

"I think so."  
 "Our minister inveighs against ambition, as if it were one of the deadly sins."  
 "He means the ambition that is all for self. That is as wrong and contemptible as the beauty that is miserable without a looking-glass. An ardent desire to obtain my Divine Master's approval, and to be worthy of it—to be successful in serving a noble cause—cannot be wrong."

She looked at his earnest face and eyes, that seemed to glow with hidden fire, almost wistfully; and said with a tinge of sadness:

"You will feel very differently, I fear, twenty years hence. Enthusiasm is a rare thing in the city, and I imagine it is soon quenched everywhere."

"So it is; it needs constant rekindling."  
 Just then Mrs. Marchmont and Mr. Dimmerly appeared, and soon after they all sat down to a late breakfast.

(To be continued.)

#### SISTERHOODS.

Under this title there have been gradually springing up in some quarters in this country and England organizations or institutions for the practical separation of women from the proper relationships and duties and responsibilities of life. In their spirit and tendency, however, we believe that fair and pleasant as their name may be, they are but a revival of the repulsive and injurious system of nunneries and convents in the Church of Rome, and in numerous instances already have had numbers go from them into that church with all its corruptions and abominations.

Recently, some plain truths in regard to them were brought out in the Congress that was held of the Church of England ministers. Among others who spoke when this subject was under discussion at one of the sittings of the Congress, Rev. G. W. Weldon took strong ground in condemnation of the whole movement. "The severance," said he, "which they make of young women from the sympathies of nature and from domestic life, has not the slightest countenance in the Word of God. There is not a hint there of any warrant or counterpart for them. On the contrary, Paul says: 'I will, therefore, that the younger women marry.' In no case did he believe that vows of celibacy, which these sisterhoods directly or indirectly impose, should be taken by women under at least sixty years of age." As to the Romanizing spirit and tendency of the whole movement, he mentioned two cases in which entire sisterhoods, that were organized in professedly Protestant churches, have already gone over to the Church of Rome.

Why should such organizations be encouraged in this country? What other good may any truly Christian woman aspire to do or even desire than that in the sphere of life which Divine Providence clearly assigns her in the home that life opens up for her? And who can doubt that, as in all the past, so it will be with human nature while it continues, as it is, the tendency of all such isolation or fettered and unnatural association will be to the corruptions and the scenes which, as in ages gone by, it should be a shame to mention?

#### MOSES' LAST LOOK.

The end was at last come. It might still have seemed that a triumphant end was in store for the aged prophet. His eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated. He had led his people to victory against the Amorite kings, he might still be expected to lead them over into the land of Canaan. But so it was not to be. From the desert plains of Moab he went up to the same lofty range whence Balaam had looked over the same prospect. The same, but seen with eyes how different! The view of Balaam has been long forgotten; but the view of Moses has become the proverbial view of all time. It was the peak dedicated to Nebo on which he stood. He lifted up his eyes westward, and northward, and southward, and eastward. Beneath him lay the tents of Israel ready for the march; and over against them, distinctly visible in its grove of palm trees, the stately Jericho, key of the Land of Promise. Beyond was spread out the whole range of the mountains of Palestine, in its four-fold masses; all Gilead, with Hermon and Lebanon in the east and north; the hills of Galilee, overhanging the lake of Genesareth; the wide opening where lay the plain of Esdracron, the future battle-field of the nations; the rounded summits of Ebal and Gerizim; immediately in front of him the hills of Judaea, and amidst them, seen distinctly through the rents in their rocky walls, Bethlehem on its narrow ridge, and the invincible fortress of Jebus. To him, so far as we know, the charm of that view lay in the assurance that this was the land promised to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, and to their seed, the inheritance—with all its varied features of rock and pasture, and forest and desert—for the sake of which he had borne so many years of toil and danger, in the midst of which the fortunes of his people would be unfolded worthily of that great beginning. To us, as we place ourselves by his side, the view swells into colossal proportions, as we think how the proud city of palm-trees is to fall before the host of Israel; how the spear of Joshua is to be planted on height after height of those hostile mountains. All this he saw. He saw it with his eyes, but he was not to go over thither. It was his last view.—Dean Stanley in *Lectures on the Jewish Church*.

#### A RELIABLE LIFE INSURANCE POLICY.

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MR. GEORGE MÜLLER, of Bristol, Eng., proposes to revisit this continent for Christian work next year.

#### DIES IRÆ.

[The following admirable translation of this famous Latin poem is by St. J. Watson, Esq., Librarian to the Parliament of Ontario. To produce a close English translation of the "Dies Iræ," in the same measure as the original, has always been regarded as next to impossible.]

I.  
 Day of Wrath. O Day of Blaming  
 In red ashes Earth fades flaming:  
 David's, Sibyl's truth proclaiming.

II.  
 O dread time of heart-quake looming,  
 When the Judge shall come in glooming.  
 Unto all to deal stern dooming.

III.  
 Trumpet hailing sound of wonder  
 Through the tombs, the whole world under,  
 Drives all 'fore the Throne with thunder.

IV.  
 Death shall swoon and Nature sicken,  
 When, from dust, mankind shall quicken,  
 God to answer, conscience-stricken.

V.  
 Lo the fault-filled Book extended!  
 In which all is comprehended,  
 By which Earth is judged and ended.

VI.  
 Therefore, when the Judge shall seat Him,  
 Whatso hides shall spring to greet Him:  
 Nothing unavenged shall meet Him!

VII.  
 What my plea in tribulation?  
 What friend call in mediation?  
 When the Just scarce grasp salvation.

VIII.  
 King robed in glory dread to see,  
 Who savest whom Thou savest, free:  
 O Fount of Pity save Thou me!

IX.  
 Loving Jesus keep before Thee  
 That, for me, Thy mother bore Thee:  
 In that Day lose not: restore me.

X.  
 Me Thou sought'st, though faint to dying,  
 Bought'st with throes of crucifying:  
 Are not such pangs satisfying?

XI.  
 O just Judge who vengeance taketh:  
 Ere that Day of Doom awaketh,  
 Show that love Thine anger slaketh.

XII.  
 Great my crime, I groan confessing,  
 Burns my face for my transgressing:  
 Spare me, God, for pardon pressing.

XIII.  
 Thou who Mary hast forgiven,  
 Who the thief hast heard and shriven,  
 Didst give me, too, hope of heaven.

XIV.  
 Prayers of mine are worth but spurning;  
 Yet, Thou, good for ill returning,  
 Pluck me from eternal burning.

XV.  
 'Mongst the sheep a place prepare me,  
 From the goats in mercy bear me,  
 At Thy right hand set and spare me.

XVI.  
 Whilst the wicked, from Thee driven,  
 To tormenting flames are given,  
 Call me, with Thy saints, in heaven.

XVII.  
 I do pray, beseeching, bending,  
 Broken heart with ashes blending:  
 Let Thy love enfold my ending.

#### JUST PUBLISHED—SENT FREE.

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He who thinks he has nothing to fear from temptation is most exposed to a fall.—*Hewner*.

PHILADELPHIA has a new semi-weekly line of freight steamships to Liverpool, called the Blue Star Line.

THE Spanish Council of Ministers has decided to expel all foreigners belonging to the International Society from Spain.

#### BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

GEORGE HENRY LEWES, the eminent writer and husband of "George Elliot," is dead.

THE Old Moderate Party in Spain has agreed to accept the principle of religious toleration.

THE English gentleman who recently gave \$35,000 for mission work in India was Mr. C. W. Jones.

THE vicar of East Ham, England, has ordered that in future weddings are to be celebrated in the middle of Divine service.

THE Waldenses have a Theological Seminary at Florence, Italy, at which seventeen students were in attendance last year.

AN effort is being made in the Reformed Episcopal Church to do away with the observance of Lent as a church feast.

THERE is a fearful prospect for the winter in Lancashire, Eng., 12,000 hands in 120 mills having struck for higher wages.

THE marriage of Princess Thyra of Denmark with the Duke of Cumberland will be solemnized on the 21st or the 22nd of December.

GEORGIA business men are considering the desirability of manufacturing their own cotton so as to sell it by the yard and not by the pound.

IT is rumored that several native gentlemen of India intend to offer themselves as candidates for seats in Parliament at the next general election in England.

REV. W. H. H. MURRAY, of Boston, whose fondness for carnal weapons is well known, will probably lose his hand by the bursting of his gun barrel last week.

AN Irish mob, at the instigation of the priest, wrecked the tract depot in Queenstown, because a text of Scripture was placed in the window which was offensive to the priest.

THE English New Testament Revision Committee recently held their eighty-fourth session and proceeded with the second revision of the Epistles to the Thessalonians.

EXCAVATIONS have been made of the Sacra Via in Rome from the Arch of Trajan to the Temple of Romulus, bringing to light many structures of the old Roman and the Medieval days.

THE Bishop of Melbourne has given up a fifth of his income rather than abandon some outlying stations, where, owing to the distress, funds for the clergy were not forthcoming.

BEFORE commencing his labors in England, Mr. Sankey will spend a few weeks on the Continent of Europe. He has arranged to address meetings in France, Germany, and Switzerland.

CROWN COURT CHURCH, at one time one of the most overcrowded churches in London, is now comparatively deserted. Dr. Cumming will shortly celebrate the jubilee of his ministry.

AFTER an evangelistic tour, occupying eighteen months, and embracing 34,000 miles, the Rev. Dr. A. N. Somerville has been welcomed home in Glasgow none the worse for his visit to the Antipodes.

THE effect of the long commercial depression upon the German people is manifested in some recently published statistics. In the kingdom of Prussia marriages have decreased since 1872 by about one-sixth.

THE latest statistics of the Registrar-General in England prove that there are in that country nearly a million more females than males. Up to the age of ten years the difference in the number of the two sexes is not marked.

THE Brooklyn Methodists at their adjourned meeting for the discussion of the limitation of the pastoral term of their ministers, decided to propose no change, though a strong feeling of opposition to the itinerant system was evident.

AN English lady recently died, whose property consisted of shares in the City of Glasgow Bank. As she had no heirs it passed to the Queen, who, had it happened at the time of the collapse, would have been liable with the other shareholders of the debts of the Bank.

LIGHTNING, they say, never strikes twice in the same place, but it is no safer to put trust in proverbs than in promises. The tower of the parish church of Week St. Mary, North Cornwall, has just been destroyed by lightning for the third time in thirty years. It will cost \$10,000 to repair it.

AT the late Missionary Conference in London, Rev. C. E. B. Reed, of the British and Foreign Bible Society, in speaking of the difficulties in translating the Bible into foreign languages, said that the missionaries to South Africa were shocked to find that they had used a word for "love," in the sentence "God is love," which referred to decayed meat.

THE widely-known and honored firm of Phelps, Dodge & Co., formed in New York sixty years ago, is about expiring by limitation. Messrs. Wm. E. Dodge, James and Anson P. Stokes retiring, and Wm. E. Dodge, Jr., and D. W. James hereafter constituting the firm. In its long and prosperous history this firm has not been embarrassed, and for fifteen years has not put out a note.

THE report of the Public Auditor of Virginia, to be made to the Legislature this week, will show that the Moffatt register system of liquor taxation has brought to the State Treasury about \$500,000. This is less than was claimed for it when it was passed, but is more than has been expected at any time within the last six months, and is two or three times more than the old license plan produced.

A GENTLEMAN in Chemnitz, Saxony, to test whether a letter could make the circuit of the globe in 120 days, mailed a postal-card, addressed to himself, May 24, at 7 p.m., requesting all postmasters to despatch it promptly to Alexandria, Singapore, Yokohama, San Francisco, and New York, and thence to Chemnitz. It arrived there on the 117th day, but had it been posted an hour earlier it would have taken but 96 days.