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OPPORTUNITY.

The work you fain would do, the message tell,
Do now, and it is well.
The house you think to build some future day,
Build soon—life drifts away.
The moments you would fill with golden deeds,
Fill now—life has its needs.

OVER LAND AND SEA.

It quite frequently happens that older people seek to hide their own failings behind lame excuses while at the same time they vigorously endeavor to place the blame where it belongs in the case of their children. Now and then, however, the little ones innocently expose this partiality of judgment, as in the instance of the boy who remarked that he couldn't see why it was that "when little boys are cross, folks say they are naughty, and when papas and mammas are cross, folks say they are nervous." It may be that children have "nerves" (if there are such things) oftener than grown people think.

Celebration of the 400th anniversary of the discovery of the North American continent by John Cabot, is to occur this year, and preparations are being made for it, specially at Bristol, England, whence Cabot sailed in 1497. The citizens of that town propose to erect a monument on some commanding site near the point of embarkation. They have already collected about \$10,000, and intend to raise not less than \$25,000.

Protestantism has of late made great progress in Mexico, where fifty years ago there was neither church nor school devoted to the Evangelical faith. There are to-day 441 organised churches, with 171 pastors, 164 evangelists, 244 teachers, and about 50,000 professing Protestants. Such is the result of the efforts, mostly within the past twenty-five years, of missions which have for the most part been founded by United States societies and workers.

All the Christian churches in Japan together have 111,588 members. There are in the country 858 missionaries, 331 native ministers and 981 catechists. Of the church members the Roman Catholics have 50,302 (including all baptized children), the Greek Church has 22,576 and the Protestant churches have 38,710.

Rev. James Steen, the oldest clergyman of the Presbyterian Church, recently died at the residence of his son-in-law, Frederick Rigby, in Newry, Ireland. Mr. Steen was born in Londonderry in 1800. He was ordained pastor at Dromore in 1839; afterward accepted a call to Claduff in 1842, and continued in active service until 1881, remaining as pastor emeritus until his death.

The most remarkable instance of unbroken genealogical descent is recorded in a recent number of the "Pall Mall Magazine." It seems that, in the time of King Malcolm, Glamis (Scotland) was a royal residence, and remained so until 1372, when Sir John Lyon was made Lord High Chamberlain of Scotland. The king's daughter fell in love with the young knight and was given to him in marriage, together with the lands

of the thanedom of Glamis. Ten years later Sir John fell in a duel, and was buried at Scone among the kings of Scotland. He left one son, from whom the present family of Lyon have descended without a break from father to son to the present day.

It is said that the war between China and Japan has resulted in the marked advancement of the women of Japan. All of the book-keepers in the Mitsui Bank of Osaka are women, and there are fifteen publications, three of them Christian, devoted to the interests of women.

Romanists are not altogether to be blamed for their ignorance of history. Any book written by a Protestant, touching on religion, is absolutely forbidden to be read. No edition of the Bible in the original tongues, and no ancient version in Greek, Latin, Syriac, Armenian, Arabic, or any other language of the earlier Church, prepared by a non-Catholic, is allowed to any except those engaged in theological or biblical studies, and to them only, provided no attack is made, "in the prefaces or notes, or dogmas of the Catholic faith."

A committee of the National Temperance Society has issued the call for the eleventh National Temperance Convention, to be held in Saratoga Springs, commencing Wednesday, August 18th, 1897. Temperance organizations and churches are invited to send delegates.

The Victorian "Sexagenery" is not to be without its dangers. So affirms, and with good show of reason, the Rev. Wm. Ross of the Cowcaddens Free Church, Glasgow. This earnest temperance worker sounds his note of alarm, but the Record Reign celebrations lead to an increase in drinking. That there is great danger in that direction he argues from the fact, that the national drink bill, which had for ten years been decreasing, took an upward turn in the year of the Queen's Jubilee, and continued to increase thereafter, year by year.

The American Tobacco Company, the trust, gives a report of its business for the year 1896. We present some of the figures derived from its report: Output of cigarettes 4,000,000,000. Length of cigarettes if placed in line, end to end, 180,121 miles or over seven times around the world. Dividends twenty nine per cent. Total profits for the year \$7,580,000.

A poor woman had a cat of which she was very fond. She fed it with all the dainties that she could procure. Her next door neighbor's pet was a canary bird. When the bird sang sweetly in its cage the cat would look at it with longing eyes. "Oh," said the woman, "how I wish that I was rich." "Why so?" asked her visitor. The reply was, "If I had plenty of money, I would buy Tommy all the canaries that he could eat." There are a good many people whose ideas of the use of money are no better than hers. And some of our millionaires might as well buy canaries for their cats as squander their wealth in the ways that they do.