

The Coming Minister.

A pastor wanted—one to please the people:  
Our church, expensive and designed with skill—  
Embellished with a mortgage and a Gothic  
steeples—  
Has pulpits, pews, and treasury to fill.  
A modern Sampson, kept in strength by practice,  
A mental giant, so to speak—we ask,  
Who shall our burdens lighten, for the fact is,  
To lift a mortgage is no weak man's task.

A man to "draw"—an artist (e), plainer speaking—  
Who frames with skill his soft-toned modern  
views,  
To please the tastes of those who pleasure seeking  
Rest for a little in our cushioned pews.  
A hotman hunt in style; not burly like Turner;  
With flame-tinted tints and daubs of colors gar-  
ish,  
No dazzling lights—a softly shaded burner  
Best suits the sense of our aesthetic parish.

No lack of chains, no brimstone fumes for sinners,  
No rugged pathway over hills uneven,  
No weary race where but the few are winners.  
The road is easier, now-a-days, to heaven,  
For from a depot planned by modern science  
We take our palace or our sleeping-cars  
To paradise direct—in calm, supreme defiance  
Of old time stages (with their jolts and jars).

Such must our pastor be—and such in brief, his  
preaching:  
Well read in Hegel, Figuer, Renan and Strauss,  
He cannot fail to please, and if his teaching—  
A hint of Brahmin or of Buddha shows,  
That's better still—men will not weary of it,  
For doctrines new, whether of priest or sage—  
Are indications of a coming Profit—  
Foretelling for our church a golden age.

—Frank H. Converse.

Comfort for Small People.

Not long before his death, Canon Kings-  
ley drew attention to the surprising num-  
ber of small young men to be seen in a Lon-  
don crowd. According to him it was a  
sign of the deterioration of the race. But  
there are two ways of looking at everything,  
and for the comfort and satisfaction of  
small people, we would point out that it  
might also be taken as an indication of in-  
tellectual progress. Many—we might also  
say most—of the great men of history have  
been of short stature. Canute the Great,  
for example, was a singularly small man;  
Napoleon, too, was little; Nelson had no  
height to boast of; and the great Conde  
was short enough. Hildebrand—Gregory  
the Seventh—the mightiest of all the  
Popes, was also quite a diminutive person.  
Then amongst men of letters, poets, and  
philosophers, Montaigne, the essayist, was  
little; so was Pope—a little crooked  
thing that asks questions; so was Dryden;  
so was Dr. Watts, who insisted, as we all  
know, on the mind being the stature of the  
man; and so was Scarron, who, alluding at  
once to his ill health and his little size,  
called himself an "abridgement of human  
miseries."—*Cassell's Magazine.*

The Cost of a Religious Paper.

It may be a startling statement, and yet  
it is true, that of all the religious papers in  
the land, not one out of three pays its ac-  
tual expenses. Let no reader skip the rest  
of this article in the belief that it is a com-  
plaint. We have no cause for complaint.  
Our paper has a good list of paying sub-  
scribers, and by careful management is  
profitable to us. The statement is made  
after careful study of the latest advertiser's  
guide, and particularly of the column in  
which are found the number of subscribers  
claimed by each paper. We know the cost  
of editing, and of office work, and of com-  
position, press work, paper, postage, etc.,  
and that not more than one out of three  
religious newspapers can pay for all these  
out of their advertising, and what they re-  
ceive from the number of subscribers cred-  
ited to them. There are many papers do-  
ing good work for the denominations in  
which they circulate, which are, and have  
been since their first number, run at a loss.  
The editors are the owners. Their capital  
is invested and they give their time. In  
addition they make up whatever deficiency  
there may be. Becoming financially ex-  
hausted they sell out, and some one else  
holds the breach until, too, is exhausted.  
Among the larger and more prosperous  
weeklies, scarcely one but has cost more  
than it is to-day worth as a business mat-  
ter. Some were started on a paid up cap-  
ital which has been exhausted. Others  
would have cost, had they paid reasonable  
salaries from the start to editors and  
others, five dollars each for every subscri-  
ber on their lists. Dr. W. W. Patton, for-  
merly editor of the *Advance* recently stated  
that a religious paper needs "a large cap-  
ital, from \$75,000 to \$100,000 to start with.  
The *Independent* did not pay its way for  
many years. It was so with the *Union*,  
the *Advance*, the *Interior*, and other first-  
class papers. The expenses of such a pa-  
per are fearful, as is shown by the vast  
sums sunk in such enterprises." Comment-  
ing on this the *Banner* says: "In no  
other business have more signal failures  
been made. Not a single enterprise of this  
kind started within the last ten years has  
been a success." We have witnessed the  
birth, decline and death of a number of  
such enterprises, and have from time to  
time been called on for advice regarding  
them. Such calls bring to mind the reply  
of a great journalist, who was invited into  
a grand movement for the establishment of  
a daily journal in a large city. His reply  
was the question, "Have you a million dol-  
lars?" To start and operate successfully,  
a weekly need not require a million, but  
will require one-seventh of that sum, with  
the chances very strong that in half a  
dozen years the money will be gone, and  
the paper not fully established. We believe  
church papers should be liberally patron-  
ized. We speak not for our paper only,  
but for other church papers, and for the  
papers of other denominations, all of which,  
as a rule, give more than their prices in  
reading matter. Where it can be afforded,  
there is no loss in having on the family  
table two or half a dozen different pub-  
lications.—*Herald and Presbyter.*

A certain writer has said:—"A true  
Christian living in the world is like a ship  
sailing on the ocean. It is not the ship  
being in the water which will sink it, but  
the water getting into the ship." So the  
world, with its love of pleasure getting into  
the hearts of Christians, has ruined its  
millions.

In the Antarctic Seas.

Steering boldly but cautiously through  
huge masses of ice, and experiencing at-  
tendant fog and sunshine, Sir James Ross,  
with the ships *Erebus* and *Terror* under  
his direction, at length espied real land, in  
the shape of two magnificent ice-capped  
mountains, each exceeding seven thousand  
feet in height, with glaciers filling the in-  
tervening valleys. On dry land near these  
mountains, after many struggles, Sir  
James Ross had the pleasure of hoisting  
the British flag, at a distance of about  
thirteen hundred miles from the South  
Pole, and eighteen hundred due south of  
New Zealand. Victoria Land was a pro-  
per name to give to the newly-discovered  
region. Farther inland other magnificent  
ice-covered mountains could be seen, soar-  
ing to a height of twelve or fourteen thou-  
sand feet, far exceeding anything known to  
exist in the Arctic regions. When, some  
days after this, the ships reached nearly  
the seventy-sixth degree of South latitude,  
Ross felt pretty certain that no human be-  
ing had ever before been so near the  
South Pole (then just a thousand miles  
distant), and there was great rejoicing on  
both ships. One incident about this  
period may be noticed as showing the sin-  
gular turn of events which an ice laden ocean  
is exposed. Ross suddenly noticed an is-  
land where none had been visible two or  
three hours before; it was about a hundred  
feet high, and for the most part free from  
snow. It was at the same time remarked  
that a large iceberg, which had been dis-  
tinctly seen, had apparently disappeared.  
The one phenomenon helped to explain the  
other—the iceberg had turned completely  
over, and presented a new surface covered  
with earth and stones. So exactly was it  
like an island that it was only on landing  
on it that the truth was ascertained, cor-  
roborated by a rolling motion which the  
iceberg underwent for some time. How  
easily may small islands appear and dis-  
appear on Arctic and Antarctic maps if in-  
ferences are too hastily drawn!

Wonderful it was to see a raging volcano  
in such a region. A long stretch of land  
was seen to be marked by two magnificent  
mountains; one of which, an active volca-  
no, 12,000 feet high, received the name of  
*Erebus*; while the other, an extinct volca-  
no of somewhat less height, was named  
after the companion ship *Terror*. An un-  
mistakable volcano was *Erebus*. On one  
particular afternoon, "Mount *Erebus*"  
was observed to emit smoke and flame in  
unusual quantities, producing a most grand  
spectacle. A volume of dense smoke was  
projected at each successive jet, with great  
force, in a vertical column, to a height of  
between 1,500 and 2,000 feet above the  
mouth of the crater; when, condensing  
first at its upper part, it descended in mist  
or snow and gradually dispersed, to be  
succeeded by another splendid exhibition  
of the same kind about half an hour after-  
wards, although the intervals between the  
eruptions were by no means regular. The  
diameter of the columns of smoke was be-  
tween 200 and 300 feet, as near as we  
could measure it. Whenever the smoke  
cleared away, a bright red flame that filled  
the mouth of the crater was clearly per-  
ceptible; and some of the officers believed  
they could see streams of lava pouring  
down its sides until lost beneath the snow,  
which descended from a few hundred feet  
below the crater, and projected its perpen-  
dicular icy cliff several miles into the  
ocean." Such a magnificent combination  
of volcanic fire and endless ice probably  
never before met human eye, for Mount  
Hecla in Iceland must be far inferior to it.

How about the approach to the South  
Pole? When the two mighty mountains  
had been discovered, all on board the two  
ships hoped that the icy obstacles to fur-  
ther progress were such as they could sur-  
mount by skill, labor and perseverance.  
This hope was not destined to be realized.  
In front of the mainland, to which the  
mountains belonged, could be seen, as the  
ships approached, a white line marking a  
perpendicular cliff of ice, averaging two  
hundred feet above the sea, perfectly flat,  
level at the top, and presenting no fissures  
whatever. This was a great disappoint-  
ment, for the icy barriers directly faced  
them on the south, and there was no pos-  
sibility either of penetrating through it or  
of climbing up upon it. Distant moun-  
tains could be seen over and beyond the  
barrier, apparently as far south as the  
seventy-ninth degree of south latitude,  
less than seven hundred nautical miles  
from the Pole; it was tantalizing, but had  
to be borne, for nothing but a balloon  
could have surmounted the barrier. The  
ships turned their bows eastward, follow-  
ing the line of this gigantic ice wall, and  
watching for an opening in it. Fully a  
hundred miles were thus traversed, but  
without finding gap or chasm. As there  
was a depth of nearly two thousand feet of  
water where the ships coasted along,  
Ross inferred that the great icy barrier  
was formed upon a ledge of rock, and that  
its outer edge was not resting on the  
ground.—*All the Year Round.*

What the Sea Tells Us.

We must then, regard the salts of the  
sea as in the main dissolved from the solid  
crust during that remote period when the  
seas were young. The seas thus indicate  
to us the nature of those vast chemical  
processes through which the earth had to  
pass in the earlier stages of its history. If  
the present crust of the earth did not af-  
ford, as it does, the clearest evidence of a  
time when the earth's whole frame glowed  
with intense heat; if we could not, as we  
do, derive from the movements of the cel-  
estial bodies, as well as from the telescopic  
appearance of some among them, the most  
certain assurance that all the planets, nay,  
the whole of the solar system itself, were  
once in the state of glowing vapor; the  
ocean brine—the mighty residuum left  
after the earth had passed through its bat-  
tism of liquid fire, would leave us in little  
doubt respecting the main features at least  
of the earth's past history. The seas could  
never have attained their present condition  
had not the earth which they encompassed  
when they were young been then an orb of  
fire. Every wave that pours in upon the  
shore speaks to us of so remote a past that  
all ordinary time-measures fail us in the  
attempt to indicate the length of the vast

intervals separating us from it. The salt-  
ness of the ocean is no minor feature or  
mere detail of our globe's economy, but  
has a significance truly cosmical in its im-  
portance. Tremendous indeed must have  
been the activity of these primeval pro-  
cesses, fierce the heat of these primeval  
fires, under whose action sixty thousand  
millions of millions of tons of salt were ex-  
tracted from the earth's substance and  
added to its envelope.—*From "When the  
Sea was Young," in the Cornhill Maga-  
zine.*

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Church shall have prompt and careful attention;  
and the legislation likely to come before next  
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bearing on the future of Presbyterianism in the  
Dominion duly examined.

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elders, and people generally to aid in extending  
the circulation of the PRESBYTERIAN. Much has  
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tively easy matter. Friends, help us in this par-  
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will be so long as the justice and propriety of mak-  
ing room—among the numerous papers usually  
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he has been exposed to all kinds of weather, and  
going to school and on the farm, and he has not  
had a fit nor a symptom of one since he com-  
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school, and is now in the army. I feel  
that you are not only a good doctor, but a good  
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