

# Weekly Messenger

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## The Temperance Worker

### PUBLISHERS' NOTES.

With every desire to make this paper a means of usefulness to the various temperance organizations whose cause it heartily espouses we are necessarily dependent on those organizations themselves for the items of news and we should be much pleased if they would kindly see that they are regularly supplied to us.

A comprehensive epitome of the news of the week from all quarters of the globe, combined with a great variety of household and home reading, frequently illustrated, together with an organ of temperance sentiment and intelligence for the Dominion of Canada, published at fifty cents a year, or forty cents in single orders of ten copies, is one of the very best offers ever made to the reading public of this country, and the steady increase in the circulation of the *Weekly Messenger and Temperance Worker* shows that its qualities and price are alike being appreciated wherever it finds its way. Every effort of our friends to extend the paper's influence will be gratefully accepted as a favor and an encouragement in our work. Address all orders to JOHN DOUGALL & SONS, Montreal, Q.

### THE NEW LIQUOR LAW.

Much diversity of opinion is expressed regarding the qualities of the new liquor-regulating law. Some of the press speak of it as the most stringent liquor law yet devised in this country; others declare the opinion that it is complicated and impracticable of operation. Some temperance men in the Upper Provinces regard it as in some respects marking a clear advance in legislation, while others consider it wanting in simplicity and more careful of the liquor interests than of the public good in many points. Opinions upon both sides are, however, largely cast in the mould of the political party of those expressing them. While it is undoubted that the measure is a compromise, experience alone will afford a satisfactory test of its nature in all respects. Nova Scotia and Manitoba, having already very stringent anti-liquor laws, naturally do not take kindly to the new Dominion legislation. The Nova Scotia Branch of the Dominion Alliance and the Halifax County Convention both protested strongly, but too late, against the passage of the bill. A temperance convention held in Winnipeg, said to be the most representative one ever held there, adopted the following telegram to Sir John Macdonald:—"Representative men from all portions of the Province of Manitoba assembled in Winnipeg strongly object to license law now before the House, particularly as to Sunday opening, extension of hours on Saturday night, unlimited number of saloons and licenses along railways, and ask two-thirds regulations for applicants yearly; and that the act should be more stringent instead of more lax, than the present laws." Below we give a brief account of the principal changes hurriedly made in the

measure upon its final reading in the House of Commons. The first was that the power to prohibit held by Quebec municipalities at Confederation should not be abrogated by the Act. If we are under a correct impression a similar privilege in Ontario was superseded by subsequent local legislation, and possibly may be revived as a natural consequence of local legislation being declared judicially, as it has been politically, to be invalid. An amendment to strike out permission for hotels to sell liquor at meal-times on Sunday was lost by a vote of sixty-six to seventy-nine. Mr. White, member for Cardwell, was the author of a successful amendment very much in the interest of the liquor traffic, although professedly in favor of restriction. It was to make a three-fifths instead of a bare majority of the electors of a district necessary in order to carry the prohibitory clause in a district, and was carried by eighty-eight to sixty-three. It had been argued by the mover and some professed temperance members that prohibition would be inoperative unless sustained by a decided majority. While that is certainly plausible to some extent, it is not borne out as an infallible proposition by experience in working either restrictive license laws or the Scott Act. No matter how great the majority obtainable against the traffic, the enforcement of law against it has ever devolved upon a very few in every community, and the effectiveness of most existing restrictive measures depends almost entirely upon the possibility of obtaining a faithful guard at every point, prepared to make some sacrifice of time and means and determined to persevere. Nothing seems to have been said in Parliament as to the gross tyranny involved in allowing two-fifths of the population to force liquor shops with all their deplorable fruits and intolerable accompaniments of disorder, immorality, crime and poverty upon the remaining three-fifths. Mr. Baker, member for Victoria, British Columbia, tried to secure for his city double the proportion of liquor sellers allowed in the bill, but his remarkable philanthropy was defeated by a vote of over two to one. An amendment to provide voting by ballot upon the local option clause was carried without opposition. Compounding an offence under the Act, carrying a penalty of a fine not exceeding fifty dollars, was made punishable by imprisonment for three months at hard labor—a salutary provision calculated to deter officials from collusion with law-breakers. An amendment to add to the number of licenses allowable for places of much resort by travellers, moved by Mr. Patterson, of Essex, was lost. The municipal prohibition was made repealable by the same means as it is carried. On motion of Mr. Foster, the sale of liquor to minors under any circumstances was forbidden. An extraordinary amendment moved by Mr. Giguault, which was lost, was to allow hotel-keepers to sell quantities from an Imperial quart to a gallon, at any time to any person, not to be drunk upon the premises. Two separate amendments affirming in different terms provincial jurisdiction in the whole matter were voted down, and the

bill was read a third time and passed. We are not aware of any material amendment being made in the bill upon its hurried passage through the Senate in the closing hours of Parliament.

### "OVERWHELMING SENTIMENT."

At the beginning of the Scott Act's way in Halton County, Ontario, a company leased a hotel in Milton for three years, to run it upon temperance principles, but the first year's results have discouraged the shareholders and they have sub-let the house to a man who declines to enter into obligations to maintain the temperance character of the house. According to a Milton paper, "the natural deduction is that the hotel business cannot be made to pay unless combined with that of selling liquor, except where there is such an overwhelming sentiment in favor of prohibition as to cause the general public to deny their patronage to all but *bona fide* 'temperance houses.'" An equally "natural deduction" to the above, and the proper one to be drawn from the facts, is that a serious neglect of known duty has occurred in the district in question, when a temperance hotel was allowed to be swamped by illicit competitors. As to "overwhelming sentiment" being the one thing lacking, something more than flippant assertion, in Parliament and out of it, is required to convince any temperance workers of experience and habits of reflection. A stringent law such as the Scott Act in the hands of the majority that carried it at the polls is an "overwhelming" force if only a few men of capacity and courage with some money are available to use the instrument with sincerity and firmness. There are not many communities in our nominally Christian country in which there is not an "overwhelming sentiment" against the evils of the liquor traffic, but it needs direction and development at the hands of a few who are by natural fitness and common consent qualified to take the lead. Public opinion, we are confident, will one day demand that the authorities shall enforce restrictive laws against the liquor traffic to the uttermost and cheerfully approve of all expenditure necessary to that end. In a new country, however, communities feel the need of a great many modern improvements that they cannot afford at once, and therefore it would be very difficult to get any body of ratepayers in Canada to make an appropriation at their annual meeting sufficient to secure the enforcement of the Scott or any other anti-liquor law. Hence private effort and funds must for a time to come be relied upon as well to carry out as to procure restrictive local option laws in a district. As at the polls the question has been whether the people desired the instrument of protection against the traffic, so after its adoption the question is whether the instrument is to be used or, to the stultification of the people, allowed to rust in idleness. Of course the stronger the sentiment on the law's side the better, but nothing is probably more calculated to promote favorable public opinion than the effective working of the measure itself. Many, for instance, profess to be opponents of the liquor business and its fruits, while disparaging the

Scott law upon various pretexts. To disarm the opposition of such if they are true friends of temperance, or to compel them to display their real character if they are foes in disguise, nothing, we imagine, would be more effectual than a period of firm administration of the measure. If there is not enough sincere temperance feeling in a county or city to give the Scott Act a fair trial after adoption, it is most marvellous how it could ever have been carried at the polls. Our belief is that the sentiment is there in every case, latent it may be but never incapable of development by means of more or less devoted and self-denying exertion upon the part of those who led the original campaign.

### GOOD TEMPLARS.

The Grand Lodge of the World met in its sixth annual session in Chicago, on Tuesday of last week. About one hundred and seventy delegates were present, and the Right Worthy Grand Templar, Mr. George Katzenstein, of California, presided. Messrs. W. H. Lambly, Grand Chief of Quebec, and Right Worthy Grand Marshal, S. A. Lebourveau, Grand Secretary of Quebec, and I. J. Hingley, Grand Secretary of Nova Scotia, were present. The meeting of the Right Worthy Grand Lodge of the World, to take place in Halifax, N. S., in June, as announced in a former issue, is of another body of Good Templars—the points of variance that divided the original Order it is, however, unnecessary to relate here. Suffice it to mention the lamentable fact that costly litigation is pending between the leaders of the rival Orders in the United Kingdom.

### SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

Gurney Division, St. John, N. B., celebrated its thirty-sixth anniversary last week. The chair was occupied by Mr. S. B. Patterson, who, after an opening prayer by the Rev. Job Shenton, referred in a short address to the success of the Division in temperance work and its present membership of three hundred and ten, the largest in the Province. Addresses were also delivered by Mr. C. A. Everett and the Rev. I. L. Beman, and musical entertainment and refreshments closed a successful celebration of a gratifying event.

### W. C. T. UNION.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union is moving in Ontario to procure the introduction of temperance text-books into the common and high schools.

Last week the Union in Picton, N. S., was resuscitated from a long-lasting dormancy, and the ladies resolved to take determined action in enforcing the Scott Act.

### PERSONAL.

The Rev. Thomas Gales, Corresponding Secretary of the Dominion Alliance, was recently laid up with severe illness, but we are glad to report him so far recovered as to have been able to go to Ottawa to watch the passage of the new liquor law, in the interest of the Alliance, and to render excellent service.

## PUNCH: A TRUE STORY.

BY DR. BARNARD.

A few years ago there stood in a narrow court not far from Holborn a common lodging-house, in the care of a deputy named Michael, and rendered notorious by the fact that it gave shelter for the most part to criminals.

During previous midnight rambles in the West central district I had frequently attempted to gain a footing in the court near Holborn where stood this thieves' kitchen, but for a long time without success. Once or twice when I ventured into the house, the "deputy," Michael, met me with a sharp inquiry as to the nature of my business, intimating, with much plainness of speech, that he "didn't want no loafers here," and also "you'd better make yourself scarce," advice which at the time I conceived it to be wise to accept with as little delay as possible. Yet I none the less earnestly desired to become better acquainted with the boys who frequented that particular house, and to save some of them if possible. No immediate prospect presented itself of realizing my wish until one night, in the winter of 1877, when, as I was passing down the court to visit an adjoining lodging-house, I observed the "deputy" standing at the door with an anxious look which seemed to give place to an expression of satisfaction as I approached.

The explanation was soon found. Something entreatingly he accosted me with "I've a sick feller in 'ere, I wish you'd see him, sir. I'm 'fraid he's got the fever." A very serious contingency for even such a lodging-house keeper as he, for a bad case of fever has been known to scare away the lodgers for a week or ten days, besides which the sanitary officer has a very awkward manner of insisting upon complete disinfection.

Delighted with the long-sought opportunity this opened to me, I readily acquiesced, and proceeded upstairs to one of the large sleeping rooms, in which there were beds for fifty or sixty lads. In a distant corner I found a poor boy, fifteen years of age, lying ill with all the symptoms of a sharp attack of rheumatic fever. When I assured Michael that there was no danger of contagion, from the lad's state, and added that I would willingly attend him, and supply medicine without charge, the deputy seemed pleased, and my offer was very gratefully accepted.

From this incident began a series of regular visits, my usual plan being to call about 8.30 in the evening, and remain chatting with my patient until ten o'clock, when a few of the other lads generally arrived. Then I went down to the kitchen and sat by the fire talking to the "deputy." Thus I soon became acquainted with the lads frequenting the house; so much so, that after a while they came in and out without taking much notice of me, and I was quickly initiated into the peculiar methods of their life. I found that they were all young thieves, and prosecuted their nefarious pursuits under the leadership of one lad, said to be very much the superior of the others. This lad I did not at first see, but I heard extraordinary stories of his adroitness, and the boys all seemed proud of their leader.

These lads were for the most part robbers of stalls or cheap shops outside of which goods were exposed for sale. Others were pickpockets, and these were more frequently in danger of being caught. The goods obtained in these ways were disposed of without much difficulty, but the boys generally held a kind of Dutch auction for the disposal of edible spoil in an adjacent lodging-house, the occupants of which were only too glad to buy food at a greatly reduced price. I have seen chops, steaks, fowl, oranges, vegetables, and other eatables put up for auction, and sold for perhaps one-tenth of their real value.

It may be imagined how, during my visits to this house, I took many occasions of remonstrating privately and quietly as opportunity offered with the lads upon their evil life, and I know that permanent impressions were made in some minds. Most of the boys began also to look with eagerness, when I came, for the usual reading aloud of some pleasant book. This became a regular feature of my visit, and especially after my young patient was convalescent, and able to receive me seated at the fire in the kitchen. My visits were gradually delayed until 11 or 12 o'clock, when I was always sure of having a larger audience. It was a curious sight to behold the lads on

such occasions grouped in various attitudes around the fire, some lying on the floor, but all with their faces turned to me with marked interest as I read aloud such stories as *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and afterwards Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*.

One night when I arrived somewhat later than usual I observed in front of the fire, toasting a herring on a wire fork, a lad very unlike the other denizens of the place. Singularly good-looking, with a bright, full eye, the boy had a countenance on which candor and honesty seemed impressed. A fearless, or perhaps I ought to have written audacious, expression swept at times over his face, and gave him a spirited appearance, the attraction of which few could resist.

That which seemed to me the most noticeable thing about the lad was the entire absence of a peculiar expression which was so manifest in the faces of all the other boys. I refer to the furtive glance of the eye and nervous twitching of the corner of the mouth, which is symptomatic of the young professional thief. I have called this "the thief-look," as I have seldom found any case in which young persons give way to habits of deliberate and long-continued dishonesty without acquiring this expression. In other persons the nervous twitching of the mouth disappears, and gives place to another and firmer cast of countenance which is equally expressive in its way, but the furtive glances of the eye remain.

I was therefore much surprised to observe that this particular lad, so perfectly at home in this thieves' kitchen, and on such manifestly intimate terms with its occupants, was not only destitute of anything approaching "the thief-look," but was really a very fine open-faced young fellow. My surprise was increased when I noticed that his conversation was rather more than that of the others, and plainly revealed him to be, like them, an experienced thief.

"Who is he?" I asked my young convalescent in an undertone.

"Don't you know?" was the amused rejoinder, "why that's Punch."

"What, that boy Punch? He's the leader of you all! He the lad who plans most of the robberies here? Impossible!"

"Yes," he answered with a pronounced nod of the head, while a look of something like pride in his leader passed over the boy's face, "that's Punch, sure enough, and there ain't a cleverer than 'im anywhere in London."

I confessed myself utterly baffled. Here was a boy having as frank and open a countenance as one could wish to meet among young lads of any class in life, innocence apparently beaming in his countenance, and his whole manner indeed being, until he began to talk, that of the most virtuous person imaginable. I need hardly add that this information, while it surprised me, made me intensely anxious to learn all I could about this ring-leader boy, but my patient could or would tell me nothing, except that "Punch had always been there, long before he came," that "he hadn't never been caught," and that he "didn't think there was a 'Bobby' in London clever enough to catch 'im." It was evident that if I wanted further information I must apply to headquarters, so, joining in the conversation, I gradually learned from his own lips a good deal of the recent doings of the invincible "Punch."

From the moment I first saw him the project was formed in my mind to do what lay in my power to save so fine-looking a fellow from the evil life he had entered upon, but how to begin I knew not. I could only feel that I must be very wary, and wait patiently until a fitting opportunity arose to make the attempt; but I was singularly assisted that very first evening by Punch himself. I was reading for the second or third time the story of *Uncle Tom*, and had come to that part where Eliza's escape with her child over the semi-frozen River Ohio is described. None listened with deeper interest than Punch, and when I closed the book he looked at it with a sigh, and made a remark to the effect that, "Who'd think there was such splendid stuff in a little bit of a book like that?"

This led to my telling my audience something about books, their wonderful smallness, and the stores of information and interest that they opened to all who could read them. To my delight I found that Punch, who could not read, had a very strong desire to learn. He had picked up a letter or two in the streets from posters, or from the names over the doors of shops,

and could spell a few simple words, but failed to advance beyond this. Looking at the lad's intelligent and expressive countenance, I suggested that it would be easy enough for him to learn to read if he but applied his mind to it. To this he replied he could not afford it, being unable to spare the time.

"Why not?" I asked.

"Ow am I to live, I wants to know? What'll become of my work? Eh!"

"Oh!" I said: "that need be no difficulty. I can easily get you admission to a Home where you will be given food and lodging free of charge while you are learning—that is if you care to go."

But this proposition was not relished, so the subject for a time was dropped, as I was far too experienced in such cases to appear eager to press it. As, however, I found that Punch always returned at night later than any one else, I contrived that my visits were in future made at a later hour. By this means we became better acquainted, and I ever found him anxious that I should begin reading as soon as I arrived. Punch generally wound up by renewing his former expressions of desire to learn to read, and by lamenting the difficulties in his way. I think he wanted me to propose that I would give him a few lessons during my visits, but I had no intention of doing this. My object was to get Punch away from that house, and from his present evil ways, if I could, and to elucidate some of the mystery that seemed to be hanging about the lad. At length one night he said,

"I say, mister, how long d'ye think it'd take a chap to learn to read *fast-rate*?"

"If you were to throw your whole mind into it as you do now into other things," I answered, "I have no doubt, Punch, you could learn to read in ten months or a year."

His countenance fell.

"That's a long time to wait," he rejoined. "But you know, my lad, we cannot learn anything, or attain success in any direction, without an effort, and most things require prolonged effort before we are successful."

Punch mused for a bit, and then looking round the kitchen hastily, he said to me, in a lower tone,

"I suppose if I went to that 'ere 'ome o' yours it'd be most as bad as a re'lar prison."

"Whatever put such an idea into your head?" I asked.

"Oh," he replied, "I know in them kind o' places yer can't do as yer like, or go in and out; they locks the doors on yer, and there y'are stuck fast."

"Even that would be no very great hardship," I answered, "if they are kind to you while you remain, and only keep you sufficiently long to teach you to read and perhaps also a good trade. You cannot be in two places at once; and it cannot matter much, if you are well employed, whether you have your liberty to roam the streets or not."

Yet Punch seemed unconvinced.

"What I want to know is," he suddenly exclaimed, while his clear eyes revealed the suspicion he felt, "can a feller go when he likes? I mean at the end o' the time that he says he'll stop for? I don't want none o' yer 'ormatory dodges."

"Certainly," I rejoined; "if you say you will come to my Home for a year, at the end of the year I will let you go; or if you say you will come until you have learned to read, well, I will let you go as soon as ever you can read; but," I added in a firm voice, "I could not take you at all unless you promised on your honor to remain faithfully during the whole time agreed upon."

"Oh, that's all right," he said. "I'd stop if I once promised it. I am a lad 'im, I knows; I'll no feller about 'ere can say as I don't stick to my word."

Punch said no more then, but a few nights after, being alone with him, he announced somewhat suddenly during a short pause his intention.

"Look 'ere, guv'nor, I don't mind what they says about a chap; I'll go if yer'll promise me fair that I may leave in a year's time, whether I've learned to read or not. I've made up my mind to go with yer straight off if yer promises."

It may be imagined with what pleasure I closed with this offer. Punch and I shook hands over the bargain. I stipulated further that during the year he was to be with me, he would not visit the lodging house or communicate with any of his old companions. To this Punch assented after a little hesitation.

Accordingly he promised to "look me up" the next morning.

With not a little fear and trembling I awaited his visit in my room at Stepney. Realizing on one hand my own inability to effect any permanent change in this poor lad, who had been a thief so long, I felt on the other hand deeply persuaded that unless by God's grace the result of his stay in our house was to *change his heart*, Punch would perhaps be really the worse for the education which I had now pledged myself to give him,—for I had long since found by experience that, all other things being equal, an *educated* thief is more dangerous than an ignorant one. However, having first earnestly besought the Lord's help, I laid myself out to arrange plans for Punch's welfare. No one in the Home had, or would have, the least knowledge of his past history. If he knew that others were acquainted with his career, it would probably become a subject of common conversation between him and them. His own mind would thus be directed to things which it was desirable he should forget. By constantly talking and bragging about his sinful life he might even become hardened in evil. On the other hand, if his *conscience* became aroused, there would be a risk, if others knew his story, of his being reproached with his past misdoings, and in a moment of despair he might give up attempts after amendment. The sequel of this lad's story will show what grounds I had for such fears.

I made Punch himself promise positively that, from the moment he entered our Home he would never speak to any one except me of his past life. In a surprised kind of way he acquiesced in this.

It may be imagined that I contrived to have Punch about me as much as possible. At first he went to school for half the day, spending the other half-day at work in one of the tradesmen's shops. He chose the boot-shop. There he found a lad with whom he quickly struck up an acquaintance. They became inseparable companions, and were continually to be seen together. Sometimes, when I was alone, and had work to do in my private room, I summoned Punch to help me in little jobs of lifting or putting things away, generally contriving to turn the conversation upon himself and his future prospects. It was in this way that his sad story, to be presently told, was elicited, and thus I found how a poor homeless boy in London, without any previous vicious training, may be made a thief by the influence and example of others, to which are added the stern teachings of cold and hunger.

As to his conduct in the Home, I was informed that at first Punch was very restless at morning and evening prayer, but soon began to show interest in the Bible stories which were read. One day, while he was in my room, he was boasting of his skill in robbery, how he had never once been caught and how cleverly he had evaded several attempts which had been made to capture him. Much of what he said seemed to me incredible. Wishing to discourage his tendency to exaggeration, I expressed in a strong way my disbelief of a particular statement he made. Punch looked at me with a curious expression in his face, and the subject dropped for a time. In about twenty minutes afterwards he asked me if I would tell him what o'clock it was. As a clock was in the room, I thought the request odd.

"Can't you see the clock?" I said.

"Yes, sir," was his reply; "but I want yer to tell me by yer own watch."

Putting my hand in my pocket, I found to my astonishment my watch was not there. I looked at Punch, over whose face a laugh crept.

"Try yer other pockets, sir," he said. I found that my keys, my purse, my handkerchief, and knife had disappeared—everything was gone, my pockets were literally turned inside out. Yet I had never felt the young scamp near me, nor do I to this day know how he contrived to clear me out. I looked at him somewhat sternly, fearing that all this showed a tendency to return to his old ways.

"All right, sir," he replied, in a conciliatory tone, "I ain't done you no 'arm, there they are," and he pointed to the writing-table where I had been sitting, on the corner of which, covered by a large sheet of blotting paper, were all my possessions, which he had quietly eased me of without my being conscious of the operation, merely to show me that his statements which I had

thought were exaggerations, were not beyond the truth.

"Well, Punch," I said, "although you have now succeeded in taking all these things from me, I hope that if you left here to-morrow you would not return to your old life as a thief."

"Why not?" the lad asked, as I thought somewhat impudently.

"Why not, Punch? because I should think you would be ashamed of living such a life."

"Well, I ain't,—there," he rejoined, in audacious tones.

"But do you really mean, Punch, that you never feel now what a bad and shameful thing it is to be a thief?"

"No, sir, I don't—leastways," he added, slowly, "I do sometimes."

Now, thought I, here is a chance—the lad is surely beginning to realize the evil of his career; and I added, "Well, Punch, I am glad that even sometimes you feel it to be wrong; but I should have imagined that after you had been in this house, and seen the kind of life we all lead, and the pleasure of working hard for your bread, and the comfort of it too, you would have soon become ashamed of being only a thief. But tell me, when in your opinion is it a bad thing to be a thief?"

"Well, sir, said the boy, with a roguish twinkle in his eye at having fairly trapped me," I think it's werry bad when you get caught."

Almost in despair I asked myself, is it possible that this is the only idea the lad has of the wrong of dishonesty,—when he is found out, or can this be mere bravado? I felt, however, that the occasion must not be passed by, and I continued to point out as strongly as I could how wicked such a life was, how that it must surely bring God's anger and judgment upon those who pursued it. I urged upon him by every consideration to at once abandon all thoughts of resuming his dishonest life, and to take advantage of his stay in the Home to acquire a means of earning his bread, so that when he left, after having learnt to read, he might not have to resort to his former ways. The lad listened with indifference.

"Moreover," I added, as he was about to leave the room, "remember this, Punch: if James," referring to the lad with whom he had formed a close and affectionate companionship since he had entered the Home, "knew that you were a thief, he would never speak to you again; and if Mr. K—," referring to the foreman of the boot-shop in which he worked, "supposed that you were a thief and a companion of thieves, he would ask me not to allow you to sit in his workshop any longer; and so it would be throughout your life, honest men and boys would ever shun your company."

To my surprise I saw that what I had said about his companion's probable feelings touched him in some unaccountable manner which I did not then understand. The lad appeared confused, turned first red and then got very pale; his eyes fell before my glance, and, without making any reply, he took the first opportunity of shuffling out of the room. I could but lift my heart to God, earnestly asking Him to save this poor misguided young fellow from his evil ways.

A few days passed, during which I scarcely saw Punch, when suddenly one evening, whilst writing in my room, I was interrupted by a knock at the door.

"Come in," I said. The door opened and Punch stood before me, his eyes red with weeping, and his face bearing traces of his having recently endured a conflict of passion. His first words were,

"I want to go out of this 'ome, there's an end of it."

"But surely, Punch, you remember your promise; you told me you would remain a year, you have now only been here five or six weeks; something must be wrong, come here and tell me what it is."

"I don't want to tell you nothink," replied the lad, angrily. "I'm determined to go, that's an end of it; and if yer won't let me go I'll run away," and then he broke down and gave way to a storm of weeping.

I felt there was some great trouble on the boy's mind, so getting up, I placed my hand kindly on his shoulder and said, "Come, Punch, you know I am your friend; tell me all about it."

Shaking my hand off rudely, he replied, "I tell yer I mean to go. You've been a-blowin' on me."

"What do you mean, Punch?"

"Yes, yer have, and yer know yer have, and it's mean, that's what it is; and yer asked me to say nothink about it, and yer've been tellin' everybody yerself, and I mean to cut the whole thing."

"Punch, I insist upon your telling me what is the matter. I don't understand one word you say. If you think I have mentioned anything of your story to anybody in the house, you are quite wrong. What do you mean by what you have said?"

Then the lad explained that he and his companion, James, had had a quarrel about some trivial matter in the yard. James became angry with him, and in the heat of words had called him "a thief." There had been a time when this epithet would have evoked a laugh, but my recent conversation with him had produced fruit. *Punch's conscience had been awakened for the first time.* Now, having been called a thief by one whose favor and goodwill he coveted, he felt, as he had never done before, the shame of it, and with that came the thought that I had wronged him by divulging his story. So he had hurried from the scene of his passionate encounter with James to demand his dismissal.

I need hardly say that I did my best to quiet his mind by assuring him solemnly that I had never mentioned the matter, or indeed spoken of him to one in the house, that probably James had said this quite thoughtlessly and without any knowledge of his past life. As the lad became quieter under my words, I added,

"You see, Punch, this shows you how wrong your former ways have been. If it is so disagreeable to you to be called a thief, how much worse it is to be one? and you know, my dear young fellow, you have been this now for some years, and unless you at once resolve to leave that shameful life, and to give yourself to honest pursuits, you will be branded while you live with the horrible name which, I am glad to see, you now dislike, and honest men and boys will always avoid you."

The boy was inexpressibly touched. Now I felt was my opportunity. Conscience, hitherto dormant, was a powerful advocate within his heart of the truth of all I said, and when, with my arm around the weeping lad's neck, I gently whispered, "Punch, shall we ask God to give you a new heart, and to take away the wicked desires you have, and to forgive you for the past?" he assented with a subdued sob. Having fastened the door, we both knelt down in that little room, and I believe never was a more sincere and penitent prayer offered than that which came from that poor boy's heart as he knelt by my side. He rose comforted, and I arranged that every afternoon he should come up to my room for a little reading and prayer, and I then dismissed him, rejoicing in my heart at the goodness of God in having so soon blessed the seed which had been sown. I could now look forward with some degree of hope to the time when Punch would be a decided follower of our Lord and Saviour, and when he would know by experience the Christ of those words, "If any man be in Christ he is a new creature, old things are passed away."

This, however, was not to be quite yet or all at once, although there was a gradual and decided change from that very hour noticed in the lad's life. Nothing could be more marked than his persistent attempts to conquer his temper, which was always passionate and fiery. Moreover, Punch made great progress at school, rapidly acquiring the elements of education, and soon became able to read with great facility. I promised him a Bible with a clasp for his very own when he could read, and also a copy of Uncle Tom's Cabin. With great delight I handed Punch these at the end of his seventh month of residence in the house.

Very quiet and unobtrusive in his manner, Punch soon became a steady help to the masters in the Home, exercising great influence over the other boys. That influence was always on the side of good. Perhaps this would have been explained if he had gone to the little shelf near his bed, and looked at the Bible which I had given him, which bore evident marks of being diligently read. There were other evidences, too, which assured me long before his time expired that Punch had sought and found that forgiveness which a loving Saviour extends to all who trust Him.

By the way, here I may explain what I have already referred to as so puzzling an exception in his case; I mean the absence of

"the thieflook" in this lad, and the retention of such an open, candid expression of countenance, although he had been long living a dishonest life. In all probability the "thieflook" is brought about some. what in this way: conscience, when outraged, as it almost always is by persistent wrong-doing, revenges itself, so to speak, by stamping upon the countenance traces of those guilty fears realized by persons living in constant danger of detection. In Punch's case conscience had, I firmly believe, never before been aroused at all. He had had no previous teaching or instruction of any kind as to the right or wrong of his course. This, with the adventuresome character of his life, its freedom from restraint, the wild rule he exercised over his young companions, together with the remarkable success and impunity from arrest which he had enjoyed, all served to invest his deeds with a halo of false glory very captivating to a lad of such a temperament; and it was only when, under the influences and quietly continued teaching of the Home, and the affectionate companionship he had formed with the lad James, that conscience began to assert itself.

Punch remained in the Home for a considerable time, steadily continuing to do well and advancing in favor with all the masters and his companions. He became a really excellent bootmaker, devoting himself with unwearied diligence to his work, for it need hardly be said that when the year had expired Punch had no wish to leave, but entertained the hope that he might be allowed to remain. Thus about three years passed rapidly, until he had grown into a fine, handsome, well-made youth, fulfilling all the promise of his boyhood. When he had been with me about three years and four or five months I was asked by the superintendent of a small kindred institution, if I could recommend a young fellow as a bootmaker to teach about fifteen lads in their Home how to mend their own boots. The managers of the institution in question were not able to afford a large wage, as they did not at present aspire to make their boots, but only to doing the repairs and keeping their lads usefully employed. "Perhaps by-and-by," the superintendent added, "we may attempt to manufacture our own."

I replied that I thought I could let him have a lad who had done exceedingly well in our Home, and who would, I felt sure, be quite competent to make as well as to mend the boots and shoes for the inmates of his Home. This led to further correspondence, and eventually he offered to take the lad at once. I went immediately with this letter to the shoemakers' shop, and called out Punch. I read its contents to him, and suggested that he should take advantage of the opportunity of beginning for himself. To my pleased surprise the lad's eyes filled with tears and he said, "I am sorry, sir, you want to get rid of me."

"No, my lad, I do not; but it is for your advantage that you should go," and then I explained to him that as he had received the benefit of the Home for three years, and was now able to earn his bread, it was only right that he should give place to some other lad. I pointed out that his going would enable me to put some other boy who had been as unfortunate as himself in a similar position. Moreover, I showed him that by his going to this situation, and doing well, he would bring credit, and perhaps assistance to our Home, and in that way reward me for the trouble and expense he had at first cost.

With a grateful smile Punch replied, "I am ready to go, sir, when ever you like, and will do my best."

Arrangements were speedily made, and Punch left me, clad in a suit of quiet working-clothes. I heard from him occasionally; he fulfilled all my expectations: his prayerful, quiet, unassuming conduct elicited admiration and respect, and soon he wrote to me to say that his employer was so pleased with the progress he had made, that he had advanced his wages, so that now he was getting, as he said, "Fifteen shillings a week and my grub."

Perhaps another year or two passed away, during which Punch paid me occasional visits. At length I received an announcement for which I was devoutly thankful. The lad had found out that it was not good for man to be alone, and had resolved upon making the experiment of matrimony, enclosing for my acceptance his own photograph and the photograph of her whom I must here call "Mrs. Punch." No one could possibly have recognized in the fine-looking,

well-dressed, respectable young man, whose carte-de-visite lay on my table, the young fellow that I had taken out of the thieves' lodging-house in Holborn in the year 187-. To God be all the praise!

Before I close this account, so illustrative of one phase of the work which the Institutions under my direction have been doing for so many years, it may perhaps be interesting to my readers to hear that part of Punch's story which I have not yet told.

How had he become a thief? Punch has answered this question in somewhat the following manner. He never remembered his father or mother. He had been brought up in the workhouse, from which he ran away at an early age, living upon the streets, begging, running errands, selling fuses or other oddments, doing what he could, as he said, to pick up a living. But he found it very hard to keep body and soul together. At length, when about eleven or twelve years of age, he had during a miserable cold season fared particularly badly, days often passing without his breaking his fast, and without his having the means to obtain a shelter. Thus, cold and hungry, he trod the merciless streets at night, lying down where he could to snatch such rest as he might, disturbed by fears of the police. Day after day passed in this manner, until one evening, being near a railway station, he had a job which brought him a few pence. Some of these he spent in food, the remainder he treasured for a lodging. Reaching the place where he occasionally slept, he paid his money down and went to bed. He found the room already pretty well filled with boys like himself, who were talking of their life upon the streets, and amusing each other with stories of adventure. Next to him in the large dormitory lay a lad who kept all the boys in his immediate neighborhood alive with laughter and merriment. He was fat and well fed, and had not apparently a care on his mind. Poor Punch listened to his merry stories with amazement. When the morning came, foggy and dismal, the latter rose at the usual hour, and, putting on his wretched rags in a spiritless kind of way, went down the stairs, reaching the door in company with his merry neighbor of the previous night, who, whistling a tune and rattling some pence in his pocket, seemed careless of weather or of fate.

Said this companion, "What's your lay to-day?"

"Dunno," said Punch; "ain't got nothink. I'm goin' down to the market to see what luck I'll have; but there ain't much doin' there in this weather," he added, with a look of despair at the rain, which began to pour steadily.

"Tain't bad weather at all," said his companion; "why not try my little game? I've got plenty; see here," and he put his hand in his pocket and pulled out some pence, a few of which he offered Punch, who gratefully accepted them.

"What is it yer do?" said the latter eagerly.

"Oh," answered his companion, "I do the liftin'."

"What's that?" said Punch.

"Don't yer know?" and then he explained that he prowled about "picking up what I can"—in other words, stealing from the unwatchful and unwary. What was there in the proposition that made Punch draw back with a kind of foreboding of harm, as he told me he did? He could not say, but he replied, doubtfully,

"Well, I'm not sure how I'd like it."

"Yer ain't got nothink better," responded the other. "If I were you I wouldn't be a fool."

Punch was impressed.

"I'll think of it," he said. "Perhaps I may be in luck to-day."

"Well," replied the other, "if yer falls on yer feet, all right, no 'arm done; but if yer want a pal as'll 'elp, I'll be down near the pump at Aldgate this afternoon, and if yer've made up yer mind by that time to partner with me, I'll put yer in the way of earnin', yer livin' jolly quick."

"All right," said Punch, and he left him. The two pence his companion had given him was quickly spent in some warm food, encouraged by which he went down to the market-place, and did his best to get work. In vain; nobody wanted him, nobody would try him. "My luck," as he said, "was down agin me." As the afternoon came on, he became again very hungry, and was soaking with wet and half-finished

(Continued on sixth page.)

## The Weekly Messenger.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2.

### THE CZAR CROWNED.

After being put off several times, the ceremony of investing Alexander III. of Russia with the crown and dominion of his murdered father, took place in Moscow on Sunday last. On the twenty-second of May the Czar and Czarina made the state entry into Moscow. It was an imposing spectacle gazed upon with apparent admiration and joy along the route of the procession, by many thousands of the people. The coronation ceremonies were ushered in on the morning of the twenty-seventh, at seven o'clock, by the ringing of hundreds of bells and the thunder of artillery. Shortly afterward dignitaries of the realm and the representatives of foreign rulers and countries assembled in the Cathedral of the Holy Assumption, within the walls of the Kremlin, where the event was to be consummated. Certain religious forms having been complied with, one of the bishops called upon any present who knew of an impediment for which Alexander should not be crowned Emperor and autocrat of all the Russias, to state it or remain dumb forever. Having been invested with the Imperial mantle of ermine by two bishops, and had the crown placed in his hands by a third, Alexander placed the crown upon his head, and, assuming the sceptre and orb, took his seat upon the throne. He afterward placed the Czarina's crown upon her head. The processions to and from the Cathedral were of imposing grandeur, and by all accounts the joy and exultation of the people were boundless. Every spot from which a view of the routes could be had swarmed with spectators, and the decorations and displays of flags were indescribable for brilliancy. Bells and guns pealed and roared on the fact that the coronation had been performed, and the shout, "Long Live the Emperor," beginning at the doors of the Cathedral rolled out on the hundreds of thousands of tongues to the outer verges of the vast throngs stretching miles through the streets. A manifesto issued by the Czar on the occasion announces the continuance of the existing system of government in Russia, the pardon of Poles on condition of unswerving fidelity and submission, and the remission of penalties for non-political offences. The cost of the coronation is estimated at two million pounds, which will be met by the issue of treasury bills. Only thirteen newspaper correspondents were admitted to the Cathedral during the ceremonies, including one English and one American. Immense precautions were taken to guard the processions outside and the dignitaries inside the church and palace. Besides troops, in close order and two deep, lining the streets for miles, thousands of police and detectives mingled with the crowds, and persons occupying positions on houses and in windows had to clear themselves of all suspicion of carrying dangerous weapons or missiles before taking their places. People outside of Russia will, doubtless, have been surprised at hearing of the popular enthusiasm and evidences of loyalty evoked by the coronation, in remembrance of the record of desperate agitation and crime against the Imperial family and government of Russia for many years past. When all the circumstances are considered, however, there is nothing in connection with the coronation festivities to disprove the existence of widespread and deep discontent among the pop-

ulation of Russia. With soldiers at arms' length of almost every spectator, and, for aught each one knew, a secret detective at his elbow, it were almost all a man's liberty if not life was worth to be anything but loyal in his actions and words for the time being. Then every adjunct was designed so as to allure and fascinate the popular eye, and, doubtless, many hoped for the expression of some liberal and generous promises for the future from the new Emperor upon assuming the insignia of his office. Besides, it is really possible that everything was not so cloudless and truly joyous as the telegraphed accounts represent, as all reports going abroad concerning the event were subject to official scrutiny and amendment. Unpleasant facts would therefore stand a poor chance of transmission at all. That a portion of the people's enthusiasm was due to their being buoyed up by hope of better things is clear from the manner in which they scrambled for copies of the coronation proclamation. This document was beautifully printed upon satin paper, and when heralds were distributing it among the throngs on the day of the state entry several persons were trampled to death in the struggle to secure copies. Many believed that possession of the instrument would secure them title to land and fortune, and untorn copies brought high prices.

### IRISH NEWS.

Archbishop Croke has returned from Rome, and been enthusiastically received in Ireland. He said it was the Pope's great joy for the Irish people that caused him to be so anxious for their welfare. When the Pope understood the situation better he was confident the efforts of the priesthood and himself for the Irish would be crowned with success. In a sermon the Archbishop said the Pope expressed his sorrow that Ireland was troubled owing to the lawless views of a certain class and to secret societies. He exhorted the people not to allow a word of condemnation to pass their lips against the Pope, who was their best friend. Indications are said to be that the priests as a rule will obey the Pope implicitly. In England it is considered that the efforts to make Errington, the British agent in Rome, and the British Government responsible for the Pope's circular, have failed, the *Times* observing that the Pope's hostility to secret societies and horror of violence and crime constitute an ample motive for his action. In the meantime the work of raising a testimonial fund for Mr. Pamell is being strenuously pushed by Irish politicians at home and in America, contributions being solicited with the object of achieving a result that will prove the Pope to have been deceived. The *Kerry Sentinel*, owned by Mr. Harrington, member of the Commons for Westmeath, has been seized for publishing a handbill calling a meeting of the Invincibles. The proprietor has complained of the seizure in Parliament, denying any personal knowledge of the offence. Farrell and Kavanagh, informers in the Phoenix Park murder trials, have received, respectively, five thousand dollars and twelve hundred and fifty dollars, rewards from the British Government, and have left the country. James and Peter Carey, among the vilest of the gang, will receive small rewards. Michael Fagan, one of the murderers, was hanged on Monday morning. Before dying he expressed the hope to a priest that Irishmen would avoid secret societies. John Behan, a Catholic priest in Dublin and correspondent of the *New York Irish World*, has been arrested for intimidating a mail driver, whom he called a spy and informer. Only one case of agrarian out-

rage against the person occurred in Ireland in the month of April, showing that firm administration of law is having effect.

### BUSINESS AND LABOR NOTES.

Damaging drought prevails over a great part of the island of Cuba.

The New York Mutual Accident Insurance Company has been condemned by the Superintendent of the Insurance Department.

Fish not intended for immediate consumption will henceforth, by orders from Washington, be regarded as dutiable on the United States northern frontier.

By the completion of the Nicholson Tunnel on the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railway is removed the last barrier to a double track between New York and Buffalo on that line.

If report is to be believed an immense discovery of silver ore, assaying twenty-six thousand dollars to the ton, has been made twenty-three miles south-west of Prescott, Arizona.

According to the leading grain trade journal of England—the *Mark Lane Express*—the wheat crop of that country will not reach an average yield. Harvest prospects in France are said to be favorable.

A strike of iron workers on June first, at Bay View, Wisconsin, where five thousand of them are employed, was ordered by the Workers' Association, against the will of many of the members, and it is believed the strike will not occur, but that the men will retain their places at the reduced rate.

The recent heavy frost in Illinois and Iowa did great damage to the crops, and an estimate made in Chicago limits the average yield of wheat in Illinois to four bushels an acre. Unseasonable cold in Arkansas, North and South Carolina and Georgia has very much damaged cotton and other crops. In Minnesota and Dakota wheat is in an unusually fine condition, but wet weather has injured the prospects of corn.

Strikes of coal miners in Illinois have had deplorable results. At Collinsville seven hundred strikers drove a hundred and fifty non-strikers from their boarding houses and devoured their breakfast. Afterward the mob drove the workers out of town, beating them in some cases with clubs. The men in several mines were compelled to quit work, and one proprietor telegraphed for assistance to the Government. On Monday last work was to have been resumed at the mines near West Belleville, but five hundred women drove the workmen away with clubs and also put the sheriff and his assistants to flight. Leaving a guard at the pits to prevent work being attempted, the women marched three miles to Reinecke's mine and, reinforced by more of their sex, drove off the men going to work there. At Morris, fifteen miles from Belleville, the rioters withdrew without attempting to enforce their order for work to cease, upon the deputy sheriff warning them that interference with the working of the mine would result in the arrest of all the rioters by a military force. The deputy sheriff at Reinecke's mine notified the Government that the mob was beyond his control, and troops under Colonel Barkley were despatched to the place from East St. Louis. Upon the arrival of the train containing the militia at five in the evening, the deputy sheriff, joining the officer in command on the platform of the car, ordered the mob to stand under arrest in the name of the law. He was answered by a pistol shot, breaking a window in the car. He ordered Colonel Barkley to give the

word to fire, and that officer, according to his instructions, obeyed. The first volley caused a general retreat of the miners, but they turned and returned the fire, when a second volley sent men and women both scattering like sheep through the gullies and ravines. One miner was killed, one fatally wounded and several injured in less degree, while one militiaman was slightly wounded.

### CASUALTY.

The steamer "Pilot" blew up off the California coast with a supposed loss of fifteen lives.

The Provision Market in Matanzas, Cuba, is burned down; loss three hundred thousand dollars.

A disastrous fire occurred in Paris, France, on the twenty-eighth of May, and buildings had to be blown up to check its career.

By a fire in the Russian naval company's yards, Sebastopol, the machinery, models and workshops for the iron-clads were destroyed.

Mortons' stores, stables and offices in Brooklyn, New York, were burned a few days ago, a loss of forty thousand dollars, and two tramps sleeping in the stables perished.

A passenger train went through a bridge on the Denver & Rio Grande Railway, Colorado, into the Gunnison River, and the mail and baggage cars floated a mile before logging. The engineer and fireman were drowned.

Training ships seem to be peculiarly unfortunate, every year furnishing one or more disasters to such. Lately the training ship "Mars," with four hundred boys on board, was partially burned on the Scotch coast, but all on board were saved.

A manufactory of artificial leaves and glass fruit on Greene street, New York, took fire, and a panic ensued among the men and women employed. Many saved their lives by climbing at great peril on to the roofs of adjoining buildings from the upper windows and roof. Several perished.

One more fatality from careless handling of guns is reported, this time from Gore Bay, Ontario, where one of three young boys just going out shooting discharged his gun while putting a cap on it, and shot a little girl, who was a visitor in the house, her parents being seven miles from her at the time.

A succession of snow storms and warm rains created a sudden flood in Dakota valleys last week, which did immense damage, the loss being estimated at millions. Portions of the towns of Deadwood, Golden Gate, Anchor City, Central City, South Bend and Crook City were in the line of the main torrent, and great damage to buildings was done in them, many being swept away. Five lives are known to be lost in Deadwood, and the fatality is supposed to have been greater. Roads were spoiled, railways made impassable and farming lands flooded. Rapid City valley, forty miles long, all underseed, was overflowed, with loss of some lives and many buildings, and the supposed entire destruction of the crops.

AN ENGLISH EXPEDITION from Sierra Leone has been severely punishing several towns for rebellion, destroying them and killing numbers of the inhabitants. A French force has been at similar work in Africa, driving hostile tribesmen back and establishing tranquillity on the left bank of the Niger.

## CRIME.

H. S. Parmelee, a man of much pretension as to piety, has been arrested in Belleville, Ontario, upon a charge of forgery.

Burglars have lately entered several houses and stores in Woodbridge, Ontario, and committed thefts in a bold manner.

Four men were murdered by an organized gang of "Rustlers" in the Amen Valley, Montana, and the military giving pursuit captured six of the murderers.

To the credit of the country, two white men have been committed for trial in British Columbia charged with being concerned in the late murderous riot against the Chinese.

Staunton, teller of the Merchants' Bank, Regina, North-West Territory, has been arrested for the embezzlement of four or five thousand dollars. Bad practices are assigned as the cause of his downfall.

Geo. Wain, a drunken Toronto tailor, is in gaol in Hamilton, Ontario, for threatening the conductor on a train with a revolver, and he is suspected of being the man who lately stabbed a night operator at Cornwall.

According to the report of the Penitentiary Investigating Committee, the system of punishment in the penitentiary in Denver, Colorado, is extremely barbarous and cruel, sometimes producing insanity in the culprit. The favorite mode of punishment has been the hose-bath, in which the victims are tied to a post and half inch streams of cold water, under fifty pounds' pressure, thrown in their faces for half an hour, with intermissions only to prevent insensibility.

## FRUITS OF THE TRAFFIC.

A party of German immigrants at Levis were whiling away the time on Saturday in drunken orgies, when one of them tried to plunge a knife into the heart of another, and the latter, in warding off the blow, had two fingers cut off.

On a recent evening Fred. McStay, a painter, was found dead on his kitchen floor at Woodstock, N. B., and the coroner's jury found he died from suffocation caused by the excessive use of intoxicating drinks. His wife was at the time in St. John seeing the centennial celebration. The Woodstock Press properly thinks the jury in such a case ought to try to find out who sold the victim the poison, and plainly says McStay was murdered, which is not too bold an assertion in view of the fact that the selling of liquor is unlawful in Woodstock.

ACTUAL WARFARE has been begun in Madagascar by the French. After bombarding part of Majunga, and detachment landed and took possession, destroying all the forts erected by the Hovas in the Sakalava territory. These proceedings are very much disapproved in England, and the American Minister in Paris is understood to have remonstrated with the French Government. Admiral Pierre has been complimented by the Government for the bombardment. It is pleaded, on the part of France, that her action has been taken to enforce the payment of certain sums due her by Madagascar. If the latter country continues the decided resistance that she is showing to the French invasion, it is said France will impose a treaty upon her which will place French subjects upon the same footing as British in the island.

GENERAL CROOK is reported as having gained a series of victories over the Apaches, and there is no confirmation of the rumors as to mishaps befalling him.

## THE WEEK.

THE CANADIAN LACROSSE teams have played at Glasgow, Aberdeen and Inverness, being enthusiastically received by large crowds at each place.

FIFTY-TWO THOUSAND CHILDREN paraded in Brooklyn on Wednesday of last week, upon the occasion of the fifty-fourth anniversary of the Brooklyn Sunday-school Union.

WALKERS BY THE HUNDRED THOUSAND and vehicles by the thousand have been crossing between New York and Brooklyn daily upon the new bridge since its opening on the twenty-fourth of May.

MR. A. D. GERMAN, Albany, New York, has given the trustees of Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts, fifty thousand dollars to found a professorship of natural theology in memory of his dead son, who was a student in that college.

MR. JAMES HOPPER, Edwardsburg, Ontario, has a tame bear about a year old. Last fall he fixed up comfortable quarters for the bear, but the latter, true to nature, dropped off into torpidity on the sixth of December and dozed till the twenty-eighth of March.

THE NATIONAL RAILWAY EXPOSITION was opened in Chicago last week with promise of great success. Among the curiosities is a locomotive not yet out of service, from the Albion Mines, Nova Scotia, which was built for George Stephenson, and was the first locomotive that ever ran in British America. An ancient passenger car, to carry four to six persons, accompanies the old engine.

THE DOMINION PARLIAMENT was prorogued last week, after the longest session since Confederation. Among its principal results are the subsidizing of many important lines of railway, the amendment of the lands and militia laws, and the enactment of a liquor license law. A loyal farewell address was presented by both Houses to the retiring Governor General, the Marquis of Lorne, and his royal consort, the Princess Louise.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF Canada, devoted to literature, art and science, at its meeting in Ottawa last week, received a telegram from the President of the Royal Society of England, offering his heartiest wishes for the success of the young Canadian association. The Canadian Society before adjourning presented its founders, the Marquis of Lorne and Princess Louise, with an address, referring to their early departure from the country.

OVER SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS were received and nearly seven hundred thousand expended for foreign missions last year by the Presbyterian General Assembly lately in session in Saratoga, New York. Four thousand two hundred and fifty-two churches and a number of women's boards contributed to the scheme. One hundred and fifty nine American and ninety-two native missionaries, besides one hundred and thirty-three native licentiates, are employed by the Mission Board; also lay missionaries numbering twenty-one male and twenty-six female Americans, and two hundred and eighty-five natives of both sexes. There are twenty-one thousand pupils in the mission schools, and reports from the mission stations are most encouraging. Regarding the Indian mission, the Board reports the greatest hindrance to be the corruptness and fraud perpetrated on the red men by agents of the Government, and it calls for effort at arousing the national conscience to the great wrong.

FIFTEEN THOUSAND PERSONS attended memorial services at the Lincoln monument, Prospect Park, Brooklyn, on Sunday afternoon.

JUSTUS SCHWAB, a socialist agitator, has been arraigned in New York four times within thirty days for violating the license law in his saloon.

SOMEONE who professes to know says President Arthur's health is unsatisfactory, and that he longs to be relieved from the cares and toil of his office.

A SEPARATE BIBLE SOCIETY is to be started by the Baptists of the United States, who deem themselves to have been unjustly treated by the American Bible Society.

THE ANNUAL DINNER of the New York Free Trade Club came off on Monday with success. Eminent free-traders made speeches urging the benefits that would accrue to the country from the adoption of free trade.

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING in Boston on Monday, General U. S. Grant and Mr. W. E. Gladstone were elected honorary members on account of their services in connection with the Treaty of Washington.

JUDGE GEORGE SHERWOOD, formerly Chief Justice, died in Philadelphia on Monday. He was the author of several legal works, and reputed among lawyers as the ablest man in jury trials who ever sat on the bench in Pennsylvania and possibly in America.

THE TOWN COUNCIL of Stratford, Ontario, discharged the Clerk and asked the Mayor to resign, on account of a scandal in which those officials were involved. Upon the Mayor refusing to resign and persisting in taking his seat the members of the Council left the room in a body.

FROM NORTH BERGEN, New Jersey, comes the latest meteoric story, so reasonable and circumstantial, however, as to be entitled to belief. A stone fell there during a thunder-storm, which three men could not lift. It resembles iron ore and will be sent to the Stevens Institute for examination.

AFTER LITIGATION for nearly thirty years, in which about fifty lawyers had part, the administrator of the estate of the late Francis Salsus, of New York, has been ordered to distribute seventy thousand dollars to the heirs. The will was proved in 1851, when the estate was valued at from one-half to one million.

PEACE IS ANNOUNCED to have been effected between Chili and the allies, Bolivia and Peru, the former getting the territory that the fight was about, besides all the wealth of which she despoiled her enemies during four or five years' irregular and cruel warfare with them and occupation of their territory.

UNDER AN IMPROVED LAW, ocean steamship inspection in New York appears to be efficient. Of one hundred and ninety-five steamships inspected by the Board of Foreign Steamship Inspectors, many were found deficient in the life-saving appliances prescribed by law. Some steamers, not of regular lines, gave up carrying passengers rather than incur the expense necessary to conform to the law.

STUDENTS OF DELAWARE COLLEGE, Ohio, put an ox into the private room of the College President to frighten him. The ox ruined three hundred dollars' worth of property before the President returned. Thirty students in the college have been suspended for drunkenness and billiard playing, and on the whole it seems to be a fine place to fit a young man for the duties of life.

SMALL-POX is rapidly increasing among the half-breed population of Dakota.

LORD LANSDOWNE, the next Governor General of Canada, is expected out in November.

THE PRESBYTERY OF PARIS, Ontario, has refused liberty to the Chalmers Church Sunday-school to use an organ, the congregation being nearly equally divided upon the question.

VICE-ADMIRAL SIR J. E. COMMEREILL, K. C. B., is the new Commander of the British fleet on the North American and West India Station. General Lord Alexander Russell succeeds Sir Patrick McDougall as Commander of the British troops in North America.

SEVERAL HUNDRED MORMON RECRUITS arrived in New York a few days ago, in charge of fourteen missionaries. Some of them reported to be paupers by the American consul in Sweden, and had five hundred dollars cash, and denied that they had been shipped at the expense of the communes.

CHINAMEN IN PHILADELPHIA held an indignation meeting on Sunday night to protest against the acquittal of Thomas Lyons, charged with the murder of Chung Wah-You. Over fifty were present, and fierce denunciations were passed upon judge and jury, police, and audience who cheered the verdict. Some Chinamen cried like children over their wrongs.

"BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SIGN," is a maxim becoming more and more necessary to be acted upon, as sharpers extend their operations to "fresh fields and pastures new." A large number of farmers in New Brunswick last year signed orders for agricultural implements, together with notes to pay for them. They never received the articles ordered, but they are being sued for the amounts of the notes.

FRANCE IS AROUSED, it is said, over the Tonquin affair, and an attack upon Captain Riviere and a reconnoitring party, in which twenty-six including himself were killed and fifty-one wounded, has caused perfect unanimity in the French Assembly in voting war supplies. It is reported six thousand Chinese troops, armed in European fashion, are on the Tonquin border to oppose the French, and the feeling in China against France is represented as being bitter.

TWO FISHERMEN from a Gloucester vessel, while attending their trawls on the Grand Banks, drifted away in the fog and were given up as lost; but they were picked up twenty miles off the Nova Scotia coast, after being three days and three nights in their dory without food or water. They were taken care of in Halifax by the United States Consul, and in a few days were able to ship in another vessel for the fishing grounds. Two men from a French fishing vessel were rescued from a similar plight about the same time and taken to Quebec.

THE TERRITORY between Ontario and Manitoba is in dispute, the Dominion Government being in favor of adding it to Manitoba, while the Ontario Government lays claim to jurisdiction over it. While the country was only sparsely settled and largely by temporary inhabitants the decision of the matter did not demand extreme urgency. Now, however, respectable settlers are filling up the country, and more waiting to go in when the dispute is ended, and the lack of courts and means of giving legitimate titles to land is a very serious matter. The inhabitants generally are petitioning the Ontario Government to assume authority over the territory.

(Continued from third page.)

with cold. So he made up his mind to seek his companion of the morning and previous night, and reaching the place of appointment, it was not long before he espied him sauntering about. Making up to him, he announced his determination, and the two boys quickly disappeared down a narrow street had by. There Punch received his first lesson. He told me that his first attempt at stealing realized one shilling, and to show something of the feelings such boys experience at such times, I may recount what he told me.

"One moment, sir, I was starvin', I had nothin' in the world, nobody to help me, no 'ome, no lodgin', no food, nor nothink, and then 'arf a 'our I 'ad a shillin' in my hand—a whole shillin'—to do as I liked with, to spend how I liked, and when it was gone I had only to get more in the same way. It seemed to me as if I had come in for a fortin' right away, and so," he continued, "from that hour until when you met me I've been priggin', and priggin', and priggin'."

How many poor boys like Punch, find themselves impelled by hunger to take a desperate course which launches them in numbers of instances upon a life of crime! We should ever bear in mind that the inducements to persevere in crime increase a thousand-fold once such a life has been begun; and so at length the lad who has been simply left alone, merely neglected, until he is compelled to wander as an Arab upon our streets, becomes that evil thing to deal with which the vast organizations of our judicial system, penitentiaries, and penal establishments are provided. Moreover, it should never be forgotten that, even viewed from the merely financial standpoint, neglect costs more than a wholesome Christian training; for it has been estimated that every convicted thief costs the country £80 per annum, without considering the value of the property destroyed by his depredations.

Place this expenditure side by side with the cost of the maintenance and instruction of such a lad reared in time from the corruption and temptations of the streets, and trained in such an institution as I have described, and what is the comparative result? Of the first process of neglect and its consequences, I have already written; the more excellent way, that which saves the boy or girl, and makes him or her into an industrious, virtuous man or woman, costs the small sum of about £16 per year during the three or four years of necessary training, not to speak of the other consequences involved in the successes of such training—the reclamation of the lad, his possible salvation body and soul, and the glory brought to our Divine Lord by the practical obedience of His Church to one of His last requests, "Feed (shepherds) My lambs." From Night and Day.

DR. ARNOT ON TOBACCO.

"I don't smoke; I never smoked: God helping me, I never will. I have lots of reasons—more than I could crowd into one paper; but here are some taken as they rise to memory. I have sons, some of them grown up, and some growing. Whatever difference of opinion there may be as to the effect of tobacco on the health of men, I believe all are agreed that it damages at the root the constitution of youths, if they use it before they reach manhood. Now, common sense and all experience teach that a man weakens his influence immeasurably, if he himself smokes, and tells his boys to abstain. If you can encourage them to do as you do, you stand on a firm footing, and have a mighty purchase on your child. This is a method that God will bless. But, there is one reason against smoking which is so big that it seems to me to comprehend nearly all others within it. It is that the use of tobacco makes it more difficult to be a Christian—hinders a Christian mightily in being a true witness to his Lord. I am accustomed now to pity greatly Christians who are also smokers. The practice not only drains the life-sap out of the smoker's cheeks; it also drains charity out of the smoker's soul. Many smokers succeed in living a Christian life, till their Lord calls them hence, in spite of this great obstruction, just as many youths contrive to wriggle forward into manhood, with somewhat sallow cheeks, and somewhat sunken eyes,

in spite of the tobacco poison. Yet it remains true that smoke to a greater or less extent diminishes the strength and beneficial effects of a Christian's graces. The tender regard for others; the willingness to suffer rather than inflict an injury; the watchful glad grasping at opportunities of doing to others as you would like them to do to you;—all this is sapped and weakened at the foundation by the smoker's appetites and habits. My neighbors all round do me day by day deliberate injury, who I believe would give me a fair treatment if they were not enslaved to tobacco. On the top of a railway car where we are packed together in a row, with faces within 18 inches of each other, a man sitting next to me on the wide side takes out his apparatus and prepares his dose. Then he scrapes a match, and the brimstone smoke literally chokes me. The wind has blown out his match, and it is not until I have endured the brimstone three times that I am admitted into the less pungent element of tobacco. It never occurs to him that he is doing me an injury; and if I utter a complaint, five to one he meets it with insolence. The white ashes of the pipe are afterward shaken out, and scattered like snow over the dress, and it may be into the eyes of the neighbors. The floor meantime, where our feet are resting, is in such a condition that it can neither be any but the most society, nor endured by the same thing. In crowds at railway stations, or at an illumination, where there is no means of escape, the person next you in the garb and with the mien of a gentleman—and, I believe in his heart a gentleman as far as his supreme and selfish devotion to his own gratification in the form of tobacco will permit—will puff the detestable smoke in your face, or in the face of a lady without apology and without compunction. In all this I have respect not for the persons who suffer the injury: I am thinking of those who inflict it: I am grieving over the damage done to their character. For, on the principle that it is more blessed to give than to receive a benefit, it is more cursed to inflict than to endure a wrong. The transgressor has the worst of it; for every time that he treats his neighbor unkindly and unfairly he gives another rub to his own conscience, and increases the hardness of its searing. The appetites that God has planted in our nature—hunger and thirst—are very imperious, and put us to a great deal of trouble. They must be obeyed. But then they are useful and necessary. Wanting hunger—a stern watchman set over us within our own constitution—we should certainly forget or neglect to take the nourishment necessary to sustain life and health. So, these imperious appetites that our Maker has set over us are wise and good. They are the preservers of our life. But what of the appetites that man makes for himself? I admire the choice that David, the king, made in his great distress—"Let me fall now into the hand of the Lord, for very great are his mercies; but let me not fall into the hand of man."—I Chron. xxi. 13. In the matter of appetites that shall stir in my being, and lord it over me, and compel me to obey them, let me not fall into the hand of man—least of all into my own hands. Now, I reckon it to be self-evident that a smoker, when he begins, deliberately kindles in his own constitution a fire that was not there before he kindled it—a fire that, though it needs some cherishing and fanning at first, will, when it is once kindled, blaze on and compel the victim to toil like a slave—running and fetching, and flinging on tobacco leaves to feed it, till his dying day. For, if here and there one breaks his chain and escapes, he may well say—With a great price of lengthened agony obtained I this freedom; and the multitudes are held in bondage to the last. It is time that Christians should take tobacco-smoking into their closets and shut the door, and ask, ask, until they get an answer, as to their duty in the matter. For my part, I have no doubt that it is one of the great waves stretching like the tide over all the breadth of the world—to the extent of their power impeding the coming of the kingdom. It is a system of self-gratification at the expense of others. The Gospel system is the reverse. These two currents are antagonists. The writer frankly expresses his own judgment keeping nothing back, that readers may get the benefit of it, whatever it may be worth; but he does not ask—he does not desire—that any brother should adopt his judgment. His only desire is that every Christian smoker should lay the whole matter, by

prayer, before the Lord that bought him, and then act according to his own judgment, looking to the Lord for His smile and blessing on the course he may be led to adopt—the blessing of a present Lord on his act of breaking the pipe and throwing the stock of tobacco into the fire, if that is the course he is induced to follow; or the blessing of the present Lord, for He has said—"I am with you always" on every—No, I cannot conclude the sentence; for with me, with my convictions, it would border on profanity. But we can all concur in one form of conclusion—"In everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God."

WRITING TO S. S. SCHOLARS.

I have a class of eight girls—their ages from thirteen to seventeen—most of them I have had in my class six or seven years, they are intelligent, will learn almost any lesson however long, and will hunt up texts, and, so far as they can, will study up the lesson. They were generally interested in the outward story or subject; but there it ended. I could never elicit any response on personal religious subjects. Feeling very much discouraged, I was inclined to give up my class, to some one better fitted for the position. I felt so far from the girls' inner life, and could not feel that I was influencing it.

One day I had been praying for light when I said to myself: "I will write to my girls, and see if they will reply. The first Sunday, I wrote to two, asking them if they believed themselves Christians, or if they wished to be, and urging them to seek the Saviour without delay."

I know girls don't like to be spoken to by their companions jokingly about such things; so quietly slipped my envelope into their library-books, and asked them not to open them until they reached home. Next Sunday I had my two answers, for which I had hardly dared hope. One said she believed herself a Christian; the other longed to be, but was not. I thank God that, by a correspondence of some weeks, he permitted me to be instrumental in leading her to an assured faith in him. No one knows how I have rejoiced over that girl, and had it not been for my writing to her I should never have known her state for she is very shy. I believe she is now leading a consistent Christian life.

By degrees I wrote to all the class, no one knowing that I had written to any of the others. Some answers were hopeful, others not. In this way we felt better acquainted than we could ever have been in any other way, for people will often write what they cannot speak. Some of the girls have thanked me for my interest in them!

Sometimes the girls ask my advice. One girl wrote that she was invited to go sleighing on Sunday, and wanted advice. I am glad to say she resisted the temptation.

If discouraged teachers will try this plan, which I do not claim as original, I do not doubt that they would find hope springing in their hearts in connection with their work.—N. Y. Observer.

HINTS TO TEACHERS ON THE CURRENT LESSONS.

(From Peloubet's Select Notes.)

June 10.—Acts 14: 1-18.

ILLUSTRATIVE.

I. The story of the visit of the gods to Lycaonia was as follows: In return for the kind and hospitable welcome they had received from the two poor peasants, who unaware entertained the two immortals Jupiter and Mercury, these deities while punishing the churlish and inhospitable inhabitants of the land who had refused to receive the strangers, by overwhelming them and their homes, in a terrible inundation, rewarded their kind hosts by changing their little lowly hut into a proud temple, at the altars of which Baucis and Philemon were appointed to minister to the chief of the gods whom they had received disguised as a poor stranger into their humble cottage home.

Ovid tells the story well and simply:— "Here Jove with Hermes came, but in disguise Of mortal men concealed their deities: One laid aside his thunder, one his rod; And many to his steps together trod;

For harbor at a thousand doors they knocked, Not one of all the thousand but was locked; At last a hospitable house they found, An homely shed; the roof not far from ground, Was thatched with reeds and straw together bound. There Baucis and Philemon lived, From lofty roofs the gods peeped by and by, Now stooping entered through the little door, The man (their hearty welcome first expressed) A common settle drew for either guest."

The churlish neighbors were subsequently punished by a terrible flood which overwhelmed the surrounding country, while the hospitable kindly couple were amazed to see the strange change which befell their humble cottage:— "Their little shed, scarce large enough for two, Seem'd from the ground increased, in height and bulk to grow. A stately temple shoots within the skies; The crochets of their ead in columns rise; The pavement polished marble they behold, The gates with sculpture graced, the spires and files of gold."

(Metamorphoses, book VIII., Dryden's Translation)—Schaf.

PRACTICAL.

- 1. Verse 1. Blessed are those teachers who so present the Gospel that many believe.
2. Verse 2. In order to do this we must experience the Gospel, must see Jesus himself, must be filled with his spirit, must receive the Holy Ghost.
3. Verse 3. Opposition is sometimes a reason why we should keep on doing the Lord's work.
4. Verse 6. If we cannot serve God in one place, we should go to another where we can.
5. Verses 8-10. The Gospel is ever lending a helping hand to those who need.
6. Whenever there is true faith, the blessing is sure to follow.
7. Verses 14, 15. The true teacher always draws attention to his master, not to himself.
8. God leaves no nation without helps and influences to be good.

SUGGESTIONS TO TEACHERS.

The great teachings of this lesson are scattered throughout the verses. The subject may be the working of the gospel among the heathen. (1) At Iconium, vers. 1-6. (a) By many conversions; (b) by the attestation of miracles proving the word. (2) At Lystra, vers. 6-18. The Gospel and nature contrasted. A miracle and its effect. The teachings of nature leaving sinners without excuse.

Question Corner.—No. 10.

BIBLE QUESTIONS.

- 1. Who was Joseph's first master in Egypt, and by whom was he sold to him?
2. Of which of the kings of Israel did God say "I will be his father and he shall be my son"?
3. Who said, in speaking of his dead son, "I shall go to him but he shall not return to me"?
4. Who opposed David when he wished, against God's command, to number the children of Israel?
5. How was David punished for his act of disobedience?
6. What men were saved from death by being hidden on the roof of a house under flax?

SCRIPTURE ENIGMA.

- 1. The first word of God's message to Belsazzar.
2. Caleb's nephew, who became his son-in-law.
3. The man who cursed David.
4. Aaron's wife.
5. The tribe who carried off Job's oxen and asses.

The primals and finals give the names of two men who appeared upon earth several hundred years after their death.

ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS IN NO. 8.

- 1. 1st Sam. 20: 35-41; 2. Exodus 32: 28; 3. Judges 7: 13-15; 4. 2nd Kings 20: 7; 5. Numbers 13: 25; 6. 1st Sam. 17: 24, 27, 35-41; 7. 2nd Kings 9: 35-7; 8. Judges 15: 15-17; 9. Lev. 24: 5-6; 10. Exodus 38: 8; 11. Num. 26: 33.

SCRIPTURE ACROSTIC.

- 1. P. aths. . . . . Prov. III. 6.
2. Rabies. . . . . Prov. III. 15.
3. Oppression. . . . . Eccles. VII. 7.
4. V. rtuous. . . . . Prov. XII. 4.
5. E. nemies. . . . . Prov. XVI. 7.
6. R. od. . . . . Prov. X. 13.
7. B. lessing of the Lord. . . . . Prov. VI. 22.
8. S. luggard. . . . . Prov. VI. 6.

CORRECT ANSWERS RECEIVED.

Correct answers have been received from Emma L. Hamilton, Annie Black, Mary J. Campbell, Mary L. Shanklin, James E. Shanklin, Annie Patton, Mary Patton, and Lillian Greene.

ABOUT OTTERS.

BY JOHN LEWIS.

Among the animals that live partly in the water and partly on the land, that can run about on the shore and breathe the air just as well as we can, and yet dive under the water and swim like a fish, one of the most interesting is the otter. A common otter is about the size of a small dog, having a narrow body two feet long, and very short legs. It is covered with handsome fur next to its skin, and outside of this there is a coat of long, coarse hair.

As this animal is very fond of the water and lives principally on fish, it makes its home on the shore of a creek or river. This home is a hole under-ground, generally quite close to the water. The entrance to the burrow is always under water, and leads upward to the main apartment, which is dug out as high up in a bank as possible, so that, in case of a flood in the stream, the water will not rise up along the entrance way and into the otter's house. Sometimes the animal makes two or three chambers, one above another, so that, in case the water should rise in a lower room, he and his family could go up higher, and keep dry. He does not mind being under the water; for a time, but he cannot live under water. From the top of his house to the surface of the ground he makes a small hole to let in air; so, you see, the otter is a very clever creature. The entrance to his house is hidden under water, where no dog nor other enemy is likely to find it, or to get in if they do find it; and his home is so well planned that some part of it is always dry and well ventilated.

When the otter wants his supper—for, as he eats only at night, it may be said that he takes neither breakfast nor dinner—he slips quietly into the water, and as soon as he sees a fish, he gives chase to it. He has large, full eyes like a seal's, and he can see in the water as well as on land. He is web-footed, and his long, flexible body and stout tail enable him to move through the water with a motion very much like that of a fish. He can thus swim very fast, and few fish are able to escape him.

During the day-time, the otter generally stays quiet in his burrow, but at night he comes out, and makes it very lively for the fish. Sometimes, when fish are scarce, he will do his midnight hunting on land, and will be glad to catch a chicken or any other small animal he may meet.

If an otter is caught when it is quite young, it may be tamed. I once saw a couple of tame ones in New York, and they were as lively and playful as a pair of terrier dogs. Sometimes tame otters are trained to catch fish for their masters. In this kind of fishing, the otter slips quietly into the water, and generally catches first all the fish he wants to eat himself. When he has had enough, he brings the next one he catches to his master. A very well trained otter will go into the water several times in this way, and frequently bring out a large fish each time. Otters are occasionally employed by fishermen who use nets. The nets are first set, and then the otter goes into the water and drives the fish into the nets, where they are caught.

There is a story told of a man in England who had a tame otter which followed him about on shore like a dog, and which also used to fish for him. The two companions would go out on the river in a boat, when the otter would jump overboard, and bring fish back to the man. If the animal stayed away too long his master would call him by his name, and he would immediately return.

One day the man was away from home, and his young son thought it would be a good idea to take his father's otter and go fishing. So he took the little animal into the boat, and rowed out upon the river. The otter jumped into the river exactly as he used to do for the boy's father, but he stayed below a long time, and when the boy called him he did not come back. Either he did not know his name when spoken by a strange voice, or he did not like the boy well enough to come back to him, for he remained out of sight, and after the boy had called him in vain for a long time, he was obliged to return to shore without him.

Several days after this, the man was walking along the river-bank near the place where his son had gone fishing. He was greatly grieved at the loss of his pet otter, and I expect the boy had been whipped. The man stood at the edge of the water, and

began to call the otter by his name. He did not think there was any particular use in doing this, but it reminded him of his little friend and of old fishing times. But you can scarcely imagine his astonishment when, in a few moments his faithful otter came swimming out of the water, and lay down on the shore at his feet. If he had brought a string of fish along with him, I do not think the man could have been more surprised and delighted.

In India and some other Eastern countries, this fishing with tame otters is made quite a business. Bishop Heber tells us that on the bank of a river in Hindostan he once saw eight or nine large otters tied to stakes driven into the sand. These handsome fellows were either lying asleep on the shore or swimming about in the water as far as their ropes would let them. It is likely that when these otters were used for fishing their native masters did not set them loose and allow them to swim about as they pleased; but made them go into the water with the long cord still fastened to their necks. In this way the otter could swim far enough to catch fish, and his master would be always sure of having his otter, whether he got any fish or not.



In England, otter-hunting used to be a favorite amusement, and in some parts of the country it is carried on yet. A certain kind of dog called the otter-hound, is especially trained for this sport, and the hunters use short spears. Some of the stream where otters are expected to be found, and some on the other. If an otter has his scent, and they bark and howl, and scratch the ground, and the men shout and beat the reedy bushes and the shore until the poor otter is frightened out of his house and takes to the water. But here he is discovered by the bubbles of air which come up where he is breathing, and the men wade into the stream and strike at the place where they suppose the otter is. The dogs, too, sometimes go into the water, and in this way the otter is either killed or driven ashore. When he goes on land he generally shows fight, and the dogs often have a very hard time before he is killed.

There are otters, however, which are much better worth hunting than the common otter. These are the great sea-otters, which are found in the region about Behring's

Straits and in Kamtschatka, also in some of the waters of South America. These are much larger than the common otter, some of them weighing seventy or eighty pounds. These animals are hunted for the sake of their fur, which is very valuable, and they are probably not so active and difficult to kill as the common otter, which has so many enemies that it is obliged to be very cunning and courageous. Up in those cold regions where the sea-otter lives, he is only occasionally disturbed by man and probably never by any other creature. These otters do not appear to pursue ordinary fish in the water, but feed upon lobsters and other shell-fish.

Sea-otters are said to be very affectionate to their young, but it is not likely that they are more so than the common otter; the difference probably is that the sea-otter is much less wild and shy than the common otter, and its habits and disposition toward its young are therefore more easily observed. Ordinary young otters, even when mere infants, will, at the slightest sign of danger pop into the water with their parents, and come up in some spot among the reeds and grass where it is impossible to see them.

Again, criticism should be reserved for faults or defects which the pupil's will can change. Many of childhood's shortcomings spring from physical causes and from immaturity. The cause must be studied. If there are in a family three lads habitually late at breakfast, one from thoughtless laziness, one because of weakness from rapid growth, demanding longer sleep, and one because his room is remote and the sound of the rising-bell scarcely reaches it, the first may be reformed by criticism. But the others need a more tonic life, with perhaps an earlier retiring hour and a louder bell. Suit the remedy to the cause of the evil, dear family critic.

It greatly promotes the usefulness of family criticism that critic and pupil should be by themselves at the time. The moment when a fault occurs is not always the best time for commenting on it. Let the family critic remember and reflect on it, consider whether it really needs criticism, and what is best to be said, and say this at some time when no third person is in hearing.

But some one may ask: If using criticism is so complicated and hazardous, are there not other and simple ways of helping our friends to improve? There are some substitutes for criticism which are worth practicing occasionally. One is praising the virtue or good quality opposite the fault. "I think you are going to have very good natural taste and judgment about dress" will often quicken a child's budding but as yet feeble and variable inclination toward neatness, more efficiently than: "You do not always look as tidy as I wish." There are ways of proffering a suggestion which do not involve any blame as toward the past, which is a great advantage. If the husband habitually leaves some door open the wife may say: "Will you help me keep the halls warm by keeping this door shut?" or, "Now that cold weather has come I propose we keep this door closed;" or by pasting a neat label over the handle, "This door to be latched." These forms do not put the culprit on his defence. Raising a question is sometimes a pleasant mode. If the young musician of the family speaks of learning to improvise, the family critic is not under necessity of saying "improvising, my dear, not improvising," but may adopt the form: "Is the accent on the first syllable or the last? I have heard both let us look into the dictionary;" and the dictionary being consulted the question is pleasantly settled. Employment of substitutes like these may entitle the head of a family to keep actual criticism entirely within limits which are comfortable.—B. C. Abbot, in Christian Union.

THE ACCOUNT NOT READY.

"What makes you so dull to-night, Harry?" said one young clerk to another. "I'm so bothered about my accounts. I can't get them right. I have been to a great many places to-day collecting, and I have not so much money as I ought to have."

"Oh, never mind. Don't think about that now. What's the use of worrying over it any more? Put it by till to-morrow."

"It's all very fine to say that, but I can't put it by; I have got to give in my book to the governor the first thing in the morning. How can a fellow help thinking about it, when his accounts are not right?"

Are your accounts all right, reader? Are you ready to meet your Master? He never forgets any thing; and he may call on you to give in your account before you expect it.

In other words, are you prepared to meet your God? Are you ready to account to him for all he has intrusted to you—time, health, strength, advantages, opportunities, a heart to love and hands to serve him with?

If not, can you go about with a light heart? Can you forget? Can you be happy? The only thing that can give you real, well-founded cheerfulness, is now to seek the blood of Christ to wash away your sins, and by the Spirit's help to live to God; for thus, and thus only, can you have a good conscience, and without that you cannot be happy.—Morning Star.

TO CLEAN EHTANNIA metal, use finely powdered whiting, two tablespoonfuls of sweet oil and a little yellow soap. Mix with spirits of wine to a cream. Rub on with a sponge, wipe off with a soft cloth and polish with a chamois skin.

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COMMERCIAL.

MONTREAL, May 30th, 1883.

No business in grain for the past week to speak of. The wheat now being shipped from this port is generally sent through from the West without changing owners and does not affect business. Prices are nominally unchanged, but holders are not inclined to sell at all. It is now certain that the Western fall wheat crop will be almost nil this year and this of course produces a firm feeling. We quote Canada Red Winter \$1.17 to \$1.18; Canada White \$1.12 to \$1.13; Canada Spring, \$1.15 to \$1.16 as to quality. Peas at 96c to 97c. Rye 73c to 74c. Oats, 40c for May delivery, Barley nominal.

FLOUR.—The market for extra is a good deal brisker and stiffer this week, the prospect of a poor crop of fall wheat having increased their value neither sales receipts for the week have been large, but sales generally have taken place at outside prices. Quotations as follows: Superior Extra, \$5.05 to \$5.10; Extra Superfine, \$4.90 to \$5.00; Fancy nominal; Spring Extra \$4.85 to \$4.90; Superfine, \$4.60 to \$4.65; Strong Bakers' Canadian, \$5.15 to \$5.25; do, American, \$6.25 to \$6.75; Fine, \$4.10 to \$4.20; Middlings, \$3.70 to \$3.75; Pollards, \$3.50 to \$3.60; Ontario bags, medium, \$2.40 to \$2.50 do. Spring Extra, \$2.35 to \$2.45; do, Superfine, \$2.20 to \$2.30; City Bags, delivered, \$3.10.

MEALS.—Slightly cheaper. Oatmeal, \$5.25 to \$5.55 for ordinary, and \$5.80 to \$6.00 up to \$8.00 for British for granulated. Corn meal \$3.50 to \$3.70 per barrel.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Butter. The market is still quiet. Shippers begin to talk of 20c for creamery as a commencement for export and Eastern Townships is worth 20c to 22c. Cheese is unchanged at 10c to 11c.

Eggs.—Sell at 17c to 18c.

HOG PRODUCE.—Steady, at same prices. We quote: —Canada, short cut, \$23.50 to \$24.00; Western, \$22.50 to \$23.00; Hams city cured, 14c to 15c; Bacon, 13c to 14c; Lard in pails, 14c to 15c.

ASHES.—Are quiet at \$5.10 to \$5.15.

FARMERS' MARKET.

The wet condition of the soil has prevented the farmers from prosecuting their spring work, consequently they have more leisure to bring their produce to market for sale. Green vegetables are being plentifully supplied by the market gardeners at pretty low prices. The supply of butter is larger, and prices lower, but eggs have advanced in price of late. The prices of cornmeal, grue and bran are declining. The supply of hay is fully equal to the demand and prices are easier. Oats are 95c to \$1.05 per bag; peas \$1.00 to \$1.10 per bushel; potatoes 50c to 75c per bag; onions \$3.50 to \$4.50 per barrel; turnips, beets and carrots 50c per bushel; tub butter 18c to 23c per lb.; prints 20c to 35c do.; eggs, 18c to 22c per dozen; Apples \$3 to \$6 per barrel; hay \$9.50 to \$11.50 per 100 bundles of 15 lbs; straw \$4 to \$5 per 100 bundles of 12 lbs.

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Recent cablegrams report a serious decline in the prices of cattle in the British markets, and this has caused more or less dullness in the markets here, while a good many cattle intended for shipping are being sold to city butchers at about 6c per lb., with a few head of the best at 6 1/2c do. Pretty good steers bring from 5 1/2c to 5 3/4c per lb., large fat cows and oxen 5c to 5 1/2c do., and leanish stock, 4 1/2c to 4 3/4c do. There have been very few head of leanish cattle offered here of late, and prices of this sort are comparatively higher than of the better kinds. Calves are still numerous and dull of sale, except for the best which sell at from \$5 to \$8 each, while the common veals bring from \$2.50 to \$4 each. Sheep and lambs are both more plentiful, with prices tending downward, although some extra lambs have been sold here lately at from \$5 to \$6 each. Live hogs are sold in lots at from 7 1/2c to 8c per lb.

FALSE is their conceit who say the way to have a friend is not to make use of him. Nothing can give greater assurance that two men are friends than when experience makes them mutually acknowledge it.

CAMPAIGN NOTES.

Prince Edward County Branch of the Ontario Alliance was recently reorganized at a temperance convention held at Picton. A strong central executive committee was formed to effect organization throughout the country.

A representative temperance convention was held at Dartmouth, N.S., on the Queen's birthday, to consider the question of seeking to have the Canada Temperance Act adopted in Halifax county. The Rev. P. M. Morrison was appointed chairman and Mr. George Young secretary. After some discussion, it was unanimously resolved as advisable to take immediate steps to petition the Dominion Government to take a vote on the Act. Permanent organization was effected by the convention electing its officers and one delegate from each polling district a county executive committee, each delegate to organize a local committee in his own district. It was unanimously resolved that the convention was surprised and pained at the character of the recent temperance legislation in the Dominion Parliament, that it heartily condemned the retrograde character of that legislation and the indecent haste with which it had been passed through the House, and also that it endorsed the action taken by the Halifax Branch of the Dominion Alliance, in requesting the postponement of the passing of the new Act. A successful public meeting was held in connection with the convention, in the evening.

TEMPERANCE ITEMS.

The resident clergymen in Bridgewater, Lunenburg, N.S.—Presbyterian, Lutheran, Baptist and Methodist—have published a joint pledge taken by them, that they will not attend the funeral of any person dying while engaged in the iniquitous business of liquor-selling. Their action in this regard is taken, as they express it, "in consequence of the recent tragic event in our village, arising from the fact that the liquor traffic is carried on in our community in defiance of law, human and divine."

Dr. Branthwaite, medical officer for Willesden, England, in his first annual report, that for last year, of the sanitary condition of that parish, enters at length into a consideration of the steady increase in the mortality of children, remarking that the parish of Willesden has not been singular in this respect, boards of health in many localities deploring the extent of the same evil, and looking for a remedy. Among the causes of this lamentable "massacre of the innocents," Dr. Branthwaite gives a prominent place to drinking. He speaks of "the pernicious habit of drinking large quantities of ale or stout by nursing mothers, under the idea that they thereby increase and improve the secretion of milk, whereas they are in reality deteriorating the quality of that upon which the infant must depend for health and life." Dr. Edis, who gave great attention to the subject of infant mortality, summed up his conclusions by stating that this loss of life was mainly due to two causes—the substitution of farinaceous food for milk, and the delusion that ale or stout was necessary as an article of diet for nursing mothers. An enquiry was some time ago instituted at Macclesfield upon this subject of infant mortality, and the committee gave as one of their findings, "That an over-indulgence in drink, a craving for which is frequently induced by the conditions of unwholesome dwellings and vitiated atmosphere," was one of the causes of infant mortality.

LAUGHING GAS.

AN ORGAN-GRINDER is not the architect of his own four-tunes.

MOTHER to son: "That's a darling, for stopping crying;" "No I've not stopped; I am only resting."

A BALD-HEADED MAN, in anticipation of the summer season, has had a spider painted on the top of his head to frighten off the flies.

"I'D JUST like to see you," as the blind man said to the policeman when he told him he would take him to the station-house if he did not move on.

JUST AFTER Sheridan had taken a new house, he met Lord Guilford, to whom he said, "Well, all will now go on like clock-work." "Aye," said his lordship, "tick, tick."

THERE was a soldier that vaunted before Julius Caesar of the scars he had received on his face. Caesar, knowing him to be a coward, told him, "You had best take heed next time you run away how you look back."

THE GUESTS have dined, and the host hands another case of cigars. "I don't smoke myself," he said, "but you will find them any other—my man steals more of them than any other brand I ever had."

ABOUT the commencement of the present century the postal authorities received a letter bearing the Inverness postmark, and on it the following address:—"Here she goes to Embro, to Donal," my brother chairman to a chairman's masher, up a close and down a stair."

"WOMAN'S RIGHTS!" exclaimed a certain man, when the subject was broached. "What more rights do they want? My wife bosses me, our daughters boss us both, and the servant girl bosses the whole family. It's time the men were allowed some rights."

IN ORDER to induce Dr. Johnson to take greater notice of the performance of a celebrated violinist to which he was inattentively listening, a friend told him that the piece was very difficult. "Difficult, sir! I wish it were impossible," was the doctor's reply.

"WHY DON'T you come to Sunday-school?" said a superintendent to a boy. "Cause pa owes my teacher for a pair of boots, an' the teacher got to sending notes home by me, an' pa said I needn't go any more till he paid for the boots, an' I don't reckon I'll go any more."

JERROLD, walking to the club with a friend from the theatre, some intoxicated gentlemen reeled up to the dramatist and said—"Can you tell us the way to the 'Judge and Jury?'" "Keep on as you are, young gentlemen," was the reply; "you're sure to overtake them."

A CLERGYMAN travelling in a railway carriage was a butt to many insolences; his insulters at last shut the windows, commenced smoking and sending the puffs toward him. "Pardon gentlemen," said he coolly, drawing a book from his pocket, "I hope my brevity does not inconvenience you?"

PROBLEMATICAL: Scene—Mexican city in Northern Mexico; a switch engine moving cars back and forth on side tracks. A "gringo" yardmaster to a group of ranchmen who are watching the movements of the engine and cars for the first time: "Well, seniors, what do you think of a railway?" Mexican senior reflectively: "I can readily see how that engine moves the cars, but I cannot see how the cars move the engine."—*Railway Age.*

TOO AUSTERE a philosophy makes too wise men; too rigorous politics, few good subjects; too hard a religion, few religious persons whose devotion is of long continuance.

TO JUDGE impartially, we are to put men's good qualities in the balance against their bad ones; and if the scale of the first outweighs, the latter ought not to be brought into account.

WHEN commended, examine impartially your own deserts; and if you find not what is said, note that tongue for the instrument of flattery. Know thyself, said Bias, so shall no flatterer deceive thee.

OF ALL the things this world affords us, the possession and enjoyment of wisdom alone is immortal. A strict adherence to virtue, and a well-regulated life, render our pleasures more solid and lasting.

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From Westminster Question Book.)

LESSON XI.

[Acts 14: 1-18.]

AT ICONIUM AND LYSTRA.

COMMIT TO MEMORY vs. 15-18.

(Revised Version.)

And it came to pass in Iconium, that they 1 entered together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake that a great multitude 2 both of Jews and of Greeks believed. But the Jews that were disobedient stirred up the 3 souls of the Gentiles and made them evil affected against the brethren. Long time there- 4 fore they tarried there speaking boldly in the Lord, which bare witness unto the world of his 5 grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. But the multitude of the city 6 was divided; and part held with the Jews, and part with the apostles. And when there 7 was made an onset both of the Gentiles and of the Jews with their rulers, to entreat them 8 shamefully, and to stone them; they fled out of Iconium, Lystra and Derbe, and the region round about; and there they preached the gospel. 9 And at Lystra there sat a certain man, im- 10 potent in his feet, a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked. The same 11 heard Paul speaking; who, fastening his eyes upon him, and seeing that he had faith to be 12 made whole, said with a loud voice, saying up- 13 and walked. And when the multitude saw what 14 Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, say- 15 ing in the speech of Samaria, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men. 16 And they called Barnabas Jupiter: and Paul 17 Mercury, because he was the chief speaker. And the priest of Jupiter whose temple was 18 before the city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice 19 with the multitudes. But when the apostles, 11 Barnabas and Paul, heard of it, they rent 20 their garments, and sprang forth among the multitudes, crying out and saying, Sirs, why 21 do ye do these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and bring you good tidings, unto the living God, who made the heaven 22 and the earth and the sea, and all that therein is: who in the generations gone by suffered all 23 the nations to walk in their own ways. And 24 yet he left not himself without witness, in that he did good unto you, and gave you rain 25 from heaven rains and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts with food and gladness. And with these 26 sayings sorely restrained the multitude from doing sacrifice unto them.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"Speaking boldly in the Lord."—ACTS 14: 3.

TOPIC.—Different Effects of the Gospel.

LESSON PLAN.—1. EXERCISES—ARABUS, vs. 1-6

2. A MIRACLE WROUGHT, vs. 7-9. 3. GOD ONLY TO BE WORSHIPPED, vs. 11-18.

Time.—A. D. 45. Places.—Iconium and Lystra.

INTRODUCTION.

From Antioch Paul and Barnabas went south-east, about sixty miles, to Iconium. There they abode "long time" preaching the word and working miracles. A great multitude both of Jews and of Greeks believed. But opposition was roused as at Antioch, and to escape violence the apostles fled to Lystra. Here a wonderful miracle was wrought by Paul, which so excited the people that, thinking the apostles to be gods in human form, they were about to pay them divine honors. The apostles with difficulty kept them from doing this, and urged them to turn from their false gods to the only true and living God.

LESSON NOTES.

V. 1. SO SPAKE—with such earnestness and power. GREEKS—probably both proselytes and pagans. V. 2. UNBELIEVING JEWS—vexed that so many of their own people believed. V. 3. THEREFORE—because of this success (v. 1) and this opposition (v. 2). IN THE LORD—the Lord Jesus Christ. SIGNS AND WONDERS—miracles, as proofs of his presence and power. V. 5. AN ASSAULT—rather a purpose of assault. THEIR RULES—the heathen magistrates and Jewish rulers officers of the synagogue. LYSTRA—about forty miles south of Iconium. It was the home of Timothy, who was probably among the converts at this time. (See ch. 16: 1.) DERBE—a town about twenty miles east from Lystra. LYCAONIA—a province of Asia Minor, between Galatia on the north and Cilicia on the south. V. 8. SAT—in some place of public resort, where Paul was preaching. There seems to have been no synagogue in Lystra. IMOTENT—powerless. V. 9. FAITH TO BE HEALED—literally, "faith to be saved." Paul, seeing in him a believing and joyful acceptance of the gospel, healed him in body even as by faith he was healed in soul. Christ always honors the look of faith. V. 11. SPEECH OF LYCAONIA—the native dialect of the province. THE GODS ARE COME DOWN—IT WAS a common belief of the ancients that the gods thus visited the earth. V. 12. JUPITER—the highest among heathen gods, and the guardian-god of Lystra. MERCURIUS—the god of eloquence, and the attendant and spokesman of Jupiter. Paul was called Mercury because he took the lead in speaking. V. 13. WHICH WAS BEFORE THE CITY—whose statue or temple was just in front of the city gates. OXEN—to sacrifice. GARLANDS—to adorn the visitors. WOULD HAVE DONE SACRIFICE—purposed or wished to pay them divine honors. V. 14. RENT THEIR CLOTHES—a sign of protest and abhorrence. Matt. 26: 65; Josh. 7: 6. V. 15. OF LIKE PASSIONS— frail mortal men just like yourselves. THESE VANTILES—these imaginary gods, which have no real existence. V. 16. ALL NATIONS—all the Gentiles. THEIR OWN WAYS—ways of idolatry and wickedness, without a written revelation. V. 17. NOT WITHOUT WITNESS—not without evidence of his goodness, wisdom and power. V. 18. RESTRAINED—prevented.

TEACHINGS.

- 1. Christ always honors and blesses the look of faith.
2. There is but one living and true God.
3. This living God gives us proofs of his power and goodness in his works.
4. He came down to us in the likeness of man as the Lord Jesus Christ, in a written revelation.
5. He only is to be honored and worshipped as our Lord and Saviour.