

I AM DREAMING.

W. K. BURR.

I am dreaming, yes, I'm dreaming
Of the gladsome days of yore;
Those bright days so full of sunshine
That have fled forevermore.
Still, in dreams I often wander
Back to childhood days so fair;
Ramble through the groves and meadows
Free from every shade of care.

I am dreaming now of childhood,
And fling open wide the door,
As I view the old home circle,
Loved and dearest friends once more.
And I greet the well known faces,
Friends I loved as when a child:
Visit seems as youthful pleasure,
Of my boyhood free and wild.

I am dreaming now of mother,
As I laid upon her breast;
When I sighed and sobbed for mamma,
And then quietly went to rest.
How I kissed her cheeks so warmly,
Placed my hands about her too;
And I said, my dearest mamma,
No one I love so good as you.

I am dreaming now of father,
Then so full of life and cheer,
Listen to his words of comfort,
Which I nevvormore shall hear.
Save in dreams I hear him calling,
And his voice I know it well;
Immortal voice! I hear it ringing
In that land where angels dwell.

I am dreaming now of sisters,
Just as in my tender years;
How my fond heart beat in rapture,
While my life was mixed with tears.
Once again I hear the voices
Echoing through our merry home;
And the little feet are bounding,
Here and there—where'er they roam.

I am dreaming now of brothers,
Of companions, old and dear;
When the pleasures of my boyhood
Drove away all thoughts of fear.
O, those years of joy and gladness,
Could I just once more behold
All the form in sunny childhood,
All those loving friends of old!

I am dreaming, yes, I'm dreaming,
And I see the ladder thrown
From this weary earth to heaven,
While the sleeper finds a stone.
O, those years of mem'ry fondest,
Lifts the soul from th' crimson sod;
When 'mid dreams of joys seraphic,
We are stepping towards our God.

I am dreaming, yes, I'm dreaming,
But my dreams will soon be o'er;
Then, the scenes of youthful pleasure
Will be mine forevermore.
Here on earth I'd live no longer,
But would freely lay my head
On the bosom of my Saviour,
And be happy with the dead.

Correspondence.

FROM NEW ZEALAND.

Dear Christian,—The season of depression through which New Zealand, in common with many other parts of the world, has been passing, shows signs of change and a more hopeful prospect is in view. There are, however, notwithstanding the long and loud complaints of dull times, many circumstances which go to cause doubts of the times being so bad as they are represented. One of these is the amount of drinking and drunkenness which is met with. Horse racing and betting also flourishes. The extent to which the latter are carried on in these colonies is simply appalling, and is producing disastrous results, especially among young men. The fascination of betting, combined with the facilities which exist for indulging it, has ruined large num-

bers, and so great has the evil become that efforts are being made to have it put down by force of law. At a recent meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand, resolutions were passed urging upon the people and the parliament the urgent necessity for some action being taken to suppress the gambling spirit which is abroad. I feel sure that this is a step in the right direction. There is also strong and increasing tide of prohibition to the liquor traffic, which is making itself felt in various ways. Last week in Auckland at the elections of members of the Licensing Committees, the publican and brewers' candidates were beaten by the temperance party in every district and by large majorities. This means the closing of several of the hotels and the strict surveillance of those that are left. Last year the publican party won by a narrow majority. The temperance workers in Auckland are energetic and practical, and though prohibition is the object aimed at, they are not desirous of forcing it upon the public before they are ready for it. Great progress has been made in the past four years.

"Of the making of books there is no end." Notwithstanding the efforts at Christian Union, this quotation applies to the making of sects professing to be followers of Christ and His Apostles. The Free Church of Tonga, the establishment of which I mentioned in a former letter, as well as the unhappy events which followed, still continues to flourish in spite of the opposition of the Wesleyan Church, to which sect the members of the Free Church formerly belonged. Efforts are now being made to effect a reconciliation, by granting that which the Tongans asked for,—a local conference and freedom from foreign control. It is doubtful whether this will be done, and if not, another permanent sect has been added to the host already in existence. The Salvation Army keeps up its noise and show, but the novelty has worn off, and with it much of the attractiveness both for the saved and the unsaved, and as a consequence some of the former are going back to the latter. I cannot but admire the energy and self-denial which characterizes the work of many of its officers. The movement has done good in many cases that have come under my own observation, but it is lacking in the elements which affect a growth in knowledge and in grace and in conformity with the will of God. Brass bands, gold lace, red jerseys and military titles are all very well for a time, but they soon tire and cannot compensate for the want of the Water of Life, which alone satisfies the thirst of those who drink of it.

Our Australian brethren have, since I wrote you concerning Brother Green's mission to America, grown quite a crop of "Bible colleges." No less than three incipient institutions are now at work. A. Melbourne, Bro. Henslowood, who has recently come over from the Presbyterian Church, has commenced a Bible school at the Swanston street church, in accordance with a condition which that church made with him when engaging him as its preacher, that he would "undertake charge of a class, the special object of which shall be to qualify members of the church to efficiently preach the gospel and for future usefulness in the church work, such instruction to be open to members of the churches in good standing and to be free." In his inaugural address, Bro. H. says: "The original idea was so far enlarged as to embrace a much wider course of study than was at first contemplated. Instead of one night a week it has been arranged that four nights shall be occupied, and instead of one preceptor, there will be at least three." At Ballarat, Victoria, Bro. C. L. Thurgood has started a similar class, and Bro. F. J. Gove another in Adelaide, South Australia. These schools, if they do not each develop into a college, will provide students for a central college of a more pretentious character than those mentioned; which it is expected will be

established on Bro. Green's return from America. The churches in Victoria have for two years been engaged in the work of compiling a hymn book for use in the churches of these colonies. Hitherto we have used either the English or the American hymn book, and as some churches used one, and others the other, much confusion and dissatisfaction existed. The new book has just been issued and is a very creditable production, being, I think, superior to either of those now in use. It is to be hoped that all the churches will use it, and thus help to draw closer the bonds of fellowship and Christian union. The proper use of the hymn book is a mighty power for good.

Yours fraternally,

L. J. BAGNALL.

Tarun, Thames, N. Z., }
24 Feb., 1888.

FROM FLORIDA.

EDITORS CHRISTIAN:—I am most happily and pleasantly reminded from time to time, by the punctual appearance on my table of THE CHRISTIAN, of the many dear friends and associations of the "home country." I have been asked by the writers of three letters from Nova Scotia this week, why I do not write more for your most excellent paper. I can only answer that press of work keeps me so fully occupied that I find but little time for outside effort; and then I cannot but feel that but little interest would be taken by the majority of your readers in news items from a place so far removed as this. I have had, during the past year, one of the most busy and most laborious years of my ministry, and can happily say the most successful also. The Christian Church at Jacksonville has grown, under the most diligent care, from an insignificant mission point to a position of strength and influence scarce second to any in this city. Three years ago, when I came to Jacksonville, the population of the city was a little above eleven thousand; to-day the population is above thirty-two thousand, with a steady growth and improvement that is in itself almost a marvel. I know of no city in the south with more enterprises, and whose growth is of a more sure nature than this. The growth of the city has brought to us some excellent church material from the north and west, and it has been my privilege to gather together these brethren and marshal them as a host for the Lord. We have also had some very excellent additions by baptism during the year, and at the present writing scarcely a service passes without accessions.

We have just passed through a gala week. At the earnest solicitation of the Board of Directors of our Sub-Tropical Exposition, President Cleveland and wife made us a visit of three days. Thousands and tens of thousands crowded Jacksonville to do honor to the Chief and his lovely wife. Never in the history of this state was there assembled within her borders such a vast multitude as thronged every street, hotel and private home. It has been estimated that nearly one hundred thousand visitors were assembled to greet the illustrious guests. Through the well-known courtesy of the Hon. Judge Suttle of the United States Court, with whom I have been acquainted for some years, Mrs. Blenus and myself were granted the privilege of personal introduction to the President and his lady in the parlors of the St. James Hotel. Although constantly meeting with so many, President Cleveland has a pleasant smile and a cordial way that at once removes every feeling of restraint; while Mrs. Cleveland, bearing her high honors with such ease and grace, impresses one with the thought that she has all the fine instincts and traits of a true lady. The special that brought the President to our state brought also many other prominent men from Washington who spent several days viewing the tropical products and basking in the sunshine of this genial climate,