

is quoted, says, with true feeling: "It has pleased God that in his death, as well as in his life and nature, he should be marked beyond ordinary men. When much time has elapsed, when most bereavements will have been forgotten, he will still be remembered, and his place, I fear, will be felt to be still vacant; singularly as his mind was calculated by its native tendencies to work powerfully and for good in an age full of import to the nature and destinies of man."

How completely these words have been carried out must strike us all now. The father lived to see the young man's unconscious influence working through his friends' genius, and reaching a whole generation unborn as yet on the day when he died. A lady, speaking of Arthur Hallam after his death, said to Mr. Tennyson, "I think he was perfect." "And so he was," said Mr. Tennyson, "as near perfection as a mortal man can be." Arthur Hallam was a man of remarkable intellect. He could take in the most difficult and abstruse ideas with an extraordinary rapidity and insight. On one occasion he began to work one afternoon, and mastered a difficult book of Descartes at one single sitting. In the preface to the "Memorials" Mr. Hallam speaks of this peculiar clearness of perception and facility for acquiring knowledge; but, above all, the father dwells on his son's undeviating sweetness of disposition and adherence to his sense of what was right. In the quarterlies and reviews of the time, his opinion is quoted here and there with a respect which shows in what esteem it was already held.

At the time Arthur Hallam died he was engaged to be married to a sister of the poet's. She was scarcely seventeen at the time. One of the sonnets, addressed by Arthur Hallam to his betrothed, was written when he began to teach her Italian.

"Lady, I bid thee to a sunny dome,
Ringing with echoes of Italian song;
Henceforth to thee these magic halls belong,
And all the pleasant place is like a home.
Hark, on the right, with full piano tone,
Old Dante's voice encircles all the air;
Hark yet again, like flute-tones mingling rare
Comes the keen sweetness of Petrarca's moan.
Pass thou the lintel freely; without fear
Feast on the music, I do better know thee
Than to suspect this pleasure thou dost owe me
Will wrong thy gentle spirit, or make less dear
That element whence thou must draw thy life—
An English maiden and an English wife."

As we read the pages of this little book we come upon more than one happy moment saved out of the past, hours of delight and peaceful friendship, saddened by no foreboding, and complete in themselves.

"Alfred, I would that you beheld me now,
Sitting beneath an ivied, mossy wall.

.... Above my head
Dilates immeasurable a wild of leaves,
Seeming received into the blue expanse
That vaults the summer noon."

There is something touching in the tranquil ring of the voice calling out in the summer noontide with all a young man's expansion.

It seemed to be but the beginning of a beautiful happy life, when suddenly the end came. Arthur Hallam was travelling with his father in Austria when he died very suddenly, with scarce a warning sign of illness. Mr. Hallam had come home and found his son, as he supposed, sleeping upon a couch; but it was death not sleep. "Those whose eyes must long be dim with tears"—so writes the heart-stricken father—"brought him home to rest among his kindred and in his own country." They chose his resting-place in a tranquil spot on a lone hill that overhangs the Bristol Channel. He was buried in the chancel of Clevedon Church, in Somerset, by Clevedon Court, which had been his mother's early home.—*Mrs. Thackeray-Ritchie, in Harper's Magazine for December.*

THE MATERIAL LIFE OF A PLANET.

The material life of a planet is beginning to be recognized as being no less real than the life of a plant or of an animal. It is a different kind of life; there is neither consciousness such as we see in one of those forms of life, nor such systematic progress as we recognize in plant-life. But it is life, all the same. It has had a beginning, like all things which exist; and like them all it must have an end. The lifetime of a world like our earth may be truly said to be a lifetime of cooling. Beginning in the glowing vaporous condition which we see in the sun and stars, an orb in space passes gradually to the condition of a cool, non-luminous mass, and thence, with progress depending chiefly on its size (slower for the large masses and quicker for the small ones), it passes steadily onward toward inertness and death. Regarding the state in which we find the earth to be as the stage of a planet's mid-life—viz., that in which the conditions are such that multitudinous forms of life can exist upon its surface, we may call that stage death in which these conditions have entirely disappeared. Now, among the conditions necessary for the support of life in general are some which are unfavourable to individual life. Among these may be specially noted the action of those subterranean forces by which the earth's surface is continually modelled and remodelled. It has been remarked with great justice, by Sir John Herschel, that since the continents of the earth were formed forces have been at work which would long since have sufficed to have destroyed every trace of land and to have left the surface of our globe one vast limitless sea. But against these forces counteracting forces have been at work, constantly disturbing the earth's crust, and, by keeping it irregular, leaving room for ocean in the depressions and leaving the higher parts as continents and islands above the ocean's surface. If these disturbing forces ceased to work, the work of disintegrating, wearing away, and washing off the land would go on un resisted. In periods of time such as to us seem long, no very great effect would be produced; but such periods as belong to the past of our earth, even to that comparatively short part of the past dur-

ing which she has been the abode of life, would suffice to produce effects utterly inconsistent with the existence of life on land. Only by the action of her volcanic energies can the earth maintain her position as an abode of life. She is, then, manifesting her fitness to support life in those very throes by which, too often, many lives are lost. The upheavals and downsinkings, the rushing of ocean in great waves over islands and seaports, by which tens of thousands of human beings, and still greater numbers of animals, lose their lives, are part of the evidence which the earth gives that within her frame there still remains enough of vitality for the support of life during hundreds of thousands of years yet to come.—*Richard A. Proctor in the Contemporary Review.*

LUTHER'S BATTLE HYMN.

Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott.

A mighty stronghold is our God,
A sure defence and weapon;
He helps us free from every need
Which hath us now o'er-taken.
The old angry foe
Now means us deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight,
On earth is not his equal.

In our own strength can naught be done,
Our loss were soon effected:
There fights for us the Proper One,
By God Himself selected.
Ask you who frees us?
It is Christ Jesus—
The Lord Sabaoth,
There is no other God;
He'll hold the field of battle.

And were the world with devils filled,
All waiting to devour us;
We'll still succeed, so God hath willed,
They cannot overpower us:
The prince of this world
To hell shall be hurled;
He seeks to alarm,
But shall do us no harm—
The smallest word can fell him.

The Word they still must let remain
And for that have no merit;
He is with us upon the plain,
By His good gifts and Spirit.
Destroy they our life,
Goods, fame, child, and wife?
Let all pass a main,
They still no conquest gain,
For ours is still the kingdom.

Translated by Rev. Joel Swartz, D. D.

THE NEW TIME STANDARDS.

Under the new system, instead of running the various system and divisions of systems by as many local standards of time, the continent is to be divided into five broad belts, running north and south, the time for each of which will be one hour slower than that of the next division to the eastward, and one hour faster than that to the next division to the westward. By this plan the minute hand of the traveler's watch will not have to be changed, however far he may have to travel or in what direction; but his watch will be just one hour slow when he crosses the imaginary line into the next division to the east, or an hour fast when he crosses the line into the next division to the west. The time now furnished by the Harvard Observatory is the mean solar time for the Boston State House. The new time will be 17 minutes 45 seconds faster. North of Lake Erie the division extends west to Detroit, while south of Lake Erie Pittsburgh is practically on the eastern boundary of this division. Thus in the region north of the lake the standard time will be five hours slow by Greenwich, and south of Lake Erie and west of Pittsburgh it will be six hours slow by Greenwich. The new standard was adopted October 11 by 78,000 miles of railway.

A STORY ABOUT HAWTHORNE.

A charming story of Hawthorne was told to Mr. Conway by an intimate friend of the novelist. One wintry day Hawthorne received at his office notification that his services would no longer be required. With heaviness of heart he repaired to his humble home. His young wife recognizes the change and stands watching for the silence to be broken. At length he falters, "I am removed from office." Then she leaves the room; she returns with fuel and kindles a bright fire with her own hands; next she brings pen, paper, ink, and sets them before him. Then she touches the sad man on the shoulder, and, as he turns to the beaming face, says, "Now you can write your book." The cloud cleared away. The lost office looked like a cage from which he had escaped. "The Scarlet Letter" was written, and a marvellous success rewarded the author and his stout-hearted wife.

The average daily movement of the wind on the top of Mount Washington in October last was 610 miles; highest temperature, 54° 5'; lowest, 6°. The highest velocity of the wind was ninety-four miles an hour from the west. There were three inches of snow on the summit at the close of the month.

MISS EMILY BERNARD, who has had charge of the Poonah ladies' mission for five years, has been appointed temporary superintendent of the mission at Calcutta. She is the niece of the late Lord Lawrence and sister of the Commissioner of Burmah. Miss Augusta Reid, a member of Dr. Donald Macleod's church, Glasgow, will assist her.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

THERE are now but two surviving officers of the great sea fight of Trafalgar in 1805.

THE English public has not taken the faintest interest in Lord Coleridge's American tour.

THE boring of a tunnel through Eagles Mount, a branch of the Rhaetian Alps, has been completed.

A COMPLETE edition of "Oliver Twist" is being sold in the streets of London at the price of one penny.

THE works for building iron ships in San Francisco will be the most extensive of any in the United States.

WITHIN the last eighty years the United States Congress has spent more than \$100,000,000 on the city of Washington.

THE Mormons, in the latest report of their statistical man, "Apostle" Cannon, claim to have a membership in Utah of 127,294.

"PAULUS CHRISTOPHER and other Discourses" is announced as the title of a forthcoming volume of sermons by Dr. Kay, of Edinburgh.

MISS CHARLESWORTH of the Salvation Army is about to be married to a son of "General" Booth. The young lady has a good private property.

THE church, manse, and schoolhouse which it is proposed to build at Epworth in honour of John and Charles Wesley, who were born there, are to cost £5,000.

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Peterborough, the Bishop of Truro, and the Bishop of Oxford have all been unable of late to do any work.

AMONGST the new books announced by T. and T. Clark, Edinburgh, is a volume entitled "Studies in the Christian Evidences," by Dr. Alexander Mair, of Morningside.

LORD GRANVILLE is erecting a statue on his Cliffsend estate to commemorate the landing in England of St. Augustine on his mission to convert the pagan Saxon.

THE office of a Nihilist paper at St. Petersburg has published a poem attacking the Czar and bitterly commenting on the splendour of court life and misery of the nation.

CANON GIRDLESTONE, in a recent sermon in Bristol Cathedral, expressed a hope that Nonconformist ministers might be invited ere long to preach in the cathedral pulpits.

A DOCTOR charged with malpractice has committed suicide in England. What renders the matter peculiarly melancholy is that the evidence seems to point to his innocence.

AT a special meeting of Dublin Presbytery the resignation of the minister of Gloucester Street Church, Rev. W. Moore, M.A., was received. He intends proceeding as a missionary to Spain.

MISS ALICE GARDNER, a distinguished Newnham student, has just been elected out of twenty candidates, "men and women," to the professorship of history in Bedford College, London.

THE consecration of Mr. Poole as missionary bishop in Japan raises to exactly seventy, the number of Indian, Colonial, and missionary bishops in connection with the See of Canterbury.

AT the Lichfield Diocesan Congress, Bishop MacLagan spoke on the desirableness of extending the limits within which laymen may take part in Church work and conduct special services.

SIENAWA, the splendid seat of Prince Czartoryski in Poland, has been burned down. Beneath its roof the late Prince in 1848 liberated his serfs. The damage is estimated at \$600,000.

THE eldest son of Prince Napoleon, who has been for some time a pupil at Cheltenham College, has just been summoned back to France in consequence of his having been drawn in the conscription.

THE veteran admiral, Sir William King Hall, has received from the Queen an autograph letter acknowledging his long services as a social reformer, accompanied with a large portrait of Her Majesty.

THE Detroit Art Loan was visited by 131,354 persons who paid for admission. The total receipts were about \$40,000; expenses, \$37,000. Balance to credit of the permanent exhibition fund, \$3,000.

THE English Ambassador and United States Consul General at Constantinople have presented a note to the Porte demanding punishment of persons who committed the outrage on two American missionaries in Armenia.

THE succession of the Duchess of Montrose to the property of her late husband, Mr. S. Crawford, is disputed by his younger brother. Mr. S. Crawford had long been in very weak plight, mentally as well as physically.

THE funeral wreaths centering Tourgenieff's coffin were subjected to import duty on crossing the Russian frontier, as the customs officers kept the coffin four days, and rigidly scrutinized the wreaths which they finally taxed to the amount of \$10.

DR. MOIR PORTEOUS has published in Edinburgh a trenchant and seasonable pamphlet entitled "Theatres and Christians," the points advanced in it are clearly supported by apt quotations from Dr. Kay, the editor of the Paris "Figaro," and other sources.

TWO High Church clergymen have intimated their intention to endeavour to rescind a rule prohibiting card and billiard playing in a liberal club of which they are members, "as being contrary to the spirit of liberalism." The working men's institute in connection with All Saints' Church is open on Sundays.

IT is announced that George C. Miln, the erstwhile Chicago preacher played "Hamlet" at Emporia, Kansas, to "the largest and most fashionable audience of the season." It did not seem to detract from the merit of the performance when "at the close of the second act there were vociferous calls for the author of the piece."