

containing now 1,851. Besides these there are 800 persons under instruction preliminary to baptism.

Messrs. Meneley & Kimberley have a bell in readiness for a Mission Church among the Sioux Indians, and upon which the following is cast: "EXANPAHA.—Tuwe nah'on kinhan kuwa eye kt'a." As all our readers are doubtless familiar with the Sioux language we shall not make a translation of this sentence.

CAPE PALMAS.—A number of persons connected with the Church of the Messiah, in Baltimore, have procured a boat, to be sent to Bishop Penick at Cape Palmas, Africa, and to be used by him in missionary journeys along the coast of Africa. The boat was built for the purpose by Mr. E. G. Rennous. The Baltimore American of February 13th says of it: "It is a double-ender life or surf boat, twenty-two feet long, with six feet of beam. It is built of cedar, with a copper rivetted bottom; is provided with patent row-locks for six oars, and is furnished with mast and sail to be rigged when occasion serves. The keel aft is deepened in order to hold the boat close to the eye of the wind when under sail. A pretty awning of blue and white cloth trimmed with red can be stretched when needed. The boat has attracted very much attention as it stands in Mr. Rennous's shop, and the experts speak of it as having a magnificent model, and being splendidly fitted for the work it is intended to perform. It was intended that the boat should be shipped from here last Saturday, but some little detention took place. It will go to New York by the New York and Baltimore Transportation line, and thence by ocean steamer to Monrovia, where it will be launched and sail down the coast to Cape Palmas, where Bishop Penick is stationed.

At Shanghai, November 29th, there was organized a Chinese Tract Society. Among those who were present at the meeting were Bishops Russell and Schereschewsky, Dr. Suvoong, and the Rev. Woo Hoong-Niok, Bau Tsihdza, Pien Sing-z and Wong Jung-ya. A constitution was adopted, work mapped out, and the expectation and hope expressed that the society might grow to equal in size and influence the tract societies of this country and Great Britain. The publishing committee will be four foreigners and four Chinese.

The Palestine Exploration Society is proceeding well in the use of the rich material it has already secured. The American Society undertook the survey of the territory east of the Jordan, and have finished five hundred square miles, in which space they have registered and entered 227 new names of sites not found on any previous map. Of these, no less than fifty are new identifications of historic sites made by Dr. Selah Merrill. These splendid and important results are drawn out on a map in thirteen sections, the whole map being eleven and a half feet long by six and a half feet wide, handsomely executed by R. Meyer, Assistant Engineer of the Palestine Exploration Society. This map has been sent to London for publication with the map now being issued, by the British Society, of the west side of the Jordan.

Pere Hyacinthe, at the first service in his chapel, opened a few days ago, asserted publicly that his mission was under the direction of the Anglican Church, as represented by the Primus of Scotland and the Bishop of Edinburgh, deputed for that purpose, and also stated that he was under the immediate jurisdiction of three bishops—the two Scotch already named, and Bishop Herzog of Switzerland. The chapel was crowded long before the time appointed for service. After Pere Hyacinthe entered, he knelt for some time before the altar, and then ascended the steps, and announced that the regular liturgical services of the chapel with mass would not commence at present; the Liturgy intended to be used being under revision by the Primus of Scotland.

Correspondence.

NOTICE.—We must remind our correspondents that all letters containing personal allusions, and especially those containing attacks on Diocesan Committees, must be accompanied with the names of the writers, expressly for the purpose of publication. We are not responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents.

WANT OF REVERENCE.

SIR,—Ridicule will sometimes effect that in which argument and reason have failed. I therefore send the following from a U. S. paper, in hopes that it may prove *verbum sap* to some on this side the border:

"In a certain church on a recent Sunday morning the usual donning of overcoats was proceeding amid considerable confusion, but had not been completed when the pastor arose to pronounce the Benediction. He paused a moment and then said, 'Brethren, I guess I will put on my overcoat hereafter during the Benediction, so as not to lose any time.' The congregation saw the point."

Family Reading.

RAYMOND.

CHAPTER XXXIII.—Continued.

Well might Estelle Lingard utter that startling cry, as, moved by Raymond's words, she turned her eyes towards the window. Far and wide the sky which had been gloomy and starless heretofore, was red with a lurid and fervid glow, against which the leafless branches stood out like skeleton trees, while the distant hills were crimsoned with a weird light, as if some strange and ghastly dawn were breaking over them before the midnight hour had even sounded. All this was as nothing, however, compared to one object, terrible in its beauty, which riveted Estelle's horror-stricken eyes, as well as those of Raymond, who had sprung from his seat at the sound of her voice. In the very centre of the ardent glow there seemed to have been reared by fairy hands a palace constructed all of light and fire, with flames wreathing round its white marble columns, and shooting high into the air from many a pinnacle and cupola, while every window flashed like rubies in the light of myriad lamps.

The splendid building, self-illuminated, was but too plainly visible, while the distance at which it stood from Highrock House made it impossible to discern whether any figures were moving round it.

The same words burst simultaneously from Raymond and Estelle alike—"Carlton Hall is on fire!" For a second or two both stood stupefied under the appalling certainty that this, and nothing else, was the explanation of the scene before them—and then Raymond's presence of mind returned. Naturally prompt in action, and rendered doubly so now by the training he had received under Captain Willis, he did not hesitate a moment in telling the pale shuddering woman by his side that he should instantly hurry to the spot and give his best assistance to the sufferers in this terrible calamity.

It so happened that, to gratify a playful wish expressed by Estelle, that she might see him in the uniform of the Fire Brigade, he had the protective dress and helmet with him, which would enable him to confront the flames in such a manner as would be impossible in ordinary clothes.

They were lying in the next room, where he had thrown them down after he had seen them, and he had rapidly told her that while he went there to put them on, it would be well if she would ascertain from the servants whether there was a coil of rope any where in the house which might be of use to him when he reached the scene of action.

"Meet me with it at the outer door if you can find one," he said. "Not a moment must be lost the fire must have been smouldering long to have burst forth with such sudden fury, and even lives may be in danger, though it is well they have not been taken by surprise in the when all might have been asleep."

Estelle did not answer as Raymond left the room, one wild cry went up from her heart to her Father in heaven, for his safety and protection in the terrible hours that were about to come. And then hastening into the passage she called a servant and bade her bring her all the rope she could find, and went on swiftly to her uncle's room.

She gave but one glance at the man lying on of the confines of the grave, who might yet be further from death than he who was dearest to her on earth, and turned quickly and calmly to his silent watcher.

"Moss, Carlton Hall is on fire! I am going there; I may not be back to-night only if there is any sudden change in your masters' state, send some one for me at once."

"There will be no change to-night—no, no," said Moss, fondling his master's hand, as if he could bear not even the suggestion that the parting between them might be so near.

"I agree with you; I do not think there will; but if it should be so you know where to send for me. She stooped, softly kissed her uncle's pallid brow, and was gone before Moss had time to speak again.

When Raymond came to the door, fully equipped as he would have been in London if he had been going with the engines and comrades to the rescue

he found Estelle standing outside on the gravel wearing a dark cloak, of which the hood was drawn over her face, and with a coil of rope upon her arm.

"I am ready," she said, "let us go."

"You, Estelle?" said Raymond. "Do you want to walk with me part of the way, to see the fire nearer? I think you had better not, as I should have to leave you alone in the wood to find your road back alone. Watch it rather from the window."

"I am going to the fire with you," she answered, speaking in short quick sentences, in the intensity of her steadily-controlled agitation. "I can leave my uncle—he is safe. There will be no change to-night. We are wasting precious moments; let us go on, quickly!"

"Not you, Estelle. No, it is impossible; you do not know how horrible such a scene always is; it is no place for a fragile woman, however brave her spirit may be. You must wait here. When it is over I will come back to you, if I can."

"Raymond," she said, turning round vehemently upon him. "Do you think that I am going to sit idly here while you are in the midst of uttermost danger? I cannot! I will not! Do not lose time in opposing me. I should follow you alone if you did not take me with you. Where you go I will go," and then, under her breath, she added, "where you die I will die."

There was a concentrated passion in her tone which shewed that her powers of endurance were stretched to their utmost limit, and that further opposition would only make her overwrought feelings burst their bonds, without turning her from her purpose, and Raymond ceased to attempt it; but once more there flashed through his mind the idea which had germinated there since the occasion of her visit to London. Surely he was not to her a friend alone, but the object of her deepest and most entire affection! His heart beat strangely at the thought; but it was no moment to dwell on selfish considerations of any kind when the issues of life and death for many human beings might be trembling in the balance so near them. He took Estelle's hand, therefore with a firm resolute grasp, and simply said, "Come then, we will go together."

So these two walked away through the darkness of the night, towards the great conflagration that was destroying the Carltons' princely home.

The nearest road to the Hall was by the woodland path so often trodden by them both in hours of ease and gaiety, and when they quitted the public thoroughfare to enter upon it they lost all sight of the fire among the thick bushes and overhanging trees, and might have thought that there was peace and safety fare and near, but for a strange amber glow that shot now and then across the heavens above them. Within the wood all was silence, save an occasional twitter of some half-awakened bird, and the soft sound of the dew-drops falling from the wild plants on the moist earth beneath. Even the faint starlight could not penetrate the interwoven branches of the trees, and it was impossible for Raymond to advance very rapidly, though he went steadily onward, holding Estelle tightly by the hand, that she might not stumble over the projecting roots that treacherously upon the path. He did not speak, but at last he gave a deep, almost convulsive, sigh, and said, "Estelle, the strangest sensation has taken possession of me. I do not know what it pretends, but surely it springs from no earthly source." He paused, almost gasping.

"What is it, Raymond?" said Estelle, tremulously.

"It is the conviction, clear and distinct as if its purport had been spoken in my soul by a voice divine, that the night on which I have entered now will be the crisis of my destiny, not in this world only, but in that which is to come. Estelle he continued, grasping her hand so strongly as almost to hurt her, "For what is it that I have been serving an apprenticeship until this hour in my training with the Fire Brigade? What is it that I am to do this night which I have been preparing for all along? Is it for good or for ill? for destruction or salvation? that all the events of my life have wound up to this hour, and placed me now at a point of time on which eternity itself depends! Is it that I am to save Kathleen? or is it—that I may take my revenge on Harcourt."