

publisher assured me it was quite a success. I could send you the reviews of it."

"Pray do not trouble yourself," he answered; "I do not doubt it in the least. But there are hundreds of books published every season, and it is impossible for one head, even a publisher's, to retain all the titles and the names of the authors."

"But I hope mine was not like hundreds of others," remarked Felicia.

"Every author hopes so," he said; "and besides the mass that is printed, somehow, at some one's expense, there are hundreds of manuscripts submitted to us. Pardon me, but may I ask if you write for amusement or for remuneration?"

"For my living," she replied, with a sorrowful inflection of her voice which alarmed the publisher. How often had he faced a widowed mother and her daughter, in mourning so deep as to suggest the recentness of their loss. There was a slight movement of his hand, unperceived by either of them, and a brisk rap was heard on the door behind them.

"In a moment," he said, looking over their heads. "I am afraid," he went on, "if I ask you to leave your manuscript on approbation, it might be months before our readers could look at it. We have scores, if not hundreds, waiting."

"Could you recommend any publisher to me?" asked Felicia.

"Why not go again to Price and Gould?" he inquired.

"I must get more money than they pay me," she answered ingenuously.

"The publisher shrugged his shoulders. If her manuscript had contained Milton's "Paradise Lost" or Goldsmith's "Vicar of Wakefield," such an admission would have swamped it. There is no fate swift enough for an unknown author who asks for more money than that which a publisher's sense of justice awards to him.

"I am sorry I can do nothing for you," he said, "but my time is very precious. Good-morning—No thanks, I beg. It would be a pleasure, I am sure, if I could do anything."

Felicia's heart sank very low as she turned into the dismal street and trod the muddy pavement. A few illusions shrivelled up that wintry morning under that murky sky. The name she was so fearful of staining; the name she had fondly imagined as noised from mouth to mouth; the name for which she had demanded so great a sacrifice, and had sacrificed so much herself, was not known in those circles where she might most have expected to find it a passport to attention and esteem. It had travelled very little indeed beyond the narrow sphere of Riversborough.

(To be continued.)

A GOOD READER.

There is one accomplishment in particular which I would earnestly recommend to you. Cultivate assiduously the ability to read well. I stop to particularise this, because it is so very much neglected, and because it is so elegant, charming, and lady-like an accomplishment. Where one person is really interested by music, twenty are pleased by good reading. Where one person is capable of becoming a good musician, twenty may become good readers. Where there is one occasion suitable for the exercise of musical talent, there are twenty for that of good reading. The culture of the voice necessary for reading well, gives a delightful charm to the same voice in conversation. Good reading is the natural exponent and vehicle of all good things. It is the most effective of all commentaries upon the works of genius. It seems to bring dead authors to life again, and makes us sit down familiarly with the great and good of all ages. Did you ever notice what life and power the Holy Scripture has when well read? Have you ever heard the wonderful effects produced by Elizabeth Fry on the prisoners of Newgate by simply reading to them the parable of the Prodigal Son? Princes and poets of the realm, it is said, counted it a privilege to stand in the dismal corridors among felons and murderers, merely to share with them the privilege of witnessing the marvellous pathos which genius, taste and culture could infuse into that simple story. What a fascination there is in really good reading! What a power it gives one! In the hospital, in the chamber of the invalid, in the nursery, in the domestic and in the social circle, among chosen friends and companions, how it enables you to minister to the amusement, the comfort, the pleasure of the dear ones, as no other art or accomplishment can! No instrument of man's devising can reach the heart as does that most wonderful instrument, the human voice. It is God's special gift and endowment to His chosen creatures. Fold it not away in a napkin. If you would double the value of all your other acquisitions, if you would add immeasurably to your own enjoyment and to your power of promoting the enjoyment of others, cultivate with incessant care this divine gift. No music below the skies is equal to that of pure silvery speech from the lips of a man or woman of high culture.—*John S. Hart.*

MENNONITE WEDDING.

Upon arriving here, we soon learned that there would be a wedding in the neighbourhood, Thursday, January 5th, and, like Jesus and His disciples in Cana, we too were "called to the marriage." We arrived at the place of marriage at about eleven o'clock, when already the guests began to gather from far and near. Much friendship was manifested on the part of the guests toward each other, and the time was spent in cheerful conversation until near the hour of twelve, when the tables were in readiness, laden very profusely with the best products of the country, gotten up in plain but very palatable style, all unnecessary expenditure for ornament being avoided. Those extension tables, so well furnished, were soon filled with guests, male and female, when a beautiful hymn of thanksgiving and praise to the generous Giver of all good was sung, in which we joyfully participated. At two o'clock the regular marriage services commenced, led by Eld. I. Peters, their presiding officer. The bride and groom appeared, and were provided

with seats immediately in front of the speaker's stand, to whom, after prayer, in the course of the elder's discourse, were directed most earnest appeals as to the great responsibilities they were about to take upon themselves and the great obligations they would ever be under to each other, according to the Scriptures, until death. As these appeals were being made, we noticed that presently the eyes of each of the interested parties, as well as others were filled with tears. The sermon and marriage ceremony being ended, in a very short time the tables were again in readiness and surrounded with guests. This meal consisted of nothing else but cake and coffee. After all had partaken of this repast, very unexpectedly, we were requested by the elder to address the audience. Accordingly, we read from John, second chapter, choosing as our text from thence the words: "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it." We were followed by the elder in earnest exhortations and testimony of the Gospel. At a still later hour tables were again served, after which and an earnest greeting and wishing each other God speed, the guests dispersed. This occasion was to us, indeed, a very interesting one, for several reasons: firstly, there was no chewing nor smoking of tobacco noticeable anywhere, and no wine nor strong drink was thought of, neither was there any foolish talking nor jesting, which to us was so very gratifying, and beside the manner of the occasion appeared to us so oriental and so much after the Bible mode that it wrought quite a pleasing impression upon our mind, and the occasion is one which we have much enjoyed and highly appreciated and shall not soon forget.—*Gospel Banner.*

DAN'S WIFE.

Up in early morning light,
Sweeping, dusting, "setting right;"
Oiling all the household springs,
Sewing buttons, tying strings,
Telling Bridget what to do,
Mending rips on Johnny's shoe;
Running up and down the stair,
Tying baby in a chair;
Cutting meat, spreading bread,
Dishing out so much per head;
Eating as she can by chance,
Giving husband kindly glance;
Toiling, working, busy life,
Sart woman,
Dan's wife.

Dan comes home at fall of night—
Home so cheerful, neat and bright,
Children meet him at the door,
Pull him in and look him o'er.
Wife asks, "How the work has gone?"
Busy times with us at home!
Supper done, Dan reads with ease;
Happy Dan, but one to please.
Children must be put to bed—
All the little prayers are said,
Little shoes placed all in rows,
Bedclothes tucked o'er little toes;
Busy, noisy, weary life,
Tired woman,
Dan's wife.

JUDEA FOR THE JEWS.

Judea is a land of amazing possibilities. With a good government and reasonable tillage, it could be made wonderfully fertile and prosperous. Something like its ancient glory among the peoples might come back, with vastly more than its old temporal advantage. And who, of all men, can accomplish this so well as its own long-exiled children? We believe in Judea for the Jews. Let delegations of them return thither from their world-wide dispersion—from the North, from the South, from the East and from the West. Let them carry back something of their gold, and more of their proverbial thrift, and the land will smile under their feet, and they will soon be in condition to adjust governmental matters to suit themselves.

Mr. Lawrence Oliphant's name will occur to many in this connection. He had a good scheme of this sort; but, perhaps because he was not a Jew himself, the Ottoman Government did not smile upon it, and it came to nothing.

We rejoice to learn that another movement has been set on foot which offers larger promise. Certain leading and influential Hebrews, chief among whom is M. Cazalet, have made late advances to the Turkish powers, and the agent of the endeavour in Constantinople has already passed the schemes through some of the most difficult preliminary stages, so that it only waits the approval of the Council and the *trades* of the Sultan, both of which are confidently expected in due course. Grants are asked of Government land in any part of Syria at the Porte's own choice, and the immediate expenditure of five millions sterling (\$25,000,000) in settling Jewish colonies and developing the resources and means of communication of the country is pledged upon the sole condition that full freedom be given for the construction of all works of public utility which may be thought indispensable to success.

It is known that some German colonies have been prospering in Syria, while even some small Jewish agricultural establishments have been doing well. And, especially with the aid of a good number of Russian Jews, who are fond of farming, little doubt is felt of the speedy realization of a large success as soon as permission shall have been gained to lay the foundations of the undertaking. A beginning once well made, it will not be strange if the eyes of Jews from all over the earth should be turned towards Palestine, and a movement take place which shall make the Holy Land, within the vision of eyes already born, another land than it has been for well-nigh two thousand years.—*Congregationalist.*

FEW are temporal or spiritual calamities which may not be expected to be removed by fervent prayer.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

THERE were 5,406 new books and new editions published in England last year.

A CRISIS is rapidly approaching in Egypt, and affairs wear a grave aspect.

THE Arabs in revolt at Yemen are reported to be defeated by Turkish regulars.

GAMBETTA is endeavouring to bring about a commercial treaty between France and England.

MR. PARNELL has been remanded in Kilmainham gaol another period of three months.

A NUMBER of failures are reported at Lyons, France, and the Paris Bourse is much disturbed.

MR. STURGEON'S son Thomas has taken the pastorate of a Baptist chapel at Auckland, New Zealand.

MR. JOSEPH COOK is to devote two months to lecturing to the educated natives in the principal cities of India.

THE great trial of twenty-one leading Nihilists will begin on February 21st. Sankowski and Melnikoff have appealed.

PREPARATIONS for war are being made in Vienna on a large scale. The arrest of a prominent Nihilist is also reported.

THE committee on the proposed World's Fair, to be held in Boston, have recommended that the project be postponed for the present.

It is reported that the body of Mr. Powell, M.P., who was carried away in a balloon on December 10th, has been found in Spain.

THE smallpox is spreading rapidly, and the National Board of Health at Washington have declared it to be epidemic in the United States.

THEY are having as unseasonable a winter in Great Britain as we. Men were reaping oats in Perthshire, Scotland, on New Year's eve.

THE managers of the London Temperance Hospital wish to raise a fund of a million shillings (\$250,000) to place it on a permanent foundation.

A NUMBER of skirmishes have taken place between the Austrian troops and the Herzegovina insurgents, in some of which the latter were successful.

THERE is but little to report from Ireland, though serious disturbances may occur at any moment. There are now 70,000 claims before the Irish Land Court.

IN London, there are 95,000 hopeless, homeless paupers, 30,000 habitual criminals, and a slightly expenditure of \$45,000 on places of amusement, exclusive of drink.

THE Boston University is rejoicing over the possession of the bequest of \$2,000,000 given it by Isaac Rich, who left directions that it should be paid ten years after his death.

GAMBETTA's new proposal concerning the reconstruction of the French Senate leaves the Senators now in office for the term of their lives, but provides that no more shall be chosen for life.

IT seems almost incredible, but the fact is stated, that fire-proof houses can be built of cotton and straw, so prepared that they become hard as stone, and made into boards or beams of any required size.

A CONSPIRACY has arisen in Nepal, India, against British residents. The plot was discovered at the last moment. Eighty officers have been arrested, and twenty-one military officers have been summarily executed.

THE Indian Government denies the petition of the missionaries in Western India to abolish the custom of infant marriages by law, on the ground that it is better to wait till the Hindoos are more enlightened on the evil.

THE missing steamship "City of London" is given up for lost, with all on board. She sailed from London for New York November 15th, 1881, with a crew of forty-two men under the command of Captain Robert S. Wilson.

REV. GRIFFITH JOHN, a missionary to China, in a recent address in Glasgow, stated that China Proper is now entirely open to the missionary and the Bible colporteur, with the single exception of one provincial capital, that of Hunan.

IN the course of a bull-fight at Matanzas on Sunday, the 15th ult., part of the scaffolding supporting the seats gave way, and nearly 300 persons were precipitated into the stables below. One person was killed, and many were more or less injured.

REV. H. F. MILLER, pastor of the Sixth Church, Chicago, recently received a copy of a work entitled "One Year Abroad." On opening the volume, he found \$400 hidden in the leaves. The money was a New Year's present from his people.

THE British Government has issued an order that no one entering the navy shall receive a spirit ration in kind until he is twenty-one years old; and all officers and men will be allowed in lieu of it to receive its value in money, or a ration of tea or chocolate and sugar.

THE Archduchess of Austria, a young girl of thirteen, when told by her father, the Emperor, she might select her Christmas present, asked to be permitted to bring up one of the children left orphans by the burning of the Ring Theatre at Vienna. Her father granted her request.

"THE CHRISTIAN," of London, makes the practical suggestion that each Christian worker should, during this year, select one individual who has given way to intemperance, and seek to restore him, by constantly watching over, praying for, encouraging and frequently visiting him.

THE seats in the Brooklyn Tabernacle—Rev. Dr. Talmage, pastor—were publicly rented on Monday evening, 23rd ult., and at the close of the auction it was announced that the schedule price of the pews rented was \$16,796, and the amount of premiums \$3,622. These sums, Dr. Talmage said, with \$8,000 of annual voluntary contributions, would realize an income for the year of \$28,418.