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The Evangelist

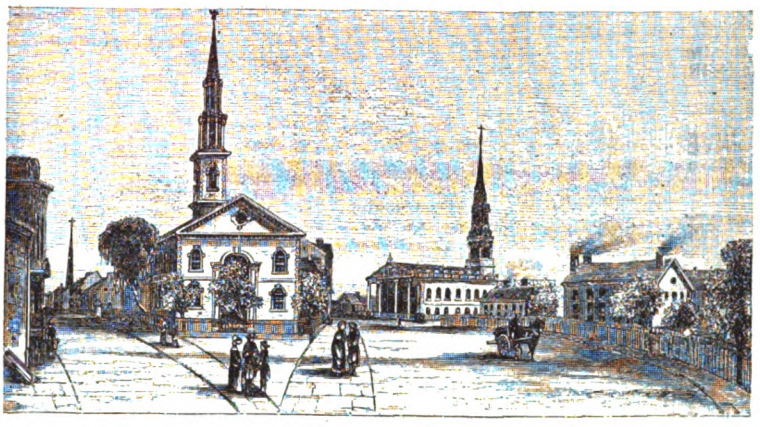
VOLUME LXX

NEW YORK, AUGUST 17, 1899

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THE OLD BRICK CHURCH,
Facing the City Hall Park, New York, 1767-1856

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THE MINISTRY OF PAIN.

Agnes Nourse.

A hand was laid upon me, and I lay
In helpless impotence, the while my soul
Went faring forward on its unchecked way
Toward the dim unknown world, its destined goal.
Perplexed, it felt the clogging weight of hands
That might not lift the lightest burden now.
Of heavy feet that longed to tread all lands
In search of knowledge, and of weary brow,
Whose aching would not even thought allow.

"Lie still," God whispered, "Soul, lie still, and rest;
Who longs for power first must patience learn;
After the 'Wilderness' the mountain's crest
Witnessed the face of Christ with radiance burn.
So thou, when far removed from life's wild whirl,
Tempted by lack of strength to doubt, lie still;
Only the wounded oyster holds the pearl;
God doth but empty thee, that He may fill
Thee with a fuller knowledge of His will."

All Round the Horizon

All civilization felt a thrill of horror when on Monday morning came the news of the assassination of Maître Labori, the junior counsel but chief advocate of Dreyfus. The most brilliant lawyer of France, who had never lost a case until he lost that of Zola last year and gained even greater prestige by his loss, the crime of Monday would indeed show the weakness of the anti-revisionist cause, could it be supposed that it was inspired by the opponents of Dreyfus. Happily for the self-respect of mankind, this is not the case. The act was that of a half-mad crank—brought to this point of insane folly, no doubt, by the criminal conduct of that reckless crew who have lately been trying to wreck the government, but directly responsible only to himself. Yet, though the act was not "inspired" in that diabolical sense, it is probable that the words uttered by Labori, "I may die from this, but Dreyfus is saved," are prophetic. Labori's death would greatly increase the pro-Dreyfus sentiment which day by day is growing stronger with the French public, and all the more because of the heroic bearing of the stricken man. He met suffering and danger with a calmness and unselfishness that show in the strongest light the great character of the man. His constant thought was as to the effect the attack would have on his client's trial. His first movement was to protect the papers he had with him; his second to send his wife from what he believed his place of death to inform the court of the occurrence. Happily there is hope at this writing that he may live, although at best his client must now be deprived of his invaluable services.

The trial was, of course, one of the most interesting events of the past week. Secret sessions of the court martial were held in order to examine the *dossier*, a public perusal of which might have brought harm to the republic. The dossier consisted of about four hundred documents; and from what could be gathered from counsel they were not of the great importance the judges had expected. On Saturday and Monday the sessions were open.

Saturday was a day of triumph for Dreyfus, for the evidence of ex-President Casimir-Perier was strongly in his favor; while General Mercier, from whom the prosecution had expected many new and compromising facts, failed utterly in proving his case. The testimony of M. Casimir-Perier was most thrilling. He declared that one motive for his resignation from the Presidency was the ignorance in which he had been kept regarding the affair. "For the honor of the magistracy and for the honor of France, I feel compelled to speak the truth in defence of the innocent." But why did he not speak it sooner? He gives a weak explanation of his strange silence and one which it is difficult to accept. But it must be borne in mind that the sense of honor which must control the acts of a man who has held eminent office is not always easy to be appreciated by those who have never been in a like situation. The session of Monday, which was opened after two hours' delay caused by the assassination of Labori, showed how greatly he will be missed from the conduct of this case. Maître Demange, the senior counsel, was by no means able to carry out his junior's method of cross-examination and M. Casimir-Perier in consequence was hardly able to hold his own against General Mercier, who waxed confident in Labori's absence and made some statements which that lawyer would not have permitted to pass unchallenged.

Many plotters against the republic were arrested at Paris on Saturday. Among them was Paul Déroulède, the leader of the League of Patriots. The present government seems to have matters well under control, and is determined to prevent further outbreaks like that of a month ago at Longchamps, but its methods with regard to a party of "Patriots" who have barricaded themselves in their office in Paris are hardly what ours would be. The Paris police are calmly besieging them!

The cloud over Transvaal has grown very ominous. In Parliament on Wednesday Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, the "American British politician," made a grave and incisive statement of the situation in South Africa. "Our predominance is menaced by the action of the Transvaal government. That is a state of things which cannot long be tolerated. We have put our hands to the plow and we will not turn back. Mr. Speaker, with that statement I propose to rest content." Strong words from the Foreign Secretary. And England seems to consider the situation serious. Troops are being drafted to the Cape and many shipping companies have been notified to hold transports in reserve. Preparations have been almost completed for the despatch of twelve thousand troops from India to South Africa. Every paper tells of new regiments added to the heavy list already scheduled for the Cape.

The only alternative to war seems to be a complete back-down on the part of the Boers.

And yet there are reasons why England should hesitate long before pushing matters to a crisis. Trouble with the blacks all over the African colonies is brewing. At the first outbreak, there may be more than the Boers to deal with. The Matabele, the Kaffirs and the Suatis are in a particularly restless condition. And the Basutos, who can put thirty thousand warriors into the field at short notice, are reported most anxious to take a hand in the fighting. Let us hope that statesmanship will triumph and that a pacific settlement of the serious problem will be reached. Latest advices at this writing are that President Kruger consents to arbitration provided the independence of the country be not impugned. This means the abandonment by England of the claim of suzerainty. As Great Britain by offering arbitration had virtually recognized the independence of the Transvaal she can hardly refuse, though she will assuredly reluctantly grant this condition. It will seem a miserable failure on the part of modern diplomacy, if all the horrors of a semi-civilized warfare occur.

The war with the Filipinos has assumed many encouraging phases. Secretary Root intends to swell the number of troops there to fifty thousand, and more will be added if necessary. Optimists at Washington predict that we shall have peace by January 1. When it does come it will be most heartily welcomed by pro and anti-expansionists; for after all, both sides are loyal Americans at heart and will be glad to see our country out of her difficulty.

On Tuesday a terrible West Indian hurricane brought death and devastation to many of the islands. Puerto Rico was the heaviest sufferer. One hundred thousand persons in the island are destitute and whole towns have been destroyed. In Ponce alone, five hundred lives were lost. The appeal of Governor-General Davis has met with ready response from the people of the United States and the army transport McPherson left with over a million pounds of food on Monday. It is evident that with our new possessions we have assumed added responsibilities. This country is awake to the sense of her duties and will yet give the world a lesson in the economical development and scientific improvement of her semi-civilized colonies.

Several plans which concern the management of Cuba have undergone careful consideration lately at Washington. The work of changing the civil laws to conform with American ideas and customs is progressing smoothly and rapidly. General Wood is still giving object lessons in the proper handling of dangerous sanitary conditions, and a census of the whole island is to be completed by January 1. General Gomez and other leaders of prominence are full of sage advice to highly strung Cubans and a more amicable footing has been reached with the most promising outlook for the future.

Manufacturing and similar topics. An important and unique feature of the Exposition will be a large collection of lantern slides illustrating social institutions, which will be exhibited by an automatic device for projecting five stereopticon slides at a time on a ground glass screen without darkening the room. A comprehensive series of monographs will be prepared under the direction of the staff, presenting a brief word picture of the present conditions in the United States. They will serve to interpret the exhibit in the various sections of the Department.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The death of the Rev. Walter M. Barrows D.D. of Greenwich, Conn. has brought sorrow to a wide circle of relatives and friends, who knew him as a man of talent and a minister of great usefulness. He was the son of President Barrows of Olivet College, Michigan, and brother of President Barrows of Oberlin. A pure sweet souled man, of high ideals and large influence wherever known, his real fame is secure. Those who love him best no doubt feel pain that so good and useful a man was recognized by the public chiefly for an incident which gave him notoriety, while his fame as a pastor, preacher, secretary, was limited and lost measurably out of sight, by the fact that he was deceived into marrying a recently divorced woman to a well known society man of New York. The affair gave him a notoriety most painful to himself; he welcomed an inquiry by a committee of his church. They brought in a vindictive report, with such names as Dr. Washington Choate and Dr. Josiah Strong to commend it and give it force. Their judgment should be final; and all the honors of quiet, unselfish service should be his without reservation. The chaotic condition of divorce laws in this country is the reprehensible cause of much scandal and sorrow. If the moral martyrdom of a good man shall be made the means of achieving a national statute regulating divorces, those who mourn his loss most deeply will find comfort in their sorrow.

Mr. Moody announces that the Conference of Christian Workers will be followed by daily Bible lectures for the remainder of the month of August. The Rev. G. Campbell Morgan of London will deliver these addresses, speaking twice daily from Tuesday, August 22d, until the 31st. His subjects are: The Holy Spirit in Relation to Unfallen Man, The Spirit in Human History—From the Fall to the Messiah, In the Mission of the Messiah; The Teaching of Christ Concerning the Spirit, The Spirit and the Church, The Spirit and the World, The Baptism of the Spirit, The Filling of the Spirit. In addition to these lectures on the Holy Spirit he will speak on The Table Talk of the Son of Man, at the Houses of Matthew, Simon, Martha, the Pharisee, the Chief Pharisee, the Stranger, and the House in Jerusalem.

The feature of the summer conference which needs watching and correcting is the "experience meeting." The city missionary tells us that the temptation to lie in the confession of sin is so great as to invalidate the testimony of converted criminals. So in exalted frames of mind there is always present the danger of exaggeration. A good man on his feet before an excited audience, when the air is electric with suggestion, may depart from the truth and not know it. Mr. Moody cleared a meeting of an enthusiast by telling him "he could not be trusted till he told how he treated his wife." The loftier moods of men have close connection with the lowlier ones. Men think they have passed great crises of transforming power, when they have only got excited on an old question and invented a new answer; their life is just the same; the revolution is only in the point of view.

THE CONQUEST OF SWISS MOUNTAINS.

C. H. Parkhurst D.D.

Perhaps a few paragraphs relative to the rapid multiplication of mountain railways in Switzerland will be of interest to at least a portion of your readers. The Swiss are a slow and plodding sort of people and it is all the more remarkable, therefore, that they are to such a degree distinguishing themselves in subduing the loftiest of their mountains to the necessities of traffic and the luxuries of travel.

The first of the named objects is being attained by ordinary mountain tunnels, differing only in the matter of length from that of our own Hoosac. An example of these with which the world is already familiar is afforded by the tunnel of the St. Gotthard, through which men and merchandise can be so easily transported from central Europe to Italy. And now within a few weeks workmen have commenced boring the Simplon, through which in the course of three years more or less there will be afforded direct communication between the Rhone Valley and Italy, thus opening a quite new and direct route from Paris to Italy by the way of Lucerne, Vevey and Brique.

Horizontal tunnels, however, the general public has already become quite accustomed to, and it is tunnels that are set up on end, or at least tipped up on their side that will be quite as likely to interest any that may happen to read these paragraphs.

A railway is now in course of construction up the Jungfrau. This mountain is the most famous and commanding of the Bernese Alps and attains a height of something over thirteen thousand feet. There is already a railway (rack and pinion) over the high range of country between Grindelwald and Lauterbrunnen, and it is at one of the stations on that line (Little Scheidegg) that the Jungfrau track starts. Little Scheidegg is about sixty-five hundred feet above sea level, so that the new railway will have to make a climb of something like seven thousand feet before reaching the summit of the Jungfrau. We were able to watch the progress of this stupendous undertaking from the balcony of our hotel at Murren last summer. In order to obviate the effects of avalanches and landslides, most of the line will be subterranean with an occasional emergence to the surface that will allow tourists to survey the stupendous reach of landscape which gradually unfolds more and more widely as the traveler nears the summit. This road, it is expected, will be completed in 1904.

And now there is a scheme in hand to perpetrate a similar outrage on that sovereign over all the high places of Switzerland, namely, Mont Blanc. The ground has already been surveyed, calculations made and the preliminary outlines of the project submitted to the Swiss authorities. The ascending track (rack and pinion, electricity the motive power) will commence at the little village of Houches, situated about four miles from Chamounix, on the diligence route to Geneva.

Mont Blanc is fifteen thousand seven hundred above sea-level and Houches something like thirty-five hundred, so that the projected track will require to make a perpendicular ascent of about two and a half miles. This ascent it is proposed to accomplish upon a line of about seven miles in length, from which figures the average gradient can be easily calculated. This project, ambitious as it is, will probably be accomplished. There exists the intensest competition between the different portions of Switzerland in the matter of attractions offered to visitors from abroad. Chamounix wants something to offset the drawing power which will be exerted in Bernese Switzerland, when the Jungfrau railway is completed.

Zermatt has already its rack and pinion line

up to Gorner-grat, ten thousand feet in height, but if the Mont Blanc railway is undertaken, Zermatt will have to do something more than that in order to keep in the race, and it is a horrible thing to say that the matter of putting a line up the Matterhorn, its contiguous mountain, is already being quietly considered. When they do that I shall turn my back on Zermatt and commence climbing the Himalayas or the mountains in the moon.

I may be permitted to say in this connection that I am occupying myself most pleasantly and profitably in the companionship of the high places of this delectable region. Yesterday in company with two guides, I ascended the Wellenkuppe, a point that is not distinguished by its height (being only about thirteen thousand feet), but made interesting by the near view it affords of such magnificent masses as the Weishorn, Matterhorn and Dent Blanche, and by the pleasing variety of snow, ice and rock work that it offers to the climber. My ascent was without incident, saving a partial subsidence into a crevasse and the pleasant experience of being easily and cleverly extricated by my assiduous guides. It is in view of such contingencies that a good rope and attentive and competent guides become the indispensable concomitants of high mountain climbing.

Zermatt is to-day in rather a sobered mood of mind. A French lady and her daughter from Paris were yesterday up one of the valleys, a mile or so from the village, in search of edelweis. The mother, in some way not yet explained, lost her footing and fell down the slope, and the daughter followed her. The two were accidentally discovered this morning. The mother when found was already dead and I saw the daughter as she was being brought down from the hill. The latter also was seriously injured and has not yet recovered consciousness so that no details of the accident are at this writing obtainable. When consciousness comes back to her, if it does, the awakening will be for her a most melancholy one. She is but fourteen years of age and had already this year lost a father and sister. Something of the same kind occurs here almost every year. The flow of recreation and merry-making is momentarily checked, but the dead body is soon laid under ground and the tide of life and gaiety, edelweis-plucking and mountain scrambling, resumes its wonted course, buoyant and forgetful.

ZERMATT, SWITZERLAND, July 28, 1899.

ARE THE COUNTRY CHURCHES DECAYING?

It may not be true that from one we can learn all; yet from one fairly typical country church we can learn the condition of the average of such churches.

It was my privilege recently to spend a Sabbath with the old home church, and to preach to the people of my boyhood's days in Livonia, N. Y. There was the same old building, with its round top belfry, and the bell with its familiar tone. From the outside, but for the windows, one would not know that change had been going on within.

My memory goes back to the days of the high pulpit and the seats facing the door, and the orchestra of half a dozen or more instruments. I could call the roll of the pews, beginning with the first, then a seat of honor, which was our family pew. To the men at the heads of many of these pews, we children looked up with greatest reverence. They were giants in goodness to us then. The Rev. B. G. Riley has always been to me the model minister, a scholar, a pastor, a wise administrator and a guide to the youth.

After a time the pulpit was lowered, a great innovation; and when the seats were rented there was not a little disturbance.

Next the pulpit was put in the back end and