

FORWARD, PRESBYTERIAN HOSTS!—Chaplain Munro

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"AT THE EVENING TIME IT SHALL BE LIGHT."

Zech. 14: 17.

Rev. A. N. Smith.

Oh, my Father! the day is departing,
The darkness cometh apace!

Soon will the sunlight have faded,
A gloomy veil cover the face
Of Nature: The sweet songs of earth
Will be hushed—the dearth
Of their music will silently brood
O'er the face of the land—and 'tis night.
"Hush, my child; all is working for good.
In the evening it shall be light."

Oh, my Father! my life's joy is ended,
A dear one has taken her flight;
The music of home has departed—
Sad silence, deep as the night,
Hovers o'er us with pinnions dark.
From the depths comes despair, and hark
How the wild winds moan in the treetops,
The goblins of fear roam and cark.
"Hush, my child—do not fear—I am near thee;
In the evening time it shall be light."

Oh, my Father! I faint on my journey—
The way is so long and so steep,
The rough road so hard and so dreary—
Its sorrows are wounding my feet
The light of thy face is hidden;
And darkness deep and forbidding
Surroundeth: I grope in the way.
"Hush, my child! Trust; all will be right;
Darkness shall glow as the day;
In the evening it shall be light."

Oh, my Father! I am weak—but I trust.
Though sorrow and gloom shroud my head,
Thy love and thy mercy fail not,
But o'er all of my pathway are shed,
Though fear and deep doubt hang close as a veil,
The beams of thy love shall ever prevail;
Thy hand will guide safely along life's dark way
The valley of shadow shall glow as the day—
"In the evening time it shall be light."

ATALISSA, IOWA.

All Round the Horizon.

France leads the nations this week in the world's history. The friends of Captain Dreyfus claim that the award of a new trial, given him by the Court of Cassation, is much more satisfying than a simple declaration of his innocence. There seems to be little doubt what the verdict of the new court martial will be. That the agitation should cease has become a matter of importance to France. The enemies of the Republic are busy and the situation there is a dangerous one. The Dreyfus affair has ruined more public men than any matter since the Panama scandal. It has created a panic in official and military circles; and well it might, for through this agitation one man, M. Cavaignac, has lost the Presidency; five successive ministers of war have been driven out of office and a dozen generals disgraced.

Count Esterhazy admits the authorship of the bordereau. He claims that it was written in obedience to orders from the chiefs of the army, who needed it to supply evidence of the treason. His prosecution has been ordered by the Minister of War, and Gen. Mercier's case has been referred to the Chamber. Lieut.-Col. du Paty

ed Clam has been seriously implicated as the probable instigator of some of the forgeries that have figured in the case. He is now in Cherche Midi prison. This is the officer of whom Zola wrote in his famous "J'accuse" letter, "First of all standing in the shadow is Lieut.-Col. du Paty de Clam, who invented everything."

At so critical a period in France it is extremely unfortunate that the trial of MM. Paul Déroulède and Marcel Habert should have occurred. They were charged with inciting soldiers to insubordination in connection with the election of President Loubet. After a stormy trial in the same building in which the Dreyfus hearing was being conducted, the two deputies were acquitted. When called upon to plead guilty or not guilty M. Déroulède made a stump speech attacking the existing Government in a daring manner. It is a matter of serious consideration that a member of the Chamber of Deputies, arraigned on so grave a charge, should think to save himself from conviction by attacking the very foundations of the government under which he lives.

A serious outbreak at the Auteuil races on Sunday last has probably not the political significance that was intended. The riot was premeditated by the Anti-Semites and the Royalists, whose object was to insult President Loubet with the hope that serious results might follow. The President, who bore himself calmly, was rescued with difficulty, the leaders of the rioters were arrested and the forces of Republican Guards doubled. The riots at the races were followed by a noisy session of the Deputies, but the ministry were able to master the situation, and in spite of great popular excitement there is every reason to believe in the stability of the government. On Monday Dreyfus, who had already been informed by a cable message from his wife that his trial was to be revised, was transferred from prison to the custody of the military authorities, and he will be immediately brought to France on the cruiser Sfax. Though the result of the new trial is by no means a foregone conclusion Captain Dreyfus is permitted to resume his military uniform.

The French love heroes. Paris is delirious over Major Marchand, the African explorer. His progress through the country has been a triumphal procession, and at the capital the police were utterly unable to control the enthusiasm of the crowds. Marchand is pictured as "a hero, silent, thoughtful, careworn, but with a sweetness of countenance which is indescribable."

That wonderful nation, Germany, has purchased from Spain what is left of her Pacific possessions. The northernmost of these islands, the Ladrões, lie in the direct route from Hawaii to the Philippines. On this account and because one of the Ladrões, Guam, belongs to us, the acquisition is of great importance to the United States. But the transaction

is said to be perfectly satisfactory to this government, and no just ground seems to exist to prevent the transfer. Germany is always a bribe bidder at the sale of new territory. When we learn that her population is increasing at the rate of 600,000 a year we realize why new colonies are absolutely necessary from a German point of view.

The severe fighting and the debilitating climate of the Philippines are having their effect upon our soldiers, and Gen. Otis reports that 6,000 additional troops are necessary. The Cabinet, however, has decided that there is no need for a volunteer call, the present army being sufficient for the present need. It is a relief to turn from the military to the civil status of the islands. The old Spanish system of courts has been revived, and Natives and Americans appointed as judges. Custom receipts at Manila are steadily increasing. If any are disheartened let them remember that every day's experience adds to our improvement of conditions there, and that it takes time to go through a course of education in the government of our new colonies.

Nothing in this connection can be more reassuring than a statement lately cabled to a Chicago paper by Professor Worcester of the Civil Commission. After a careful inspection of all the battle fields from Caloccan to Malolos, he saw not the slightest indication to show that there was any foundation for the atrocious reports that have been made current as to the slaughter of prisoners and of non-combatants by our troops. On the contrary, he saw numerous instances of American surgeons dressing the wounds of insurgents on the battle field "before the firing had ceased," and he gives ample confirmation to the statement already made in these columns that wounded insurgents are tenderly cared for in our hospitals. When cured, he says, "they can hardly be driven away." Professor Worcester also confirms the oft-repeated assertion that the Filipinos are not averse to American rule. It is simply a small tribe that is in arms. "At least 80 per cent. of the population," he says, "detest the war, and the only serious trouble is in a few Tagalog provinces in Luzon. Other provinces in this island are now compelled by the armed force of the insurgents to submit to Tagalog rules. The people in them are praying for the coming of the Americans. The present rulers are hated on account of their jobbery and oppression, and even among the Tagalogs the common people want peace."

Good and bad news come together from Cuba. The payment of the soldiers progresses more satisfactorily. But the Cuban officers have taken an unfair advantage of American generosity and have been charging heavily for the identification of their men. Here also a Supreme Court has been sworn in. General Wood in an encouraging letter reports remarkable progress in every direction since the end of the war.

The Insular Commission has reported to the Secretary of War the result of its investigation of affairs at Porto Rico. The report is most satisfactory and complete. It makes several interesting recommendations, among which are the establishment of United States laws, circulation of United States currency, a thorough school system, and the encouragement of trusts.

Another interesting report has been made public. The Nicaraguan Commission, after a careful study of all conditions, estimates the cost of the Canal at about \$110,000,000. It is understood to be the intention of the President to submit the full report to Congress at beginning of the next session.

Several events of general importance have occurred in this country during the past week. The trans-Mississippi Congress has opened for its tenth Session at Wichita, Kan. A Republican State Convention has been held in Ohio. It nominated an administration man for Governor; and strongly endorsed President McKinley, evidently with a view toward his renomination. The president has just issued an order amending the Civil Service Rules. Under the new order he withdraws from the merit system about 1,000 positions, including minor places in Post Office, Customs and Revenue departments. No act of the President since his inauguration has so disappointed the more thoughtful and disinterested adherents of either party. It is an indication of the President's great popularity, and of the large number of people who still prefer to mount by favor rather than desert, that so little outcry has been raised against this sweeping change.

Public attention is just now concentrated on the Alaska boundary dispute by the discovery of the fact that this is the cause of the Anglo-American deadlock. It has been suggested and it seems to be the most feasible solution of the difficulty, that the question be referred to impartial arbitration.

The Mazet Committee has been very busy all the past week. The Department of Taxes occupied a large portion of its time; the facts elicited being more favorable than was expected. On Thursday there was a stormy meeting of the committee, culminating in the ejection of Police Captain Price and his lawyer, Mr. Henderson. It is claimed that the latter drew a knife, and law suits are threatened on both sides.

While several of our municipal departments are being investigated, another, the Street Cleaning Department, has made a report. It is gratifying to learn that Mr. McCartney intends to follow the general lines laid down under the able management of Colonel Waring.

The children of the thickly settled portion of this city are having their health and happiness cared for as never before by the opening of public playgrounds in the crowded districts. The Union Settlement playground, at One Hundredth street and Second Avenue, was opened about the middle of May, and the youngsters of the district have not been slow to show their appreciation of the privilege. Last Saturday the Seward Park open air gymnasium and playground, in the lower East Side, was opened with appropriate exercises—speeches, patriotic music and athletic exhibitions, delighting not only the neighborhood of Hester, Essex and Jefferson streets and East Broadway, which bound it, but from other parts of the lower city. Over five thousand children managed to enjoy the fun, and their parents were not far behind. The crowd appreciated the addresses of President Sullivan, of the Outdoor Recreation League, and Mr.

Seth T. Steward, chairman of the Vacation Schools' Playground Committee. The latter said the city deserved credit for spending \$30,000 for playgrounds. The more money spent now on playgrounds meant, he thought, the less the expenditure for prisons in the future.

In the same line of work is the plan of the Educational Alliance. Ex Mayor Hewett has given the boys of the Alliance permission to camp on Plum Island this summer. The camp will be open from July 2 to August 30, and will be occupied for tours of two weeks, by groups of twenty-five boys.

THE SHADOW OF THE ROCK.

Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler.

The land of the Bible is a constant confirmation of the language of the Bible. For example, those of us who have crossed the valley of the Jordan, or have climbed from that valley up to Jerusalem on a hot day, have found the journey a very weary one. There is no shelter of trees; from the bare earth or stones the rays of the sun flash with intolerable brightness, and pierce our eyes like bayonets. But on the torrid road we come upon a company of travelers reclining on the shady side of a huge overhanging rock. At once we recall that passage in Isaiah where the ancient prophet describes our Lord as "*the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.*" This is a fruitful text for a summer-day meditation.

Jesus Christ is a shelter for all his redeemed from the devouring heat of the divine displeasure against sin. That holy hatred of sin would be a "consuming fire." Thanks and praises evermore for Christ's atoning sacrifice for our guilt, so that God may be just and yet the justifier of every one who accepts that atoning Saviour! There is no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus. Blessed be our Rock! A part of every true Christian's religion is walking; another part is working; another part is watching. After the hot walk of a week, with its toils and its temptations, we reach the blessed Sabbath, and then we sit down awhile among the green pastures and beside the still waters. That is our feeding time, and that is our resting time. "Tell me, oh thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest, and where thou makest thy flock to rest at noon?" The response of our loving Shepherd is—"Come unto me; I will feed thee with the finest of the wheat; I will give thee to drink of the water of life. If thou art weak or weary, my left hand shall be under thy head, and my right hand shall embrace thee."

The Christian who allows himself to venture into the week without his Bible-food, and some quiet communion with his Master on the Sabbath, as surely robs himself as the toiler who goes to his day's work without a wink of sleep, or the soldier who goes into battle without eating his rations. In these times of heated over-driving and money-seeking, one of the greatest dangers to Christians is that they fail to make the very most of an indispensable Sabbath. No wonder they give out when they neglect the "shadow of the great Rock" in this wearing, wearying world.

A third thought suggested by this delightful passage is that the shadow of Jesus brings great coolness to our feverish spirits. Our tempers often get ruffled. Some provocation has set us on fire; we need cooling down, and a look at that patient forgiving Saviour, who when reviled never reviled back again, may shame us out of our wicked irritation. There are other things that heat our souls—the fever of selfishness, the flame of covetousness, the inflamings of fleshly lusts, or the rash impetuosity of hasty words and deeds. Oh, for the calming and cooling shadow of Christ at such

seasons! How many mortifications, how many intemperate acts, how many blunders, how many falls into sin, and how many woundings of our Christian character we would be delivered from!

It was a wonderful comfort to me when after a toilsome clamber from Jericho under a broiling sun my guide and myself found shelter under a great wayside rock. The change was so delightful; the protection was so complete; for we had been in absolute danger of sunstroke. Similar to this is the experience of the soul that finds shelter under the infinite love of a pardoning, protecting and purifying Jesus. Oh, the breadth and the depth and the height of the love of Christ that passeth knowledge! The broken law of God shot its condemning fires upon our heads; now we are delivered from the curse of these violations. Every step in sin brought the stings of conscience; here we are at peace with ourselves and at peace with God. There was no joy in travelling over the hard, flinty path of disobedience; but

"I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary and worn and sad.
I found this Rock a resting-place,
And He has made me glad."

"How do you manage to live here?" inquired a minister of an old poverty-stricken pilgrim as he sat in his forlorn and leaking cottage that was not much better than a hut. The aged man had his Bible on his knee, and replied, "Sir, I am sitting under the shadow of Jesus with great delight, and his fruit is sweet to my taste." This would have been a weary land to him; the journey was hard to a footsore pilgrim; but he could find repose under the cool shadow of the Rock, and wait until his name was called to go up to his heavenly home.

Divine mercy provided this shelter for us. Man builds his showy mansions—often but a vestibule to the grave. Fashion rears its noisy house of mirth. But he who built snow-crowned Hermon, and placed the great cool overhanging rock on the hot highway from Jericho, has provided the soul's sweet, safe resting-place in Jesus. As man cannot make, so man cannot move this Rock of Ages. Caravans of pilgrims have halted beside it, and found shelter from the torrid heats. The Psalmist, when he fled from his foes, found refuge there, and sang, "The Lord liveth, and blessed be my rock!" Devout Hannah in her prayer exclaims, "Neither is there any rock like our God." Homeless Peter felt as if he had thrown off his pilgrim pack from his shoulders when he sat down under the noontide shelter, and cried out, "I have cast off all care; for he careth for me." John the beloved—happy in his Patmos exile—is overheard to say with cheery heart, "Now little children abide in him; he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in us. Hereby we know that he abideth in us by the Spirit which he hath given us."

Good friends, let us abide in the shadow of the great Rock and cultivate the grace of heart-quietness. A Christian life is not all work, or all seed-sowing, or all conflict; much less is it all bustle and worry. We must find time to think, to pray, and to commune with our Master. A soldier cannot always be on the march; he must renew his strength in rest. Life would wear us out if we did not find sometimes that "our strength is to sit still." Some of you are tired out, and want to bathe your aching heads in the cool stillness beneath the everlasting Rock. Some of you are footsore, and need a bit of rest. Many of you, with weary limbs and weeping eyes, have struggled along up a hard and heated pathway, and are ready to cry out, "Oh, blessed loving Master, just let me come in under the Rock!"