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THE BIBLE.

Hast thou ever heard
Of such a Book? The author, God Himself;
The subject, God and man, Salvation, life,
And death,—eternal life, eternal death,—
Dread words, whose meaning has no end no bounds,
Most wondrous book! bright candle of the Lord!
Star of eternity! the only Star
By which the bark of man could navigate
The sea of life, and gain the coast of bliss
Securely: Only Star which rose on Timor,
And on its dark and troubled billows, stole,
As generations, drifting swiftly o'er,
Succeeded generation, threw a ray
Of heaven's own light, and to the hills of God,
The eternal hills, pointed the sinner's eye."

OVER LAND AND SEA.

"Oxygen, gentlemen," said a professor to his class, "is essential to all animal existence; there could be no life without it. Strange to say, it was not discovered until a century ago, when—" Thereupon a student asked: "What did they do before it was discovered, professor?" The professor's reply is not recorded. But when we hear what wonders certain higher critics have done for the Bible, and how many persons have found it a new and true book who never could swallow it before, we wonder how our parents lived such saintly lives with only the old-fashioned volume. Think, too, what John Knox might have done for Scotland, Whitefield and Wesley for England, had they possessed the Bible as dissected, analyzed, rebound by the present day critics, and stamped with their imprimatur as a safe and truly useful book!

Dr. Walter Scott Dalgleish, who has just passed away in Edinburgh, was well known for the interest he took in educational affairs. For many years he was a member of the General Council of Edinburgh University, his Alma Mater; while as chief editor of the literary staff of Messrs. Thomas Nelson & Son, he supervised the production of their famous series of educational works. He was a member of some of the leading literary and scientific societies in Edinburgh, and was widely esteemed and much liked for the kindness and amiability of his disposition. A few years ago he received the honorary degree of LL.D. from the University of St. Andrews. The deceased gentleman was twice married, and leaves a widow and grown-up family. For about twenty years he was chief correspondent of the *Times* in Scotland.

Few, if any, of the good old Celtic type of minister now remain to grace Scottish pulpits. The oldest and, perhaps, the most interesting has just passed away in the person of the Rev. J. Campbell, M.A., formerly of Iona and Ross Parish, Mull. Mr. Campbell was a skilful linguist, and engaged some years in London in translation work and in literary teaching. He had reached the great age of 97, and only last year was able to preach in Gaelic one of those sermons of his, which for eloquence few Gaelic preachers could surpass.

A strong argument in favor of temperance is a recent report of the Massachusetts Labor Bureau.

Out of 26,672 convictions recorded last year, 18,232, or over sixty-eight per-cent., were for drunkenness alone, or in connection with some crime. In 3,640 other cases, the individual was under the influence of liquor when the crime was committed, leaving only 4,800 out of the 26,672 cases in which the person convicted was entirely sober at the time of the offense. It is also interesting to note that in eighty-three per cent. of the convictions, both parents were foreign-born.

A curious probate suit has come up in the English law courts. An old gentleman, lately deceased, left half a million dollars to found and endow a church on the condition that every Sunday, before service, the whole of the XXXIX. Articles shall be read by a clergyman outside the church door. Disinherited relations are contesting the validity of the will. Apparently such devoted attachment to the Articles is thought to be evidence of an unsound mind.

While commenting on the alleged poverty-stricken condition of Ireland the Secretary of the United Kingdom Alliance points out that one brewery alone there distributed nearly £700,000 as a year's profits.

A learned professor at Geneva, Switzerland, states that France drinks more alcohol annually than any other nation in Europe. His calculation is based on the percentage of alcohol in liquors consumed. According to this standard each person in France drinks thirteen quarts of alcohol in many more quarts of wines, beers, etc., in the course of a year. Next to France come Switzerland, Belgium and Italy, the annual consumption in the case of each of these countries being ten quarts. The English and Germans consume nine quarts, the Swedes four, the Norwegians three and the Canadians only two.

A striking way of illustrating the position of the Roman Church is this: Between 1841 and 1891 the population of the British Islands increased 11,000,000, yet there were, in 1891, 1,500,000 fewer Roman Catholics than there were half a century before. This does not look like progress, and we doubt if the Holy Father would feel much satisfaction if he were made aware of all the circumstances that are known here to exist. Is he, for instance, made aware of the terrible defection of those who seem to make the Roman Church a half-way house on the road to socinianism and agnosticism?

Greater New York will be second only to London in area, population, wealth and business. Its area will be 306 square miles, or 195,840 acres, while it will have an estimated population of 3,450,000. The bonded debt would amount to \$216,471,593, and its annual tax budget will exceed \$55,000,000, while the assessed value of its real estate—that is, in New York, Brooklyn and Staten Island—would be \$2,357,091,000. There would be 7,356 acres of parks and park lands, exclusive of such roadways as the Harlem Speedway, the Coney Island Boulevard, etc., now under Park control.