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Religious Miscellany.

Death the Gate of Life.

As death's dark emblem suited for the grave
Of him who dwells in heaven's unclouded light?
For souls arrayed in robes of dazzling white
Shall blackest pall and plumest funeral wear;
Their robes dropping with untimely blight,
Their faces turned to ashes as they lie.
And columns shattered our compassion crave
For those who on Christ by death did fully save,
Who now, made perfect, serve, and in His
right
Drink of the fountain of supreme delight?
But high the shaft, new life through engrave!
Turn up the torch, it never burnt so bright!
A fiercer hue and scent the fully lives—
Not till the Christian dies he fully lives.

Our Burdens.

To conquer pain
And sorrow in our earthly pilgrimage,
We must not seek, because we seek in vain
To cast them from us; but must welcome them,
As heavenly messengers in earthly weeds;
And then, as such, home taking to our hearts,
There tend and comfort them, with patient love
And seek endurance, for the sake of Him
Who sends them! So through the darkest vale,
Should brightness pierce, and we should know
The face
Of "angels entertained unwares."

Soldiers of the Cross.

Christian character and life are painted in
various colors, and sketched from various
positions by the pencil of Inspiration. The
Scriptures portray the saints of the Most High
in different attitudes and circumstances. Now they
go in and out among us as little children; but
they do not think of themselves more highly than
they ought to think; teachable, anxious to be
informed of the whole will of God concerning
them; trusting, believing with the heart unto
righteousness; obedient, endeavoring to walk
in all the ordinances of the Lord. Now they
pass about in our presence as men—having part
of whatever is exclusively appropriate to child-
hood, and put on the robe and bearing of
maturity years. They deport themselves rati-
onally, soberly, earnestly. And now they stand
forth as warriors. Their bearing is martial.
Helmets cover their heads. Breastplates pro-
tect their bosoms. Swords gleam in their hands
Banners wave above them.

How appropriately are Christians represented
as soldiers, portrayed in the vestments and
office of war. They propose to win this world
to Christ. It is His. It was made by Him. It
was made for Him. It was regarded with satis-
faction by Him at its completion. Subsequently
Satan sought and secured its seduction. The
measure lay away from allegiance to the Creator.
Not disposed to be fooled and defeated by the
tempter, to have perpetually alienated from
Himself to grand a portion of His empire and
revenue, the Creator undertook the redemption
of the world, and the restoration of our nature.
Possessor of limitless resources, He might have
swept away all the signs and results of the great
rebellion. Death with one sweep of his black
broad, irresistible wing might have borne His
offending race into graves from whence there
would have been no resurrection. A current of
heavenly origin setting in might, with its power-
ful, purifying breath, have driven before it all
traces of pollution and decay. A single smile
might have banished the smitten and desolate
earth with new beauty; and a single word have
called into being a loving and obedient race to
people its hills and plains.

But it pleased Him to select a longer road,
to employ a lower instrumentality to effect
His wonderful design. Over centuries He
spreads out the process, and to man He assigns
the work. Those who refuse to accept the com-
mission and go forth upon the sacred errand, are
left themselves to perish amid the ruins of the
original creature. Those who heed the burden of
the obligation, and cooperate with the Messiah for
the world's recovery, are rescued themselves from
perdition, permitted to share in the triumph of
restoration; and to wear, as Christians, the name
of their Lord. They toil to bring Him back
His own. They first give themselves up to His
disposal. They lay both soul and body on His
altar. They do without any reservation, their
substance, their time, their influence, to the
glorification of His name. They then consecrate
their families to the manifestation of His praise,
and seek their early birth into His kingdom.
They next attempt to impress for Him the com-
munity in which they reside, and to enlist all its
members in His love and service. And finally
they propose the redemption and restoration of
the race in its entirety. To have, the world
over, every heart His throne, and every life an
illustration of His transforming grace. To have
every knee bowing in reverence before Him, and
every hand busy leveling the way for His
universal coming. To have every eye looking
for His aid, and every ear listening for the faintest
expression of His will. To have all monies cir-
culating in channels of His appointment; all
talents at work in His vineyard; all beauties
flashing His praise; all titles of music moving
to the honor of His name. To have Him,
"Far as the breeze can bear, and billows foam,
Stirring His oars, and the world's waves
But these soldiers of the cross win no easy
bloodless victory. They encounter opposition.
The world arrays itself in antagonism to them.
Its organs cannot perceive the necessity of
His movements. It is blind to the sin, and
shame, and death which oppress the children of
men, and from which it is proposed to deliver
them. Its philosophy ridicules the apparatus by
which it attempted to accomplish the momentous
deliverance—contemns the sacrifice of Jesus, de-
rides the idea of merit in His death on a
perishing race may savagely lean; and sports
with the notions of repentance, and faith, and
renewal, and adoption, and holiness, and obedi-
ence. It is proud at the admissions of charac-
ter, and pride rebeck, and desert it is required to
make; at the conditions enjoined in order to
salvation; and at the spirit which is expected to

be cultivated by all the forgiven. Its wicked-
ness refuses to surrender its thoughts, and words,
and actions, and passions. Its love of care demurs
to the toll and self-denial essential to the satis-
factory prosecution of the work—groans fixed
and nervous in the prospect of the labor, and
trials, and watchings which are requisite to tri-
umph. Its unbelief despairs of success, and
pronounces the means inadequate on which re-
liance is placed—contends that the stone cut out
of the mountain is too insignificant to batter
down the vast array of prejudice and enmity
that are in the front, and that the resources of
Christianity are unquestionably insufficient for
the accomplishment of its own stupendous un-
dertaking. And Satan opposes the sacramental
bowl. He has embarked too much thought, and
conscience, and malice, and vigor, in his nefarious
project—the dismemberment of Jehovah's em-
pire, and the ruin of mankind—to be willing to
abandon his purpose of distribution, and retire
in defeat and shame to his appointed hill. He
still has access to earth. He still goes about to
destroy. He still inspires and leads on the
armies of the aliena. He still embarrasses and
impedes the hosts of the restoration.

Verily the soldiers of the cross, the followers
of the Lamb, are not
"Carried to the skies
On flowery beds of ease."
They have to struggle for access. They have
to fight to win, and they attend their obliga-
tions in this direction. They do not regard
their enterprise as child's play. They do not en-
gage in it without reflection; or attempt it
without preparation; or pursue it ignorantly, or
indolently, or self-reliantly. They ascertain, as
themselves to the utmost of their knowledge and
ability; status in themselves to the best possi-
ble advantage; and call into employment all their
resources. They are aware of the antagonism which
they have to contend, anticipating the
momentous nature of the contest, and deprecating
their own insufficiency, they turn heavenward
They set up their banners in the name of the
Lord. And thus their resources become as im-
plemented by celestial reinforcements. They join
hand with Omnipotence. Victory is no more a
hope, but an assurance. The bugles shall never
call them to retreat. Their banners will be
borne forward, and their enemies must all be
beaten. Their opposition cannot but give way. Beyond
all question their Christ is to have the heathen
of His inheritance, and the uttermost parts of
the earth for a possession. Who would not enlist
in such an army? Who would not endure the
camp, and the march, and the engagement—with
all the aches of fatigue, and sweat, and pain—for
such a consummation?

To patient faith the prize is sure,
And all that to the end endure."
—Pittsburgh Christian Advocate.

The Want of the Church.

The revival of holiness is needed not only in
the pulpit, but in the congregation. All the
Lord's people should be holy. God commands it,
and the work assigned the Church in the
midst of the "crooked and perverse genera-
tion" of to-day requires that they come up to
the highest standard of Gospel experience.—
Every pastor who looks with anxiety over the
field of labor committed to his care feels that
this is true, and finds in his soul a yearning for
the heavenly baptism that will bring upon his
people the increased life and efficiency. But
the people will not surpass the pastor in seek-
ing personal attainment in grace. He who
preaches over them, and leads them with the
bread of life, must lead the way in personal con-
fession. His own soul must warm and glow
with the sacred fire before he can be instru-
mental in kindling the flame in others.

The revival of holiness is wanted for its con-
servative influence in the Church. If the ex-
pression of the fullness of the blessing of the
Gospel were general in the ministry and in the
membership, the danger of impairing the heri-
tage of doctrines and usages received from our
fathers, by unwary speculation and needless in-
novations, would be greatly diminished. Luth-
er failed to lead his people to the highest at-
tainments in Christian privilege, because of
the necessity that was upon him to contend
for the elements of evangelical doctrine, and
for radical innovations on ecclesiastical practices.
Wesley succeeded because he desired the
Church as a whole to be in grace. He who
preaches a morality, in this way he restored the
ancient order of things without designing it.
He made personal holiness the first and constant
aim of his ministry, and allowed forms and
usages to adjust themselves as of necessity they
would, in subordination to the spiritual wants
of the people, as these were successfully devel-
oped in the progress of his unexampled success.
If we mistake not this was the secret of his pow-
er. For the first time since the apostles he
began a reform in the Church without direct
upon established usages; and while the erec-
tion of an entirely new ecclesiastical economy
became inevitable, he persistently refused to
consent to any theory of Church Government as
essential to his work only so far as experience and
reason led him to. Had he started to reform
the Discipline and government of the
Church, he would have set up and put in operation
a previously conceived plan, the probability is
that his failure would have been to great that
the present generation would scarcely have
known of his existence. But no such thought
entered his heart, and multitudes of redeemed
souls will praise God forever that his sole aim
was to spread Scriptural holiness. And we
think the remark will hold good, that "those
in the Church most eminent for sanctity, and dis-
tinguished for efficiency in promoting vital god-
liness, have never shown much zeal for innova-
tions or concern about ecclesiastical politics.
Not that the most advanced experience in salva-
tion implies such self-abandonment, and such sub-
mission to the order and will of Providence, as
to preclude the restlessness and theorizing al-
ways to be found in connection with the agitation
of questions of reform in doctrine or discipline.—
Not that the most advanced Christians are in-
different to these things. They are not indiffer-
ent to matters pertaining to the faith and spiri-
tuality of God's people, but are quick to discern,
and prompt to rebuke the approach of evil,
and to see taking his part amongst us as usual, gave

them to exercise a "godly judgment" with
readiness; but they do not magnify even their
own orthodoxy so as to rest in that alone.—
Their charity abounds as their faith enlarges.
Their range of vision, and their spiritual eye takes
in the relative value of inward purity and out-
ward forms.

An increase of personal holiness is wanted to
give steadiness and stability to the Christian
life. Not one in all the Church is found who
has not grieved at the fluctuations of zeal on the
part of professed Christians. We all want to
see the whole membership standing fast in one
spirit striving together for the faith of the Gos-
pel.

How shall we gain this desirable condition
of things? We cannot realize it till a crucifixion
to the world, a single eye, and a consecrated
life become the rule, it is not the fault of
religion that professors are so feeble. The
trouble is in human nature, and in the want of
thoroughness in personal experience. The
weakness complained of are results of depravity
not of grace, and can only be overcome by ad-
ditional grace. The feeble following of Jesus
wants to be "rooted and grounded in love";
and all into employment all their resources.
They are aware of the antagonism which
they have to contend, anticipating the
momentous nature of the contest, and deprecating
their own insufficiency, they turn heavenward
They set up their banners in the name of the
Lord. And thus their resources become as im-
plemented by celestial reinforcements. They join
hand with Omnipotence. Victory is no more a
hope, but an assurance. The bugles shall never
call them to retreat. Their banners will be
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all question their Christ is to have the heathen
of His inheritance, and the uttermost parts of
the earth for a possession. Who would not enlist
in such an army? Who would not endure the
camp, and the march, and the engagement—with
all the aches of fatigue, and sweat, and pain—for
such a consummation?

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And all that to the end endure."
—Pittsburgh Christian Advocate.

Religious Intelligence.

Conference Sketches.

HULL, Friday night.

I have just returned from a very interesting
open-air service, of which, as it arises naturally
out of the presence of the Conference here, it
must be legitimate to say a few words in this
column. On Monday night last two of the ministers
attending Conference, accompanied by one cir-
cuit steward, who was attending the Committee
walked down to the dock-side, Longgate, to at-
tempt an open air service. There was no con-
gregation, no announcement had been made.
The preacher had mounted a barrel, and let
down a single verse, when down came a heavy
shower and compelled a retreat. Nothing daunt-
ed, the attempt was repeated on Tuesday night,
when some five hundred people were gathered
before the service closed. Again on Wednesday
evening, and Thursday evening, the congrega-
tions kept up, and quite a group of preachers
were in attendance, and to-night, with a rail-
way truck forming a capital platform, and with
some dozen ministers to help, a very successful
service was held. Probably no less than 700
heard the Gospel message. At the close a lively
hymn was struck up, and some 120 of the con-
gregation marched to the neighboring chapel,
where the service was continued. The speaker
was restored to the joys of salvation. The
addresses in the open air were delivered by the
Rev. J. W. Starr, W. H. Cave, Bowman
Stephenson, and Thomas Vasey. The Rev. J.
E. Clapham and George Scott also took part
in the service. This cannot do otherwise than
assist the cause of Methodism, in indirect as well
as direct means. I understand these services are
to be continued nightly during the Conference,
and it is hoped that they may give some further
stimulus to the reviving practice of open-air
preaching all through the Conference.

But I must get back to the point at which my
last sketch left me, and my indulgent readers, I
would be ungrateful if I did not speak of the
Missionary Committee. And such a committee,
The floor of the house crowded, the galleries
adorned as usual with the presence of the sisters,
who are allowed to take an interest in Foreign
Missions, though they are debarred from witness-
ing the discussion of home missionary and edu-
cational affairs. As to the Chapel Fund, and
the figures of the report alone would be too much
for the weaker sex! But, seriously, in a paren-
thesis, why should not the ladies attend on Tues-
day morning as well as Wednesday? They are
needed quite as much for home missionary work
for the foreign cause, and if they do not dis-
tract the business on the fourth day of the work,
is there any special reason to anticipate deadly
effects from their presence on the third?

However, the Missionary Committee was one
of the best that has been held for many years.
It was a committee, not a huge missionary meet-
ing, and yet some of the speaking was charming-
ly eloquent enough for any popular assembly.
Mr. Arthur, whom it is quite refreshing to
see taking his part amongst us as usual, gave

a further deduction of £24,200 had to be made
for amounts twice entered, for failures, lapsed
through death, &c., leaving a clear sum of £107,
800, of which £163,273 had been received; the
return of Dr. Porter Smith, medical missionary,
from China; the sending of a lay agent to Spain,
to make inquiries and watch openings; the
need of jurisdiction over white settlers in Fiji,
in reference to their treatment of emigrants;
the recognition of our lay agents in Italy; the
Rev. G. T. Peck, M.A., and W. Gibson, B.A.,
being appointed to visit Italy after the Confer-
ence; records respecting the deaths of Dr. G.
Smith of Cambrone; W. Smith, of Gledhow,
Leeds; Mr. Boucne and Mr. J. J. Lidgett,
London; and arrangements with the Canadian
Conference for the speedy cessation of the mis-
sionary subsidy.

The Rev. John Bedford, Ex-President of the
Conference, moved the first resolution, which
expressed gratitude for the success of the year.
It was very delightful, he remarked, to hear of
manifold successes, of increase of numbers,
of the raising up of faithful labourers, and it was
especially delightful to learn that amongst those
faithful labourers there was an increase in the
supply of native agents. The great difficulty
which pressed upon them was how they could
avail themselves of the openings which were
presented.

Mr. Alderman Atkinson, of Hull, seconded
the resolution, and expressed his entire agree-
ment with what had been said by the Ex-Presi-
dent as to the importance of native agency. The
openings presented, and which resulted in some
cases from the waning strength of Popery, ought
to be promptly entered.

The resolution passed unanimously.
The Rev. Wm. Arthur, M.A., moved the next
resolution, which spoke with satisfaction of the
increase in the regular income from subscrip-
tions and collections, and urged the necessity of
raising regular income so as to equal the ordi-
nary expenditure. He referred in appropriate
and touching terms to the losses during the year
—to the death of Mr. Baker, Mr. Whitley, and
Mr. Hill, in the mission field; and those of Dr.
Smith, of Cambrone, Mr. Wm. Smith, of Gled-
how; Mr. John Barton, Mr. Wm. Bourne, and
Mr. John Lidgett. He always felt that one of
the best of a connection with that Society
was, the way in which it formed ties, ties which
had in them a sacredness and elevation which
they could not get elsewhere, ties which brought
with them an amount of blessing and benefit
that no other association which he ever met with
in the world gave an opportunity even to
rejoice. Referring to the remarkable opening in
Spain, Mr. Arthur expressed his belief that the
Committee had done what they ought to do in
making a tentative effort. It might be said that
they were always asking. They were, because
they represented a want which was always ur-
gent. If they did not ask, they would commit
a sin. He felt great pleasure in that part of
the proceedings which showed they were on the
eve of terminating the payment of £1,000 a year to
Canada. He did not grudge Canada or any
part of the world the money that was needed,
but whenever they could be spared, to assist
them was an injury rather than a good. As to
Ireland, he might say that out of that Church
there had been an influence opposed to Romanism
in America, Canada, and elsewhere, which
few were aware of. Then they had the great
Oecumenical Council coming. They would not
meet it by the denunciation of fulmination or
passion, but they must meet it by prayer and
the Word. He believed the only resources were
prayer and teaching God's scriptural truth. They
were at a crisis of affairs as a nation, when they
needed, as a nation, to go to their knees, and
earnestly hoped that the coming month of
December, when the Council was to meet, would
be a month of prayer amongst the Methodists.
They were not afraid to pray for the conversion
of pope, cardinals, or priests. The Gospel was
now preached up to the borders of the Pope's
own territory. Let them pray for God's power
to come down on that country. He was glad
that attention was now being turned to the
Romanist controversy. One weapon had been
referred to—catechising. When Rome fought
with catechising, she fought with Methodism
responsively. Let the Methodist catechise
thoroughly everywhere, in Christian doctrine,
in the knowledge of the truth, in the habit of
forming an answer for the hope that was in them,
in training class-meetings and prayer-meetings,
and raising up their spiritual loyalty, and God
would bless them. But let them not try to be narrow.
He was not one of those who thought that things
which had been said from different angles of
Methodism were tending to exclusiveness. On
the contrary, he thought it was simply one
of the processes of Providence. One man saw and
aimed at a purely evangelistic point of view,
and another man at the worship point of view;
both were right, but they could not exclude
human imperfection. He believed that wherever
they had attempted uniformly they had made a
mistake. In many of the towns of the North
they had made a great mistake in not having
a chapel with a liturgical service, and in London
they had made a mistake in having no chapel
without a liturgical service. By this diversity
they would keep the unity of faith, and the spirit
of love, and the bond of perfectness, and God
would give all the rest.

Mr. Alexander McArthur seconded the motion.
He had seen much of missionaries and missions
in Australia, and could bear his testimony to
their immense value and importance: it was
difficult to estimate what Australian colonies
would have been without them. If all had done
their duty, the missionary income would be
£200,000. He advocated a return to the sys-
tem of missionary collectors going from door to
door.

Mr. S. R. Healey (of Liverpool) desired to
express his gratitude to Almighty God for the
speech which the Rev. William Arthur had de-
livered, and for the mercy which had preserved
him. He hoped they would soon have him home
again. He would urge the young to make
the mission cause one of their most cherished objects.

The Rev. Josiah Cox (from China), the Rev.
James Nicholson (from Southey), and the
Rev. Luke Palford (representative from the
French Conference), briefly spoke on the field
of labour.
Mr. H. H. Fowler, in moving the next resolu-
tion, said he felt that the secretaries of the
Society had conferred upon him a very great

honour in asking him to submit to the meeting
a resolution which formed he might say, the
closing chapter of the most memorable mis-
sionary movement of their generation. The first
feeling they had in connection with the Jubilee
movement was as to its financial aspect. The
raising of £180,000 was a great feat. In no
spirit of vain glory, but as an historic truth, he
challenged denial when he said that no section
of the Christian Church had raised so much in
amount in as the Methodists during the last
100 years. The true test of voluntary effort
was the liberality displayed with reference to
missions. That on which they registered their
Ebenezer might be of the rudest stone or the
costliest marble; but the true glory, the endur-
ing beauty was the spirit which it symbolized
and represented; and the spirit of the Jubilee
movement, he ventured to think, the Methodists
would ever cherish among its most fragrant
memories. It would be invidious to mention
any names in connection with the Jubilee move-
ment; but he should not think he did his duty
in moving the resolution if he did not express
gratitude for the distinguished, nay, blessed ser-
vices of the eminent minister whom the pres-
ence of God called to the supreme post in the
Methodist Conference at that important crisis.
Dr. Osborne must ever look back on that year,
not only as the year of his highest honour,
but as the year in which he displayed his
greatest usefulness, and served the Church he
loved the best. He should like to express two
thoughts which had long weighed upon him.—
He thought they lost a great deal of missionary
power by the isolation of their stations, and recom-
mended greater concentration upon central
points, as had been done in China at Hankow.
He wanted to bring the mind of the Committee
to this—that it would be a grand thing to get
such a country as France, Italy, or Spain won
for Christ. They knew what a grand thing
Protestant Scotland was, and what a grand
thing a Protestant Europe would be!

The Rev. Dr. Osborne remarked that their
great ground of rejoicing in the Jubilee move-
ment would be, that it cleared the way to better
defined, more energetic, persevering, and sys-
tematic efforts on behalf of the heathen popu-
lations.

General Miscellany.

Africa.

Of the five great continents which in the
main form the habitable world, Africa is the
least known. It is true that books of travel, have
from the days of Herodotus, been written con-
cerning the progress of discovery in that vast
but shadowy land, but they have been simple
books of travel—records of individual adventures
or exploration or little else. Of the political
economy, and social conditions of the several
African communities, it may safely be said
that the English people as a rule have the faintest
knowledge and the most confused ideas. It is
not many years ago that a useful publication
called the "Statesman's Year Book," while sup-
plying very full and accurate statistics regard-
ing different countries and peoples, wholly ig-
nored Africa. The geography books of schools
are comparatively reticent in conveying informa-
tion about this part of the earth's surface.—
It matters not that Africa can claim nearly a
fourth of that area, nor that the history of a
part at least of its territory dates back to the
earliest known periods. Neither magnitude nor
antiquity will alone suffice to attract the inter-
est of modern ages to a land from whose shores
the sceptre of empires long since passed away.
For centuries all trace of African greatness
has been but a memory, the name of Africa
has called forth no sentiment but that of pity,
mystery and ignorance have enveloped the
continent in their gloom, and the great cur-
rent of civilization as it sweeps around the
world, would never have left a trace upon those
shores had not straggling beds sometimes
caught and diverted by the scattered settlements
along the Northern and Southern coasts.

It is chiefly from these two points that the
restless forces of European colonization are
gradually working on toward the regeneration
of the continent. Along the Northern coast we
find in Algeria and in Egypt the evidences of
rapid progress and industrial advancement. In
the first named country the French are fast
displacing the vestiges of Moorish sway, and are
transforming a heathful and fertile country in-
to a lesser France. Where the Christian was
for five centuries excluded; where man has
brooded so long under the cold shade of the
present—not far from where heathenism flour-
ished at Carthage, and on the very spot where
a power that menaced Europe and conquered
Spain held rule thereafter—a prosperous com-
munity grew in the elements of strength
in its probability are many years ago over a line
of railway will follow the course of that river.—
The fine natural capabilities of Abyssinia,
brought to light by the recent expedition which
soon attracted enterprise in that direction; and if
the rulers of Egypt are true to their own inter-
ests a future line in store for the land of Mis-
raim far greater than the steepest of its past.

Between the Northern and Southern shores
of Africa spread about seven million square
miles of comparatively unknown land. Upon
the character of this region numberless specu-
lations have been spent, and the exploration of
it has been the work of ages. Little by little
the veil has been lifted, until now we have
caught glimpses which, though faint and par-
tial, are yet plain enough to give us a general
idea of the country and its peoples. That idea
involves an entire subversion of the traditions
held by our fathers. By them the interior of
Africa was considered to be a "howling wild-
erness" as one described it, or a "death-struck
on morass." Now we know that those strolled

regions are more or less fertile, often of rare
productiveness, possess many charms of scenery,
and are by no means insalubrious. The stigma
of unhealthiness which attaches to Africa,
strictly speaking, is deserved only by the coast,
and that only at points. Near the shores the
delta and lagoons of rivers, long stretches of
marsh, mangrove swamps, and that drying for-
ests, exhale the deadly miasma, which under a
torrid sun has struck down so many of our
enterprising countrymen. By these dread forces
has a large portion of the continent been barri-
caded against the approaches of civilized man.
It would seem as if by a mere natural barrier
Africa has been kept through more than ages a
sealed book, in order that it may give scope
for the expansion of man's finer faculties, trained
by a long experience, and guided by the fair-
er light of advancing knowledge, to a better
fitness for the work of dealing with the huge
difficulties of Nature. What art and science
have done elsewhere, what they can do in Africa,
Drains and cultivation may convert those
miasmatic swamps into productive and habita-
ble fields. Railways may bring the higher and
healthier regions of the interior into close con-
nection with the coast. For the world knows
that Africa is not the desert country it was
so long deemed to be. The Western shores
North of Walwh Bay give ample evidence that
a wealthy country lies beyond—a country rich
in minerals and vegetation, and poor only in
the means and agencies of industry. Liberia shows
us what the Western shore is capable of be-
coming and the work. Even so near the equator as
the Cameroon Mountains we find within reach
of the coast a country enjoying a climate so de-
sirable for a penal settlement. On the other
side of the continent we have the eastern
section of that vast depression which is believed,
and, indeed, may now be known to be, the
interior of Africa longitudinally from the Equator
to the Cape—that wonderful lake-land,
whose inland seas, fringed by the palm growth
of the tropics, are overshadowed by the peaks
of the mystic Mountains of the Moon. Here
we have at a high altitude above the sea, a
country where the climate is so moderate that
Capt Grant walked through the whole of it
in woolen clothing, and slept every night be-
tween blankets. Seven hundred and fifty spec-
imens of plants, brought away by that traveler
and his lamented comrade, attested sufficiently
the luxuriance of vegetation there, and fertility
of the soil. As in most other parts of Africa,
so in this equatorial region, the natives lead an
easy and somewhat gluttonous existence, in the
enjoyment of Nature's ready gifts. Accord-
ing to the last accounts from Dr. Living-
stone the country southwards bears very much
the same character. The cotton plant grows
abundantly throughout the valleys and river
plains north of the Zambesi, and the whole ter-
ritory down to the Cape of Good Hope will
bear comparison for fertility with any other
part of the world of like extent.—West. Ken.

Worlds on Fire.

On the 11th of May, 1869, a great conflagra-
tion, infinitely larger than that of London or
Moscow, was announced. To use the expres-
sion of a distinguished astronomer, a world was
found to be on fire. A star, which till then
shone meekly and unobtrusively in the Corona
Borealis, suddenly blazed up into the firmament
of the second magnitude. In the course of three
days from its discovery in this new character by
Mr. Birmingham, at Tusum, it had declined to
the third or fourth order of brilliancy. In 12
days from its first apparition in the Irish hea-
vens, it was hank sunk to the eighth rank, and it
went on waning until the 29th of June, when it
ceased to be discernible except through the
medium of the telescope. This was a remarkable
though certainly not an unprecedented proceed-
ing on the part of a star; but one singular cir-
cumstance in the behaviour was that, after the
lapse of nearly two months, it began to rise
up again, though not with equal ardor, and
maintaining its glow for a few weeks and
passing through sundry phases of color it gradu-
ally paled its fire and returned to its former
insignificance. How many years had elapsed
since the conflagration actually took place it
would be presumptuous to guess; but it must
be remembered that news from the heavens,
though carried by the fleetest of messengers,
light, reach us long after the event has trans-
pired, and that the same celestial courier is still
dropping the tidings at each station it reaches
in space, until it sinks exhausted by the length
of its flight. Now when this object was ex-
tinct, as it was promptly and eagerly by Prof.
Miller and Mr. Higgins, they found that the
great wonder that it yielded two spectra—the
one imposed upon the other, though obviously
independent. There was the prismatic ribbon
crossed by dark lines, which belong to the sun
and stars generally; but there was another in
which four bright lines figured; and these, accord-
ing to the canons of interpretation pre-
viously mentioned, indicated that some lumino-
ous gas (or gases) was also pouring out its
light from the surface of the orb.

Two of these lines spelled out hydrogen in
the spectral language. What the other two
signified did not then appear; but inasmuch as
these four streaks were brighter than the rest
of the spectrum, the source from which they came
must obviously have been more heated than the
underlying parts, or photosphere, from which
the normal stellar light proceeds. And as the
star had suddenly flamed up, was it not a nat-
ural supposition that it had become wrapped
up in hydrogen, which, in consequence of some
great convulsion, had been liberated in prodig-
ious quantities, and then combining with other
elements had set this hapless world on fire.

In such a fierce conflagration the combus-
tible gas would be consumed, and the glow
would therefore, begin to decline, subject, as in
case, to a second eruption, which occasioned
the renewed outburst of light on the 20th of
August.

By such a catastrophe it is not wholly im-
probable, for a word from the Almighty were
it unclose for a few moments the bonds of affinity
which unite the elements of water—of the air
on the land, and the moisture in the ocean—a
single spark would bring them together with a
fire which would kindle the funeral pyre of the

The Family

Old England

There is a life in his island home,
Perennial among the flowers
And Liberty (it is for us) doth come,

Beware

A little theft, a small deceit,
Too often leads to more;

Future Punishment

Let the fairest soil be selected, like a beautiful
Island in the vast and shoreless sea of the

Weighing the Baby

How many pounds does the baby weigh;
Baby who came but a month ago;

Gentleness and its Reward

Two boys applied for a place in a gentleman's
warehouse. One was older than the other, and

Rowland Hill

There is a penny, said William, taking one
from a little purse which contained but very few

ONE IDEALISM

"A pea is rattling in a pan
So hot it cannot rest,

THE BANDS OF ORION

"Canst thou loose the bands of Orion?" (Job.)
The bright stars which constitute the

DO THEY REST?

"Where's thy lot to be,
'Tis the place designed for thee;

Duties

"Duties throng around thy way,
Let them fly by hand each day;

Agents

"A good sort of a man in Maine was recently
asked to subscribe for a chandelier for the

Temperance

Unexpected Fruit

More than forty years ago James S. was
an old fashioned common drunkard. Everybody

Beware

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Too often leads to more;

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BRITISH SHOE STORE

A. J. RICKARDS & CO.
Per "Etna."
LADIES' SLIPPERS

LADIES' SLIPPERS
Black Dressing Slippers
Black Carpet Slippers

BRITISH SHOE STORE

A. J. RICKARDS & CO.
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LADIES' SLIPPERS

LADIES' SLIPPERS
Black Dressing Slippers
Black Carpet Slippers

DRY GOODS

Anderson, Billings & Co's
IMPORTATIONS FOR
The Wholesale Trade

WE are in receipt of the bulk of the importations
for the Spring Trade.

WHITE & GREY COTTONS
and other Colored and Domestic of every descrip-

READY-MADE CLOTHING &c.
N.B. All the above have been laid in at low

99 GRANVILLE STREET. 99
Wholesale and Retail.

WE have received by recent arrivals the principal
part of our

SPRING STOCK
which being of the most excellent quality and

BLACK GRAPES
Mourning Goggles of all kinds, Kid Gloves, Hoop

SHAWL, MANTEL & MILLINERY ROOM
is well stocked, and both Mantle-making and

MOOSEWOOD BITTERS
FOR a period of one or more years, from the

TO LET
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LIFE IN A PILL BOX

Extraordinary Effects
Maggie's Antibilious Pills!

ONE PILL IN A DOSE!
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THE SCIENCE OF HEALTH

Every Man his own Physician
HOLLOWAY'S PILLS,

And Holloway's Ointment
Disorders of the Stomach,

Liver and Bowels.
The Stomach is the great organ which influences

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