

cheerful conversation seemed of any avail. Despairing and stubborn, the poor girl clung to Hattie constantly, declaring, "You can never go and leave me."

"Will you go with us, Marion?" queried John. "We will do all in our power for your comfort."

"Never, never!" was the weeping reply. "Blindness will be hard enough in a country where there is something to enjoy. No; if you will throw yourselves away, leave me here in my sorrow, Auntie Hammond needs me more than you do."

John sighed heavily, but Mrs. Hammond's hand was on his shoulder, and, with gentle pressure, added,

"John, I do need her, and you can trust me to provide for her. She is coming out of these deep waters by and by. There is light for our Marion behind this cloud. Oh, if she could only see it!"

Many bereaved mothers' hearts would leave an answering response, touched by a mutual grief, could they have made one in the little circle in that home, and listened to Hattie's talk of the little one who had so suddenly made her arms empty.

"I am not hindered any more now," she would say. "I used to be sad sometimes because I could not do more—help John as before, study, and sew, and write. How gladly would I have my hands tied now, mother! It seemed like such a loss," she would add, pathetically—"all those months of toil and pain and trouble; but John will not let me say it is loss, since the little life is begun so bright and happy in heaven."

"We gave his crib, high-chair, and carriage to a dear neighbor, who might keep her babe upon her knee; it was so hard, and to fold away the bright little garments so lately made. I keep thinking that it is some strange, cruel dream from which some hand will surely wake me, and that he will soon come back. But no; he will never come to us."

"But in God's own good time we shall go to him, dear," answered John.

"Yes," sighing heavily; "I do not mean to murmur nor sit down to mourn; but it is such a disappointment, and my arms ache so for their dear burden; besides, I am sure he will be afraid in heaven without his mother."

"Oh, Hattie," cried Fleda, "do you forget how tender Jesus is?—how 'he carries the lambs in his bosom'? Sister, shall I ask that he may be my special charge when I get there?"

"Oh, darling, you are not going yet;" and Hattie wept convulsively from her overcharged heart with her head on Fleda's couch.

"It will do her good," said Mrs. Hammond, in answer to John's anxious look. "She has borne her sorrow too quietly."

"Yes, mother, it will, it does, do me good," answered Hattie, lifting her head, with a smile. "I am ready to praise God for the blessings I have left. His goodness is wonderful, and I know that this bitter cup holds only love at bottom. Let me tell you one thing more about our little bird that we shall never forget. It was his share in family worship. He enjoyed our singing so. Of late it made him so happy that he must sing too, and often he would shout and make more noise than we did. Do you wonder that we break down now the little voice is hushed?"

"Hattie, it is not hushed, only your ears are too dull to hear. Angels have already taught him sweetest harmonies," said Fleda.

"May God help us to keep pace with him," answered John.

AT WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.—Pastor A. McDonald writes: An Lord's day, 2nd inst., I had the pleasure of attending to the ordinance of baptism, when two young women put on Christ in his own appointed way. Though no public notice was given the house was crowded. Though no marked interest exists among us at present, we expect before long again to visit the baptismal waters.

About a year since the American Bible Society issued their beautiful agate Bible and Testament, and the sales amount to about 400,000 copies—or 1,200 copies a day for every working day, or two copies for every minute in the day. The Bible is not an obsolete book. This is but one out of many editions published by this Society.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger. Letter from Ireland.

FROM REV. HENRY COOKS.

Mr. Editor,—

In my last letter to you I said something about the good feeling of the Irish people towards the Duke of Connaught, and their purpose to show some tangible proof of the same, by giving to him a national presentation upon his forth coming marriage. To this end a Committee was chosen, and contributions were received. I also mentioned that some of the contributors were much grieved because the selected article was national in nothing but the money that would be paid for it. I suppose I ought now to say that when the Committee resolved upon keeping the article of their choice, the aggrieved party very wisely laid aside their feelings of opposition, that there might be no division among the people in this presentation. The presentation was made to the Duke by a deputation, who waited upon His Royal Highness on March 10th for this purpose, and it was very graciously accepted by him. The present is a very valuable piece of plate, consisting of a most handsome candelabrum, valued at 20,000 dollars.

The reports given in the daily papers of the marriage of the Duke of Connaught and the Princess Margaret of Prussia were very interesting, and from them I herewith pen to you in a very condensed form the following particulars. The marriage was celebrated on Thursday, March 13th, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, at St. George's Chapel, amid great splendor and much popular enthusiasm. There was nothing wanting to make the occasion a very memorable one to all who were present, but there was everything to excite admiration and encourage hope. All was bright and lustrous, even to a clear sky, and, therefore, old Sol enhanced the dazzling brilliance by shining in the fulness of his March strength and glory upon the scene. The bride looked charming in the midst of the brilliant surroundings, dressed in white silk, trimmed with myrtle flowers, (the myrtle being the wedding flower in Germany,) and a long lace veil suspended with a wreath of orange blossoms. The bridesmaids were eight in number, and were dressed precisely alike, in white satin, embroidered with silk and trimmed with flowers, consisting of wild roses, the Prussian cornflower, the Scotch heather, and the Irish shamrock. To insure uniformity in their dresses, Truth says, "They were all made by one milliner, and that they were charged fifty guineas each," (that is about 252 dollars). "One article of special interest that was worn on the occasion," says a London correspondent, "was the magnificent Brussels lace trimming on the train of the Princess Beatrice. It formed part of the trousseau of the late Duchess of Kent, and was given to the Princess some years ago by the Queen. The collection of lace belonging to the Princess Beatrice can hardly be equalled. It contains a part of that magnificent Alencon which was found in a lumber-room some years ago at St. James's Palace, and which is reputed to be worth about £20,000, (96,000 dollars.) It dates from the time of Henry VIII."

The preparations made at Windsor Castle for the Royal marriage were on an exceedingly grand and costly scale. The old Castle was full of visitors. St. George's Hall presented an enchanting spectacle, for here the great body of the guests partook of refreshments while the Royal party breakfasted in the dining-room, and at either end of the hall was placed a magnificent buffet, on which were piled a portion of the gold-plate of Windsor Castle, which is said to be richer than any other royal residence in the world. It is reported to be worth about 8,640,000 dollars. "It includes a gold service ordered by George IV., which will dine 140 persons, and the same monarch added to the collection one of the finest wine-coolers in the world, a shield formed of snuff-boxes worth 43,200 dollars, and thirty dozen plates worth 48,000 dollars. There are also a variety of pieces brought from abroad and from India; the latter includes a peacock of precious stones of every kind worth 144,000 dollars, and Tippeo's footstool, a tiger's head with

crystal teeth and a solid ingot of gold for his tongue." After the breakfast the Duke and Duchess drove to Claremont, where they will remain for a few days. Claremont is a domain and royal palace of England, in the parish of Esher, County Surrey, about 15 miles S. W. from London. It belonged to the late king of the Belgians, and was the residence in which Louis Philippe, the ex-king of France, died in exile. After his death the ex-royal family of France continued to reside there. It is a beautiful place.

In my last to you I referred to the consumption of intoxicating drinks in Ireland,—that from an authentic report it was on the increase. It is to be hoped, however, when the Sunday's closing bill has been in operation for one year, we will have better news to write on this subject. It has been in operation only a few months, and already we hear from all parts of the island that much good is resulting from it. I have before me a later report of the drink and its cost, not for Ireland only, but for the United Kingdom for the year 1878. The report tells a sad tale. In looking through it, I find that the total quantity of intoxicating liquors of all kinds consumed in the United Kingdom for the year referred to was 1,134,816,754 gallons, and that the total cost was 682,506,520 dollars. The past year has been a year of great depression in trade, and thousands of men have been out of employment for months on a stretch, and consequently there has been great distress, and yet there has been spent in fermented liquors about 872,000 dollars more than in the year 1877. There has been a considerable falling off in wines and spirits, the supposed beverage of the upper and middle classes, but there has been a considerable increase in the consumption of beer, the supposed drink of the working classes. If these suppositions are correct, they do not speak well for the bone and sinew of England. The Bishop of Manchester, presiding at a meeting in Blackburn not long ago, stated that the working classes in Great Britain received annually £450,000,000 (2,160,000,000 dollars), and they spent in drink and tobacco £100,000,000 (480,000,000 dollars). He then appealed to the working classes to practise thrifty habits. I could say Amen to such an appeal, for I am fully persuaded if our working men would but cease to spend their money in this vile worthless trash, a vast amount of the misery and squalid poverty and family sorrow would soon disappear. It is estimated that the beer-shops and gin-palaces of London are so numerous that their frontages, if placed side by side, would stretch a distance of sixty-two miles. Some time ago the good-will of a gin-palace in London was sold for 250,000 dollars. Look at the figures again, and the item purchased,—250,000 dollars for the good-will of an old grog-shop. Equally as much money as was given by the Baptist denomination of Great Britain for foreign missions for their last fiscal year. Is not this awful? What a fearful story it tells. The World says, "The nett profits divided by the eight partners in Bass & Co.'s brewery last year amounted to £420,000 (2,016,000 dollars). The drink business is a profitable concern, no doubt, for a few, but a woefully impoverishing and soul demoralizing business for thousands."

From a report of the United States drink bill, I find that it is a little more favorable than the one of the United Kingdom, and yet we cannot give the people of that Great Republic any special honor for it, because we think this even is anything but what it ought to be; for during the last year they consumed 317,465,600 gallons of fermented liquors, at a cost of about 596,000,000 dollars. I do not know what the Dominion is doing in this line of business, as I have not the latest report. One thing is certain, and that is, it is not free from its baneful curse.

The Messenger for March 5th is just to hand, and full of good things as it always is. The one for the previous week did not reach me, and I missed it much. I rejoice that the Baptist Zion is prospering in your provinces.

Ballymena, Ireland, March 20th.

In cases of charity where both men and women claim relief, the latter should be first assisted; if there should not be enough for both, men should cheerfully relinquish their claims.

For the Christian Messenger. Letter from Germany.

(From our correspondent.)

ECHOES FROM ACROSS THE SEA—NEWS FROM THE FATHERLAND.

BERLIN, March 4, 1879.

There is no doubt that Bismarck's plans in persisting in his efforts to oppose free-trade and to increase the already enormous military system are meeting with determined opposition. He has at last aroused genuine hostility. Should he persist in his present course—and he can scarcely draw back—the chances are that he will be defeated; and the general expectation is that in that case he will appeal to the country. Among the constituencies, as in Parliament, he will find resolute enemies; for although many manufacturers would approve of partial protection, few of them like the idea of a complete departure from the principles of free-trade. This was proved by the discussions of the delegates recently sent to Berlin by Chambers of Commerce; they were almost unanimous in condemning beforehand, any such schemes as those which are now to be submitted to the Reichstag. It is, however, by no means certain that the manufacturers represent popular opinion. Prince Bismarck is confident that he will be enthusiastically supported by the higher and the lower ranks of society; and those who know Germany best suspect that his confidence is well founded. When there are classes even in adjoining countries favorable to disguised protection, it would not be very wonderful if in a time of depression a majority of Germans fancied that protection—"pure and simple" was the sole remedy for their difficulties. The impulse of exporters to Germany is to decide off-hand that even if he obtains a majority his plan will break down in the progress of execution. And if the Chancellor's intention was to impose high duties merely on articles of luxury this view would probably be correct. The Germans are a thrifty people, and willingly deny themselves pleasures which they cannot easily buy. But unless Prince Bismarck is greatly misunderstood, his revised tariff will include necessities of life as well as articles of luxury. The consequences, however, will be disastrous. Both Germany and Europe will have good reason to dread the existence of a vast army over which the people will virtually have lost all control. That the general trade of the empire will be still further depressed is as certain as any other result of immutable laws. Large masses of workmen are already thrown out of employment; yet their rents must be raised, and they will have to pay higher prices for food and clothing. No particular insight is needed to perceive how this must affect the Socialist agitation. Prince Bismarck and his supporters try to persuade themselves that Socialism has been almost stamped out by the exceptional legislation of last autumn; but the recent election at Breslau tells a very different tale. The Socialist leaders have been silenced, but they are as hard at work as ever, and while the laboring class sinks into deeper poverty their influence is intensified by persecution. A protectionist Parliament is likely to foster Socialism, not only by increasing the prevailing distress, but by granting to Prince Bismarck those State monopolies which he has hitherto sought in vain. They will be regarded by the Socialists as the first step towards that ideal Government which is to regulate the whole industrial life of the nation. The Government finances of Germany are also in a very mysterious condition. The outside world has never known what became of the one thousand million of dollars France paid as war indemnity. Ever since receiving that prodigious sum Germany has been in a state of bankruptcy, and her Budget for the past year is a long way to the bad. And this is what is frightening the people into emigration.

From several American papers which I have recently received I have noticed some severe comments on the drugging and adulteration of French wines exported to the United States. These charges are evidently based on the reports of Consuls and the recent publications of Mr. Wetmore, who was sent to Europe last year by the wine-growers of California to investigate this matter. There is no denying the fact that the

markets of the world are inundated with spurious and poisonous preparations called wines, especially London "sherris," concocted especially for public-houses, in the subterranean laboratories of that city.

The patents lately granted in Germany for inventions in connection with the art of war include one for a range-finder by which distances can be ascertained without the necessity of measuring a base. The instrument consists of a telescope, in which are arranged three wires, two vertical and one horizontal; the two former being adjusted very accurately at a certain distance apart. The telescope rests in a stand, the lower part of which moves round a horizontal table. When it is required to measure the distance of an object the telescope is directed upon the latter so that the left-hand wire exactly cuts or coincides with some well-defined part of it, this particular portion of the distant object being also brought into the neighborhood of the horizontal wire. The telescope is then turned with its stand until the right-hand wire cuts the same part of the object. The greater the distance of the latter the larger will be the amount of displacement which it will be necessary to give the telescope, and this being shown by the movement of the stand on the horizontal table the distance can be read off from a scale marked on the latter.

Louis.

For Christian the Messenger.

United States Correspondence.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Mch. 17, 1879.

The failure of the last Congress to take any effective steps to prevent another outbreak of yellow fever or the introduction of pestilence from abroad, has aroused general attention to the matter and to our defenseless condition should the advent of hot weather arouse into fatal activity the pest germs, hidden away in a thousand lurking places in the territory ravaged last fall by the fever; Or, should the plague, now decimating portions of Northern Europe find lodgment in the cargoes of vessels bound to ports in this country and be set free on their arrival to sow the seeds of death and business-ruin all over the continent. Southern members of Congress who put a party dogma before the lives and material interests of their constituents are being made the recipients of many reminders that their vote against the national quarantine bill on the plea that it was an invasion of "State rights" is not approved by many of those who experienced something of the terrors of the reign of "Yellow Jack" last Autumn. A bill substantially as follows has been prepared and will be introduced on the first opportunity:

"That the Secretary of the Treasury be authorized to contract with Mr. John Gamgee for the construction of a steel refrigerating steam vessel, to be used at the quarantine of such of the Gulf Ports as may be recommended by the National Board of Health, with the consent of State authorities, to disinfect vessels and cargoes from ports suspected of infectious Yellow Fever.

The construction of said vessel to be under the inspection of an officer of the Bureau of Steam Engineering of the Navy, to be selected by the Secretary of the Navy, and for the purpose of such construction the sum of two hundred thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to be immediately available, is hereby appropriated out of any monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated."

Since Prof. Gamgee brought his plan of fighting the fever to the notice of the authorities, extensive experiments have been made with it at the Navy Yard here under Government supervision, with uniformly satisfactory results, it is said.

The war opened recently against ritualism at the annual meeting of Episcopal ministers in Baltimore, has occasioned quite a flutter in church circles here; and the feeling seems to be that the contest must go on till a decision against it is reached, or a permanent separation between the high and low church factions shall divide the American branch of that sect in twain.

The President's veto of the Chinese emigration bill did not arouse that degree of comment that it would, had it come at any other time than during the worry and hurly-burly of the closing hours of a session of Congress. Pre-occupied as everyone was with matters