended the church at Fortwilliam, Belfast, during the past year. The income exceeded \$14,000, and all the varied missions and other agencies have been efficiently maintained. There is still a debt of \$15,000, but a large proportion of this will soon be cleared off.

THE tyranny of Mr. Baker, at Tonga, is likely to be terminated very soon. His policy is justly condemned, not only by the missionaries, but by outsiders. Men of war of different nationalities have gone to Tonga, and it is expected that justice will now be done.

MR. WILSON, a divinity student, at the U. P. Synod's temperance breakfast stated that ninety-eight out of 102 studying for the ministry of the Church are total abstainers. Rev. A. Oliver, B.A., Glasgow, declared that young ministers are not on a safe basis unless they stand resolutely on the total abstinence platform.

AN application to sell Roxburgh Free Church, Edinburgh, and apply the proceeds to the cost of improvements on M'rie Church, in which the joint congregation now worships, gave rise to a conversation in the Presbytery, in the course of which Mr. Keay humorously expressed the hope that Mr. M'Nest would see that the church was not sold for a public house.

THERE are seventeen agencies in active operation in the Robertson Mission Church, Grassmarket, Edinburgh, occupying every evening of the week except Wednesday. This Church's week is a long one, beginning with a Bible reading on Sunday, at half-past ten a.m., and closing with a temperance gathering on Saturday, which concludes at fifteen minutes past ten p.m.

MRS. CARSLAW, widow of the late Rev. John Carslaw, of Airdrie, and mother of Rev. W. Henderson Carslaw, of Helensburgh, died at her residence in the latter town, in her ninetieth year. She was a sister of the late well-known Glasgow philanthropist, Mr. John Henderson of Park, who is most widely remembered as the giver of a liberal set of prizes for the best essays on the Sabbath.