

un-Christianlike. We must not rebel against the crosses which the good God may see fit to lay upon our shoulders. "Oh, mon pere," she burst out passionately, "you do not understand! You are good and wise, and I thank you. But I—I am young, and—alone. What is there who is there I care for here? The people and I have nothing in common—nothing. I come of a different race, from a different land. There was only one heart which understood me, helped me, cherished me, and I have lost it! My life is empty. Don't talk to me of submission!"

"Your life need not be empty," he answered her. "Fill it with the noblest duties of a woman, those which cluster around the hearth of home. An honourable gentleman seeks you for his wife. What say you?"

"Whom?"

"Monsieur Lechesne."

She stepped back with a soft indrawing of her breath.

"Non, mon pere!"

She had taken her May flowers from her bosom, and was arranging and rearranging them with alim, deft fingers. She would hold them away from her the better to observe the effect, and then bend her face over them to inhale their fragrance.

"Your reasons, my daughter?" Pere Michaud questioned rather sternly.

"Because Leon is coming back," she replied, still busy with her task.

"When?" he cried aghast.

"Didn't you know?" she asked, smiling up at him from her flowers with softly brilliant eyes. "He is coming back at dawn o' day."

And she went away with the blossoms in her hand.

May passed. And many Mays passed. It would be a loving eye, indeed, which could now discern beauty in Marjorie Grant's face. It had grown thin and colourless and haggard. It looked aged and unglorious. There were pathetic wrinkles where had been velvet dimples. In the village they had come to regard her with a sort of complacent pity. When the flashy, over-dressed bride whom Pierre Lechesne had brought home from Ottawa noticed her, and inquired concerning her, her husband smiled and tapped his forehead significantly with his finger.

She had abandoned, too, all fancied feminine attempt at adornment. She wore her rich brown hair brushed plainly away from her white cheeks, unbound by any ornament or bit of bright ribbon. Only they noticed, when the May flowers were in bloom, she it was who discovered the first and sought the last. Through the glass of time the sands of nine years ebbed fully. The winter came on intensely severe. Despite all protest and entreaty, Marjorie Grant persisted in making her way down to the cliffs in the biting cold of the early morning.

"I must go!" she would say, to them. "You know he is coming at dawn o' day?"

But a time came when they found her lying upon the rocks stark and unconscious. They bore her home, and through the long winter she lay ill unto death.

The May flowers were flushing all the mossy hollows when she rose up feeble as a child. As soon as she could walk she dragged herself out to the forest and gathered a great bunch of delicate sprays.

"At dawn o' day!" she whispered.

All night she listened as the clock in the farm-house kitchen called the hours. It was still quite dark when she crept down the path—to the cliffs—to the beach, the May flowers in her hand. A faint grayness came into the air—the cool, fresh twilight of a summer dawn.

Hark! footsteps!

Some one was coming along the shore—a man; a big, hulking fellow with a closely-cropped head, and a skin which had been bleached to pallor by the atmosphere of a prison.

He stopped short. What was that lying there? A woman? He bent above the prone figure, with the bloodless face upturned to the brightening sky.

"God! Marjorie!"

He staggered back. She half lifted herself on one shaking hand and looked up at him.

"Leon! it is—dawn!"

What bitter truth did he read in those loving, burning eyes! He crushed her to his heart with a terrible, passionate cry.

"No! it is night—black night!"

Out of a sea of pearl the sun uploated a disk of gold. Its rare light laughed across the river on the wee waves stumbling up the sand—on the white sails of a fisherman's boat—on a little child at play.

Aye, and on something else!

It lay upon the shining beach, some rosy blooms upon its bosom.

The day had dawned!—*Our Continent.*

### THE INTERIOR OF GREENLAND.

Baron Nordenskjöld is now fairly on his way to Greenland for the exploration of both coasts and of the interior of that island continent. His programme is given at length in "Nature" for May 10. The following extracts contain his hypothesis as to the interior.

The geological nature of Greenland, very similar to that of Scandinavia, seems to indicate a similar orographical formation—viz.: a formation formed of mountainous ridges alternating with deep valleys and plains, while one may even assume that the culminating line of the land in Greenland runs, as in England and Sweden and in both American continents, along the west coast. The winds, therefore, which should produce snow in the interior, must, if coming from the Atlantic, have in the first instance crossed the broad belt generally encircling the east coast of Greenland, and then the mountains on the coast, some of which we know are very high, and, if coming from Davis Sound, the mountain range itself. In both cases the wind must assume the character of the "Föhn" wind—i.e., it must, after passing the mountain chains on the coast, be dry and comparatively warm.

These causes are not only the reason of the dry, warm "Föhn" winds in Switzerland, and the very remarkable cir-

cumstances that it is under winds from the snow-covered mountains that the snow disappears in Swedish Lapland, but they play also an important part in the climatic condition of the whole globe. They are, for example, the cause of the difference in climate and flora of the two sides of the Andes, of the east and west coasts of Terra del Fuego, and the eastern and western parts of Australia. They are the chief cause of the deserts which cover the interiors of Asia, Australia, the northern portion of Africa, and certain parts of America, while in Sweden they produce the constant western winds, and the consequent prolonged drought which invariably occurs in spring time in the central part of the country. The same laws of the temperature and moisture of the air must also prevail in Greenland. Here too the ocean winds must be moist, and this moisture is usually deposited in the form of snow on the mountains along the coast, whereas all those reaching the interior, whether from east, west, north, or south, must—if the orographical construction of the country is not entirely different from that of others on the globe—be dry and comparatively warm. And, in consequence of this circumstance, the snow-falls in the interior of Greenland cannot be sufficient for maintaining a "perpetual" inland ice.

It cannot, however, be asserted that the country should here form a deserted, treeless tundra; one encounters in Siberia forests with giant trees under climatic conditions far more severe than those we may assume are to be found in the interior of Greenland. That the country should prove true to its name has besides been asserted by the celebrated botanist Hooker, from his studies of the flora of Greenland; and even the natives on the west coast themselves have a suspicion that such is the case from the large herds of reindeer, which from time to time are seen to migrate across the inland ice to the west coast. It is most probable that the interior, if free from ice, is like a North European high plateau, with a flora far more copious than that of the coast. But this I maintain, that whether the interior of Greenland is richly covered with forests, as the late round the frigid pole of Siberia, or is a treeless, ice-free tundra, or even a desert of perpetual ice, the solution of the problem of its real nature is so important, and of such consequence to science, that there could hardly, at the present moment, be conceived an object more worthy of an Arctic expedition than to ascertain the true conditions of the interior of this peculiar country.

### CRIME IN THE ENGLISH ARMY.

The criminal statistics of the army at home for the year 1882 show that upon an average strength of some 90,000 non-commissioned officers and men, representing about one-half the army, there were 8,319 court martials held and 131,434 minor punishments. The number of fines for drunkenness—for the most part included among the minor punishments—was 18,460. The total number of offences dealt with by the 8,319 courts-martial was 11,927. There were two cases of mutiny, 1,308 of desertion, 1,639 of absence without leave, and 1,873 of making away with necessaries. The offences in relation to enlistment such as concealment of previous discharge, fraudulent enlistment while already belonging to the Queen's service, and making false answers on attestation, numbered 854; violence and disobedience of superiors, 753; minor insubordination and neglect of orders, 876; quitting or sleeping on post, 290; drunkenness on duty, 969; drunkenness not on duty, 800; disgraceful conduct of various kinds, 292; while 2,271 offences, not coming under any of the above heads, are classed as "miscellaneous."

### A BENEVOLENT INVALID.

True charity is always beautiful, but that it should need to be exercised in the direction here described, gives painful evidence of privation, that is far more general than might be supposed.

Professor T. H. Pattison has given in the *Chicago Standard* an account of the charitable ministrations of Mrs. Spurgeon, the wife of the well-known London preacher. Though an invalid, shut up in her sick chamber, she has for years "ministered to the necessities of the saints." Her "Book Fund," made up of what she can save by economy and self denial, together with the unsolicited offerings of others, has replenished the library of many a pastor whose meagre salary would not allow him the luxury of new books. And the books have been accompanied with donations of clothing for the scanty wardrobe of the wife and children. These gifts have been sent not to Baptists alone, but to needy pastors of all evangelical denominations. Thus by her sweet, unostentatious ministries Mrs. Spurgeon has been illustrating the Gospel that her gifted husband preaches.

### A SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

George II. on a certain occasion, being informed that an imprudent printer was to be punished for having published a spurious (king's) speech, replied that he hoped the punishment would be of the mildest sort; because, he continued, he had read both, and as far as he understood either of them, he liked the spurious speech better than his own.

### An abundant harvest is predicted in Wales.

Henry M. Seybert, who endowed the Chair of Moral and Mental Philosophy in the University of Pennsylvania, willed \$1,000 to be expended in investigating spiritualism, in which he was a believer. A Committee has been appointed to do the work. Persons professing superhuman attributes will be scientifically examined.

An agent of the University of Heidelberg purchased in London half a dozen human skulls for the cabinet of anatomy. At the Custom House the German officials poured over the tariff, but found no explicit directions how to classify skulls. As "bones," they would be duty free, but then nature would be violated, and so they decided that they were "worn effects."

## BRITISH AND FOREIGN STAFFS.

In twenty-nine months the population of Berlin has increased 80,000.

MAY Laffan, the Irish novelist has been married to a Scotch professor named McNabb.

THERE is a coloured church in New York city whose leading members have property valued at \$4,000,000.

It is calculated that fifty Atlantic liners will be able to lie broadside on the quay now being made at Antwerp.

THERE are seventy Roman Catholic papers in the United States, of which twenty are published in New York State.

THE Jews have a working-men's club in London, to which the women are freely admitted. It is conducted on temperance principles.

A cloud has darkened the mind of Mlle. de la Ramée, better known as "Ouida." She is, in consequence, strictly secluded.

One of the London, England life insurance offices has decided to allow a reduction of 10 per cent. on the premiums paid by teetotalers.

M. RENAN, who twenty-one years ago was removed from the professorship of Hebrew in the College de France, was last week elected vice-rector.

KIRK-ALBY has at length placed a monument, a free-stone obelisk, over the grave of its old parish minister, Dr. Martin, Edward Irving's father-in-law, who died so long ago as 1837.

THE Rev. Syleman Herring, vicar of St. Paul's, Clerkenwell, states that during the past seven years he has attended 4,000 deathbeds, baptized 3,400 children, and churched 2,300 women.

SIR JAMES G. BAIRD, Bart., is the convener of a committee of fifty, including the kirk-session, appointed to fill up the vacancy in St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, caused by the resignation of Mr. Barclay.

AT the Lochcarron communion a short time since not a few of the worshippers had come forty and fifty miles. Gaelic services were held on the sea shore near the manse in the presence of thousands.

THE Rev. A. W. POOLE, who has been appointed by Archbishop Behrson the first bishop for Japan, is a pronounced Evangelical. The Primate is probably wishing to make amends for his "martyred Land" speech.

THE Marquis of Bute, in laying the foundation stone of a new Jesuit College at Garnethill, Glasgow, expressed a hope that "the close of the sixth historic millennium may possibly herald a Sabbath day's mass for the people of God."

THE Auditor of St. Louis, named Heath, went to prison for three years for stealing public money. His wife obtained the divorce to which the law entitled her on account of his felony; but when he was released a few days ago, she re-married him.

AN elderly beggar woman quoted Scripture to a London magistrate to show that begging was "church-like." She said she was only carrying out the precept, "Ask and ye shall receive; seek and ye shall find," but the Justice committed her.

CANON FARRAR has set a good example by opening a bazaar on behalf of a new Wesleyan chapel for the Welsh in London. In burning words he spoke of the duty of all Christians uniting together, sinking minor differences for the glory of God.

THE Rev. WM. PALMER, the last surviving member of the Oxford Tractarians, has in the press a new edition, with introduction and supplement, of his account of the movement. The work was originally published in 1843, and has long been out of print.

AN American organ was used at both services the other Sunday in Westbourne Church, Glasgow, of which Mr. Orrock Johnston is pastor. This is the first case in which instrumental music has been employed in the Sabbath services in a Free Church.

THE enormous gas main now being laid through the Westminster district is the largest in London. The diameter is four feet. Over twenty-three miles, in four diverging lines, have already been laid from the great gas works at Beckton, the work having been begun ten years ago.

MR. GEORGE STEEL, of Annan, in opposition to Principal Talloch, thinks there is no reason to believe that the three leading Churches in Scotland will ever depart from the principle that the professors of theology should, like the ministers, be under the control of their respective presbyteries.

MR. W. YOUNG, session-clerk of Church Street Church, Berwick-on-Tweed, has passed his ninetieth year, and is still discharging efficiently his official duties. In 1820, as a member of Synod, he witnessed in Bristo Street Church, Edinburgh, the union of the Burgher and anti-Burgher denominations.

THE oldest of the twenty-four Disruption ministers in the recent Free Church Assembly was Dr. George Mackay, of Inverness, still hale and hearty at eighty-seven. Dr. Keith is the father of the Church according to date of ordination; but Mr. Waters of Burghhead is the oldest in years, being now past ninety.

Peter Groot, a Chicago iron founder, wealthy and high-tempered, went with his family to sail on the lake, but all the boats were engaged. He waited for one of them to come in, only to learn that the man in it proposed to keep it another hour. He offered double price, but in vain. Writhing, exasperated, he drew a pistol and killed himself.

THE Luther Festival at Erfurt has been fixed for August 3th. It is worth noting that the present year is the fourth centenary of Raphael's birth as well as of Luther's, the apostle of the Renaissance having been born on the 10th of November, 1483. Sabbath 24th ult. was the second centenary of a third great German pope, Gregorius, who first foreign missionary sent out by Germany.