

The Family Treasury.

On Literary Exhaustion.

BY AN EXHAUSTED POET.

Whatever shall I write about?
And yet they tell me I must write!
However can I write without
Material or appetite?

Walking With God.

The difficulty which most people have in religion is to bring the thoughts of God into their daily lives.
His very greatness makes it hard to connect him with homely, every-day matters.

Science of Things Familiar.

Pick up a pebble; pluck a flower; put a seed, or a grain of sand, or the tiniest insect under the lenses of a microscope; examine every article that comes within vision; scan the heavenly bodies; regard the human body, and it will be found that all solids and objects of every description, animate and inanimate, have only two kinds of surfaces, plane and curved, which are bounded or terminated by only two kinds of lines, straight and curved.

nose is triangular; the neck is cylindrical; the heart is a cone; the tapering fingers are conical and the bones are hollow cylinders, whilst the whole body in outline shows the most graceful and beautiful curves.
The proportions of the human figure are strictly mathematical.

Study the Bible.

What with the attractive accessories of Sunday School lesson papers and cards, there is getting to be a deplorable lack of good, faithful, earnest, old-fashioned study of the Bible.
We must have more Bible study in our homes, not such as we get by hearing the truths of God expounded in the pulpit, not such as we may get in the Sabbath School, not such as we may get anywhere save in our own room, with our Bible open before us, and the light of God's Holy Spirit shining upon it.

A Child Saved.

In his Sunday morning sermon at the Good Hope, Philadelphia, Mr. Moody gave an account of a young lady who was sent to a fashionable boarding-school, where she met one faithful Christian, whose example and influence led to her conversion.
When she returned home her parents were annoyed to find her a Christian, for they wanted her to mingle in the first circles. Here the speaker broke off with a bold and striking apostrophe.

The Oldest Bible Manuscripts.

The two most ancient manuscripts of the Bible known are the Codex Sinaiticus of the Imperial Library at St. Petersburg, and the Codex Vaticanus of the Vatican Library at Rome, both of which are believed to have been written about the middle of the fourth century, A.D.
The Sinaiticus, so called because it was obtained (in 1859) from the convent of St. Catherine on Mount Sinai, is supposed by Tischendorf, its discoverer, to be one of the fifty copies of the Scriptures which the Emperor Constantine directed to be made for Byzantium, in the year 331, under the care of Eusebius of Caesarea.

mined he should not go to the Sunday School. She gladly consented, and opened week by week his young heart to the truths of Christianity.
Shortly afterward his foot slipped when he was peddling his apples at the window of a railway carriage, and the train went over both his legs. He asked the doctor who was dressing his horrible wounds, "Doctor, shall I live to get home?"

A Bath in the Dead Sea.

Greatly relieved and refreshed, we pursued our journey. As we came in sight of the Dead Sea, we noticed that peculiar hazy appearance of the atmosphere, reminding us of Indian summer in our own country, and we found ourselves subject to that singular optical illusion sometimes produced by a very transparent and highly rarified atmosphere, in which distant objects appear quite near.
At a certain point, when we were some five miles distant, it seemed as if we were within half a mile of the shore. Reaching, at length, this most remarkable of all the seas and lakes on our globe, we prepared to take a bath—and such a bath I can hardly expect ever to take again.

How Do You Pray Now?

"How do you pray now, grandpa?" said a little four-year-old boy in Forestville, Ct., as he stood looking up into the face of his grandpa, who stood with his overcoat on, just ready to start for the cars and return home some forty miles away in Westfield, Massachusetts.
He had come down the night before to see his son, arriving wet and weary, and failing to find him at home, he had waited till morning, and was now preparing to depart without seeing him; and having overslept, and being in some haste to reach the cars in season, family worship had been omitted.

Hindoo Religion: Buddhism.

The religion of Buddha, or Fo, as it is sometimes called in China, may well be styled "one of the best forms of religion ever invented by man."
It inculcates benevolence, humility, piety, and in all things moderation. It has no sacrifices, and none of its rites are obscene, secret, or cruel. Its sacred books are open to the perusal and study of every one; and this fact alone is one of the guarantees of the good faith of its founder.

Whales.

Little Henry had been reading in his new book about a whale that shivered a boat to pieces, throwing the men and pieces of the boat high in the air.
There was a picture of the scene—the ship in the distance, the shattered fragments of the boat, and several sailors in the air, the sea around lashed into foam by the angry monster, and two or three boats nearly swamped by the waves.

vellum, each 10 1/2 inches high and 10 broad. Both manuscripts are written in Greek uncials, or capital letters, are without spaces between the words, and have no marks of punctuation.
Appleton's American Cyclopaedia, revised edition, article "Manuscripts."

Christian Homes.

Above all, take into your homes thorough Christian principle. Can it be that in any of the comfortable homes of my congregation the voice of prayer is never heard?
It is a pointed question to ask, and therefore, I ask it? At night, is there no petition for protection? In the morning, is there no thanksgiving for care? Are you raising your children without any inculcation of Christian principle?
How will you feel at the judgment seat of Christ when you are called to answer for your parental neglects? In the tenth chapter of Jeremiah is the startling prediction that God will pour out his fury upon the families that call not upon the Lord.

Watching for the Prodigal.

He will come home
In the rush and roar of rain,
With a cry of pleading pain,
And cling to me again
As of old, as of old,
In the dying of the day,
When the sun's last rosy ray
Has faded from the chequered by the gate,
He will come along the road,
Underneath the branches broad
Of the old vine where his father used to wait.

Willie's Lesson.

"Now, Willie," said Mrs. Brooks, as she put an apple turnover, two doughnuts, a biscuit, and a very apple into his bright tin dinner pail, "be sure and stop at grandma's, and get that bottle of goose oil she promised me.
You had better stop on your way to school, and take it with you; then you will be quite sure of it. Now, do not forget, dear, for baby seemed croupy last night, and as your papa is away, I could not get the doctor, if he was taken sick in the night, and I do not know what I should do without the goose oil."

Obedience.

If you're told to do a thing,
And mean to do it really,
Never let it be by halves—
Do it fully, freely!
Do not make a poor excuse,
Waiting, weak, unsteady,
All obedience worth the name
Must be prompt and ready.

For the Young Folk.

Obedience.
BY PIGEON CARRY.
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And mean to do it really,
Never let it be by halves—
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Story-Telling.

More than thirty years ago there was a little boy in Glasgow who was very fond of stories. He was accustomed to go in the afternoon to a neighbor's house where stories were told all round by boys like himself.
There were stories told about robbers, and stories about ghosts—foolish stories! And stories about poor boys who went to rich London and became great men; and stories about sailor boys who had been shipwrecked and cast on desert islands in the midst of the tumbling sea—fine stories!

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"Are our whale-bones made out of whale's ribs?" asked Henry.
"By no means. They all come from the whale's mouth."
"From its mouth! Why, how funny! Please tell me all about it, father!"

"The Bible does not say in the Old Testament that it was a whale, but a 'great fish'; and the Greek word in the New Testament is incorrectly translated whale.
It might have been a shark, or some other species of fish, with which we are not acquainted. We are certain that it was not a right whale, at least."

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MARCH 1, 1876.]

LITERARY NOTICES.

Common Sense in the Household: a manual of practical housewifery. By Marian Harland. Toronto: Belford Bros., publishers.

The Canada Educational Directory and Year Book, for 1876. Hunter, Rose & Co.

The New Poems of Jean Ingelow, John G. Whittier, and Henry W. Longfellow. Toronto: Belford Brothers. Price \$1.

Prayer and its Remarkable Answers: being a statement of facts in the light of reason and Revelation. By W. W. Patton, D.D. Chicago: J. S. Goodman. Toronto: Burrage & Magurn.

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Sermons by the Rev. Frederick Brooks, late Rector of St. Paul's, Cleveland. The interest of these sermons will lie largely amongst the circles to which the author stood personally or ecclesiastically related.

Brethren in the Keelewoods. By Rev. J. Moir Paterson. This is a volume of some 200 pages, whose object is an exposure of the heresies of "Plymouthism," an object cleverly and very effectually reached.

Restorationism. Two Sermons by Rev. J. Garry, B.D., with a reply to Mr. Oxenham's letter. Toronto: Hart & Rawlinson.

and two chapters of Edward Everett Hale's story, "Philip Nolan's Friend." In Topics of the Time, Dr. Holland discusses "Literary Virility," "The Common Schools," and "Public Halls."

The following are the contents of The Edinburgh Review for January, lately republished by the Leonard Scott Publishing Co., 41 Barclay Street, New York.

The British Quarterly Review for January, republished by the Leonard Scott Publishing Co., New York, contains as follows:

In St. Nicholas for March Mr. Whittier's "Pressed Gentian" will attract special attention. Foreign scenery, indeed, enters largely into the composition of the number.

Little's Living Age.—Numbers 1654 and 1655 of the Living Age, dated respectively February 19th and 26th, have the following valuable contents:

Restorationism. Two Sermons by Rev. J. Garry, B.D., with a reply to Mr. Oxenham's letter. Toronto: Hart & Rawlinson.

BRIEF CHURCH ITEMS.

The revival at Cannington, Ont., still progresses. The Methodists of Brussels have raised \$2,700 towards the erection of their new church.

It was expected that some twelve persons would receive the ordinance of baptism in the Cornwall (P. Q.) Methodist Church on Sunday last.

Very interesting items of Church work, from the London North Circuit, have been received from Rev. Charles Stringfellow, and will appear next week.

On last Wednesday evening the Rev. J. H. McCarty, of Watford, was presented with a valuable buffalo-robe and a purse of money, accompanied by a suitable address.

Special services are again being conducted in the Methodist Church, Clifton, Ont. Prospects are good. The Society is much enlarged and greatly prospering under the superintendence of Rev. J. E. Lancelley.

Very interesting items of Church work from Leamington, Ont., will appear in next week's GUARDIAN, from the pen of Rev. J. I. Kerr, including the reception of over sixty persons into the membership of the Church.

Missionary Sermons were preached on Sunday last in the Simcoe Street Methodist Church, Hamilton, by Revs. James Grey and A. Sutherland. A S. S. Missionary Meeting was held in the afternoon, and the public Anniversary meeting was held on Monday evening.

A new Methodist Church was opened at Creemore on Sabbath, Feb. 20th. On the Monday evening Rev. W. Bredin delivered a lecture on "Odds and Ends" in aid of the Building Fund.

This year an able deputation, consisting of Professor Burwash, of the Theological Faculty of Victoria College, and the Rev. Mr. Sparling, were appointed to lay the claims before the Methodist people.

One of the most successful tea meetings ever held in Yorkville took place in the Bloor Street Methodist Church, last Wednesday evening.

PERSONAL.

—Dr. Nelles preached on Sunday last in the Oshawa Methodist Church.

—The funeral sermon of Mr. Joseph Langrell was preached in the King Street Methodist Church, Ottawa, on the 20th ult., to a large congregation, by the Rev. W. J. Hunter.

—The Rev. Hugh Johnston delivered his celebrated lecture on "The Rose, Shamrock, and Thistle," to a large and delighted audience in the Methodist Church, in the town of Windsor, on Monday evening, Feb. 21st.

—The Rev. John Jennings, D.D., for thirty-six years the minister of Bay Street Presbyterian Church, in this city, died last week.

—The Rev. John Potts, of this city, had received a call from Knox Presbyterian Church, of Hamilton, with the offer of a salary of \$5,000.

—The application of counsel for the Oka Indians, protesting against the judgment of the Courts in the case of the Seminary vs. the Oka Indians, has been fixed by Mr. Justice Johnson, and the case held for re-hearing at the next term of the Superior Court at St. Scholastique.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

Rev. J. K. McLean, of Oakland, California, declares, in The National Sunday School Teacher, that "more conversions have taken place in the last ten months than in all the years before since the Chinese came to America."

The choir which assists in the religious services under the charge of Messrs. Moody and Sankey at the Hippodrome numbers about 1,250; of these about six hundred are sopranos. The singing is a very interesting and important part of the exercises at these meetings.

The Smith's Falls News says that quiet village is considerably excited over the ritualistic tendencies of the Rev. T. Figh—so much so that on a late Sabbath thirty prominent members of the church absented themselves, attending the Methodist church.

A great crowd was drawn to hear the recent sermon by Rabbi Wechsler, in one of the New Haven Methodist churches. The Rabbi said that he had occupied Methodist pulpits on three previous occasions, once in Illinois and twice in Ohio.

While Moody and Sankey were in Philadelphia revivals were set in motion in almost every church in the coal regions. The houses of worship were crowded every night, and everywhere sinners began to repent.

Sir John Hanson, Chief Justice of South Australia, published anonymously, a few years ago, a book called "Jesus of History." A new work by him is entitled "The Apostle Paul and the Preaching of Christianity in the Primitive Church."

A Sabbath School Teachers' Institute, under the auspices of the Toronto Sabbath School Association, will be held in Knox Church during four evenings of next week.

The "Methodist Mission Press" has been in active operation, in Mexico, since January 1, 1875—one year. During that time the issues have been about sixty-two thousand tracts, books, hand-bills and cards.

The Christian Globe says that "The most successful Evangelistic meetings that have been held in Market Rasen for the past forty years, have just been conducted in the Free Methodist Chapel, by Miss Wales, a gifted young Evangelist from London.

An American missionary writing to the Missionary Herald gives this description of the people among whom he is laboring:—"The Japanese are a most inquisitive people. Whatever is new, as well as whatever is very old, has a great attraction, and they will swarm to it as flies to honey.

Another burial case is reported from Oxford, England, which is said to have occasioned a deal of scandal in that city. The body of a female member of a Nonconformist congregation was brought for interment to the cemetery of the parish of St. Thomas, and the curate of the parish, who met the funeral procession in his vestments, was asked to waive the reading of the church service, as a funeral service had already been held in the chapel to which the deceased belonged, and she had, moreover, it was stated, expressed a wish that the church service should not be read at her grave.

The congregation of the United Presbyterian Church of North America, at Galt, numbering over 200 members, have a new pastor in the person of Rev. W. H. Andrews, late of the 7th U. P. Church, Pittsburg. The induction services were held on Wednesday, the 16th ult., before a large assemblage, and under the direction of the U. P. Presbytery, of Stamford. The United Presbyterial Church of North America grew out of the union of the Associate and Associate Reformed Churches, effected at Pittsburg, May 21, 1858.

The Government of New Zealand has instituted an order of decorative distinction—the New Zealand Cross. It has lately been conferred on the Agent General for the Colony in London for "his distinguished courage in the field during the various wars with the Maoris."

CURRENT NEWS.

Centennial excursions to the United States, are advertised throughout Europe at cheap rates.

—Negotiations are in progress for a modification of dues on the Suez Canal.

—Gough lectured to a full house in Bowmanville Methodist Church, on Tuesday, 22nd inst.

—The Mary Belle, the largest steamboat on the Mississippi, was burned at Vicksburg, on Sunday. She was valued at \$50,000.

—The Bill abolishing capital punishment has finally passed both Houses of the Maine Legislature, imprisonment with hard labor for life being substituted.

—The interchange of New Year's civilities between the Pekin authorities and members of diplomatic bodies, is looked upon as a hopeful augury for improved relations in future with China.

—A verdict of manslaughter has been found against the captain of the Franconia, the vessel which ran down and sank the Strathelyde recently, off Dover.

—The war in Spain is reported to be virtually at an end, but the latest despatch says Don Carlos and several battalions are in the field, and show no signs of abandoning their cause.

—In the village of Frankenheim, Germany, the typhus fever has been raging as an epidemic. A total population of 500 persons 156 were at last accounts sick with the fever, and twenty-six had died.

—An collision occurred last week off Folkestone, in the English Channel, between the Belgian steamship Switzerland and an English brigantine, the Hero, the latter vessel being sunk and four of her crew drowned.

—The warm weather has materially reduced the coal consumption, and 60,000 men in the anthracite regions of Pennsylvania have just been turned out of work, to remedy the evil of overproduction.

—Miss Evans, the Temperance lecturer, had a most successful meeting at Goderich. Over \$100 were realized, after paying expenses, which sum will go to improving and enlarging the Temperance Hall.

—A letter has been received from Mr. G. W. Ross, M.P., who has been seriously ill, announcing that he has so far recovered as to have hopes of being able to come to Ottawa in the course of the next week or ten days.

—There is a bitter feeling in Quebec and Ontario owing to the merchants having borrowed largely from the banks in order to take out of bond. Indignation meetings will be held in Hamilton, Toronto and Montreal.

—The Navy Department has issued an order deprecating the frequency and severity of punishment on board of the United States vessels, and suggesting that naval officers, if possible, enforce discipline by milder means.

—It is the intention of the Wesleyans to build an academic institution at Cambridge in connection with the University. They have been moved to this step by the extraordinary success of the improvements made under the supervision of Dr. Moulton.

—Rev. Stephens H. Meeker, a minister of the Dutch Reform Church in Williamsburg, New York, died at that place on the 2nd ult. During his fifty years of his pastorate he never missed but one Sunday, by sickness, from the pulpit; and throughout the entire time has kept himself "free from blame and reproach."

—It is calculated that with all possible retrenchment the revenue of the Dominion for next year will fall more than a million dollars below the actual requirements of the treasury to meet the liabilities and expenses of the country. To meet this it is proposed by those who oppose an increase of the tariff, to issue a million or more Dominion notes, redeemable in time.

—The National Dead Minute College, at Washington, gives an entire academic course of instruction. One hundred and twenty-seven students, representing twenty-eight States and Territories, have thus far received tuition in the College. Twenty-seven of these have received the degree of Bachelor of Arts, two of that of Bachelor of Science, three that of Master of Arts.

—A hitherto nameless public park near the centre of the city of Hartford, Conn., was on Monday night, by a unanimous vote of the Hartford aldermen and councilmen, name "Bushnell Park," in honor of the Rev. Dr. Horace Bushnell, of Hartford, who thirty years ago conceived the project of making the park out of what then was one of the most unsightly spots in the city.

