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OVER LAND AND SEA.

'Tis such a little while we walk together
Along life's way.
Some weary feet that march beside us falter
Each passing day.
Dear friends that greet us in the morning vanish
Ere it is noon,
And tender voices melt away in silence—
A broken tune.

'Tis such a little while for loving kindness,
Or cold disdain;
To smoothe the way for weary feet that falter,
Or chide and blame;
A little while, and it were unavailing
Kind words to say,
For those that walked but yesterday beside us
Have passed away.

These are the days when the thoughts of both pastors and people lightly turn to thoughts of rest and coolness.

A cable dispatch announces that General Booth has bought the Hall of Science in old Hall Street, London, and that it will be used by the Salvation Army. It is worthy of note that this hall was the meeting-place of the congregation of atheists of which Charles Bradlaugh, M.P. was the leader. Many Christian people remember the alarm with which they viewed the atheistic revival of Bradlaugh's day. It threatened great things, but soon died out, and now the old hall is a place of religious worship.

Rev. Dr. Roberts, Stated Clerk of General Assembly, in presenting his annual report gave the following statistics: There were added to the Presbyterian Church during the past year about 65,000 persons: the total number is 940,000; 124 ministers died, 213 Presbyteries out of the 243 were represented in the General Assembly, 599 commissioners were present, five less than last year.

The religious difficulty has been solved in some of the Swiss elementary schools in what appears to be regarded by all concerned as a satisfactory manner. According to the report of Mr. Arthur Herbert, Second Secretary to the British Legation at Berne, Protestant and Roman Catholic children, where the former are the majority, are taught together until they are about ten years old, receiving such instruction as would be called in England undenominational. The Roman Catholics are then placed under separate teaching by their own priest, preparatory to their confirmation. In Switzerland, it must be borne in mind, Roman Catholics and Protestants not infrequently make use of the same churches, the hours of service being fixed by amicable arrangement.

The *British Weekly* contains a condensed and comprehensive summary of the present condition of the two largest branches of the Presbyterian Church in Scotland, which will interest others than Presbyterians in this country. We make the following extract:

The reports of the Church of Scotland and the Free Church of Scotland for the past year have now been published. The total income of the Established Church from all sources showed a considerable decline. On the other hand, the number of members has increased by over 6,000. Owing to the way in which the Free Church lists of members and adherents are kept, it is difficult to say what the

precise increase this year numbers, but it is over 4,000. The increase in contributions amounts to the large sum of £47,223. Of this a good proportion comes from legacies, but the growth in ordinary contributions is notable and most encouraging. Mr. J. M. McCandlish, one of the ablest financiers in the country, in giving his report to the Free Church Assembly, said that the Free Church, and the United Presbyterian Church had raised between them this year considerably over £1,000,000.

This is a noble financial showing, and a wide contrast with the condition of things in the Presbyterian Church in the United States, where the debt of the missionary societies is nearly \$300,000. It shows, for one thing, that where Presbyterianism is theologically most liberal it is also financially most generous—a good fact to remember.

Many interesting and encouraging facts with relation to education in the South were brought out at the recent meeting of the National Educational Association. While, for instance, the South has gained fifty-four per cent. in population in the last twenty years, the increase in the enrolment of its school attendance has been one hundred and thirty per cent. In the same period the value of the school property has advanced from \$16,000,000 to \$51,000,000. Of all the people in the South, black and white, one in five is in attendance at school during some parts of the year. The proportionate school attendance of Saxony, which exceeds all other countries in Europe, is not greater than this. The school enrolment of Florida is higher than that of Rhode Island or New Jersey. In business and trade this educational work is fast making itself felt.

Lady architects, Cannon and Hands, have prepared the plans for the Woman's Club Building, a fourteen-story structure to be erected in New York City at a cost of \$1,000,000.

Here is an example of "Time's revenges." Two Jews of Bagdad have lately purchased all the land on which ancient Babylon stood. That Babylon by whose waters the Jews in exile wept and prayed is now the property of those who, in their despair, hanged their harps upon the trees that are therein. All that remains of palaces and "hanging gardens" in that city where Daniel was cast into the den of lions, and "the three children" into the fiery furnace, is now held in fee by Hebrews. We have here another illustration of the marvellous tenacity of the ancient chosen race. The Jews have survived all the races and civilizations which clustered about the capital of the mighty Babylonian Empire. Though in their long history the predictions of the prophets have been fulfilled and the cup of suffering has been drunk to the dregs, their permanence has not been affected. On the other hand, the powers who became their conquerors and oppressors have fallen one by one. Assyria and Babylon perished ages ago; the Greek power waned and passed away, the Roman Empire is gone; but the Hebrew race is indestructible. In the race itself is fulfilled the old legend of the Wandering Jew, doomed to survive the rise and fall of nations till the last great day.