

THE commander of the Episcopal Church Army in the United States, General Hadley, says the army "now has thirty-four labor houses, where the poor and broken-down man may apply for help and shelter, and where the criminals and paupers may go, from which they may obtain a start in the world. The tramps and poor men will work if you give them a chance in the proper way. Thirty-one bands have been established for parish work. We go into families and we visit every house and stir the people up, and as a result church services will be held in that place regularly thereafter, and with good results. We now have three hundred and sixty missions in the United States, all doing good work."

ACCORDING to the *English Churchman*, important discoveries are announced from Jerusalem in connection with the Palestine Exploration Fund. There seems little doubt that Dr. Bliss has discovered the old stairs mentioned by the prophet Nehemiah. The stair which has been come upon consists of no less than thirty-four large broad steps, and they descend down exactly to the Pool of Siloam. A church, to which reference is made in the account of the pilgrimage of Antoninus, martyr, which dates from the sixth century, has also been found along with the stair.

DURING the early part of the missionary Moffat's career amongst the Bechuanas, there was a terrible drought. The rain-makers said that the missionaries were the cause of the mischief, and that the rain was withheld in consequence of their prayers, and the ringing of the mission chapel bell which frightened away the clouds. A chief—one of the most formidable of the tribe—was selected to go with an armed force to tell Moffat he must leave the country, but the missionary said no, his heart was with the people, and he would not go; God had called him to that place, and there he would stay. Moffat's words had evidently an effect upon the men, but their minds were fully determined on driving him out. Then Moffat threw open his waistcoat, and erect and fearless, cried, "Now if you wish, strike your spears into my heart, and when you have slain me, then, and not till then, will my companions know that the hour is come for them to depart." The chief and his men were overcome, and as they withdrew, he said to them, "Surely these men have ten lives, so fearless of death as they are." Surely conviction is often produced by what we *do*, when perhaps nothing comes of what we *say*.

"I LOVE the Book of Common Prayer for its simple, fervent piety, for its clear, ringing out-

spoken declaration of the great central truth of the Incarnation, and because it is everywhere full of the blessed doctrine of justification alone by the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ. I love it because it everywhere breathes a spirit of tenderness and pity for the erring, while its warnings are plain and heart-searching, and it everywhere sets forth Christ crucified as the only hope of lost and sinful men."—Bishop Whipple.

A man has no right to believe what he pleases. He should believe in accordance with the weight of evidence. Not to do so is to enthroned prejudice above reason, and yet you will find that some of those who make the largest claims for the authority of reason assert their right to have their wishes dictate their conclusions.—*The Watchman*.

SISTER DORA, of Walsall, England, gave up her life to nursing sick people. At the head of her bed a bell was fixed by which sufferers could summon her at any hour of the night. As she rose at the sound of the signal she used to murmur these words: "The Master is come, and calleth for thee."

THE British Museum has books written on the surface of bricks, tiles, oyster shells, bones and flat stones, together with manuscripts on bark, on leaves, on ivory, leather, parchment, papyrus, lead, iron, copper and wood. It has three copies of the Bible written on leaves of the fan palm.

TWENTY million dollars were contributed in London, Eng., during last year for the charities of the metropolis.

Is it not a fact that the majority of people show by their acts of *condescension* that they have never really considered what the word implies? To very many amongst us it suggests patronage. From our fancied superior height we are nothing loath to *look down*—in all good nature, it may be—on those in a different position from ourselves. And so we often do more harm than good, and are left wondering why this is so. Surely our efforts to benefit others would be more successful if our condescension took the form of *coming down* instead of looking down! Standing shoulder to shoulder, side by side, with those whom we wish to help, we shall be better able to see things from their point of view, and thus can enter into their feelings and difficulties, and assure them of our sympathy.—E.M.