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Poetry.

The Fisher.

BY SARAH DOUDNEY.

Sorrow, and strife, and pain,
Have crushed my spirit with relentless hand,
Long have I toiled, O Lord, and wrought
in vain,
But still, at Thy command

Into the wide blue sea,
Clinging to Thine own word, I cast the net;
Thy covenant was made of old with me,
And I will trust Thee yet.

Lord, it is hard to stand
Waiting and watching in this silent toil,
While other fishers draw their nets to land,
And shout to see their spoil.

My strength fails unawares,
My hands are weak,—my sight grows dim
with tears;
My soul is burdened with unanswered
prayers,
And sick of doubts and fears.

I see, across the deep,
The moon cast down her fetters, silver-bright,
As if to bind the ocean in his sleep
With links of living light.

I hear the roll and rush
Of waves that kiss the bosom of the beach;—
That soft sea-voice which ever seems to hush
The tones of human speech.

A breeze comes sweet and chill
Over the waters, and the night wanes fast;
His promise fails; the net is empty still,
And hope's old dreams are past!

Slow fade the moon and stars,
And in the east the new dawn faintly shines
Through dim grey shadows, flecked with
pearly bars,
And level silver lines.

But lo! what form is this
Standing beside me on the desolate shore?
I bow my knees; His garment's hem I kiss;
Master I doubt no more!

"Draw in thy net, draw in,"
He cries, "behold the straining meshes
break!"

Ah, Lord, the spoil I toiled so long to win
Is granted for Thy sake.

The rosy day blooms out
Like a full-blossomed flower; the joyous sea
Lifts up its voice; the winds of morning
shout

All glory, God, to Thee!
—SUNDAY MAGAZINE.

Religious.

The Buried Cities.

The *Scientific American* has a good article on the excavations which are being made at Pompeii, with several illustrations of the work that is being done. These and other smaller cities at the foot of Mount Vesuvius in Italy, were destroyed by an eruption of that mountain in the year 63—more than 1800 years ago. We copy the substance of the article, as the facts in relation to these buried cities are of universal interest:

To reach Pompeii from Naples, a fifty minutes' journey by the railroad which skirts the bay is necessitated. The line cuts through the great lava stream of 1794, over two thousand feet wide and forty feet thick, at the base of Vesuvius, and passes a number of little villages. On reaching his destination, the visitor pays a small admission fee, and enters at once into the streets of the ancient city.

Pompeii was partly destroyed by two earthquakes. Its inhabitants were still engaged in rebuilding the injured portion, when, on August 24, '79, a great eruption of Vesuvius overwhelmed the city and the adjacent towns of Herculaneum and Stabia. So sudden was the outbreak that the escape of the people was prevented. A dense cloud of black smoke burst forth from the crater, and settled thickly over the town, plunging it in complete darkness. Great rivers of black lava poured irresistibly down the mountain sides, filling the streets and cutting off the exit of those who had taken refuge in cellars; while others, who were attempting to leave the city by gates, were blinded by the drifting ashes and overcome by the sul-

phurous vapors. For three days this terrible infliction continued; and then, when the smoke dispersed, where once was a beautiful town there was but an arid mass of ashes, pumicestone, and hardened mud.

Centuries went by. The rich volcanic soil became covered with a profusion of vegetation, and a new town sprung up over the buried city, only to be destroyed by earthquake four hundred years after the great eruption. Pompeii then existed only in tradition; and this located the lost city several miles from the uninhabited plain under which it was eventually discovered. In the middle of the last century, the finding of relics in the vicinity induced the government to undertake systematic excavations. An inscription was soon unearthed establishing the fact that the true Pompeii had undoubtedly been found; and since that time the work of uncovering the buildings has been slowly and carefully carried on.

In opening a street the ashes are easily dug out and removed. On removing the debris from a room it is not frequently that articles are found at a height above four feet from the floor, as their weight naturally carries them downwards through the soft mass of ashes. The digging is therefore rapidly prosecuted until the above uniform level is attained. Then shovels and picks are put aside, and the ashes are taken out by hand, each workman carefully crumbling the material to powder before rejecting it.

It is believed that of the inhabitants of Pompeii thousands perished. Many hand in hand groped their way through the streets, and so escaped to the open country. At the chief gate there stood a sentinel, who sternly kept his post through the thunders of that dreadful day. He died in harness. Planted in his sentry box, he covered his mouth with his tunic, and held on against the choking and sulphurous shower. But the ashes fell and fell, and finally filled the box, and buried the soldier alive, still grasping his weapon in one hand and veiling his mouth with the other. There, after ages of rest he was found—a grisly skeleton clutching a rusty sword.

An interesting little circumstance is connected with one of these houses. The skeleton of a dove was found in a niche overlooking the garden. Like the sentinel, she had kept to her post, sat on her nest through all the storm, and from beneath her was taken the egg she would not leave.

The shops and taverns which have been exhumed are very interesting as illustrating the domestic life of the people. Eighteen hundred years ago, the baker, having placed his loaves in the oven, had closed the iron door, when he had to fly for his life. A few years since the batch was drawn. The loaves are jet black, and of stony hardness; but the marks of the baker's fingers show plainly on them. In an eating house were found raisin, olives, onions, figs, fish cooked in oil, and other articles of food, some retaining their natural appearance and all plainly recognizable.

The walls of the city, which have been traced throughout their full extent, indicate that an irregular oval area of about two miles in circumference was occupied. It has generally been supposed that the population was from 20,000 to 50,000. The streets, which for the most part run in regular lines, are with some exceptions barely wide enough to admit a single vehicle. The widest does not exceed 30 feet in breadth, and few exceed 22 feet. Five of the main streets have been partially or wholly traced; and with these a regular system of minor streets appear to have been connected. The public buildings were profusely decorated structures, and included temples of Jupiter, Mercury, and Venus, besides two theaters. The *therma* or public baths were elegantly adorned.

Until recently the excavations have proceeded slowly; but at present the Italian Government is liberally assisting the work. The space now laid bare measures about 670,000 square feet, or one third the whole area occu-

ried by the city. Signor Fiorelli calculates that, making the excavations on an average 25 feet deep, and employing 81 laborers daily, the whole city will be unearthed in 1947.

The Baptist Anniversaries

in England for the present year were occasions of more than usual interest. One excellent feature which seems to have prevailed during the past year, is a growing spirit of benevolence in the churches. This was highly encouraging for all concerned.

The BAPTIST UNION was distinguished for being, as its name indicates, a most united gathering of brethren from all parts of the Kingdom.

Dr. Landels, the retiring president referred to the effort which had been put forth during the year to establish on a firm basis an Annuity Fund. They had proposed at the beginning of the year to raise £50,000, but it had actually been raised to £52,000, and the work of canvassing the country had not been near completed. It was supposed that it would shortly be raised to £80,000.

Rev. J. T. Brown, the new president, gave an excellent opening address on "Christ and the Church."

Rev. Hugh Stowel Brown was elected Vice-President (who succeeds to the Presidents' chair the next year.)

The Secretary, Mr. Millard, retired, and Rev. S. H. Booth was elected Secretary of the Union. On his election he gave expression to a sentiment which seemed to prevail in all the sessions of the body—that in seeking to promote the objects of the Union he was sure of Divine help in attempting to do it, and any work done in the direction of promoting unity among our churches and developing more thoroughly their resources, is work done for Him who is Lord of all the Church.

The vote of thanks to the President for his address was moved by Sir Henry Havelock. In doing this he said:

After the eloquent and spiritual truth you have heard just now it is not my purpose to detain you for more than a few minutes. In listening to the words of him who is now our president, I could not but be struck with the tone in which he began; with a sense—an almost overpowering sense—of responsibility, of the greatness of the task committed to him, and which found expression in emotion almost too strong for words, was the best and soundest augury that we could hope for success in the work lying before him; in very truth it was that frame of mind which says, "Let not him that putteth on his armour boast as he who taketh it off." I felt also while listening to what fell from him all through when he gave us the one central truth to which we have all individually and collectively to cling, when he showed us that our strength as churches is in our similarity as far as may be in our personal nearness to our risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever. (Applause.) You will forgive one whose business is for the time politics, if I refer one moment or two to one or two things which struck me amongst others, as I have listened to the president. Our retiring president, Dr. Landels, the last time I met him at Birmingham in the early part of this year, was engaged in that process described as dentistry. We know how effectually he has carried it on, how large has been the measure of his success, and while he said that he left it for our incoming president to increase that sum which we have the satisfaction to hear has now reached £52,000, to £80,000 in the future, I can only say that if the incoming president succeeds in making up the half of the balance,

he will be justified in leaving the remainder to one or more of those to come after him. (Laughter.) The speaker, then referring to the allusions made by Dr. Landels in his past addresses to the Turkish atrocities, stated that those atrocities had been, through the influential assembly to which they were spoken partly instrumental in preventing the Government, in spite of themselves, giving any assistance to the Turks. (Applause.) That which was satisfactory so far had now to be carried further. The president for the year, as the representative of many public congregations all over the country, would have to see to this, for this is the danger near to us in the not very remote future, when that now inevitable war shall have broken out between Russia and Turkey, when they had to contend with the war spirit in this country, part of the task of the president, and of the congregations he represented, would be to see that the Government are not allowed on any pretence whatever to bring us into war.

He trusted that their president then entering on his year of office, would be strengthened and supported by the churches, and that the Divine blessing would rest on everything he said or did, and that when he should come to the end of his office, he might truly come rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Dr. Underhill seconded the resolution. He said, in whatever wonder and even terror, my dear friend—my old friend, as I think I may say—entered upon the duties of his office of president to-day, I am sure it can be no matter of wonder to those acquainted with him that he should be invited to occupy the post which to-day he has entered upon. Indeed, I happen to know that it has not been for want of desire on the part of his brethren that he has not occupied it before, and we were most thankful, therefore, when, at our urgent request, he at length consented to take the chair of the Baptist Union. (Applause.) I do not think we could have had in any respect one more amply representative of our body. Why, Mr. Chairman, I was almost going to say some things which they say are better said behind a man's back than before his face. My knowledge of my dear friend is so long and intimate that I almost wish he were not present that I might say a few things which I am sure are in the hearts of us all. Indeed, the subject he has taken this morning may be said, I think, to be very characteristic of our friend. Has he not been sitting at the feet of the Master, whose character he has so beautifully delineated this morning. Has he not been a learner at that school, and understood the loveliness, calmness, and simplicity of Christ? I think we shall all feel that is the case; and when we know as we do the tenderness, sweetness, and gentleness of his intercourse in the past, we cannot but feel privileged to listen to the instructions he has communicated to us to-day. I say I cannot help feeling there is much in the nature of his discourse which is very characteristic. He has been with me many a day traversing the forests of Jamaica, and we have stood together some evenings looking over the scene before us sparkling with the bright and brilliant light of the firefly, and I could not but think as he spoke that there was that in his discourse. Then if we think of his position at home. We sometimes hear of putting a man in the right place. Well, I think the Bishop of Northampton is a right reverend in the right place. Then his interest in the well being of the churches, the care and the kindness with which he has looked after those churches and the pastors who instruct them, are known to many if not all of us, and certainly we cannot but rejoice that he is placed in the position to manifest some of the admirable qualities in a far larger and wider sphere—that of the Baptist Union. (Applause.) I do not intend to detain you nor to enter into any observations upon the discourse to which we have listened. It was

a hallowed and blessed thing to lead us into the presence of our Lord. It is for us brethren simply to say in the language of one of our Lord's most loving disciples, "We know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding in Him, and that in Him is life, and eternal life." I am sure there will be no need to commend this discourse to your careful reading and study, and I am sure you will agree that it is eminently desirable to have it printed and placed in our hands, and that we may also have it in our hands in order that we may place it in the hands of others around us. I have great delight in welcoming you, Mr. Brown, to our chair, and rejoice that you have at last consented to fill the post for which you are so eminently qualified.

TEMPERANCE.

Temperance and Education at Westminster Abbey.

A conference was recently convened by the National Temperance League, and by the kind permission of Dean Stanley, was held in the Jerusalem Chamber of Westminster Abbey. The Committee of the League were hardly prepared for so large a response to the invitations they issued, and the circumstance that 400 of the representative teachers of England were willing to devote so much time to the subject may be taken as indicative of a state of things in regard to the temperance cause which is highly encouraging. Dean Stanley presided. Dr. Richardson confined his address to the physical side of the question, and most ably did he discharge the important task.

The Conference was held in the Jerusalem Chamber. It was here that Henry IV. died. Here, also, were prepared the Westminster Confession of Faith, the English Litany, the revised English Litany as rejected by Parliament, but adopted in America; and it is here that the Scriptures are at present being revised.

Tea having been served, the Conference was commenced by Dean Stanley taking the chair.

The Chairman introduced Dr. Richardson in a short, graceful speech.

Dr. Richardson said: Unless it can be shown that alcohol is not a physical necessity for man all the moral arguments against its use will lose much of their force. That it is not a necessity might be inferred from the fact that millions of men have lived and are living without using it, and that these men can undergo, at least as much physical and mental exertion, and can bear extremes of heat and cold at least as well as those who use alcohol. That its use produces injurious effects might, too, be surmised from the popular phrases (such as "gin drinker's liver," "grog blossoms," &c.) Some time ago, having discovered nitrite of amyl, and having investigated its properties, I was requested by the British Association to undertake a research into a kindred substance—alcohol. Having for thirty years or more looked upon alcohol as a necessity, I had no prejudice whatever against it, and entered upon my investigation of it with a thoroughly unbiassed mind. I was, however, after a long course of research forced to conclude that alcohol is not a necessity of the animal economy, that it is not in any sense a food, and that it does not even produce heat. Now what are its effects in the stomach? In the stomach gastric juice is secreted, and this juice transforms the colloidal foods into fluid, so that they may be absorbed into the circulation. But when alcohol is introduced into the stomach it causes the stomach to become flushed, and it retards the transformation of the colloidal foods by precipitating the pepsine, which is one of the constituents of gastric juice.—Without undergoing any material change, the alcohol leaves the stomach and enters into the general circulation. Just as the tap regulates the supply of gas to a burner, the nervous system regulates the supply of blood to the