Reading.

IN FLORENCE CHURCHES.

The Story of St. Laurence-Some of the Work of Michael Angelo.

Writing of the church of San Lorenzo, in Florence, Mac D. Fraser has this to say in the Boston Times:

Looking at the exterior of the church one would never guess at the wealth of beauty of the interior. The first basilica that occupied this site was the oldest in Forence, and was built as a thank-offering by a certain matron named Giuliana, who had vowed to build a church and dedicate it to St. Lawrence, should that saint intercede for her with heaven and so procure for her the blessing of children.

Her prayers prevailed and the church was dedicated by St. Ambrose. But after a thousand years lit fell a victim to flames and had to be rebuilt. So Brunelleschi remodelled the building, and the people gave large sums for the work, while Giovanni de Medici and his son Cosimo supplied vast moneys, that nothing be wanting that Lould make the church a glory to Florence.

In the nave are two curious bronze pulpits, oblong in shape, that were used for discussing questions of theology. One is the work of Donatello and the other of one of his pupils, Bertoldo.

At the lett is a striking fresco of St. Laurence's martyrdom, the saint to whom the church is dedicated. St. Laurence is one of most reverenced in the Roman church, for his life was devoted to the converting of Rome, and to the interests of the poor and afflicted.

At the time he lived the church had acquired quite considerable wealth which the Emperor Valerian desired to become possessed of, and the perfect of Rome was sent to St. Lawrence to obtain what property the church owned. The perfect said to him that as the God whom the church worshiped brought nothing into the world and was rich only in good words, it was therefore only necessary that His church should have the same riches.

St. Laurence acknowledged that the church had many treasures and asked for three days to gather these together. At the end of this time he brought to the periect all the poor of the city whom the church supported—the lame, the blind and those covered with hideous sores, together with a large number of widows and

The perfect was furious, and demanded why he should be shown these wretches. Then St. Laurence said:

sort; these are the real treasures of the church, these souls that she saves.

For the insult thus offered the emperor, Rome and the perfect, a huge gridiron was brought, under which was placed a bed of glowing coals, and St. Laurence was bound upon this and slowly roasted. It is said that when one side of his body was burnt hideously, he smilingly asked the executioner to turn to the fire the other side, saying that this one was sufficiently broiled.

Before the high altar there is, in the pavement, a circular space inlaid with porphyry and marble, where one reads and understanding, the spirit of counsel "Pater Patriae." This is the memorial that covers the last resting place of Cosimo de Medici, who received this title by a public decree, made a year after his death.

In the old sacristy are buried the father and mother of Cosimo, who were the true founders of the house of the Medici.

From one of the trancepts entrance may be made to the new sacristy, built by Michael Angelo to contain grand monuments to

the two Medici, Giuliano and Lorenzo. Giuliano was a son of Lorenzo the Magnificent and a younger brother of Pope Leo X.—the pope who had been made a cardi- his mouth, and with the breath of his lips and brilliancy of color, surpass anything nal at thirteen years of age, who succeeded Julius II.. who concluded the concordat with the king of France, and who issued the indulgences to pay for the completion of St. Peters, and so gave Luther an opportunity to start the reformation.

Figures of Day and Night, by Michael Angelo, adorn the monument of this Giuliano, who was duke of Nemours, elected so

The second monument is that to Lorenzo, whose father was Piero de' Medici This Lorenzo was made a duke of Urbino by his | kind of men one would have expected to uncle Leo X., and he married into the be employed for the purpose. The test, royal family of France and became the father of Catherine de Medici, who married | Beecher speaking of this peculiarity illus-

The figure of the seated Lorenzo upon this tomb is often called "Thought," as there is such a depth of meditation expressed in the pose and in the features. At the et are two beautiful symbolic figures representing Twilight and Dawn. Mrs. place, here is an obstruction, here is a structed chapels and monasteries about the browning says of this work of Michael headland, here are the rocks, this way is a original edifice, which is in the hands of Angelo:

"Not without a meaning did he place, Princely Urbino on the seat above With everlasting shadow on his face; While the slow dawns and twilights disapprove
The ashes of his long-extinguished race,
Which never more shall clog the feet of men."

In this chapel there is also a "Virgin and Child" by the great master, but the group was left unfinished. The Grand Duke Ferdinand III lies at rest, back of the altar, in a sepulchre.

The Medicean chapel was founded to fashioned hospitality is on the decline. that bewild the Holy Sepulchre that Ferdinand I. Families more and more shut their family splendor." expected to bring away from Jerusalem. An Eastern prince had come to the Grand Duke, from the northern part of Syria, and had disclosed to him a plan by which this sacred relic could be wrested from the

The fleet sent by Ferdinand reached Syria safely and the man who had propos-

a grand cemetery for the family of Grand comparatively few hostesses understand Dukes, and the walls were encrusted with the art of making a guest comfortable.

Psalm 103: 13.

precious marbles—jasper, agate, lapis lazuli and malachite. Exquisite designs are done in the smooth beautiful mosaics of Florence, and the armorial bearings of the states and cities of Tuscany that the Medici ruled are also done in mosaics, rich and glowing.

Ranged about this splendid chapel are the tombs of the family, with cenotaphs for those who are buried elsewhere. There is a statue in gilt bronze of Ferdinand I. the work of John of Bologna, and one of Cosimo II, by Tacca, the pupil of John of

There is a great cushion represented, made of the most rare marbles, inlaid with precious stones, and upon this is placed the grand ducal crown. This crown differs from all others to be seen in Europe and was designed by Clement VII.-Giulio de Medici-for it was he who also invented the title "Grand Duke."

This chapel is eight-sided, and the roof having also eight sections is adorned with beautiful frescoes, the work of a modern artist, Benvenuti, who was director of the Academy at Florence.

GOD AN ORATOR.

The Lord Himself Claims His Mission was to Talk to Mankind.

The Orator of the universe is Jesus Christ. His mission was to reveal God's love through human expression, to appeal to man's moral and spiritual nature to assert its dominion over the animal, and to seek its immortality and endless glory in divine truth. The most wonderful and perplexing person in the history of the human race is Jesus Christ. Men have been divided in regard to his claims and his mission, and have differed in the epithets applied to him. Struck with his wonderful, perfect, hum in qualities, some have cried, "Behold the Man!" Others, amazed at the manifestation of supernatural and spiritual power, have exclaimed, "Behold the God!" It may also be said of Christ, when the field of his mighty It could not be matched to-day in the best work as a preacher is surveyed, "Behold the Orator!"

If he wrought no miracles, as some say he did not, then he must have drawn the multitudes, that followed him so often by his power as a speaker. We do not wish black ink, without a scratch or blot from "The gold that you wish is a mere vile to detract anything from Christ's divine lid to lid. At the beginning of each chapter metal that incites men to crimes of every glory, but we are sincere and honest when the first letter is very large, usually two or we declare that, unless Christ is studied as ed in red and blue ink. Within each of an orator, much of the truth he has taught | these capitals is drawn the figure of some will not only fail to impress, but can hardly saint; some incident of which the chapter be truly comprehended.

an orator, when our Lord himself claims that his mission was to speak to mankind. oratorical nature. "The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and might, the spirit of knowledge and the tear of the Lord: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he destroy the wicked." What higher equipment could be given a speaker than these gitts, wisdom, understanding, counsel, knowledge; or in what terms could his mission be more his life were to be oratorical. He was power of oratory then these words convey? By no weapon of war, by no exertion of material or supernatural forces was Christ to subdue the world, but by the gentle yet powerful implements of eloquence, the mouth and the breath.

Bible Writers. however, is that of experience. Mr. Robert Small offers him one that he had made with the point of a burned stick when with contempt. "But," says Small, "it is correct; I have been a pilot in that harbor and I know it is right. Here is a shallow safe passage, deep water and clear sailing."
The admiral looks at it again and he orders a cutter manned and soundings taken. He finds it is all as Small had put it and he says: "This is a good chart if a negro did make it. It is true; that is why it is good." the way of safety.

Home Hospitality.

It is frequently stated that good oldfashioned hospitality is on the decline. life carefully from the world, and few are privileged to enter the inner circles of the home. This cannot be helped, and perhaps should not even be deprecated. The effect of civilization and of culture is always to promote and emphasize the individuality of persons and of families, and to make repugnant the promiscuous companionship of ed to steal the sepulchre, gained entrance the crowd or of strangers. A change has to the church with some companions, and also come over those who should be guests. began absolute work upon the sepulchre It is a common thing for lecturers, writers with saws. They were discovered and and distinguished people who travel, to in- tute and not despise their prayer". Psalm were obliged to fly and abandon the work, which was a great disappointment to Ferping at hotels. There is in many homes "Like" too little elasticity in home life; things are Cosimo II. decided to use the chapel as too much fixed in certain routines, and the Lord pitieth them that fear him'

WORK FOR ALL.

Who Could Have Thought He Would Have Chosen Me.

Your life may be cast in humble lines, and you may not be brilliant in prayer or exhortation; yet you may, if you will, do some service, however simple, for the Master's sake. A beautiful story is told in connection with the work of the Countess He will not hear". Isaiah 59: 1, 2. of Huntingdon among the colliers in the English Black Country. Finding that many of these poor miners had never heard of Christ, she sent out preachers to hold meetings among them in the open air. Whitefield, Venn, the Wesleys, were among her helpers. In a cabin on her estate there was a crippled blind girl, named Eliza Poulard who heard of this great work. She was carried to the castle. and asked to see Lady Huntingdon. "Can I help?" she inquired, humbly. "I never have done anything for God." The ser- friends, especially those that dwell in the vants would have driven her away, but the countess interfered. "She is lame and blind, and scared of her own voice," they said. "God calls his own messengers." replied the countess. "Carry her to the meeting to-night at the mines.

Eliza had learned many hymns, and her voice was a most touching one. When she sang to the colliers of Christ upon the cross, the women cried out and the men wept. No words of the preachers were as powerful as the song of the poor cripple. They carried her from one place to another, and many people were converted. When hind, but he would not allow himself to be Lady Huntingdon told her of the souls she caught. On the way to their new home, had influenced for good, her poor face grew beautiful. "Who would have thought He along by the carriage. He accompanied would have chosen me," she said.

Not all of God's chosen instruments are eminent and gifted. A word in season, a took up his abode in the neighborhood, kind deed, an arm to help, a simple song and continued till he died, attending upon may touch the heart, where elequence and them in their walks. persuasion have tailed.

EVERY PAGE BEAUTIFUL-

A Wonderful Copy of the Bible Which is Treasured at Washington.

The most beautiful volume among the half million in the Congressional Library at Washington is a Bible which was transcribed by a monk in the thirteenth century. printing office in the world. The parchment is in perfect preservation. Every one of its thousand pages is a study. The general lettering is in German text, each letter perfect, as is every one, in cold three inches long, and is brightly illuminattells is illustrated. There are two columns It is exceedingly strange that nothing on a page, and nowhere is traceable the has been written on the subject of Christ as slightest irregularity of line, space or formation of the letters. Even under a magnitying glass they seem flawless. This The prophet Isaiah speaks of Christ's mission in terms which clearly indicate its which is sometimes litted to show that all the pages are as perfect as the two which lie open. A legend relates that a young man who had sinned deeply became a monk and resolved to do penance for his misdeeds. He determined to copy the Bible, that he might learn every letter of the divine commands which he had violated. Every day for many years he patiently pursued his task. Each letter was wrought in reverence and love, and the patient soul found its only companionship in the saintly clearly indicated? Even the very acts of | faces which were portrayed on these pages. When the last touch was given to the last not to judge the world with the sword, nor letter, the old man reverently kissed the with the authority of a divine power, but, pages and folded the sheets together. The "He shall smite the earth with the rod of illustrated initials, in perfection of form will he slay the wicked." Could there be produced in the present day. With all a more striking description of the mighty our boasted progress, nothing either in Europe or America equals it.

HIS BIRTHPLACE.

Some Features of Bethlehem as it is at

Bethlehem to-day is a very picturesque hill town. Thirty years ago visitors esti-One was a shepherd, two were fishermen, mated its population at 3,000, but now one a tax-collector and so on. Not the Baedeker puts it down at 8,000. It has shared the activity and the progress which have visited the entire region. "The houses are uniformly of stone," says Mr. Charles Henry II. Catherine was the only child of trated it by supposing that a great admiral A. Dana, in some recent notes of a visit to this marriage, as her father died a few days wanted a chart of some difficult harbor. Palestine, "and when we sought to approach the great church of the nativity we found the principal streets torn up in the progress he was a slave. The admiral rejects it of laying down sewers, and were obliged to get down and go on toot. The church is a vast and complicated pile of buildings, the Latins and the Armenians having conthe orthodox Greek communion. Here, as in Jerusalem, a guard of Turkish soldiers constantly attends in the entrance of the church to keep the disagreeing sort of Christians out of violent quarrels with each other. The church dates back to the first That is why we prize the Bible. It shows half of the fourth century. The architecture of the interior is simple, severe and most impressive, but some of the attached chapels are crowded with crucifixes, lamps ot gold and silver, pictures and tapestries that bewilder the eye with their variety and

Messages of help for the Week.

"O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker. For he is our God: and we are the people of his pasture. . . To-day if ye will hear his voice. Harden not your heart".

"He will regard the prayer of the desti-

"Like as a father pitieth his children, so

"Lift up now thine eyes, and look from ' H. C. CREIGHTON, Ass. Supt.

the place where thou art". Gen. 13; 15. "Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon Him while He is near". Isaiah

"The Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear; I'ut your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His tace from you that

"But now O Lord, thou are our father: we are the clay, and thou the potter; we are all the work of thy hand. Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity forever; behold, see, we beseech thee, we are all thy people". Isaiah 64:

LOVE OF BIRDS.

If They Receive Kindness They Will Re-

At this season when, owing to snow and frost, the birds have rather a hard time of it, securing food for the nest, our young country, can make some very pleasant acquaintances among the teathered tribes by providing for their wants from the superabundance of the home table. Two ladies had a somewhat remarkable experience with a robin which they had treated kindly. Whenever they walked out the robin would accompany them, though it was observed one sister was a greater favorite than the other. It this lady went out the robin would accompany her at once. The sisters after a time went to live elsewhere, and were in great grief at leaving the bird bethem all the way, and the next morning was pecking as usual at their window. He

Parents and Daughters. The poorest girls in the world are those who have never been taught to work. There are thousands of them. They have been taught to despise labor, and depend upon others for a living, and are perfectly helpless. The most forlorn and miserable women belong to this class. It belongs to parents to protect their daughters from this deplorable condition. They do them a great wrong if they neglect it. Every daughter ought to be taught to earn her own living. The rich are very likely to become poor and the poor rich The good Lord, whose Son worked with his own hands, intended that none should be idle.

How To Understand the Bible.

Spurgeon used to sav the Bible was like a beautiful cavern. When you enter a cavern you inquire for a guid with his ligthed flambeau. He conducts you down a considerable depth, and you find yourself in the midst of the cave. He leads you through different chambers. Here he points you to a little stream rushing from amid the rocks, and indicates its progress. The Bible is a grand series of caverns. It is our glory to have so great and wise a conductor as the Holy Spirit. He is a light shining in the midest of us to

A Centleman

Who formerly resided in Connecticut, but who now resides in Honolulu, writes: "Fe-20 years past, my wife and I have used Ayer's Hair Vigor, and we attribute to it the dark hair which she and I now have, while hundreds of our acquaintances, ten or a dozen years younger than we, are either gray-headed,

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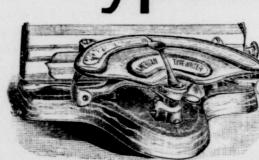
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