

was pretty enough to justify all the pleasure he manifested. The rustic piazza formed just the setting for Adah's beauty, and her light summer costume well suggested her perfect and womanly form, while the companionship of the children proved that she was almost as guileless and childlike as they. The group was like a bubbling, sparkling spring, at which the rather advanced man of the world sipped with increasing pleasure.

Miss Warren also gave much of her time to the children, and beguiled them into many simple lessons at the piano. Zillah was true to her first love, but Adela gave to Adah a decided preference; and when they entered on the intense excitement of making a new wardrobe for each of the large dolls that Mr. Hearn had brought, Adah had the advantage, for she was a genius in such matters, and quite as much interested as the little girls themselves.

(To be continued.)

#### STRENGTH FOR THE DAY.

Strength for the day! At early dawn I stand  
Helpless and weak and with unrested eyes,  
Watching for day. Before its portal lies  
A low black cloud, a heavy iron hand.  
Slowly the mist is lifted from the land,  
And pearl and amber gleam across the skies,  
Gladdening my upward gaze with sweet surprise!  
I own the sign; I know that He whose hand  
Hath flung those sombre clouds with ruby ray,  
And changed that iron bar to molten gold,  
Will to my wandering steps be guide and stay;  
Breathe o'er my wavering heart his rest for aye,  
And give my waiting, folded palms to hold  
His blessed morning boon—strength for the day!

—Rachel G. Alsop

#### A MOTHER'S INFLUENCE.

Mr. Wendell Phillips related the following in an address in Boston:

In a railway car, once, a man about sixty years old came to sit beside me. He had heard me lecture the evening before on temperance.

"I am master of a ship," said he, "sailing out of New York, and have just returned from my fiftieth voyage across the Atlantic. About thirty years ago I was a sot; shipped, while dead drunk, as one of a crew, and was carried on board like a log. When I came to, the captain sent for me. He asked me:

"Do you remember your mother?"

"I told him she died before I could remember anything."

"Well," said he, "I am a Vermont man. When I was young I was crazy to go to sea. At last my mother consented I should seek my fortune in New York."

"He told how she stood on one side the garden gate and he on the other, when, with his bunnie on his arm, he was ready to walk to the next town. She said to him:

"My boy, I don't know anything about towns, and I never saw the sea, but they tell me those great towns are sinks of wickedness, and make thousands of drunkards. Now, promise me you'll never drink a drop of liquor."

"He said:

"I laid my hand in hers and promised, as I looked into her eyes for the last time. She died soon after. I've been on every sea, seen the worst kinds of life and men—they laughed at me as a milk-sop, and wanted to know if I was a coward. But when they offered me liquor I saw my mother across the gate, and I never drank a drop. It has been my sheet-anchor; I owe all to that. Would you like to take that pledge?" said he."

My companion took it, and he added,

"It has saved me. I have a fine ship, wife, and children at home, and I have helped others."

How far that little candle threw its beams! That earnest mother saved two men to virtue and usefulness—how many more! He who sees all can alone tell.

#### PREPARATION FOR LIFE.

Miss Helena Gladstone, a young daughter of the Prime Minister of England, is causing quite a sensation in England and on the continent by the moral courage developed in her recent determination to enter an active and useful career, and to give to the young women of England a very noble example. A London correspondent of the leading political journal of the continent, the *Belgian Independent*, announces that this young lady has passed her examinations, and now returns to the Newham College to study for the position of preceptress in that institution. The idea of the daughter of the Prime Minister becoming a teacher, or, as some other authorities state, secretary and active agent, is something so new to the aristocratic feminine world of Europe that it is making an "epoch," as they say.

A REMARKABLE movement is in progress amongst the Aboriginal Indians of British Guiana. Forty years ago a young man commenced work among them, and waited five years for his first convert. The converts have since become a thousand. Two or three years ago an Indian family from the Upper Potaro river came from their distant home to know more about the Gospel concerning which they had heard somewhat. They have as a people often pleaded for a teacher. A missionary has recently been sent among them who, within a few days, baptized 1,398 of the natives of the Potaro and neighbouring tribes, amongst whom were persons who had come two weeks' journey and were living on quarter rations rather than go unbaptized. The mission says of the Propagation Society, writing to the Bishop, says: "In all the history of ancient and modern missions, hardly ever, I conceive, has a case been known where so many at a time, with so little of worldly advantage to tempt them, have voluntarily sought for admission into the Christian Church."

#### DENIAL.

We look with scorn on Peter's thrice-told lie!  
Boldly we say, "Good brother! you nor I,  
So near the sacred Lord, the Christ indeed,  
Had dared His name and marvellous grace deny."

O futile boast! O haughty lips, be dumb!  
Unheralded by bolterous trumpet or drum,  
How oft 'mid silent eves, and midnight chimes,  
Vainly to us our pleading Lord hath come,

Knocked at our hearts, striven to enter there;  
But we, poor slaves of mortal sin and care,  
Sunk in deep sloth, or bound by spiritual sleep,  
Heard not the voice divine, the tender prayer!

Ah! well for us if some late spring-tide hour  
Faith still may bring, with blended shine and shower;  
If through warm tears a late remorse may shed,  
Our wakened souls put forth one heavenly flower!

#### DROPPING A SEED.

The land was still; the skies were gray with weeping;  
Into the soft brown earth the seed she cast;  
O! soon, she cried, will come the time of reaping.  
The golden time when clouds and tears are past!  
There came a whisper through the autumn haze,  
"Yea, thou shalt find it after 'many days.'"

Hour after hour she marks the fitful gleaming  
Of sunlight stealing through the cloudy lift;  
Hour after hour she lingers, idly dreaming,  
To see the rain fall, and the dead leaves drift;  
"O! for some small green sign of life," she prays,  
"Have I not watched and waited 'many days?'"

At early morning, chilled and sad, she hearkens  
To stormy winds that through the poplars blow;  
Far over hill and plain the heaven darkens,  
Her field is covered with a shroud of snow;  
"Ah, Lord!" she sighs, "are these Thy loving ways?"  
He answers—"Spake I not of 'many days?'"

The snowdrop blooms; the purple violet glistens  
On banks of moss that take the sparkling showers,  
Half-cheered, half-doubling yet, she strays and listens  
To finches singing to the shy young flowers;  
A little longer still His love delays  
The promised blessing—"after many days."

"O, happy world!" she cries, "the sun is shining!

Above the soil I see the springing green;  
I could not trust His word without repining,  
I could not wait in peace for things unseen;  
Forgive me, Lord, my soul is full of praise;  
My doubting heart prolonged Thy 'many days!'"

—Sunday Magazine.

GOD demands an account of the past; that we must render hereafter. He demands an improvement of the present, and this we must render now.—*W. Jay*.

CHRIST presents no harsh front, prescribes no fearful ordeal. He is better than law or Church. He appears as divine love, and offers you immediate safety in His arms.

ROUGHNESS is a needless cause of discontent: severity breedeth fear; but roughness breedeth hate; even reproofs from authority ought to be grave and not taunting.—*Lord Bacon*.

THE "Glasgow Herald" understands that the Divinity Faculty of the University of Aberdeen has refused to receive Dr. Cunningham as the General Assembly's Lecturer on the Pastoral and Homiletical Training of Students, on account of his connection with "Scotch Sermons." He has already lectured in the Universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, and St. Andrews.

THE habit of thoughtfulness, of exact observation, of the wise employment of time, feeling, and affection, will, under altered conditions, as we may well believe, continue with us hereafter. Possibly the wider and ampler a man's experience may be in this world, the richer and more varied may be the fruitage in another state of existence.

THE metropolis of idolatry for the South Pacific Islands within a compass of five hundred miles, whither, less than a century ago, from every shore, human victims, ready slain, were sent to be offered on the altar of the god of war, Oro, was Opoa, where the king of this island was a living idol among dead ones who were worshipped with bloody and most detestable rites. And now at this same island, this centre of cruelty and crime within the memory of men still living, there has just been a great gathering for the dedication of a Christian church, at which the natives subscribed nearly nine thousand dollars (£1,751 17s. 6d.) for the church alone, and for the adornment of the grounds of which they are gathering units that they may have it all completed and out of debt. The London Missionary Society records are replete with the interesting story.

News has reached Alexandria from Jerusalem that the well-known German traveller, Dr. Fr. Mook, who accompanied Dr. Ribbeck on his expedition to Palestine and Syria, has been drowned in crossing the River Jordan, which was at the time swollen by heavy rains. The party had had a very successful tour through the Danubian regions, South Russia, and the Caucasus, and were travelling from Syria through the country east of the Jordan to Jerusalem. To save time, the expedition had constructed a wooden raft, on which they were to pass the swollen river. Dr. Mook, indeed, had twice crossed, but, in trying to effect a passage for the third time, he slipped from the raft, got under it, was entangled in its ropes, and thus disappeared beneath the waves. Dr. Ribbeck and the other members of the expedition, after a long search, recovered the body, which was buried at Jericho.

## BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

LIEUTENANT SCHWAIKA has placed his Franklin relics at the disposal of Queen Victoria.

CELEWAILO, the captive Zulu king, will shortly be transferred from the Castle at Cape Town to a farm near the city, where he will enjoy much more liberty.

THE Dundee Free Presbytery, by a vote of 20 to 5, has passed a resolution declaring that the use of instrumental music in worship is contrary to the forms sanctioned by the Church, and prohibiting the further use of a harmonium in St. Luke's Church, Broughty Ferry.

THE bill for giving the elective franchise to women in Indiana, was last week defeated in the lower house of the Legislature by the close vote of forty-three nays to forty-six yeas. The cause can afford to wait for a victory which is sure to come at last.

LET one try to imagine what was lost to the English nation by the long exclusion of Dissenters from the universities. In the last twenty-one years fourteen of the Senior Wranglers have been Nonconformists—a remarkable fact, considering that the majority of the students are Churchmen.

THE Khedive of Egypt has given orders to the Grand Chief of the Religious Corporations that the ceremony known as the "Dossa" must henceforth cease. The "Dossa" was a procession which took place annually in Cairo, in the national ceremony known as "Mewled el-Nabi," and consisted of the passage of a sheik on horseback over his prostrate co-religionists.

THE Greek Manuscript recently discovered by two German professors at Rossano, in Calabria, contains the Gospels of St. Matthew and St. Mark, except St. Mark xvi. 9-19. It is in the old square character, is written in silver letters on purple parchment, and is of the sixth century. Its peculiarity consists in a number of finely executed miniatures which ornament some of the pages, and which represent scenes from the Lord's Passion. Miniatures of that age are exceedingly rare.

A CASE of human sacrifice has occurred in the Vizagapatam hill tracts, India. A number of hill-men, who had planned a raid on a neighbouring police station, sought to secure divine favour by the offering of a sacrifice. They made a descent on Chittrakonda, and carried off several villagers, including the head man. After the usual ceremonies, the heads of the victims were cut off by the leader of the party, who has been tried and sentenced to be hanged. The other eight accomplices have been released.

THE days of the Inquisition are hardly yet over in Spain, and it is found difficult to enforce the laws of toleration, even after they are enacted. Not long since the Protestants opened a booth for the sale of Bibles, hymn books, and other evangelical treatises, during the progress of a fair held in honour of the Virgin in one of the villages near Saragossa. A heated, displayed, and highly sensational column appeared in the next day's paper warning the people against this new device of the evil one, and the Archbishop, through some of the petty officials, ordered the shop to be closed. The chief of police, however, interfered, and the sale continued, carefully watched by those who considered it an open mouth to perdition. The third day a boy of about seventeen took up a book and began to read it with great eagerness. Seeing his wearied condition, those in charge invited him to come inside the booth out of the cold and storm, and drew forth his story, which was that having been discovered reading a Bible, he had been expelled from the college where he was studying for the priesthood, and in consequence disowned by his parents. He had walked in the rain for three days, almost without food, and slept at the roadside, his one desire being to get to those who could tell him more about the Gospel. As he desired to enter the evangelical school, he was placed under the care of a Bible woman, and might have had a happy home, but the police, instigated by the Archbishop, demanded his letter of authorization from his father for leaving home, without which the law forbade his residence in the city. At this juncture some distant relatives turned up, and offered to take and provide for the boy, on condition of his never speaking to the Protestants, and the law at once gave him into their custody.

A CORRESPONDENT of the "Times of India" says: "Amongst the arrivals by the Zanzibar mail steamer, *Punjab*, were the Rev. Dr. Rankin and Mr. Pringle, who, you will remember, were sent out by the Established Church of Scotland to inquire into the charges brought against the Plantyrie Mission by a Mr. Chernside. These gentlemen, I understand, have drawn up a report, in which they say that most of the charges have been grossly exaggerated, and many of them are utterly false. One of Mr. Chernside's accusations was that, in the case of the murder of a native woman connected with the Mission, the missionaries had tried and sentenced to death the wrong man. Mr. Chernside also accused them of flogging the natives, but it would seem from the inquiry of the commission that during the five years in which the mission station has been in existence there have been only five cases of flogging, for two of which alone the missionaries are responsible. In these two cases the punishment was inflicted, I believe, for aggravated cases of theft, and was, I believe, richly deserved. Another charge brought against the head of the Mission, Mr. Duff Macdonald, and his coadjutors, was that they were on bad terms with the Wakolobu chiefs, who, I may mention, are descendants of Livingstone's old servants. The best answer the missionaries could give to this charge was to point to the fact that, with only one exception, every chief has one or more of his sons in the Plantyrie schools. Dr. Rankin and Mr. Pringle also brought intelligence that a slave convoy has been formed within twenty miles of the Plantyrie Mission station, and that two girls were abducted a week before the steamer left by a party of sixteen Arabs. The Mission staff, anxious to avoid any further scandal, abstained from attacking the Arabs, though they might easily have done so."