

Nestling under the shadow of her mountain is Lewiston, so named in 1805 for Governor Morgan Lewis, of New York. At the extreme north, beyond the village of Youngstown, and commanding the angle at the headland of river and lake, we descry the white ramparts of Fort Niagara, whence the gallant Pouchot, begirt with enemies, looked out in 1758, vainly attempting to discover moving among the trees the battalions of his allies from the Detroit River. Exactly opposite Fort Niagara lies "fair Newark, once gay, rich and beautiful," presenting to the water's edge her ancient front of crumbling fortresses and gray church towers.—*Jane Meade Welch, in Harper's Magazine for August.*

BENJAMIN DISRAELI.

That the attention of the English people was first aroused by the air of original coxcombry with which Benjamin Disraeli made his appearance on the stage of public life; that they were interested by his audacity, and fascinated by the strange mixture of genius and charlatanry that distinguished his early utterances, would not be denied by any candid person. But attention, interest and even fascination are something quite different from admiration, and, far from the English people being quick to entrust the direction of their fortunes to this brilliant writer and sparkling speaker, they continued to be disinclined to commit any serious task to his charge by reason of this brilliance, even for a considerable time after he had in a large measure purged himself of it, and had become a painstaking, methodical and measured politician. If any one will take the trouble to read carefully his speeches on the condition and prospects of agriculture delivered by him in the House of Commons in the years 1846 and 1847 included in the collection of Lord Beaconsfield's speeches, edited by Mr. Keble, he will, I think, allow that there must have existed the strongest prejudice against a man who could not, on the strength of those speeches, get the whole world to regard him as a serious and solid statesman. The prejudice did exist, and it was a just prejudice, a prejudice based on the political vapouring that had accompanied his path to notoriety. No doubt when, in course of time, this just prejudice was justly discarded—by many persons it never was—then the English people, always generous to their favourites, not only made allowances, as I have argued we all should do, for the fermenting ambition of his youth, and for the obstacles it had to encounter, but placed to his credit the courage, the tenacity, even the recklessness which by a vigorous analysis are not to be disentangled from the errors all dispassionate persons must condemn. The answer, therefore, to the question is that, in the case of Lord Beaconsfield, the English people blamed what was blameworthy, distrusted what was untrustworthy and admired what was admirable. Had not wit ripened into wisdom, had not duty burned ambition pure, he would never have become Prime Minister of England.—*Alfred Austin, in National Review.*

STANDS SCOTLAND WHERE SHE DID?

It is related of a certain Scottish Governor of Canada that when any one made application to him for assistance on the ground that the applicant was a brother Scot, he put the matter at once to the test by asking, "What is man's chief end?" If the right answer was not given offhand, the man was set down for an impostor. In those days a knowledge of the Shorter Catechism was the birthmark of the Scotchman. But it seems they have changed a good deal since then, for recently at the Presbytery of Brechin the Rev. A. Gardner declared as his firm conviction there were individuals licensed in the Church of Scotland at that moment who did not know the Shorter Catechism, and who were unacquainted with the fundamental doctrines of religion. This alarming statement was made in the course of a discussion regarding the examination of students. The Rev. J. Landreth remarked that he supposed it would be sufficient if the students showed an intelligent knowledge of the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, and that strict verbal accuracy would not be insisted on. The Rev. R. Duncan on this asked how they were to know that a student was acquainted with the Catechism, if he was not able to answer a question in the words it gave, whereupon the Rev. R. Fraser explained that if a student, when asked what "justification" was, gave the answer to the question about "sanctification," the Presbytery could not accept such an answer. This method of dealing with students had been, he said, the practice of the Presbytery. If Mr. Gardner's statement be correct, there must be a fault somewhere. Our young people could put these theological students to shame, for many scores of them won prizes for the most remarkable verbal accuracy in repeating the Shorter Catechism. The serious point, however, is not the want of exact acquaintance with the words, but the ignorance of the fundamental truths of religion which is affirmed to exist among licentiate of the Church. If this be true, it should certainly be looked to, and that without a moment's delay.—*Presbyterian Messenger.*

CHINESE AND POLITICS.

The fact that the Manchou nation rules the Chinese does not weaken China. The people, and especially the literati of China, are loyal to the imperial family just as if it were Chinese. "The Emperor is to me the donor of literary rank, and his ancestors gave my ancestors literary honours for seven or eight generations. I owe him loyalty as the fountain of my honours." Such is a specimen of the way in which they reason, and it is an understood thing that any who, on occasion of a popular rising at any place, may be set as chief magistrates, must die rather than quit their posts. To talk politics is in common life not allowed. The well conducted citizen pays his taxes, attends to his own affairs, and avoids criticizing the Government. If he goes to take a cup of tea in a large teashop he sees written up in large characters, "Do not talk politics. The master of the house wishes his customers to avoid such conversation, on his own account as well as on theirs." People will con-

verse of course on political subjects, notwithstanding this injunction, and run the risk of being observed by some one who may report what they have been heard to say, with additions. The daily newspaper, too, is forcing its way as an exciting novelty, and its compact dose of news, local and foreign, is growing into a necessity. But the old system is built up on the absence of political thought as a foundation, and it is considered that this abstinence from criticism of the Government is a duty. Passivity engenders loyalty, as in some countries ignorance is thought to be the mother of devotion. In China, a prudent man does not call in question the wisdom of the powers that be. The ancient Emperors who ruled badly are criticised. History holds her balances and puts each actor on the scene into her scales, to decide what good he has done and what evil; but as to the living, silence is golden.—*The Contemporary Review.*

HOW THE CARES WENT.

A-weary once I sought the green-wood shade;
My cares came trooping after,
Vainly I ordered back the grim brigade,—
They came—with mocking laughter.

But when we reached the place, from all about
Rose whisperings and chiding;
The little birds sang, "Quick! You care! Out! out!
Here is no place for hiding!"

The grasses, straightening up, gave them a throw;
A wind-puff blew them higher;
Tree branches sent them tossing to and fro;
Brooks dashed some in the mire.

They found no peace. Some running, broke their heads
Against giant boulders pelting;
Some smothered were in wild flowers, dewy beds,—
In flight from sunbeams, melting.

"There now," I cried, when of this worrying crew
No vestige could I find;
"See what the wild-wood has in store for you!
The next time stay behind!"
—*From the German of Gustave Parriss.*

THE INVENTOR OF MATCHES.

According to a German paper, the inventor of lucifer matches was a political prisoner who perfected his idea in 1833, within the walls of a State prison. Kammerer was a native of Ludwigsburg, and when sentenced to six months' imprisonment at Hohenasperg, he was fortunate enough to attract the notice and to gain the favour of an old officer in charge of the prison, who, finding he was studying chemistry, allowed him to arrange a small laboratory in his cell. Kammerer had been engaged in researches with a view of improving the defective steeping system, according to which splinters of wood with sulphur at the ends were dipped into a chemical fluid in order to produce a flame. If the fluid was fresh the result was satisfactory; but as it lost its virtues after a time there was no general disposition to discontinue the old fashioned system of using flint and steel.

After many failures, Kammerer began to experiment with phosphorus, and had almost completed his term of imprisonment when he discovered the right mixture and kindled a match by rubbing it against the walls of his cell. On coming out of prison he commenced the manufacture of matches. Unfortunately, the absence of a patent law prevented his rights from being secured, and on Austrian and other chemists analyzing the composition imitations speedily made their appearance. In 1835 the German States prohibited the use of these matches, considering them dangerous. When they were made in England and sent to the continent these regulations were withdrawn, but too late to be of any benefit to the inventor, who died in the madhouse of his native town in 1857.

A QUAKER ON GOOD MANNERS.

Recently a Quaker was travelling in a railway carriage. After a time, observing certain movements on the part of a fellow-voyager, he accosted him as follows: "Sir, these seems well dressed, and I dare say thee considers thyself well bred and would not demean thyself to any ungentlemanlike action, wouldst thee?" The person addressed promptly replied with considerable spirit, "Certainly not; not if I know it." The Quaker continued, "And suppose thee invited me to thy house, thee would not think of offering me thy glass to drink out of after thee had drank out of it thyself, wouldst thee?" The interrogated replied, "Abominable. No. Such an offer would be most insulting." The Quaker continued, "Still less would thee think of offering me thy knife and fork to eat with, after putting them into thy mouth, wouldst thee?" The interrogated answered, "To do that would be an outrage on all decency, and would show such a wretch was out of the pale of civilized society." "Then, with these impressions upon thee, why shouldst thee wish me to take into my mouth and nostrils the smoke from that cigar which thou art preparing to smoke, after sending the smoke out of thy own mouth?"—*League Journal.*

HIGH license in Minnesota has caused many saloon-keepers to go out of the business. The people generally are in favour of it. In Minneapolis 209 licenses have been taken out, a decrease of 127 compared with last year.

THE thirteenth annual convention for the promotion of practical holiness is being held this year at Keswick. Originated by the late Canon Battersby, vicar of Keswick, the meetings have grown year by year, until this year the accommodative capacities of the little lake metropolis are taxed to their utmost. Something like 3,000 people from all parts of the world have arrived, and the utmost difficulty is experienced in accommodating them all.

British and Foreign.

CANON LIDDON is said to be travelling in Ireland with his eyes open.

It is stated that Cardinal Manning has entered on his eightieth year.

An elegant granite monument has been erected to the late Principal Tulloch in the new cemetery at St. Andrews.

An estimate of the population of China, based upon official data, puts it at 382,000,000, as against 413,000,000 in 1842.

THE late John Fulton, of Portadown, has bequeathed nearly \$8,500 to the various Schemes of the Irish Presbyterian Church.

DR. JOHN THOMSON, of Grantown, Morayshire, at one time minister of Knox Church, Galt, formerly of New York, is seriously ill.

THE Queen, through the Home Secretary, has sent her thanks to the royal chaplains for Scotland for their beautiful Jubilee address.

SOME Nonconformist laymen of London have held a preliminary meeting to take steps against the intrusion of politics into the pulpit.

THE conference of Congregationalists and Baptists for the purpose of promoting co-operation and union is to be held in London in September.

DR. McEwan, of Clapham Road Presbyterian Church, has been appointed vice-chairman of the board of directors of the London Missionary Society.

FROM January to June of this year there were 10,236 deaths from cholera in Chili, and the Government spent \$1,000,000 in fighting the plague.

IT is said that the cost of the recent meeting of the General Assembly of the American Presbyterian Church at Omaha, Neb., foots up \$41,061.70.

TWO volumes of sermons by the late Bishop Fraser, of Manchester, are in the press, they have been selected and edited by Rev. J. G. Diggle, of Liverpool.

A CORRESPONDENT in Japan of the *Sunday at Home* declares that the Bible and Tract Societies are the two greatest factors in the evangelization of that country.

DR. McLEOD, of St. Columba Church, London, has obtained leave of absence for three months for the benefit of his health. He purposes making a tour of America.

THE King of Siam gave a very kindly welcome to Mrs. Leavitt, and evinced much interest in the account she gave him of the work of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

THE reports that Dr. Dollinger was seriously ill was contradicted by a Munich journal to which he has frequently contributed. Though he was born in 1799 he is as fresh in body and mind as ever.

A COMMITTEE of the English Presbyterian Synod have taken the opinion of counsel as to how certain title-deeds of some church property may be affected if the Confession of Faith be modified to suit the present-day theology.

THREE of the bishops, viz., Chichester, Worcester and St. Asaphs, are octogenarians; and two more, St. Albans and Bath and Wells, will be added to the number if they live till next year. Four other bishops have passed their seventieth year.

"BRIGHT EYES," daughter of the chief of the Omahas, one of the North American Indian tribes, and an active worker in the native mission schools, with her husband, Mr. Tibbles, conducted a special service at Hare Court Congregational Chapel, Canbury, London.

A BUILDING in St. Nathaniel's Parish, Liverpool, has been purchased from the Wesleyans and dedicated as a chapel of ease in which Welsh services are to be conducted. Bishop Ryle says there are 80,000 Welsh people in Liverpool, of whom 30,000 are more familiar with their native tongue than with English.

A BLIND aid society is one of the Schemes of Regent Square Presbyterian Church, London. The members, with their guides, to the number of 330, have just had their annual outing, which, by the aid of many friends, was made exceedingly pleasant. A social meeting is held every Thursday evening, which the poor blind people greatly enjoy.

THE Church of Kintail, which for beauty of situation has few equals in Scotland, is now internally one of the most elegant in the Highlands. Its interior has been finely painted and otherwise adorned, the whole expense being met by voluntary contributions. The minister's wife originated the movement, and all the poor people vied with each other in giving their help.

FROM Siberia there is news of a Gospel movement under the leadership of Jacob Schienmann, a Polish Jew, who twenty years ago, through independent thought, reached the conclusion that Jesus Christ was the true Saviour. The strict Talmudic Jews got him shipped to Siberia, where for fifteen years he laboured almost unheeded to awaken faith among his fellow-exiles.

BISHOP CROWTHER was lately shipwrecked near Cape Palmas, and robbed of everything by the Kroomen of the locality, who also pillaged the ship. The bishop and his wife, as well as the other passengers and the sailors, would have been stripped even of their clothes had not some orderly Kroomen from a factory belonging to a European come to their rescue. The bishop has lost over \$1,000 of public moneys.

THE Kirk Session have agreed to sanction the placing of a brass or other plate, with suitable inscription, in the Abbey Church of Dunfermline to mark the spot where the remains of King Robert the Bruce were discovered in 1824 when the new church was being built. It is also proposed to fill in the east window with stained glass of appropriate design, and among those promoting the movement is the Earl of Elgin, a descendant of the Bruce.