

However, that evening the Marchese sent for Gulio. The excellent young man expected some discussion of vines and orchards; but he was never unprepared for anything that happened, and when the question of his late master's marriage was sprung upon him he retained his presence of mind.

"Gulio, your master, Nicole, brought a lady with him from England," said the Marchese.

"Si, Signore," said Gulio.

"Was he married to that lady?"

Gulio shrugged his shoulders to his ears.

"It was not my business to question Ser. Nicole of his private affairs."

"But he spoke to her and of her as his wife?"

"Possibly, Signore. I do not deny it."

"Why did you not inform me of this, Gulio?"

"Signore, an English marriage does not always go for a marriage here—not if Holy Church has not blessed it. The Padre Innocenza did not take it for legal, and who am I to dispute him? Moreover consider, *illustrissimo*, I have no more right to tell Ser. Nicole's secrets when he is dead than when he was living. Gulio Ravi's soul becomes the grave of knowledge which a Forano desires to bury. Did Ser. Nicole tell you of the Signora from England? No? Then surely the poor Gulio must not be the first to tell it!"

"But, Gulio, what about the child?" demanded the Marchese.

"Oh, Signore! I know nothing at all."

"Is the child dead, Gulio?"

"I heard so," said the cautious servant.

"Do you believe so?"

"Oh, yes, excellenza; I believe all that I hear."

"That is very foolish, Gulio."

"All that I hear from good people. Si, si, Signore, do not distress yourself. The child—I hope is happy; probably it was baptized." Gulio bowed, and was about to leave the room, when his soul was rent by seeing a tear rolling over the old Marchese's cheek. He pretended not to notice, but said: "May I ask your excellenza a question on my own account? I have had some business with these *vittadini* which troubles me. If I make a promise—take an oath—must I keep it, even if I repent of it?"

"Why, surely you must, Gulio."

"If I make two contrary oaths, must I keep both?"

"Let me warn you against such dangerous doings. But you must keep both, just so far as you possibly can."

"At any sacrifice, excellenza?"

"At any sacrifice, Gulio."

"It may turn out badly, caro Signore."

"You should have thought of that beforehand."

"But suppose I have been entrapped?"

"You must be more wary in future. Keep your promises, Gulio."

"Padrone, Signore. Buona notte. Signore, you have said."

Most innocent, and unsuspecting of his race, the Marchese Forano went to his priest with his story, and sent this priest to Padre Innocenza to ask for further information, and if he knew Nicole's child to be dead.

Now Signore Forano's priest knew this whole history from the beginning, and was one of the plotters with Padre Innocenza. He went from the Marchese to Sta. Maria Maggiore on the hills, and both he and Father Innocenza resolved sharply to dispute and deny the validity of Nicole's marriage, and both were honest in their views; they did not believe there could be valid marriage outside of Holy Church.

Had the old Marchese gone himself to ask about the child I do not know what the Padre Innocenza, with his softening heart, would have said; but to the priest from Villa Forano he remarked:

"Well, we cannot go back on what we have done."

"Cospetto! I should say not! My coming is a mere farce."

"And of course the child could not be found if it were living; and there is hardly a doubt but that it is dead by this time."

"Pur troppo!" said his confrere; "well, I hope this ends the story, and that we shall hear no more of Nicole, and the evil-minded English Jew, and their bambino."

(To be continued.)

#### RARE BIBLES.

The late Mr. James Lenox, of New York, was a great collector of rare books, but especially of remarkable Bibles. These are now carefully arranged in a dozen large glass cases, in the magnificent library founded by him in that city. The New York "Evening Post" says: "The collection is so arranged that it forms a history of the art of printing from the very beginning. Taking the Bibles first, there is the 'Gutenberg Bible' (Mazarin), the earliest book printed from movable types, printed at Mainz about 1450. The 'Breeches Bible,' so called on account of the rendering of Genesis iii. 7 ('making themselves breeches out of fig leaves'). There are a great many editions of this Bible, the Lenox Library showing not only the first Geneva edition but a work of Caxton's printed many years before the issue of the Geneva Bible, in which parts of the Bible are translated into English, and the rendering 'breeches' is to be found for the first time in any known work. The 'Breeches Bible'—chiefly the result of the labours of English exiles of Geneva—was the English family Bible during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and till supplanted by the version of King James I. In this case may be seen two leaves from Caxton's 'Recuyell of the Histories of Troye,' Bruges, 1474, which is supposed to have been the first book printed in the English language. No perfect copies of the work are known to exist. The Lenox Library has several copies of the 'Wicked Bible,' so called on account of the 'not' having been omitted from the commandment 'Thou shalt not commit adultery.' It has recently been ascertained that the fine (\$1,500) imposed upon the printer for having allowed this blunder to get into

the edition was used to found the first Greek press at Oxford. Placed next to the 'Wicked Bible' of the Lenox Library is a German Bible printed at Halle in 1571, sixty years before the English Wicked Bible was issued (1631) in which the same mistake occurs.

"The library is also rich in copies of the Codex Sinaiticus, found by Tischendorf in the convent on Mount Sinai, and supposed to date from the year 340; the Codex Vaticanus, found in the Vatican library where it had lain for centuries untouched. The Polyglot Bibles also deserve attention because of their beauty of workmanship, the text being printed in Chaldaic and Latin, and in Syriac and Latin. Other Bibles famous for typographical errors are the 'Placemakers' Bible, printed in 1562, in which the verse 'Blessed are the Peacemakers' is printed 'Blessed are the Placemakers'; the 'Murderers' Bible, so called from an error in the Epistle of Jude, 'murderers' being used instead of 'murmurers.' The Lenox Library possesses a copy of the first German Bible issued in 1456, of the Latin Bible of Nuremberg of 1477, and a unique treasure in Philip Melancthon's Bible, filled with minute annotations in his own handwriting. Many of these Bibles are profusely illustrated with most extraordinary and complicated woodcuts. Those to be seen in the block books, issued before movable types were invented, are the most interesting. The library possesses an admirable copy of the *Biblia Pauperum*, the impression being obtained from the block by rubbing instead of by means of a press. One cut represents the creation of Eve. Adam is shewn asleep under what may be supposed from the fruit to be an apple tree. Eve is getting out of a slit in his side."

#### PEACEABLE FRUIT.

"Nevertheless, afterward it yielded the peaceable fruit of righteousness."—Heb. xii. 11.

What shall Thine "afterward" be, O Lord,  
For this dark and suffering night?  
Father, what shall Thine "afterward" be?  
Hast Thou a morning of joy for me,  
And a new and joyous light?

What shall Thine "afterward" be, O Lord,  
For the moan that I cannot stay?  
Shall it issue in some new song of praise,  
Sweeter than sorrowless heart could raise,  
When the night hath passed away?

What shall Thine "afterward" be, O Lord,  
For this helplessness of pain?  
A clearer view of my home above,  
Of my Father's strength and my Father's love—  
Shall *this* be my lasting gain?

What shall Thine "afterward" be, O Lord?  
How long must Thy child endure?  
Thou knowest! 'Tis well that I know it not!  
Thine "afterward" cometh—I cannot tell what,  
But I know that Thy word is sure.

What shall Thine "afterward" be, O Lord,  
I wonder and wait to see,  
(While to Thy chastening hand I bow),  
What "peaceable fruit" may be ripening now—  
Ripening fast for me!

—Francis Ridley Havergal.

#### A REMINISCENCE OF CARLYLE.

It was amusing to see how impatient he was of correction from his wife, and yet he would take correction from mine like a lamb. He was talking on one occasion with a distinguished nobleman about Herat. He pronounced it wrongly, Herat. My wife was an attentive listener. I was conversing with Mrs. Carlyle about a paper of mine that had recently appeared in "Household Words," on "The Buried City of Ceylon," when I heard Carlyle say to my wife, "You seem interested in our conversation."

"I cannot quite make out what city you are talking about," said she.

"Why, do you not know Herat, on the western confines of Afghanistan and the eastern of Persia, that diplomatists are so much interested in just now?"

"Oh, you mean Herat," said she; "that's quite a different thing. Nobody calls it Herat."

He accepted the correction without a murmur, and for the rest of the evening spoke of the city as Herat.

On another occasion he quoted wrongly from the Bible: "Is thy servant a dead dog to do this thing?" "It is not a dead dog, Carlyle," said his wife—she spoke with a burr on the r, Carlyle; "It is not a dead dog, Carlyle, but a dog—'Is thy servant a dog to do this thing?' Carlyle heard her patiently to the end, and a little after took occasion to repeat his misquotation quite gravely. "Is thy servant a dead dog to do this thing?" His wife, like a prudent woman, did not hear it.—W. Knighton, in *Contemporary Review*.

LOVE Him that first loved you, and while you sink into His arms, and surrender all to Him, with a joyful, absolute self-renunciation, let this coniding love swell and abound, till every sign of distrust shall be swept away. For against every challenge, in time or eternity, this may be your rejoinder: "He that spared not His own son, but delivered Him up for us all: how shall He not, with Him, also freely give us all things?"—J. W. Alexander.

THE Supreme Court of Wisconsin has just rendered a decision involving the validity of Sunday business contracts. It decides that money loaned on Sunday, and for which payment is promised on that day, cannot be recovered if the borrower declines to pay. And it has further decided that bonds issued in aid of a railway only on the presentation of a petition bearing the necessary signatures, which were affixed on Sunday, are issued unlawfully, the procuring and affixing of such signatures on Sunday being "business" as prohibited by the laws of the State.

## BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

No opium smoker is admitted to Church-membership by any Christian mission in China.

THE British and Foreign Bible Society put in circulation in China last year 220,000 copies of the Scriptures.

Six thousand tradesmen now close their places of business in the St. Roch Quarter in Paris on the Lord's day.

THE French Senate has abolished the dividing lines between the different religious bodies in the public cemeteries.

IN thirty-seven years the Church of England has erected 2,581 churches, and expended on church buildings \$200,000,000.

THE revised New Testament is now regularly used in the pulpits of at least twenty leading Presbyterian churches in New York.

THE Presbyterian Sabbath schools of the United States contribute annually to benevolent purposes the sum of \$250,000.

THE Glasgow Free Presbytery has ordained the Rev. R. Hannington, M.B., C.M., as a medical missionary at Livingstonia.

THE death is announced by telegraph of the Rev. Duncan Macpherson, D.D., senior chaplain of the Church of Scotland, in Bombay.

THE Rev. Dr. Edmond, of the Highbury New Park Presbyterian Church, London, is about to start on a visit of three or four months to America.

THE revisers of the New Testament made no fewer than 31,191 alterations in the text. 2,467 emendations were made in 407 verses of the Revelations of St. John alone.

ACCORDING to the Census returns there are about one million Presbyterian communicants in Scotland, shewing that three-fourths of the population are in Presbyterian families.

THE distribution of tracts in Italy is producing so much effect that the priests and Catholics have formed a society, with a fund of 60,000 francs to start with, called the "Anti-Tract Society."

CRIME diminished seventy-five per cent. in the State of Connecticut under the prohibitory law of 1854, and in 1873 upon the restoration of the license system, it increased fifty per cent. in a single year.

THERE is a great awakening among the Jews at Hamaden, Persia. Forty men are believers besides women and children, though some of them are now deterred from confessing their faith by fear of persecution.

It is said the proposed establishment of a church in New Orleans by the Old Catholics is causing much uneasiness at Rome. It is feared that many Romanists whose allegiance to the Pope is not strong will find refuge in it.

THE Greek Government has given an order that the Bible shall be read in the public schools in the ancient and not in the modern tongue. This introduces the Greek Testament into 1,200 schools, which contain 80,000 pupils.

PRESBYTERIAN Church members form about one-eighth of Church membership in South Carolina. More than one-third of the State Senators and three-fifths of the Congressmen from South Carolina are Presbyterians.

THE Ultramontane newspaper, "Germania," of Berlin, admits that the negotiations between Germany and the Vatican relative to notifying ecclesiastical appointments to the German Government are a long way yet from a conclusion.

THE Old Catholics in Europe have grown from the fourteen who protested, in Nuremberg, in 1870, under the leadership of Dr. Dollinger, against the latest Papal innovations on the Catholic faith, to a Church consisting of two bishops, 120 priests, and upwards of 100,000 enrolled lay members.

IN the Chinese Presbyterian Mission Church, San Francisco, Cal., on the occasion of the July observance of the Lord's supper, the congregation was large and deeply interested. Five Chinese were baptized and received into the Church, four of whom were from the "Women's Home," under the care of Miss Culberston.

ACCORDING to circulars distributed about Berlin, the Socialists, fourth electoral district, despite state of siege, have decided to vote for Bebel, the Socialist candidate, for the Reichstag. Considering the strict laws governing the Socialists, especially in Berlin, this is a bold attempt on their part, which the Government will do its utmost to frustrate.

DR. DORCHESTER, a prominent minister of Boston, U.S., after years of careful investigation, estimates the Christian population of the world at 440,000,000. When King James's Version of the Bible was issued, according to Dr. Dorchester, there were but 5,000,000 of English-speaking people. To-day the Revision of 1881 goes forth, he says, to 95,000,000 of such people.

MR. DICK PEDDIE, M.P., has given notice that next session he will move in the House of Commons, "That this House is of opinion that the maintenance of the Church Establishment in Scotland is indispensable on public grounds; that in the ecclesiastical circumstances of the country it is eminently unjust; and that a measure for the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church of Scotland ought to be passed at an early period."

THE net results of Prohibition in the State of Maine are summed up by ex-Governor Dingley, who states that the number of dramshops has been reduced from one to every 225 inhabitants in 1833, to less than one secret groggery to every 1,000 inhabitants in 1881, while the sales in these secret shops are less than one-fourth what they would be in openly licensed saloons. He also states that the criminal records affords convincing proof of the benefits of prohibition, there being in Maine only one State prison convict to 2,700 inhabitants. That proportion is lower than obtains in seven States which he mentions. The proportion in New York is one to 1,400.