

Prominent People.

REV. DR. FRANCIS E. CLARK, of Boston, founder and president of the United Christian Endeavor Societies of the world, has started on a trip around the world to visit the societies in all the countries of Europe and the Orient.

It is said that Queen Wilhelmina has promised to marry the Crown Prince Frederick William of Germany, who is eighteen, while Queen Wilhelmina is twenty. On the death of the Kaiser she would become Empress of Germany, and Holland would be ruled from Berlin.

LORD ROBERTS, who is perhaps the most independent man in the British army, has given the war office distinctly to understand that he will not submit to have any plan of operations thrust upon him by the war department. He insists on having *carte blanche* in regard to the conduct of the campaign.

MRS. MARY LOWE DICKINSON has been appointed by the United States government as special agent to the Paris exposition. Her specific work is confined to Social Economy. All working girls' societies, luncheon clubs, resting rooms, gymnasia, libraries, lecture courses, or other philanthropic movements will be fully exploited.

LORD ROBERTS, the Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in South Africa, is regarded by many military authorities as the foremost general which Great Britain has produced for seventy-five years. Although very small in stature, he has distinguished himself in numerous battles during his many years of service.

The Empress of Russia spends more on her wardrobe than any royal lady in Europe. Until and for a short time after her marriage she dressed with almost severe simplicity, but the grand ladies of the Russian court took no pains to conceal their disapproval of the empress's indifference to regal splendor of attire, and the result is that her majesty is gorgeous now in raiment which might be likened to "wrought gold."

The Michigan *Christian Advocate* recently published an article by Dr. Goldwin Smith, in which he condemned the stand taken by Great Britain, in regard to the South African War in very strong terms. In the next issue there appeared a communication from Rev. James Livingstone, of Windsor, Ont., in which he says: "Please allow me to inform you that Goldwin Smith does not represent Canadian sentiment either in religion or politics. We regard him in Canada as a 'classical fossil' of the most pessimistic type. We do not accept him either as our judge, our guide, or prophet. If the Boers (or any one else) want him, they can have him at the lowest price, but as for Britons and Canadians, we purpose going on with the fighting, until every captive is set at liberty and every slave breathes the heaven-born air of glorious freedom."

JOHN RUSKIN died during January, at the age of eighty-one. His will rank among England's great names. The *Watchman* says of him: "Of the literary leaders of the Victorian era he was probably second only to Carlyle in the influence he exerted upon the thought and character of his time. He was a prose-poet, an artist, and an art critic. But more than this, and pre-eminently, he was an ethical teacher. The application of the principles of truth to art, to letters, to society and the individual lives of men was his passion and pursuit, and in this sphere he exerted his widest power. The works by which he has accomplished the most are not his great and elaborate productions like 'The Modern Painters,' and 'The Stones of Venice,' incomparable as these are in the line of art study and criticism, but his simpler essays, such as 'Sesame and Lilies,' 'Ethics of the Dust,' and 'The Crown of Wild Olives,' which are

distinctively ethical, and appeal directly to the heart."

Of Daniel Sharp Ford, the proprietor of *The Youth's Companion*, who died recently, the *Christian Endeavor World* says: "His steadfast adherence to the highest ideals of literary and moral excellence was another element of success. Not a word or phrase in the paper escaped his scrutiny. Even after he became practically an invalid, he personally read and re-read the proof-sheets, so that no chance expression might creep in that would impair the high standard of the paper for accuracy and wholesomeness. Sometimes it happened that after hundreds of thousands of copies had been printed, Mr. Ford found a word or sentence that did not satisfy his scruples. He would unhesitatingly order the presses stopped, new plates made, the sheets already run off destroyed, and an entire new edition printed, regardless of pecuniary cost."

Deaconess Work.

The late Mr. Moody in referring to deaconess work, said: "I believe it thoroughly."

A Wesleyan deaconess sister, Miriam Scriven, is at Johannesburg voluntarily standing by her post in times of great need.

A CHICAGO millionaire sends flowers from his conservatory weekly for deaconesses to use in their meeting with the women in the jail.

The training home for the Wesleyan deaconesses in London is named Willard House, after Miss Willard, who was deeply interested in deaconess work, both at home and abroad.

BISHOP WARREN says: "Christ's teaching has received sudden and beautiful illustration in these days by the women who are serving him in person of his little ones—we call them deaconesses."

A DEACONESS recently found 1,200 families in a certain large district who were open to religious influences. Her work was followed up by a faithful pastor, and 125 persons were gathered into the Church as the result of this one canvass.

A GENTLEMAN in New York and a lady in Wisconsin, both in their own homes, are nevertheless in the active deaconess work by proxy, each sending \$200 to the Methodist Episcopal Deaconess Society and thus assuming entire support of a deaconess in the field.

Literary Lines.

THE late Mr. D. S. Ford, chief proprietor of *The Youth's Companion*, is said to have once paid Tennyson \$1,000 for a single poem of four stanzas.

THE characteristic attempt of the Roman Catholics to boycott advertisers of Dr. King's great book, "Facing the Twentieth Century," will simply multiply its sale.

THE terrible fire which destroyed the publishing house of J. B. Lippincott & Co., of Philadelphia, burned about 500,000 books. In addition to this, many valuable plates were ruined.

THE year 1899 has been the best for the book trade since 1895 and, when all the returns are in, may prove to have been the best in the history of the business in respect to the total of sales.

THE *Farmer's Advocate*, of London, is one of the best Agricultural papers in existence, and is a credit to the country. Every issue is filled with valuable information, but the Christmas number was a specially interesting one, being much increased in size, and containing many fine illustrations. No farmer who desires to succeed should be without a paper like *The Advocate*.

W. A. FRASER, whose short story, "The Home-Coming of the Nakamies," is published in the January Ladies' Home Journal, is spoken of by one of the papers as the Rudyard Kipling of Canada.

MR. J. McDONALD OXLEY, of Montreal, will write for *The American Illustrated Methodist Magazine* during this year. The magazine will have many interesting features, one of the most important being a continuation of the "Illustrated History of Methodism."

NORWAY knows just how many books are annually published in the world. A contributor to *The Bookseller*, however, has been able to obtain pretty accurate returns from thirteen countries: the United States, Great Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Egypt, the Netherlands, Belgium, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and Switzerland. The total number annually issued by the thirteen countries is over seventy-seven thousand, of which the United States sends forth one-fifth.

SEVERAL LIVES of D. L. Moody are likely to be put on the market, but it is well to remember that the only authorized and authentic biography is that now being prepared by his son, William R. Moody. Several years ago the evangelist, aware that at the time of his death, or even before, there might be publishers and authors disposed to bring out the story of his life, expressly requested his son to take charge of such a task, and he had begun to gather material before his father's death.

Twentieth Century Fund.

THE League of Central Church, Toronto, will undertake to raise \$500 for the Twentieth Century Fund.

NEARLY all our town and city Churches are planning liberal gifts for the Twentieth Century Fund, but many country congregations have as yet made no move. If the movement is to be a success we must be "all at it."

We have reason to be very much gratified with the splendid amount already raised for the Thanksgiving Fund, but we are quite a distance yet from the goal. The most systematic and persevering effort will be needed on the part of pastors and officials during the next few months.

DR. F. C. Bartlette, Superintendent of the Central Methodist Sunday School, Woodstock, Ont., has adopted a unique plan for encouraging the scholars to contribute in small amounts to the Twentieth Century Thanksgiving Fund. A small card has been prepared containing a promise for \$1, and at the bottom there are twenty squares. One of these cards is given to each member of the school. Whenever the scholar brings in five cents one of these squares is punched, so that the card is both a record and a reminder. Dr. Bartlette says: "We find, by this plan, many a dollar coming in from unexpected sources."

Temperance Items.

REY. DR. CUYLER says that "moral suasion and legal action are as inseparable, and as indispensable as the union of two wings to enable a bird to fly."

THE Great Northern Railway has announced that it will no longer deliver in North Dakota C.O.D. packages of liquor. North Dakota is a "dry" State.

A NEW YORK brewer recently said: "The church people can drive us when they try, and we know it. Our hope is in working after they grow tired, and continue to work 365 days in the year."