

**A Handful of Dust.**

BY LILLIE E. BARR.

BEFORE Pope Boniface there stood  
Two men, whose hatred was their life;  
One Guelph, the other Ghibeline,  
Heirs to a century of strife.  
One wore a bishop's holy dress;  
The other wore a noble's sword,  
Guelph hated every Ghibeline,  
And Ghibeline all Guelphs abhorred.

They met before Pope Boniface;  
(It was a dark and stormy age)  
With scornful, passionate retorts,  
Each angered each to bitter rage.  
Awhile Pope Boniface look'd on;  
Then with an anger stern and just  
Unto their feet he quickly stooped  
And filled his hands with summer dust.

"Bishop and Noble, tell me now  
Whence sprang the Guelph and Ghibeline?  
And when you both shall journey hence  
Will the world care that you have been?  
Have you considered in your pride,  
The while you one another spurn,  
That beggar, Guelph and Ghibeline  
Shall all alike to *this* return?"

In open palms he showed the dust,  
"Oh, haughty Guelph! this handful see  
Thou shalt ere long be even so,  
And Ghibeline, this dust is thee.  
From dust the both of you have sprung;  
Both shall return to dust at last."  
Then in their faces, dark and proud,  
The Pope the dusty handfuls cast.

"Hence! both of you! and seek in prayer  
Pardon for all the ills you've done;  
Perchance by penitential tears  
The heavenly mercy may be won."  
With sullen faces they obeyed,  
And glances full of proud disgust;  
But still within each conscience lay  
That handful of reproving dust.

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**Progress in Union.**

We are glad to learn that in many places union revival services are being held, and that, by multitudes of conversions, God is placing the seal of His approval on the cause of Christian union. District conventions have also been held to aid in re-arranging the work, with the happiest results. The following is an extract from a report of the convention on the London District:

"The most perfect harmony prevailed. Committees were struck on the re-adjustment of the different circuits, and the reports brought in revealed the fact that the union will consolidate the circuits, save a vast amount of that hardest part of a Methodist preacher's work, long drives,

and facilitate that important branch of a minister's work, pastoral visiting. The re-adjustment of one circuit alone will save a drive of twelve miles per week, and make that circuit far more effective.

"Looking over the events of our meeting, not one unkindly word was spoken, not a fling; no effort on the part of any one appointment to take advantage of another. But the one grand idea seemed to be to put our circuits into a shape that the largest amount of real good might be obtained from the work done. The day and a half we were together put us into a very pleasant position of making the acquaintance of one another, and really we could not see what had kept us apart so long. All the arguments against the union seemed to sink out of sight in the spirit of unity and love that prevailed. If we may predict, we should say that if the re-arrangements suggested by this convention prevail, no doubt but Methodistic mission, spreading scriptural holiness through the land, will be immensely facilitated.

"We came from that convention feeling that Methodism united was not a thing of sentiment, but of life, and power, and peace; and the best of all is, 'God is with us!'"

Thank God for such delightful progress in the bringing together of the late scattered forces of Methodism in this land!

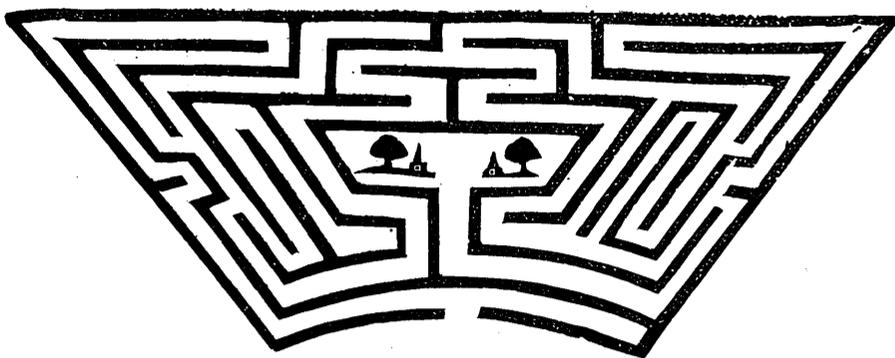
**Book Notices.**

*The New Sunday-school Teacher's Biblical Dictionary.* With an introduction by the Rev. J. F. Kitto, M.A., Rector of St. Mary's, White-chapel. 8vo., pp. 1,220, illustrated. London: Elliot Stock. Toronto: Wm. Briggs. Price \$3.50.

This book is a remarkable illustration of the valuable literature created by the Sunday-school movement. A Bible Dictionary enables a student to help himself, and cultivates a habit of investigation that will often pour a flood of light upon the sacred page. Another advantage of a good Bible Dictionary is this: It does not do one's thinking for him. It supplies the facts, and lets one think out conclusions and opinions for himself. It cultivates the intellectual, the reasoning faculties. The book under review, wherever we have examined it, we have found exceedingly well edited. The engravings are very numerous, and are not mere embellishments—they are pertinent illustrations of the text. For preachers, teachers, and indeed all Bible students, we know nothing so compendious, yet full, so good and so cheap as this book.

*Queen Victoria: Her Girlhood and Womanhood.* By Grace Greenwood. Montreal: Dawson Brothers; and Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax. Pp. 401. Price \$1.00.

All loyal subjects are glad to get glimpses, even through the printed page, of the person and home-life of a Sovereign than whom none was ever more beloved. The author gives many anecdotes of the public and, so far as is seemly, of the private life of Queen Victoria. "I have long felt," she says, "that the wonderful story of the life of the Queen of England—of her example as daughter, wife, and mother,



THE HAMPTON COURT MAZE.

and as the honoured head of English society, could but have, if told simply, yet sympathetically, a happy and ennobling influence on the hearts and minds of my young countrywomen." It is a beautiful picture of domestic happiness, of a depth and tenderness and purity not often seen in palaces, that is revealed to us. The story of the death of Prince Albert, and of the Queen's lonely, grieving widowhood, is touchingly told. Its pathos affects every heart, and makes the Empire join, as with one impulse, in the prayer:

"May all love,  
His love, unseen, but felt, o'ershadow thee,  
The love of all thy sons encompass thee,  
The love of all thy daughters cherish thee,  
The love of all thy people comfort thee,  
Till God's love set thee at his side again."

*Mumu, and the Diary of a Superfluous Man.* By Ivan Turgeneff. Published in Funk & Wagnalls' (10 and 12 Dey Street, New York) Standard Library, No. 107. Price 15 cents. Wm. Briggs, sole agent for Canada.

The recent death of Turgeneff, the great Russian writer, has greatly intensified the interest in his tales. In England his writings are becoming all the rage. In France they have been so for some time. The two stories here given are excellent representatives of his powers. "Mumu" depicts in graphic style the serf-life of Russia; and "The Diary of a Superfluous Man," the condition of Russian upper classes. The translations here given are direct from the Russian, made by an accomplished fellow-countryman of the writer.

*The Marquis of Lorne.* Messrs. Dawson Bros. publish a neat volume entitled, "Memories of Canada and Scotland: Speeches and verses by Right Hon. the Marquis of Lorne, K.T., G.C.M.G., etc. The Canadian pieces begin with the poem on Canada written in 1882, the first verse of which is:

"Are hearts here strong enough to found  
A glorious people's sway!  
Ask of our rivers as they bound  
From hill to plain or ocean sound,  
If they are strong to-day?  
If weakness in their floods be found,  
Then may ye answer 'Nay!'"

The collection ends with a sonnet on "The New Province 'Alberta,'" which was named after the Princess, one of whose Christian names is Alberta:

In token of the love which thou has shown  
For this wide land of freedom I have named  
A province vast, and for its beauty famed,  
By thy dear name to be hereafter known,  
Alberta shall it be! Her fountains thrown  
From Alps unto three oceans, to all men  
Shall vaunt her loveliness e'en now; and when  
Each little hamlet to a city grown  
And numberless as blades of prairie grass,  
Or the thick leaves in distant forest  
bower,

Great peoples hear the giant currents pass,  
Still shall the waters, bringing wealth  
and power,  
Speak the loved name—the land of silver  
springs—  
Worthy the daughter of our English kings.

**The Hampton Court Maze.**

THIS famous Maze or Labyrinth was built in the early part of the reign of William III. It is located in the "Wilderness," a short distance from the castle, and is formed of hedge trees, growing so close and matted together as to make it impossible to see through the hedge at any point.

It is simply a puzzle—the object being to get into the centre of the Labyrinth, or, being in, to get out again. A gentleman or lady may be hours, or perhaps days, in accomplishing the feat.

At the present time there is an observatory overlooking the Maze, in which a man is stationed to direct visitors the way in, or out; which he does by giving the word of command in the following fashion:

"Gentleman with white hat will now turn to the right." "Lady in the blue dress to the left," and so on, until the embarrassed party finds the way. This guide is, of course, only for those who have not time to accomplish the by no means easy task of finding it out for themselves.

We give here a correct drawing of this celebrated Maze, the paths of which have so often been pressed in years gone by, by the feet of the celebrated beauties of the Courts of the British kings.

The black lines represent the hedge, which is as fresh and green as though it had been planted but five years ago. The reader will probably have to make many attempts before he will be able to trace with the point of his pencil the way to the centre of the Maze.

But how much easier for him to do this, while looking down upon the engraving than to attempt to find his way through the many paths of the Labyrinth itself.

It is now reported through the Methodist press that the Bible Christians of Wisconsin, formerly a part of the Bible Christian Church in Canada, met on January 16th, to consult as to their future ecclesiastical relations. After a thorough canvass of the forms of Church government and the various questions involved, it was decided almost unanimously to enter the Methodist Episcopal Church as a body. The Bible Christians in question have five ordained ministers, 426 communicants, 700 Sunday-school pupils, thirteen churches, and five parsonages, the two last valued at \$21,500. — *Canada Christian Advocate.*

Dews of the night are diamonds at morn.  
So the tears we weep here  
may be pearls in heaven.