

which a high-principled, not to say Christian, young man might try to shape his life. He knew that he already occupied, as his father's son, a fair rank in society, and that the larger portion of his father's wealth would in the natural course of things be some day at his command; but he had no ambition either to rise above the one, or to increase the other. He was wilful too, and wayward, in a measure never realized by his blinded and indulgent parent. These more than doubtful traits of character were deepened, rather than corrected or restrained, by his early acquaintance with the great outside world. The Grahams had many friends both in Edinburgh and London; and among these, when wearied of the dull life at home, Archibald was allowed and was delighted to spend months at a time, especially in the winter season. He saw more and knew more of the gay and sensational life of these large cities than was good in any sense for such a temperament at his. Even when at home in Glenartan, his manner of life was such as to awaken not a few misgivings in those whose eyes were open to the possibilities of his future. To all this his father, stern moralist as he was, was unaccountably blind; but it did not escape the anxious notice and concern of his sisters. Their sensitive natures were painfully alive to his doubtful habits, but they dare not breathe their misgivings save in trembling whispers to one another when alone. That we do the young man no injustice in these statements, let one line of his conduct suffice to show.

(To be continued.)

#### THE DISTRIBUTION OF EARTHQUAKES.

In the present condition of the earth's crust, so far as the brief historic record goes to show, earthquakes of an intensity menacing to man are limited to certain regions which probably do not altogether include more than one-fourth of the area of the land, though shocks of a less degree of violence appear to be common to every part of the surface of the continents. The regions of recurrent shocks of considerable violence are so irregularly distributed that they cannot be adequately noted in this brief essay. They include, in Europe, Iceland, Portugal, Spain and Southern Italy; the region of the Lower Danube and some of the islands of the Grecian Archipelago. In Asia, the larger part of Asia Minor, several limited areas in Hindostan, the greater part of the eastern littoral region of Asia, and the islands of the Japanese and Malayan Archipelagoes are subjected to destructive shocks.

In Africa there is, save in Egypt, little architecture to suffer from earthquake disturbance, and even little history to record it. Egypt seems to have been, on the whole, singularly exempt from great earthquakes; while the western portion of the Mediterranean face of the continent shares the disturbances from which the Spanish peninsula has repeatedly suffered. The vast Australian and Polynesian district of the Pacific affords a number of regions of great earthquake activity, of which New Zealand is the only one where we have anything like good observations for even a few score years. It may be said, however, that the greater part of this vast area seems to be more exempt from these indications of activity in the crust than any other equally extensive part of the earth's surface.

We now come to the twin continents—North and South America. The obvious resemblances in the physical configuration of these continents lead us to expect a likeness in their conditions of stability. This resemblance in a certain measure exists. The western shore of both of these continents, the seaward face of the great Cordilleran range of mountains, is the seat of the most frequent and, on the whole, the most energetic disturbances which occur within their limits, while the eastern shore of each is comparatively little assailed by shocks. The northern, or Venezuelan, district of South America, which is apparently the seat of an active mountain growth, of which there is no parallel in the northern continent, is a district of recurrent shocks of great violence, such as have never been observed in high latitudes on our own continent. On the other hand, the region from the mouth of the Amazon to the La Plata River, which corresponds to our seaboard Atlantic States and the Provinces of Canada enjoys an immunity from disturbances probably not exceeded by any other equally extensive area occupied by the Aryan race, while the corresponding region in North America is much less fortunate.—*Professor N. S. Shaler, in Scribner's Magazine for March.*

#### SOME FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF ENGLAND.

Here are some of my first impressions of England as seen from the carriage and from the cars.—How very English! I recall Birket Foster's Pictures of English Landscape, a beautiful, poetical series of views, but hardly more poetical than the reality. How thoroughly England is groomed! Our New England out-of-doors landscape often looks as if it had just got out of bed, and had not finished its toilet. The glowing green of everything strikes me; green hedges in place of our rail-fences, always ugly, and our rude stone walls, which are not wanting in a certain look of fitness approaching to comeliness, and are really picturesque when lichen-coated, but poor features of landscape as compared to these universal hedges. I am disappointed in the trees, so far; I have not seen one large tree as yet. Most of the trees are of very moderate dimensions, feathered all the way up their long slender trunks, with a lop-sided top of leaves at the top, like a wig which has slipped awry. I trust that I am not finding everything *coulour de rose*, but I certainly do find the cheeks of children and young persons of such brilliant rosy hue as I do not remember that I have ever seen before. I am almost ready to think that that child's face has been coloured from a pink saucer. If the Saxon youth exposed for sale at Rome, in the days of Pope Gregory the Great, had complexions like these children, no wonder that the pontiff exclaimed, *Not Angli, but angeli!* All this may sound a little extravagant, but I am giving my impressions without any intentional exaggeration. How far these first impressions may be modified by after experiences there will be time

enough to find out and to tell. It is better to set them down at once just as they are. A first impression is one never to be repeated; the second look will see much that was not noticed, but it will not reproduce the sharp lines of the first proof, which is always interesting, no matter what the eye or the mind fixes upon. "I see men as trees walking." That first experience could not be mended. When Dickens landed in Boston he was struck with the brightness of all the objects he saw,—buildings, signs and so forth. When I landed in Liverpool, everything looked very dark, very dingy, very massive, in the streets I drove through. So in London, but in a week it all seemed natural enough.—*Oliver Wendell Holmes, in March Atlantic.*

#### LOWLY BUT ASPIRING.

Mine may not be the shining of the sun,  
Lighting the pathway of great worlds afar;  
No more the moon's full light, when day is done,  
Nor yet the golden twinkling of a star:  
But if a glow-worm's soft and steady light  
Be only mine to give in sweet content—  
A tiny glow-worm's shining in the night—  
To break the glow for some poor pilgrim sent,  
Perchance in ways Time's saintly feet have trod,  
I still may light some soul to heaven and God!

Mine may not be the beauty of the rose,  
Fragrant and fresh with morning's dewy balm,  
Nor orange blossoms, pure as falling snows,  
And sweet as ever strained of wedding psalm:  
But if in lowliness my whole life through  
A lily of the valley I may be—  
A lily of the valley to a few  
In some spring hour in gladness drawn to me,  
I still may hope through God's good-will and grace  
To woo some soul to seek and find His face!

I am what God has made me, and I know  
I have a place and time, a work and way;  
So with a happy heart I would bestow  
My humbler meed of blessing while I may,  
Content each golden day to find my place,  
Do well my work, and mark my way with love,  
To be what God would have me by His grace,  
Serenely climbing to the hills above.  
And there, as His great blessing, I shall see  
Crowned ones, won to their crowning by my plea!  
—*Rev. N. F. Carter, in N. Y. Independent.*

#### THE CHANGING STARS.

In concluding his article on "The Stars," in the *Mid-winter Century*, Professor Langley uses the following illustration: "When primitive man learned that with lapsing years the oak withered and the very rock decayed, more slowly but as surely as himself, he looked up to the stars as the very types of contrast to the change he shared, and fondly deemed them eternal; but now we have found change there, and that probably the star clusters and the nebulae, even if clouds of suns and worlds, are fixed only by comparison with our own brief years, and, tried by the terms of their own long existence, are fleeting like ourselves. . . . I have read somewhere a story about a race of ephemeral insects who live but an hour. To those who are born in the early morning the sunrise is the time of youth. They die of old age while his beams are yet gathering force, and only their descendants live on to midday; while it is another race which sees the sun decline from that which saw him rise. Imagine the sun about to set, and the whole nation of mites gathered under the shadow of some mushroom (to them ancient as the sun itself) to hear what their wisest philosopher has to say of the gloomy prospect. If I remember aright, he first told them that, incredible as it might seem, there was not only a time in the world's youth when the mushroom itself was young, but that the sun in those early ages was in the eastern, not in the western sky. Since then, he explained, the eyes of scientific ephemerists had followed it, and established by induction from vast experience the great law of nature, that it moved only westward; and he showed that since it was now nearing the western horizon, science herself pointed to the conclusion that it was about to disappear forever, together with the great race of ephemera for whom it was created. "What his hearers thought of this discourse I do not remember, but I have heard that the sun rose again the next morning."

THE United Presbyterian Church held a mission week in Edinburgh, recently. Professor Calderwood addressed an audience of 1,500 people in the college building.

MR. JAMES P. CRAWFORD, author of "The Drunkard's Raggit Wean," and many other popular temperance poems, died at Govan recently. Mr. Crawford was born in Catrine, Ayrshire, sixty-one years ago, and was one of the registrars in the parish of Govan. For twenty years he was a member of the Govan Parochial Board.

THE New York City Mission reports for February six churches and missions open continuously, sixty Gospel meetings, 8,915 aggregate attendance, 1,115 volumes loaned, 181 temperance pledges, with reading rooms, library and gymnasium open to all. Receipts for month, \$1,037.66; expenditure, \$2,395.54. The woman's branch reports thirty missionary visitors and nurses going among the tenement houses daily with help and comfort.

A COMMITTEE of the Belfast Presbytery, consisting of Revs. J. D. Crawford, D.D., A. Montgomery, Robert Crawford, James Macdonaghie, W. J. McCaughan, D. K. Mitchell, H. Woods, M. Heattie, and Mr. J. McAdam, conducted the annual examinations on board the *Gibraltar* training ship. There were upward of 300 presented for examination. The examination was of a very searching character, and the answering of the boys, on the whole, was most satisfactory, and in many cases very superior.

#### British and Foreign.

THE Alabama railroads have been prohibited from running freight trains on Sundays.

THE Rev. Dr. William Irvin, of Troy, N. Y., has been appointed Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions.

THE erection of the Punshon Memorial Church at Colwyn Bay is to be immediately proceeded with. The contract is for \$25,000.

A MOVEMENT is being made in New Zealand for the introduction of the Bible, and for religious teaching in the public schools.

AN effort is being made in Philadelphia for the erection of a statue of General McClellan at the east front of the Municipal Building.

THE new church at Ealing (Rev. G. Carlyle's), the memorial stone of which was laid by the Marquis of Lorne, was opened recently.

GERMANY in 1886 published fifty-two books less than in 1885. The total for the past year was 16,253, which, however, is yet an advance of 1,451 on 1885.

MONSIGNOR DI RENDE, the Papal Nuncio at Paris, who is to assume the red hat next month, will be the youngest of the college, being only thirty-nine years old.

THE Moffat Library, Port Glasgow, for the erection of which the sum of \$15,000 was left by the late James Moffat, merchant, Port Glasgow, has been opened.

UP to the 16th ult. the total number of applications lodged with the sheriff clerk at Portree, by crofters in Skye, for the fixing of fair rents by the commission, was 787.

THE oldest member of the British Peerage is Viscount Eversley, who is ninety-two years old, just ninety years ahead of H. R. H. the Duke of Albany, the youngest on the list.

THE first Christian Church in the Congo Free State was organized November 21, 1886. There are now 1,062 converts in the Congo Mission. A large iron chapel is to be built there.

LAST year 1,400 seamen and bargemen took the total abstinence pledge at the Bristol Seamen's Mission Church, making a total of 10,701 since the opening of the church eight years ago.

THE report of the English Presbyterian Synod to remove the debt of \$15,000 off its Foreign Mission Fund has been successful, as it is all removed, and there is a balance of \$1,250 in the treasury.

IT is stated that the distinguished Father Charles Turner, of Nottingham, the professor of theology in the large diocesan seminary in that city, has privately left the Roman for the Anglican communion.

MR. JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL disappointed a large audience at Chicago lately. He was induced to change his address on "American Politics," and delivered instead "A Criticism on the Play of 'Richard III.'"

THE Melbourne Presbytery have acquiesced in the proposal of the Scots Church congregation to invite Rev. Dr. Cameron Lees, of St. Giles, Edinburgh, to go to Melbourne and occupy the pulpit for a period of six months.

THE familiar hymns, "Hold the Fort," "Coronation," "Even Me" and several other popular favourites, have been translated and printed in the Cherokee language, and are sung with delight by Cherokees who do not speak English.

BISHOP PERRY, of Iowa, has been invited by the Archbishop of Canterbury to preach, on June 22, the annual sermon before the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts. The service will be held in St. Paul's Cathedral, London.

AN indication of the feeling in France toward the Jesuits was lately shown in the Chamber of Deputies, when the proposition that young men educated by the Jesuits in England be declared ineligible to the Naval School excited a heated discussion.

CORRESPONDENCE from the capital of Madagascar states that the stories set afloat by the French as to the state of affairs in the island kingdom are without foundation. Missionary work is prospering, and there is no panic of any kind among the Malagasy.

THE Anti-Polygamy Bill, which has been passed by both Houses of Congress, disfranchises all Mormons in Utah who refuse to take an oath to support the Constitution and laws of the United States, including the Edmonds Act of 1882, and also the present act.

AT the last meeting of the Mississippi Conference Bishop Merrill was entertained at the home of a well-to-do Negro family, members of the Methodist Church—and yet was cordially invited by, dined with, and preached for the Southern Methodist pastor.

THE old Middle Dutch, or the Collegiate Church, which for fifty-one years has been on the corner of Lafayette Place and Fourth Street, N. Y., where the anniversaries of the Fulton Street prayer meeting have been lately held, is to be torn down. At the last services held an historical address was delivered by Rev. Dr. T. W. Chambers.

THE Rev. John Dunlop, of Free St. David's Church, Dundee, who has been appointed to a chair in the Theological College, Dunedin, has been loosed from his charge. His brethren in the Presbytery expressed their regret at parting with him, and congratulated the Presbyterian Church of Otago on having secured such an able professor.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON has been re-elected chairman of the Temperance Party in the House of Commons, and the following gentlemen, representing the different divisions of the United Kingdom, have been appointed whips: Mr. Theodore Fry and Mr. Thomas E. Ellis, England and Wales; Mr. Mark Stewart and Mr. P. M'Lagan, Scotland, and Mr. W. Johnston and Mr. John Redmond, Ireland.