

"Do you know me?" she said in a tremulous voice.
 "No, my good woman," said the Judge, while he and his companions looked at her inquiringly.

"Where did I ever see you before?"

"You seen me at court in Oshkosh, when my son was tried for robbin' somebody; and you sentenced him to prison for ten years and he died there last June."

The tears began to chase each other down the aged woman's face, and the card players seemed to have forgot ten their game, as she went on:

"He was a good boy, if you did send him to prison, Judge; for he cleared our farm, and when his father took sick and died he did all the work. He was a stiddy boy till he got to card playin' and drinkin', and then he'd be out all night at it, every night gamblin' away money, and he went down and down."

Overpowered by her emotions, she stood weeping in the aisle, while the crowd of passengers gathered around, leaning forward to hear her story. She continued:

"He ran away finally, an' took with him all the money there was left on the farm. I didn't hear from him for five years, and then he writ to me he had been arrested. I sold my house to git money to help him, and went on to court. There's 'Squire S——' (pointing to one of the four euchre players), the lawyer that argued agin him—and you, Judge, sentenced him ten years to the State prison."

The old lady shook with emotion, and her voice was choked and broken with grief as she gasped out:

"O, it does seem to me that if my boy had never learned to play keards he wouldn't 'a gone down—an' he'd been alive now!"

The Judge and his companions, and all that stood around, were melted to tears by the power of the old woman's words. There was no more card-playing in that carriage; the players threw their cards away, and some of them, it is believed, determined to play no more. That desolate, broken-hearted woman had taught them a lesson which they will never forget.

Possibly some one who reads these words may have inquired, "What is the harm of a social game of cards? Respectable people play cards, judges play cards, fashionable people play cards, what hurt does it do?"

Could they have witnessed this scene, and marked the anguish of that broken-hearted mother; and could they read the history of hundreds of young men who have been allured to their ruin by these "harmless games of cards," however strong might be their confidence in their own ability to withstand temptation, they would, for the sake of others who are weaker and are in danger, put away these implements of temptation, and say, in the language of the apostle, "If meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no more flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend." Rom. viii. 13.

We have no right to make our liberty a stumbling block to unwary souls. Let us solemnly consider our responsibility, and let the lesson which the judge received that day be a lesson to others to beware of placing temptation in the way of those around them, or, by their action, setting an example which others may follow to their own destruction.

CALVINISM.

The following anecdote is one among a multitude which prove that the very doctrines which, by many professed Christians, are overlooked or denied or even ridiculed, many avowed infidels, more especially the sagacious and candid, confess to be clearly stamped on the sacred pages.

Lord Bolingbroke, the infidel friend of Pope, and a man of genius and learning, was accustomed to peruse writings of almost all kinds of authors, and on almost all kinds of subjects. Receiving a visit one morning in his study from an English clergyman, he happened to be reading the works of Calvin. "You find me rather singularly employed," said he, and named the author he was perusing. The clergyman replied in a manner which intimated a total disbelief, with some degree of contempt, of the writings in question.

"You surprise me very much," said Bolingbroke. "If I believed the Bible, I should certainly believe the writings of Calvin, for Calvin speaks with the Bible." He added:

"I know I am, accounted an infidel; but I confess there occurs to me at this moment one argument which half convinces me that the Christian religion is true." "What is that?" said the clergyman. "Why," replied Bolingbroke, "that Christianity should have continued in the world so long when committed to the care of such gentlemen as you."

THE expedition of Mr. McCall, for the purpose of creating missionary stations along the Congo, has located one of them at Mataddi Minkanda, opposite the establishments of Stanley at Vivi, at the foot of the Falls of Yellala. The King Kagoumpaka has shewn himself very well disposed. He has furnished provisions and men for assistance, as a company of pioneers for transporting their baggage by land as far as Benza Montiko, about eighty or 100 kilometres up the river; from there, sometimes by land and sometimes by water, they will go as far as Manyanga, a large town on the right bank of and about eight kilometres from the Congo, in latitude 5° south, and longitude 12° 40' east. It is a rallying point for the people of many of the towns on the river. There is there a large trade in the exchange of the products of the country for merchandise brought from the coast. The country is beautiful, provisions abundant and cheap, the people accessible. The two banks of the river, which is at this point about two kilometres broad, are covered with magnificent forests; although the current is strong they can cross it without danger. Mr. McCall has decided to found a station there. He hopes to be able to reach Stanley Pool next fall. The committee of the "Livingstone, Inland Mission" has the intention of sending out a new expedition with a view to establish a station at Banana as a base of supplies for that of the interior, and as a sanitarium for the sick. A little steam boat will be placed on the lower waters of the Congo to ply between Mataddi and Banana. Three missionaries will immediately set out from Liverpool carrying with them the boat and a house constructed of iron in Eng-

land, a gift of some friends of the mission. Mr. Gillis, sent out to the Congo about a year ago by the International Association for the purpose of establishing the first trading post, on which Belgian commerce founds great expectations, has just returned to Belgium, and also Lieutenant-Colonel Van den Bogaert, charged with a commission from Stanley. As for Stanley, the Belgian Commercial Company has instructed him to engage at Zanzibar and for several years native labourers who will be employed on the Congo. Sixty two Arabs have been shipped at Zanzibar for the Cape, whence a schooner will transport them to the mouth of the river. One station will be located at Nyangove, in Manyema, whence the traffic in ivory will be turned toward the west coast.

THE MASTER'S TOUCH.

In the still air the music lies unheard;
 In the rough marble beauty hides unseen;
 To make the music, and the beauty needs
 The Master's touch, the Sculptor's chisel keen.

Great Master, touch us with Thy skillful hand;
 Let not the music that is in us die!
 Great Sculptor, hew and polish us; nor let,
 Hidden and lost, Thy form within us lie!

Spare not the stroke! do with us as Thou wilt!
 Let there be naught unfinished, broken, marred
 Complete Thy purpose, that we may become
 Thy perfect image, thou our God and Lord!

—Eonar.

THE proof that we believe in the reality of religion is that we walk in the power of it.

THE virtue of prosperity is temperance, the virtue of adversity is fortitude.

EVERY man we meet with in this world, though we should never meet with him again, will meet with us at the day of judgment.—James McCosh.

WHEN that illustrious man, Chief Justice Jay, was dying he was asked if he had any farewell address to leave his children. He replied, "They have the Bible."

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN said: "The eyes of other people are the eyes that ruin us. If all but myself were blind I should neither want a fine house nor fine furniture."

THE painter by a swing of his brush places an aureole on the head of his saint, but the true aureole around the earthly saint is woven of fiery experiences, and turned to gold through the blessed touch of God.—Rev. Dr. R. S. Storrs.

"When He who, sad and weary, longing sore
 For love's sweet service, sought the sisters' door,
 One saw the heavenly, one the human guest,
 But who shall say which loved the Master best?"

—Whittier.

A LADY once said to Dr. Spencer: "My dear doctor, why do you work so hard? You are always at it—night and day; you give yourself no respite." "My dear madam," said the pastor, "if a boat is not sailing up stream she is floating down stream. There is no standing still in religion."

AN every-day religion—one that loves the duties of our common walk; one that makes an honest man; one that accomplishes an intellectual and moral growth in the subject; one that works in all weather, and improves all opportunities,—will best and most healthily promote the growth of a church and the power of the Gospel.—Bushnell.

RELIGION, and the practice of its virtue, is the natural state of the soul, the condition to which God designed it. As He made man a reasonable creature, so all the acts of religion are reasonable and suitable to our nature; and our souls are then in health when we are what the laws of religion require us to be, and do what they command us to do.—Tillotson.

THE Liverpool "Journal of Commerce" says that at the Liverpool Corn Exchange a sample of wheat, transmitted by the Hudson's Bay Company to Mr. Drake, Canadian Government Agent in Liverpool, was carefully examined by several of the leading importers and millers present. These gentlemen pronounced it to be the finest sample of wheat in the market, and as a consequence offered 3d. per bushel were made more than for the finest samples of Californian.

THE Scott Monument at Edinburgh is to be further beautified by the filling up of twenty-eight niches with statues representing subjects in the works of the illustrious novelist. Seventy sculptors submitted competitive designs, and the subjects were selected from about sixty statues offered. The subjects selected and the artists appointed to prepare the statues are as follows: To fill four large niches—Balfour of Burleigh and Knight Temple—W. Birnie Rhind; Rob Roy and Ivarhoe—John Rhind. To fill twenty four small niches—Peter Peebles and Montrose—D. W. Stevenson; Julia Manning—George Webster; Effie Deans, Lady Avenel, and David Deans—J. S. Burnett; Percy Shafton—Clark Stanton; Dougald Crayton—Charles Macbride; Weyland Smith—J. S. Gibson; Gurth W. Sheriffs; Queen Elizabeth—W. Walker; The Abbess—W. G. Stevenson; Caleb Balderston—W. G. Stevenson; Rose Bradwardine—D. Buchanan; Dirk Hatterick and Claverhouse—W. Birnie Rhind; Dugald Dalgetty, Ravenswood, Lady Rowena, Richie Monplaisir, and Lucy Ashton—J. Rhind; Constance Fraser Tytler. The large statues will cost £52 10s. each, and the small statues £25 each. The total cost will be £1,020. Mr. Brodie and Mr. Hutchison are instructed to prepare a small statue each at the price of £35; the characters to be selected by them. Mr. Brodie is also entrusted with the characters of Helen Macgregor and Cromwell in large statues, and Maude Wildfire in small statue, and Mr. Hutchison with the characters of John Knox and Charles I. in large statues, and George Buchanan in small statue, all the statues being delivered by 1st March, 1882.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

THE population of Ireland, according to the recent census, is 5,159,847, which is a decrease since 1871 of 252,538.

THE Rev. Donald McLeod, of Jedburgh, Scotland, is the successor of John Cumming, in London, with a salary of one thousand guineas.

A SON of Dr. Moffat, the missionary, was shamefully treated at Leersui, South Africa, by the Boers, during the late troubles, and was only saved by the threats of a friendly chief.

THE Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, accompanied by two of the deacons of his church, intends, it is said, to take a journey to the Nile. The Rev. Joseph Cook, it is also reported, has accepted an invitation from Mr. Spurgeon to deliver some lectures in the Metropolitan Tabernacle.

A ROMAN CATHOLIC paper says that had the Church retained all her children, there should now be in the United States from 20,000,000 to 25,000,000 members of that Church, whereas there are now less than 7,000,000. It attributes the great losses to the influence of the public schools.

THE Sustentation Fund of the Presbyterian Church, New South Wales, has proved to be a great success. An equal dividend of \$1,500 will, in future, be paid to each minister of the Church, being the highest sum yet reached by any Presbyterian Church through the agency of the Sustentation Fund.

THE strange spectacle of a church floating down a river was seen during the prevalence of the recent floods in Dakota. It was constructed of strong timbers securely fastened, and as it floated down the Missouri, the bell in its steeple could be heard above the roaring of the flood and crashing of the ice.

REV. WALTER DUNCAN, of Junction Road United Presbyterian Church, Leith, Scotland, having preached eleven sermons not composed by himself, was suspended by the Presbytery for three months. The congregation are aggrieved, especially as they have to pay the stipend during that time, and also pay for the supply of the pulpit. They lately held a meeting and resolved that, as they had no longer confidence in Mr. Duncan, they should sever their connection with the congregation. They also agreed to take sittings in the Methodist church in the locality and wait events. They would rejoin the congregation under another minister.

MR. ANDREW WILSON, author of "The Abode of Snow," died lately at Ullswater, at the age of fifty-one years. He was the eldest son of the late Dr. Wilson, of Bombay, the well-known missionary and Orientalist, and commenced his literary career as a writer for the "Bombay Times." Circumstances led him subsequently to return to England, where he became a contributor to "Blackwood's Magazine"—a literary connection which was maintained during the remainder of his life. When about thirty years of age he became editor of the "China Mail," and he accompanied the Pekin expedition to Tientsin. He travelled a great deal in the South of China from time to time, and by living among the natives as one of themselves he obtained a knowledge of the people such as few foreigners possessed, and was eminently fitted for the task which was afterwards entrusted to him of writing the history of the Taiping Rebellion, and chronicling the deeds of Colonel Gordon's "Ever Victorious Army," and other works.

THE centenary of the birth of George Stephenson, the inventor of the locomotive steam engine, was celebrated lately with great demonstrations on Tyneside. Born of the most humble parentage, George Stephenson first saw the light on the 9th of June, 1781, at a solitary cot or cottage on the Tyne, between Wylam and Closehouse, Northumberland, about eight miles west of Newcastle. His father was an engine fitter at a colliery, and George himself began life as a pit engine-boy, at 2s. per day wages. Pilgrimages were made to the place of his birth, which is still in a good state of preservation, by multitudes, among whom the colliers and engineers of Northumberland and Durham took a conspicuous part. Shortly after eight o'clock in the morning a procession of sixteen modern railway engines started from the Central station to Street House, Wylam. The engines were all coupled together, and were brought back to the Central Station in the forenoon, where they were exhibited to crowds during the day. The Mayor of Newcastle-on-Tyne, with a large party of friends, proceeded to Wylam, the birth-place of Stephenson, and commemorated the centenary by planting a young oak tree. A large party of ladies and gentlemen breakfasted together in the Bath Hall Inn, Newcastle, and made arrangements for the establishment of scholarships, to place the advantages of a University education and a special training in mechanical engineering within the reach of any capable student whose circumstances might otherwise be a barrier to his early success. The scheme embraces Stephenson University Exhibitions, Stephenson Engineering Exhibitions, and Stephenson Science and Art Scholarships. The total number of exhibitions and scholarships to be forty-two—four to be of the value of £25 each per annum, four of £20, and thirty-four of £15. Nearly £400 per annum, in addition to the assistance received from Government, will be required to carry out the project in its entirety. A great procession also took place at Newcastle in honour of the event. About seven hundred horses and waggons walked in procession through the principal parts of the town, and the Mayor presented a silver cup, designated "The George Stephenson Centenary Cup," for the best decorated single or double yoke draught horses. The various public bodies and trades' societies also walked in procession to the town moor in Newcastle, where speeches appropriate to the occasion were delivered from two platforms. Exhibitions of models and photographs of locomotives were also held at Newcastle. Similar processions and exhibitions of machinery were held at Gateshead. In various other places in England the centenary was celebrated. Most of the leading German papers devoted sympathetic articles to the Stephenson anniversary.