The Walk to Church. We walked to church together, That sweet, bright, summer day; My heart was like a feather The robin sheds in May. And then a silence fell. I knew not how to woo her,

"Dear heart, this happy morning We start to climb the hill, We see or hear no warning, Of weariness or ill. We may not have all sunshine, About this path of ours: There will be thorns and pitfalis Hid under brightest flowers

Or how my love to tell.

"It will be lonesome climbing For me, if I must miss
The face whose June-time roses
Are sweeter far than thia."
I gathered from the hedgerow A rose, and gave to her; he fragrant little blossom Was love's interpreter.

"You need not climb alone, John," She said; and then a bird Soared upward, and in heaven He told what he had heard. The echo of his music Rings in our heartstrings still, As hand in hand, my darling, We climb the long, steep hill.

PRUDENCE GRAY.

That's my name, for father said there wasn't a better barge on the river than the Prudence, and if I was called the same he was sure there would never be a better girl.

I used to think our barge, which was a very small billy-boy, if you know what that is-if you don't, I must tell you that it's a barge built with rounded ends and low bulwarks, meant for carrying loads up rivers-I used to think our barge, I say, a very, very large ship, till I grew old enough to compare it with those that passed us going up and down the river, and then it used to seem to me that it would be wonderfully fine to go on board one of those great ships and go sailing away, far away across the ocean, instead of just coasting along the Sheerness and up the Nedway, as we used to go year after

I can't tell you how my child-life slipped away, living with mother and father on board the barge, in a little bit of a cabin with a tiny stove; all I know is that I was happy, and that I never hardly went ashore, and when I did, I was frightened and wanted to get lack; and at last I seemed to have grown all at once into a great girl, and father and I were alone.

Yes, quite alone, for mother had left us very suddenly, and we had been ashore, father and I, and came back from the funeral and were sitting on the cabin hatch before I could believe it was anything but a terrible dream, and that I should not awake and find that she was alive once more, as blithe and cheery as ever, ready to take up the tillar or pull at a rope when father

wanted any help.

Father was a changed man after that, and as a couple of years slipped by, the work on the barge fell more and more into my hands, and I used to smile to myself as I saw how big and strong they had grown; for father grew quiet and dull day by day, and used to have a stone bottle filled whenever he went ashore, and then sit with it in the cabin till I called him to come and help me with the sail.

Our barge was well known all about the mouth of the river and far up beferent boats we passed had always a as I had never felt before. kind bail or a wave of the hand for us as we glided by.

Poor father seemed to grow more and more broken and helpless every day, and this frightened me, and made me work to keep the barge clean and shipshape lest the owners should come on board and find fault with father and dismiss him, and that I knew would break his heart. So I worked on, and in a dull heavy way father used to thank me; we were lying off Southland, with the we were lying on the sea glassy and not wind enough to fill away in the direction that the cry had the sails, I felt my cheeks begin to come from; but though I fancied in burn as I leaned back against the tiller, and would not turn my head because I would hear a boat being sculled along toward us, and I knew it was coming from the great lee-board barge lying

"He's coming to see father," I said to myself at last; and as a hail came I was obliged to turn, and there stood in the little boat he was sculling, John Grove, in his dark trousers, blue Jersey and scarlet cap, and as I saw his sunburnt face, I felt my heart beating fast, and I knew he was not c ming to see father, but to see me.

We had hardly ever spoken; but I had known John Grove for years now, and we had nodded and waved to one another often as we passed up and down

' Heave us a rope, lass," he said, and up over a side before I could stir you were gone."

and he stood looking down upon me while I felt sometimes hot and sometimes cold, and as if I could not speak.
"Do you want to see fa her?" I said

"No, my lass," he said, quietly; want to see you.

"Me!" I faltered, with my voice burning.

"Yes, you, my lass," he said, and his bandsome brown face lit up, and he looked so manly as he laid his hand on my arm. "Prudence, we're both young yet, but I thought it was time I spoke to you.'

"Spoke to me!" I said, with my face still burning.

"Yes, my lass, spoke to you; for we've been courting now a matter of four

"Oh, John!" I cried, bursting out laughing, and feeling more at my ease; "why, we've hardly spoken to one another.'

"That's true, Prudence; but how could we; always taking our turns at the tiller as we were? But all the same, my lass, I've been always a courting of you, night and day, these four years, and looking for the time when the Prudence would come in sight and I could give you a hail, and get a wave of the

hand back.' I could feel the color coming into my cheeks again as I heard him speak and knew how anxiously I had looked out for his barge coming up or down the

"Prudence, my lass," he said, "I've saved ten pounds, all my own, and our owner has just given me the command of a new barge with as pretty a cabin in it as you'd wish to see; and so, my lass, I thought I'd ask you if so be as now we've been courting for four years, you wouldn't come to me and be my wife?" "No," I said, "no;" and shook my

"I belong to father, and I could never leave him, never." "But you'll have to some day, Pru-

dence," he said, looking downhearted. "No," I said, "I shall never leave him; he needs me more and more every day."

"Prudence," he said, sharply, "you ain't playing with me, are you? "Playing with you?"

"Yes; I mean you ain't going to take ap with any one else? No, no," he you that. But, Prudence, dear, some day you may have to leave him, and when you do will you please recollect as John Grove loves you better than aught else in the wild world, and is waiting for you to come."

"Yes, John," I said, simply. "You mean it, Prudence?" he cried

in delight. "Yes, John ; I don't know anybody else, and there's no one as cares for

"Hundreds on the river." he said sharply.

"Then I don't care out John," I said, simply; "and if the coh, dear! what am I sad I sat down on a fender and covered

"Thankey, Prudence, thankey. I'm going away now to wait, for you'll come to me some day, I know."

"For the time may come, my lass, when you'll be alone in the world ; and when it comes there's the cabin of the show you a beauty." Betsy Ann a-waiting for you, just as her master's a-waiting."

wond the bridge, and somehow-I don't and I sat there in the calm afternoon

It must have been about 10 o'clock hoisted up, when I heard father come stumbling up to the cabin.

"Prue, Prue!" he cried.

"Yes, father," I replied; and then I uttered a wild shriek, and rushed toward where the small boat hung astern, hauled her up and climbed in, fer no sooner had I answered him than I heard a cry and a splash, and I knew and the time glided on till one day as that my fasher had gone overboard. I was in the boat in a moment, paddling those horrible minutes that I saw a hand stretched out of the water, I paddled and sculled about till I was far from our barge and then sank down. worn out, to utter a moan of horror, and

sobbing: "Oh, father, what shall I do?" "Is that you, Prudence," said a

"Yes, John, yes," I cried, looking out through the darkness, out of which a boat seemed to steal till it was along side, when John stretched out his band and took mine.

"Quick," I gasped, "save him, John -father-gone overboard !"

"When you shricked out, Prue?" "Yes, yes," I wailei; "oh save

"My poor lass," he said, "that's a "My poor lass," he said, "that's a them. This reacts on the nerves, and good quarter of an hour ago, and the affects the eyesight and hearing. tide's running strong. I've been pad- Parenti, if they wish their children to I did it co-amingly. He hitched it dling about ever since, trying to find be sound in their various senses, should around the warr of his bost, and was you, for I went up to the barge and look to the teeth and see that they are

"But father," I wailed, "father-save him !"

"My poor little lass," he said, tenderly, "I'd jump into the water now if you bid me; but what can I do, you know, Prudence, what can I do?"

I did not answer, for I did know that he must have been swept far away before then, and I was beginning to feel that I was alone-quite alone in the world.

It was quite six months after that dreadful night that one evening John came ashore from his barge to the cottage where I was staying with his mother, ever since he had brought me there, without seeing him, only to wave my hand to him as he sailed by. That evening he came and looked wistfully at me, and said but little; and at last his time was up, and he rose to go.

I walked down to the boat with him, and on the way he told me he had got leave to alter the name of his barge, and it was called the Prudence, too; and then, without a word, he was say ing good-bye, when I put my hand in his and said, quietly :

"John, dear, I haven't forgot my promise."

"And you are alone, now, Prudence my lass," he cried.

"No, John, no," I said, softly. " never shall be while you live."
"Never, my lass, never," he cried

And you will be my little wife?" "Yes, John," I said, and with on

long hand-pressure we parted, and I went back to wait another month, and then I was his happy little wife.

And there seemed no change, for I was once more on the river or out at sea, leaning upon the tiller and gazing before me, with the gulls wailing as they wheeled and dipped and skimmed temple of Juno Moneta, which circumand settled upon the water; while the soft wind gently stirred the hood that was tied over my wind ruffled hair. Only a bargeman's young wife, living on the tide, but very happy, for John often points to the great ships that pass us, with their captains in gold-lace caps, and whispers: "Not with the best among them, Prue, not with the best; I wouldn't change places with a king."

Pearls in Oysters and Clams.

"Do you ever find anything in over ters?" was asked of a proprietor of a cried, "I won't be so mean as to ask New York oyster salcon who for many years has stood in one place opening bivalves. Pointing to a milk-white pearl, about the size of a canary bird's egg, held by a golden claw and fastened in his shirt bosom, he said: "That is the best thing I ever found. It's worth \$100, I have been told. At least, I would give that for its duplicate. In every oyster I expect to find something. That is the reason I open all I get my self. There is a mild fascination about the work to me. I will show you a few specimens of the foreign substances I have taken out of oysters." He produced a half-pint bottle with wide open mouth. It was half filled with rough its of stone. "These are all pearls," said the oysterman. "They are, of my face with my hands, and began to course, undressed, and appear rough.

except as curiosities. Sometimes a customer, in eating oysters on the half

It was indeed a thing of beauty that of the cone, was worn into white. There was a rich appearance to the curiosity nt night when I was seeing to the light in its setting in a heavy gold ring. " Now, isn't that pretty?" said the owner, smiling with satisfaction. "Isn't it a jewel? I found that in a clam a few years ago, and I am afraid that I will never find another. I am patiently looking for it, though. I never saw anything like it before, and no one I ever showed it to ever saw its like. You see I take good care of it. Well, I think it's worth taking care of."

Impaired Eyesight.

Myopia, or shortsightedness, has been attributed to excessive reading and study in a standing position and in an ill-lighted room. Dr. Samuel Sexton, a leading otologist, has been examining the matter and has made a rather curious discovery. He finds that defective vision is due, in many instances, to the decay of the teeth. supply what may be called the vital ower to the eyes, the ears, and the teeth, are joined together, and any grave defect in the teeth is apt to impair both vision and hearing. Now, it is wellknown to physiologists that defective teeth are almost universal among civilized habits of eating. The alternate use of cold and hot fluids impairs the integrity of the teeth and finally decays k pt in good order.

CLIPPINGS FOR THE CURIOUS.

Fumigation of brimstone is of Roman origin.

A locomotive drinks forty-five gallons of water every mile it travels.

Out of every 100 inhabitants of the

United States sixteen live in cities.

Bracelets were given as a reward of bravery to soldiers in the Middle Ages. The Gauls love to decorate their

helmets, swords and buckles with coral. A crown of red-hot iron was an ancient punishment for rebels and regi-

The Emperor Augustus in his letter writing dated even the divisions of the Coleridge and Goldsmith wrote "The

House that Jack Built" and "Goodytwo-shoes.

By the Saxon laws twelve years of age was fixed as the earliest possible development of the legal understanding. The smallest engine in the world has

been finished in Baltimore. It can be covered by a thimble. Three drops of water fill the boiler. The Greek word for horse-shoe first

occurs in the ninth century. Horses were then only shod in time of frost or for especial occasions.

Coats of arms and heraldry were introduced into England in 1100. The arms of England and France were first quartered by Edward III. in 1358.

The Roman soldiers carried, in their military baggage, chains for prisoners of war-iron for common, and of gold and silver for rich prisoners and princes

The first silver money coined in Rome was A. U. C. 484. The mint was in the stance occasioned the origin of our word money.

A circulating library in the Middle Ages may seem surprising. In 1342 a law was framed in Paris compelling all public booksellers to keep books to lend ut on hire.

On the Patent Roll of Henry IV. is a record which allows Matthew Flint, toothe drawer of London, sixpence a day for life upon condition of his drawing the teeth of the poor gratuitously.

Professor Huxley declares the supply of herring in the sea to be practically inexhaustible, and that nothing which man can do in the ordinary way of de struction will ever appreciably diminish the stock.

Among the early Romans a kind of 'asti, or annals, was kept by driving nails into the wall of the temple of Minerva; and in public calamities, in time of pestilence, etc., a nail was fastened in the temple of Jupiter.

The End of the World.

The age of the earth is placed by some at five hundred millions of years; and still others, of later time, among them the Duke of Argyll, places it at ten million years, knowing what proesses have been gone through. Other planets go through the same process. The reason that other planets differ so cry; but he took my hands down, and frome of them are irregular in shape, looked long and lovingly into my face I nearly all of them would make good with honest brown eyes. At last he settings if treated by a lapidary. I don't know that they have any value Newton surmised, although he could give no reason for it, that the earth would at one time lose all its water and shell, finds a tiny pearl, which he has become dry. Since then it has been made into a shirt stud or ring. Did you found that Newton was correct. As the ever see a clam pearl? No Then I'll earth keeps cooling, it will become porous, and great cavities will be formed in the interior, which will take in the the oyster opener unfolded from a cov- water. It is estimated that this process He went quietly over the side of the ering of chamois skin when he opened is now in progress, so far that the water boat, cast off the rope and was gone, the door of his safe. It was egg-shaped diminishes at about the rate of the portions of Montana, Colorado and New and greatly resembled a catbird's egg. thickness of a sheet of writing paper Mexico, and the western portions of missionaries, twenty-eight native orknow how it was—the men on the dif- with a feeling of joy at my heart such It had a slate color, which, at the apex each year. At this rate, in 6,000,000 Nebraska, Dakota and Kansas. The years the water will have sunk a mile, practical result from this inquiry must and in 15,000,000 years every trace of be of the utmost moment to the counwater will have disappeared from the try. Irrigated land is wonderfully face of the globe. The nitrogen and fruitful, and it is of the utmost imoxygen in the atmosphere are also di- portanes that, as our population inminishing all the time. It is in an in- creases, new outlets should be found preciable degree, but the time will come when the air will be so thin that no their own. These now arid plains are creatures we know could breathe it and near the richest mineral regions in the live; the time will come when the world United States. Could they be made cannot support life. That will be the productive, the crops would find a period of old age, and then will come ready market among the mining popudeath .- Richard A. Proctor.

A Shrewd Reply.

Sir Walter Scott says that the alleged origin of the invention of cards produced one of the shrewdest replies he had ever heard given in evidence. It was made by the late Dr. Gregory, at Edinburgh, to a counsel at the Scottish. bar. The doctor's testimony went to prove the insanity of the party whose mental capacity was the point at issue. On a cross-interrogation he admitted that the person in question played admirably at whist. "And do you seriously say, doctor," said the learned this reply were decisive.

PEARLS OF THOUGHT.

There are remedies for all things but

Virtue has many preachers, but few martyrs.

There is no charity in helping a man who will not help himself.

Would you respect yourself, keep your heart and body clean.

Would you retain the love of friend, do not be too selfishly exact-

There are those for whom money does everything except to make honorable men of them.

The truly great man undertakes a thing because it is great; the fool, because he thinks it is easy.

Even poverty is better than avarice, for while poverty wants many things, avarice wants everything. It is not necessary to threaten a bad

man, for his own deeds threaten him with a worse punishment than you can inflict.

Above every other feature which adorns the female character, delicacy stands foremost within the province of good taste.

We can never have much confidence in the uprightness of others until we have discovered some degree of uprightness in ourselves.

There cannot be a surer proof of low origin, or of an innate meanness of disposition, than to be always talking and

thinking of being genteel. The mere lapse of years is not life. Knowledge, truth, love, beauty, good ness, faith, alone can give vitality to the mechanism of existence.

Every man has in his own life follies enough, in his own mind trouble enough, in his own fortunes evil enough, without being carious after the affairs of others.

This wish falls often warm upon my heart, that I may learn nothing that I annot continue in the other world; that I may do nothing here but deeds that will bear fruit in heaven.

The beginning of hardship is like the first taste of bitter food-it seems for a moment unbearable; yet, if there is nothing else to satisfy our hunger, we take another bite and find it possible to go on.

If you want knowledge you must toil for it; if food, you must toil for it, and if pleasure, you must toil for it. Toil is the law. Pleasure comes through toil, and not by self-indulgence and indolence. When one gets to love work his life is a happy one.

Water in Dry Places. It is known that between the Rocky nountains and the Mississippi there are vast regions which are arid and unprofitable because of the absence of water. A stream or a well is all that is ecessary to make these sterile regions blossom as the rose. It is known that at some distance underground there is an abundance of water, which, if reached and utilized, would make fruitful hundreds of millions of acres of land. The government has selected Messrs. C. A. White, of Greeley, Colorado, and Professor S. Aughey, of Nebraska, to act as a commission to select sites for sinking experimental artesian wells in the arid regions of the Rocky mountains. To guide the commission, Professor Powell has marked spots on the map for examination. Most of them are between the 101st and 113th degrees of longitude The area to be inspected includes one third of the State of Texas, the eastern for those who wish homes and farms of lation.

Trained.

In many Southern cities, boys and girls walk the streets balancing on their heads heavily-laden buckets or baskets or pans, containing polishing sand, or fish, or fruit for sale. A little fellow of seven years, whom you would think fitted only for romping and play, will walk along steadily, and yet with seem-ing case and unconcern, bearing up such a weight as that, when the least carelessness or inattention would tumble it to the ground. While still a mere child, he has in his special work counsel, "that a person having a the sense of responsibility and the superior capacity for a game so diffi-steadiness of a man. It was not natural cult, and which requires in a pre- for him to walk in this way; but he emilient degree memory, judgment and quickly acquired the needful power combination, can be at the same time through training. We ought to have a leranged in his understanding?" "I care not to put too heavy a load on our am no card player," said the doctor, little ones; but we may fail to realize with great address, "but I have read a as we should their possibilities of train-history that cards were invented for the ing. A great deal of their restlessness amusement of an ineane king." (Charles on he early controlled and directed, VI. of France). The consequence of not only without harm to them, but to their positive advantage.

MORAL AND RELIGIOUS.

The Poor Sheep.

Some time ago a very earnest and successful Baptist minister in Virginia was telling us some of his early experiences-among others, this, which is quite too good, we think, to be lost.

He was accustomed to labor not a litle in protracted meetings, and his method always was to begin by belaboring the members of the church. In this, perhaps, he was not peculiar, as such is the habit of professional evangelists.

Our brother had just concluded a very searching and scorching discourse, addressed with great vehemence to professors of religion, when, coming down from the pulpit, he was accosted by a venerable, but mild-mannered disciple, who told him that he had a text from which if some time he would be good enough to preach the aforesaid disciple would be very thankful.

The pastor, while diffident of his ability to preach with freedom from the text selected for him by somebody else, declared his willingness to do the best he could, and curiously inquired what the text might be. The old brother could not quite remember just the chapter and verse, but said that it related to words spoken by our Lord to Peter, after his resurrection, when he asked the apostle if he loved him; and upon Peter's replying, "Lord, thou knowest all things, thou knowest that I love thee," he said unto Peter, "Beat my sheep." "No! no!" said the pastor; "you are mistaken, my brother. He said, 'Feed my sheep.'" "Ah, he did?" said the old man, with a scorching look into the pastor's face; "I thought maybe you read it ' Beat my sheep."

The pastor thought he saw a light-a light that twinkled in the old man's eyes, and a new light on the Word of

He threw away his cudgel, and filled up his crib.—Baptist Teacher.

Religious News and Notes.

No opium smoker, it is said, is admitted to church membership by any Christian mission working in China.

The Germany and Switzerland Methodist Episcopal conference has 9,717 members, showing an increase during the year of 273, "notwithstanding 184 deaths and many removals to America."

The Congregational church at Barnstead, N. H., has had only two pastors in seventy-six years. The former pastor preached for fifty-six years and the present one has been settled for twenty years.

An edict has been published by the Chinese government extending to Protestant Christians the exemption from assessments for the benefit of heather. ceremonies which was accorded to Roman Catholics in 1862.

At the late session of the Episcopal onvention in Danville, Va., it was voted that the clergy should recognize the fact that the negroes within their parochial bounds are an integral part of their parochial work, and that such work cannot be ignored or neglected.

The Lutheran Visitor calls for a Lutheran Ecumenical council. It believes that such a body would be perhaps one of the greatest meetings ever held, and asserts that instead of "a few millions of Calvinists or Armenians or Dissenters," it would represent fifty millions of Lutherans from all quarters of the globe.

The latest statistics of missions in Japan record the work of sixteen church es and societies, which are represented by 384 missionaries, thirty-eight woman dained preachers, ninety organized churches, and 3,792 members. Two hundred and twenty-one rooms are used for worship. The largest number of members has been gathered by the American Presbyterian, the next largest by the Congregational, and the third largest by the Methodist Episcopal mis-

The summary of the Presbyterian board of home missions for the past year shows that 1,217 men have been in commission in 39 States and Territories. Kansas takes the lead, having 124 missionaries, and Iowa coming next with 103. Of the whole number, 940 are in the Western States and Territories. The missionaries report 4,979 additions on confession and 4,715 on certificate, and a total membership of 65,666, with 90,018 in the congregations. There are 1,147 church edifices, and \$115,865 of church debts was paid the past year. The total receipts of the board were \$345,911, the largest since the reunion

The largest stone slab ever quarried in the United States has recently been placed before the new residence of Mr. W. H. Vanderbilt, on Ffth avenue, News York. The stone measures twenty-five feet two inches by fifteen feet, and is eight inches thick. It weighs about 44,000 pounds. It was quarried at Barreville, Sullivan county, N. Y., and the block from which it was cut is described as perfectly level, and about ninety feet long and nineteen feet in width. From this surface the block was cut out and then raised by wedges.