

and thus we derive a shadowy satisfaction in our make-believe recognition of our brothers and sisters in the Lord. I know it may seem a rather childish fancy to many, yet it is in part an outgrowth of the instinctive sense of isolation that we may feel even among the multitude. Now, I know full well that every one has his or her own particular cares, as well as friendships. Comparatively few think how the commonest courtesies may cheer a home-sick heart. Fewer still, while bearing their own special burden, realize how easy it is to lighten for some one else the load of church home-sickness by a gracious greeting or a hearty handshake in the church vestibule. Then again, church people are hedged about with conventionalities. We often receive a bow of recognition from the sexton as we pass out or in, and that is something. But I often notice that not one of the regular occupants of the pew in which we sit, sometimes gives me a half-hesitating bow on the steps, as though doubtful as to the propriety of recognizing a person to whom he has never been introduced. And so, Sunday after Sunday, Polly and I pass out of the Second Denominational Church as utter strangers to those about us as when we first entered it. And I myself am conscious of a strong feeling of church home-sickness, as I witness the friendly and neighbourly greetings which go on about us, while we pursue our solitary way out of the house of our common Father.

Now, this is no peevish cry emanating from the religious touchiness which, seeking notice, is ever on the lookout for real or fancied slights. Dear me, no indeed! If my sabbatical feeling of home-sickness should voice itself suddenly and unexpectedly in the vestibule of the Second Denominational Church, it would take no more aspiring form than something like this: "Bro. A., I've been attending this church for almost a year, and I know you very well by sight. I wish you'd shake hands, just to see how it would seem."

Or, "Bro. B., good morning. An excellent sermon, wasn't it. A stranger? Oh, no: I have sat under Mr. Faithful's preaching for the last ten months; your face and name are perfectly familiar to me, so you must pardon the seeming liberty."

Or, "Sister C., I wish you'd shake hands with my wife. She, like myself, is a perfect stranger, and I think she would enjoy having something said to her about the weather or the sermon," etc., etc.

And in thinking it over, it has occurred to me that such a voicing of my thought might not be a bad idea to carry into actual practice. It would certainly have the merit of originality. Yet of what good to sing with unction, "Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in sacred love," if, as to our recognition of the stranger within our gates, we are tongue-tied? And I am not altogether sure but that I shall astonish the members of the Second Denominational Church, on some future Sunday, by breaking the ice myself. Would you?—*Illustrated Christian Weekly.*

THE LATE SOLAR ECLIPSE.

The solar eclipse of the 17th of May was successfully observed by English, French and Italian parties at Soham, a village in Lower Egypt, on the Nile. The duration of totality at that point was only seventy-two seconds, but the observers did prompt and efficient work in this short space of time. The telegraph swiftly bore the record of their labours to our Western world, and the firstfruits include the view of a comet near the sun, indications of a lunar atmosphere, and a photograph of the spectrum of the corona.

The precious seconds when the sun's face was hidden by the moon's dark shadow revealed in the first place a comet near the sun.

The second item coming from the eclipse observers is more astounding than the first, for the darkening of the lines of the spectrum, as seen by the French astronomers, gives indication of a lunar atmosphere. Years ago an observer detected a rosy cloud floating over the lunar crater Linneus, but the phenomenon was looked upon by more staid astronomers as a flight of fancy. A few years ago an observer in one of the Western States detected a change of form and an appearance of volcanic action around one of the moon craters, but the scientific world in general considered it an optical illusion. It may be that these observers were not so far out of the way, though the startling discovery will not be accepted without strong proof to verify it.

One more meagre item closes the first bulletin from the eclipse expeditions. It is, that the spectrum of the corona was photographed for the first time. We may, therefore, hope for increased knowledge of the constitution of the sun's magnificent appendage, seen only in a total eclipse, so grandly beautiful as to make the beholder feel like veiling his eyes in the celestial presence. The corona, with its silvery light, its spreading wings, its circles, arches, and curves stretching out into fathomless depths around the darkened sun, is considered as one of the most impressive and awe-inspiring sights in which celestial majesty and grandeur are ever embodied. Its constituents and office in solar economy are problems whose solution is much desired.

The English eclipse expedition, observing at Soham, with Professor Lockyer as the chief director, laid out an organized plan of operations. Some of their points of observation were to note if the abundance and activity of the rosy protuberances gave proof of the present disturbed condition of the sun while passing through its maximum period of sun spots; to compare and detect the difference in the spectra of rosy flames and sun spots; to get an idea of the physics of the solar atmosphere—that is, to find what it looks like, to study—if the expression may be used—its circulatory system; and to determine its chemical nature, especially if the chemical elements existing in the sun are dissociated or separated by the intense temperature existing there. Special attention is now directed to solar physics and chemistry, in consequence of the bold and ingenious theory of Dr. Siemens on the conservation of solar energy. Photography was greatly relied upon in the solution of

these intricate problems, and so much have methods improved in the rapidity with which the image can be impressed on the sensitized plate that seconds will now record more than minutes did twenty years ago. The telescope and the spectroscope combined with the photograph in the attack on the sun's surroundings during the eclipse.

There is every reason to hope for noteworthy results to be obtained from the recent solar eclipse with the best astronomical instruments the world can furnish, and with astronomers of world-wide renown to use them effectually under the cloudless sky and in the serene atmosphere of the station on the Nile. We have still to hear from other stations on the thin line of totality, and to wait for fuller details and photographs that will tell more of the good news.

Professor Lockyer and his assistants spent three months in hard work to prepare for seventy-two seconds of observation. They travelled thousands of miles and transported thirty cases of instruments to aid them in the work. If their time, talent and labour have succeeded in drawing a single secret from the sun, or helped to confirm a single theory, the reward is all they ask; they have not laboured in vain. For this heaping up of observation upon observation is the work of the present generation of astronomers, the only means of wresting knowledge from our sun, our brother planets, and the suns that people space.—*Scientific American.*

A WOMAN'S ANSWER TO A MAN'S QUESTION.

BY LENA LATZROP.

Do you know you have asked for the costliest thing
Ever made by the hand above?
A woman's heart and a woman's life—
And a woman's wonderful love?

Do you know you asked for this priceless thing
As a child might ask for a toy?
Demanding what others have died to win,
With the reckless dash of a boy?

You have written my lesson of duty out—
Man-like you have questioned me;
Now stand at the bar of a woman's soul,
Until I have questioned thee.

You require your mutton shall always be hot,
Your socks and your shirts be whole;
I require your heart to be true as God's stars,
And pure as heaven your soul.

You require a cook for your mutton and beef.
I require a far greater thing;
A seamstress you want for socks and for shirts.
I look for a man and a king—

A king for the beautiful realm called home,
And a man that the maker, God,
Shall look upon as He did at first,
And say, "It is very good."

I am fair and young, but the roses will fade
From my soft young cheek one day—
Will you love me then 'mid the falling leaves
As you did 'mong the blooms of May?

I require all things that are good and true—
All things that a man should be;
If you give this all I will stake my life
To be all you demand of me.

If you cannot be this—a laundress and cook
You can hire, and have little to pay;
But a woman's heart and a woman's life
Are not to be won that way.

SWEET-MINDED WOMEN.

So great is the influence of a sweet-minded woman on those around her, that it is to her that friends come in seasons of sorrow and sickness for help and comfort; one soothing touch of her kindly hand works wonders in the feverish child; a few words let fall from her lips in the ear of a sorrowing sister do much to raise the load of grief that is bowing its victim down to the dust in anguish. The husband comes home worn out with the pressure of business, and feeling irritable with the world in general; but when he enters the cosy sitting-room, and sees the blaze of the bright fire, and meets his wife's smiling face, he succumbs in a moment to the soothing influences which act as the balm of Gilead to his wounded spirits, that are wearied with combating with the stern realities of life. The rough school-boy flies in a rage from the taunts of his companions to find solace in his mother's smile; the little one, full of grief with its own large trouble, finds a haven of rest on its mother's breast; and so one might go on with instance after instance of the influence that a sweet-minded woman has in the social life with which she is connected. Beauty is an insignificant power when compared with hers.—*Amn.*

NAZARETH has a telegraph office, by order of the Sultan.

THE money given to the Presbyterian Board of Church Erection by the brothers Robert L. and Alexander Stuart, of New York, in the last ten years, has secured the building of 276 churches, in which at least 25,500 persons worship every Sabbath.

THE "Blue Ribbon Army" is making decided progress in Wales. In Swansea alone over 27,000 took the gospel temperance pledge. The brewers find their receipts are greatly diminished, the falling off of one in that county being \$4,500 a week.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

It is proposed to erect a bronze statue of Longfellow at Portland, Me., his native place.

DURING 1881 there were \$34,100,000 worth of gold, and \$43,000,000 of silver produced in the United States.

A STATUE of Sir Rowland Hill, which has been erected in London, was unveiled by the Prince of Wales on the 17th ult.

THE bishop of Calcutta authorizes ministers of all Christian denominations to officiate in the consecrated portion of the cemetery.

THE Welsh Presbyterians in the city of Manchester, England, in 1840 had one chapel; now they have three, valued at \$100,000.

ABOUT forty young Sioux, who have completed a three-years' course of study at Carlisle, Pa., have returned to their homes in Dakota.

MR. SAMUEL MORLEY, M.P., has taken charge of the bill against payment of wages in public-houses, which has passed through the Lords.

OF the new French version of the New Testament, published at three half pence, 100,000 copies were sold of the first edition, and 50,000 of the second.

ELEVEN men and women and three children have been massacred in Dakota territory by a band of fifty Sioux. Troops are in hot pursuit of the murderers.

THE Salvation Army, it is calculated, spent not less than £100,000 during the last twelve months in bricks and mortar, and they pay cash down for all their purchases.

THE Manchester "Examiner" asserts that "not half a dozen" Scotch representatives are willing to support Lord Colin Campbell's amendment to Mr. Dick Peddie's resolution.

ELEVEN missionaries have recently left England to join the Livingstone Inland Mission in Central Africa, which has already twenty-two missionaries at its four stations on the Congo river.

NEWCASTLE, England, is so impressed with the dignity of having received a new Protestant bishop, that it is about petitioning the Queen to have the place called a "city," and not any longer a town.

MISSISSIPPI has the solitary pre-eminence among the States of having not a single distillery or brewery in its bounds. Now, if it would not import the poison, what a glorious State it would be!

THE Synod of the Free Church of the Canton of Vaud was recently in session at Vevey. It was decided that ladies should in future be permitted to vote in the elections for the nomination of pastors.

THE American Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions has appropriated \$640,000 for the current year. Since 1833, when its operations began, it has received in gifts and legacies and expended for mission work \$10,497,430.

PRUSSIA contains about 18,000,000 Protestants and 9,000,000 Roman Catholics. Singularly enough, the latter receive as large financial support from the State as the former, the annual amount given to each being about \$500,000.

THE meetings started two years ago in Sheffield, Eng., on Sunday afternoons, to reach the working men, have succeeded. The right class of men attend, and congregations of from 500 to 1,500 workmen now regularly gather to hear the gospel.

DR. H. J. GLENN, the great farmer of California, employs forty men—whose pay, with the keeping of their horses and their ammunition, amounts to about \$11,000 per annum—to protect the crops on his 75,000 acre farm from the wild geese.

THE authorities of the New College, Oxford, have been guilty of cruelty to animals. Being unable to dislodge some jackdaws which had built their nests on the chapel walls, they had them built in, and the congregation heard their cawing growing gradually less, till on the fifth day it ceased altogether.

THE German Government is negotiating with the representatives of the late Prince Frederick of the Netherlands for the purchase of his palace on the Unter den Linden, at Berlin, adjoining the Emperor's palace, which it is proposed to enlarge. The price asked is 1,300,000 marks, and this the monarch declines to pay.

GENERAL IGNATIEFF, who has recently resigned the Ministry of the Interior in Russia, carried the spy system, during his administration, to a pitch previously unheard of, and opened private letters in the most shameless way. To a visitor he said one day: "Why have you not called on me before? Your relatives have long been urging you to do so in every letter they have written you."

ONE of the most significant indications of the progress of the temperance cause was visible recently at the London Mansion House. The Lord Mayor, in providing a feast for the provincial mayors and provosts, which was attended by the Prince of Wales, furnished a good variety of non-alcoholic drinks for those who were teetotalers. The tradition of the Mansion House is that everybody drinks wine, hence even water has hitherto been banished.

PAUL TULANE, of Princeton, N. J., who has given \$2,000,000 for the higher education of the white young men of New Orleans, arrived in that city in 1818 on horseback. Seemingly not satisfied with the place, he pushed on to the North-West, and went into what was vaguely called the Indian country, where he stayed but a short time, returning to New Orleans in 1820. He then opened a store of general merchandise, and by 1828 had amassed a fortune amounting to over \$150,000. He continued this life, which was apparently an uneventful one, until nearly twenty years ago, when he retired from business, having amassed an ample fortune. He left New Orleans about twelve years ago, and went to his home in Princeton, N. J., where he has been living ever since.