

and girls. To grandma all children were good; some children were better than others, but there were no bad children. A thousand blessings a thousand times told, on the dear old face and the silver hair that crowned the placid brow; on the wrinkled hands and the work they wrought; on the dear lips and blessed old hymns they sung; on the dear old book that lay in her lap, and the life that drew so much of love and faith and help from its pages. In every household and every nook of the land in the city teeming and in the roomy old farm house: in the mansion on the avenue and in the cottage down the lane, God bless grandma and the beautiful memories her figure always evokes.

FLYING FISH.

In the sea there are three flyers that really, from the extent of their flights, deserve the name. Those of our readers who have been at sea, especially in the South, may have seen the common flying-fish, with its brilliant blue-and-silver body and lace-like, sheeny wings. From the crest of a blue wave they dart, singly or in flocks, fluttering along, rising and falling, turning in curves, and returning to the water with a splash—perhaps to fall a victim to some watchful bonito (or dolphin) that has been closely following them beneath the water. These privateers of the sea are their greatest enemies, as they rise in the air following them under water, and emerging just in time to catch the luckless flyers as they descend. The dolphins will take great leaps of twenty or thirty feet in following the poor flying-fish, which, notwithstanding their long wings and wonderful powers, often fall victims to their tireless pursuers. They frequently fly aboard vessels at night, perhaps attracted by the lights, or, it may be, caught up by the wind from the crest of some curling wave, and carried in air against the sails.

The gurnard, though it has also long, wing-like fins, presents otherwise a totally different appearance. Its head is inclosed in a bony armour, from which project two sharp spines. Some of these fish are of a rich pink colour, while others are mottled with red, yellow, and blue, and as they fly along over the water, and the sunlight falls upon their glittering scales, they seem to glow with a golden lustre. With such hard heads, it will not be surprising information that they are disagreeable fellows to come in contact with; at least, so thought a sailor who was standing at dusk upon the quarter-deck of a vessel, near one of the West India Islands. Suddenly he found himself lying upon his back, knocked over by a monster gurnard that, with a score of others, had darted from the water, this one striking the man fairly in the forehead. The gurnards are also chased by dolphins, and they are frequently seen to rise in schools, to escape from the larger fish, while hovering above them are watchful gulls and man-of-war birds, ready to steal them from the jaws of their enemies of the sea.

In company with these flying-fish may often be seen curious white bodies, with long arms and black eyes. They are flying-squids, members of the cuttle-fish family, and the famous bait of the Newfoundland cod-fishermen. On the Banks they are often seen in vast shoals, and during storms tons of them are thrown upon the shore. When darting from wave to wave, they resemble silvery arrows, often rising and boarding ships in their headlong flight. So valuable are they for bait, that four or five hundred vessels at St. Pierre are engaged in catching them by means of jiggers.

Many of the squid family leave the water when pursued. Even the largest of them, often forty or fifty feet long, have been seen to rise ten or fifteen feet in the air, and sail away as if propelled by some mysterious force, their hideous arms dripping and glistening. They are certainly the largest and strangest of the flyers without wings.—From C. F. Holder's "Flying without wings," in St. Nicholas for April.

THE MARYLAND COLONY.

The men of the Maryland settlement also called themselves, like those of Plymouth, "Pilgrims," but the name had not come to them by such arduous experience, and it has not attached itself to their descendants. The Roman Catholics and others who came to "Mary's Land" in the *Ark* and the *Deve* in March, 1634, under Leonard Calvert, named their first settlement St. Mary's, in honour of Queen Henrietta Maria, and they called themselves "the Pilgrims of St. Mary's." The emigration was made up very differently from those which John Smith recorded in Virginia, for it consisted of but twenty "gentlemen" and three hundred labouring-men. They came under a charter granted to George Calvert, Lord Baltimore, who had for many years been trying to establish a colony, which he called "Avalon" much further north, and who had grown, in the words of a letter of the period "weary of his intolerable plantation at Newfoundland, where he hath found between eight and nine months' winter, and upon the land nothing but rocks, lakes, or morasses like bogs, which one might thrust a pike down to the butt-head." But he died before the new charter was signed, and was succeeded by his son Cecil, the second Lord Baltimore, who fully adopted his father's plans, and fully defrayed the cost of the first expedition, this being £40,000.

There exists a graphic account of the voyage of the first Maryland settlers by Father White, their chaplain, in his report to his religious superiors at Rome. He describes with delight his first ascent of the Potomac River, of which he says, "The Thames itself is a mere rivulet to it," and when he reaches the St. Mary's River, where the colony was founded (March 27, 1634), he says, "The finger of God is in this, and He purposes some great benefit to this nation." He might well say that, for the career of the early Maryland colony was peaceful, tolerant, and honourable. It was the most nearly independent and self-governing of the early colonies, the King asking nothing of it but two Indian arrows each year, and one-fifth of its gold or silver. It was called "the land of the sanctuary;" all Christians were tolerated there, though it did not, like Rhode Island, expressly extend its toleration beyond Christianity. By degrees it passed under the charge of Puritans from Virginia,

who proved themselves less liberal to Roman Catholics than the latter had been to them. But all working together laid the foundation of a new community, sharing in some respects the pursuits and distinctions of Virginia, but more peaceful, and at times more prosperous.—T. W. Higginson in *Yarper's Magazine* for April.

THE POWER OF SHORT WORDS.

[This poem is remarkable as a specimen of what may be done in vigorous, forcible, writing, using only words of one syllable.]

Think not that strength lies in the big, round word,
Or that the brief and plain must needs be weak.
To whom can this be true who once has heard
The cry for help, the tongue that all men speak,
When want, or woe or fear is in the throat,
So that each word gasped out is like a shriek,

Pressed from the sore heart, or a strange, wild note
Sung by some fay or fiend? There is a strength
Which dies if stretched too far or spun too fine,
Which has more height than breath, more depth than
length,
Let but this force of thought and speech be mine,
And he that will may take the sleek, fat phrase,
Which glows and burns not, though it gleam and shine—
Light but not heat—a flash but not a blaze!

Nor is it mere strength that the short word boasts,
It serves of more than fight or storm to tell—
The roar of waves that clash on rock-bound coasts,
The crash of tall trees when the wild winds swell,
The roar of guns, the groans of men that die
On blood-stained fields. It has a voice as well
For them that far off on their sick beds lie,
For them that weep, for them that mourn the dead;
For them that laugh, and dance, and clap the hand
To joy's quick step, as well as grief's low tread.
The sweet, plain words we learnt at first keep true,
And though the theme be sad, or gay, or grand,
With each, with all, these may be made to chime,
In thought, or speech, or song, or prose, or rhyme.

WHY OUR GIRLS DO NOT MARRY.

Well most of them do marry when they get ready, and the right one of "Our Boys" happens along. Sometimes, however, some of the very best girls are left out in the cold. A good deal has been said on this subject, both in books and newspapers, and it is generally supposed that it is a sufficient answer to say, "Marriage is a lottery, and all do not draw prizes." That is not the question at all. The real question is, rather, "Why are not all the prizes drawn?" There appear from time to time articles in the newspapers upon this subject, and it might be talked over in many houses with good effect. These newspaper and book articles frequently take the form of communications from young men who have a limited amount of income, and who would like to marry, but who say that they dare ask no young woman whom they know to share their poverty with them. The amount that was formerly sufficient for the fathers and mothers, will not do, as they think, for the daughters—girls are so extravagant nowadays, and require so much. It may be that this is partially true, but I have grave doubts of it, and should like to ask who it is that make this sort of objection? Is it the girls themselves, or their parents? How many fathers and mothers are willing that their daughters shall begin life as they did, with just as simple surroundings? It is not the higher education that our girls receive that unfits them for it; there is nothing in mechanics or geology to inspire a girl with the notion that unless she can marry a man with ample means to support her in idleness, she cannot consent to a life with him. It is rather the false ideas instilled into her mind at home. They say, what folly in her to leave a luxurious home for the unpretending one her husband can give her, where she will be obliged to do her share towards the common work of making it what it should be. What obstacles are put in her way! Unless she is a girl of high spirit and great determination, and who can follow Montaigne's advice, and do what she is afraid to, she gives up, but not because she believes that she could not be happy and useful in the home offered to her. It is the old story that a woman will follow the man she loves "beyond the night, across the day, through all the world." The girls are not to blame, but the parents, who, like crusty gardeners, have watched and guarded the perfect bloom of the hot-house plant, and will not allow it to be taken from them till it has become withered and faded, and then they are themselves obliged to leave it after all.

THE SPARROWS AND THE RAILROADS.

A lady writes: "A few mornings since my attention was attracted to a flock of English sparrows, whose chattering was so earnest that I at first thought war was declared in the bird world and that they were trying to adjust an amnesty. But soon I saw one fat, chubby little brown fellow fly up a few inches from the ground, carrying in his beak a soda biscuit. He flew but a few feet before he dropped his biscuit, when another sparrow seized it and carried it a few feet further on, and so one after another of the little brown-coats carried it along until finally the last sparrow dropped it plump on to the horse-car track. Then away they all flew, as if their object had been accomplished. Pretty quickly along came a car, and passing over the cracker, ground it into crumbs. Then (and this is a true story) down swooped the whole flock of feathered philosophers and made a good breakfast.

THE Boston "Hebrew Observer" is doing a useful piece of work in a series of articles on the burial of the dead, in which reforms for sanitary and economical purposes are advocated.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

AN "Anti-Opium Prayer Union" has been formed in Great Britain.

IN spite of beer the temperance movement is making gigantic strides in the Church of England.

A FAN made of bank notes was the gift made to a Methodist pastor at Newark, N. J., the other evening.

PAPER houses are coming into use in England, where for some purposes they are found greatly superior to tents.

THE Rev. J. B. Hamilton, of Rhode Island, has given alcohol a new name. He calls it "aqua mortis," the water of death.

PROF. ROBERTSON SMITH contemplates leaving Edinburgh shortly and taking up his permanent residence in Cambridge.

A FEMALE seminary, after the plan of Vassar College, is to be erected at a cost of \$200,000 by the Presbytery of Los Angeles, Cal.

THE Rev. George Muller has been holding meetings in Vienna, and without molestation by the authorities. This is a great triumph in Austria.

RECENT discoveries of very ancient copies of the Old Testament Scriptures in Hebrew and Hebræo-Russian have been made at Yemen, in Arabia.

GEORGE J. BRYANT, formerly editor and proprietor of the Buffalo "Evening Post," and latterly publishing a weekly named the "Queen City," has been committed to an insane asylum on account of excessive drinking.

THE following excellent compendium of what a house of worship should be is from an English paper: "Free from all draughts, free from all delusions, free from all false doctrine, free to all men, and from all debt."

MR. ARTHUR SULLIVAN presided at the 145th anniversary festival of the Royal Society of Musicians, held in St. James's Hall, London. Donations and subscriptions to the amount of about £1,000 were announced.

THE Russian revolutionary party have issued a proclamation announcing that they are prepared for the coronation, and warning all who value their personal safety to keep at a distance from the Czar during the ceremony.

MRS. FORSTER, the mother of the British Cabinet minister, founded the first society in the world for the prevention of cruelty to animals. She still lives and is as much loved in Dorsetshire as Gladstone is in Hawarden.

THE venerable senior and presiding Bishop of the American Episcopal Church, Dr. Smith, may be said to have been a citizen under every President of the United States. He was five years old when General Washington died.

THERE are in China between 300 and 400 Christian schools, containing over 6,000 pupils; 600 Protestant mission stations, more than 300 organized churches, some of them self-supporting, and about 20,000 communicants.

THE different Southern churches are taking quite an interest in the education of the coloured people. The Baptists, Presbyterians, and Episcopalians are all engaging in the good work, and now the Methodist Episcopal Church South has followed in the same direction.

THE proposed conference in Vienna of persons interested in the Red Cross Society of Geneva has been abandoned. The German Government will negotiate with the various countries of Europe with a view to extending the benefits of the organization to the navies of all nations.

CATHOLICS at Colombo, Ceylon, recently objected to a religious procession of Buddhists in which was carried a crucifix surmounted by a monkey. The Papists regarded this combination as insulting to the Catholic religion. A violent physical contest ensued in the streets.

THE receipts of the Presbyterian Hospital in Philadelphia for the past year amounted to \$30,897.96, including interest on the John A. Brown fund. The disbursements were \$29,467.74. The Ladies' Aid Society of the Hospital received during the year \$2,167.49. There have been 666 patients treated at the Institution.

THE Committee that are making arrangements for Messrs. Moody and Sankey's visit to London, propose to secure the construction of two movable iron buildings capable of holding 5,000 each. While services are in progress in one, the other can be erected on some other site in the suburbs, and so on until all parts of the city are reached.

GENERAL GEORGE MACDONALD, the "Father of the British army," has just died, at the age of ninety-nine, having been in the service for seventy-eight years. He had served in Hanover in 1805, in Sicily and Naples in 1806-11, in Spain in 1812-14, in Canada during the war of 1814, and at Waterloo, where he was thrice wounded.

THE first list of subscriptions to the Friendly Society of Dissenting Minister's Relief Fund was published on Saturday. Of the £15,000 required £9,230 have already been received. Dr. Peddie, the treasurer, has made an offer of £3,300 in payment of all claims against him, but the liquidator holds that he is able to pay £6,000.

THE Dorchester (Conn.) "Era" of recent date says: "The members and friends of a Methodist Episcopal church called upon the pastor, and presented him a 'Dorchester pie.' The bottom crust was a sack of corn; the top crust was a purse of gold; the filling was made up of sausage, hams, coffee, sugar, cake, lard, fruit, honey, crackers, eggs, jelly, butter, hominy, potatoes, hosiery, handkerchiefs, chocolate, catsup, dried fruit, fresh pork, beef, etc."

A MEDICAL temperance demonstration was held recently in London. Dr. Norman Kerr mentioned the names of a number of medical men who from 1725 down to the present time had denounced the use of alcohol as pernicious to the human frame, and stated that an association of medical men had been formed to promote what they believed to be the true principles of temperance physiology. They one and all condemned the administration of alcohol in disease,