

LIFE "IN THE BRUSH."

A CHRISTIAN COMMISSION DELEGATE IN THE BACKWOODS.

A Despondent Church Member—The "He" of Patmos—Primitive Religious Customs—Impassioned Negro Melodies—Jubilee Singers.

[Rev. H. W. Pierson in Christian Union.] A friend of mine, a New England pastor, made a visit to the army as a delegate of the United States Christian commission. Having occasion to call upon a family near the scene of his labors, he introduced himself as a clergyman, and explained the object of his visit to the army. At once he was pelted with the ever recurring questions as to the cause of the war, its probable continuance, results, etc.

After this Jeremiah had gone through with his will, he proposed that they should pray together. They knelt, and at the conclusion of the prayer offered by the delegate of the United States Christian commission, his address to the Deity was in the same sad strain in which he had so long talked. He was burdened with the sins of others, especially the sins of his "old woman," and very free and voluble in confessing them.

Those familiar with their religious and especially with their revival services are aware how long and how earnestly their preachers will exhort, urging and pleading with the whole congregation to kneel, to bow low before God.

The same habit was almost universal among the colored preachers, with the addition that their urgent appeals were supplemented with the most tender and impassioned negro melodies. Some thirty years ago I dropped into the principal hotel in Richmond, Va., and looking over the register saw the name of George R. Cheever. He was at his return from Europe, had landed at a southern port, and was slowly taking his way north, seated up my card, and on calling found him absorbed in writing his "Wanderings of a Pilgrim," etc.

Although the long drawn-out song was little else but a repetition of the words "how low, the voice was so rich, so mellow and full of emotion, and the music so weird, impassioned and wonderful, that with others I was completely entranced by it.

MARTYR AT THE GATE.

Trials and Tribulations of the Doorkeeper of the Chamber of Commerce.

I am going to champion the cause of a meek and lowly man, who is being imposed upon. His name is Bob, and he earned his daily bread by standing at the entrance to the chamber of commerce and watching the people pass in and out.

I stood beside Bob one day, talking to him. As I went through the gate I stopped to shake hands with him, and incidentally gave his hand a hard squeeze, just to show my kind feeling. I know it hurt, because I can squeeze hard, and the look of pain that flitted across Bob's face left no doubt but that he meant it when he assured me that I almost cracked his fingers. I felt gratified at the tribute to my grip, and took a stand by Bob's side.

Then a big grain man who was leaving the chamber sportively trod on Bob's toes, and thought it funny, and a second later a stock broker grabbed Bob's coat and pulled it down so hard that the seams started an insurance man came in and greeted Bob with a squeeze of the hand like unto my own.

Animal Vaccination in India. Pasteur's system of vaccination for anthrax, of which French farmers have so eagerly availed themselves, has been most successfully tried by the government of India—ponies, donkeys, cows, bullocks, buffaloes, elephants, sheep, and guinea pigs having been successfully protected against fatal attacks of that destructive disease.

The disappearance of animal life from earth must always be regarded with interest and concern. Apprehension is now beginning to be felt that we are now looking upon the final struggle for existence of all the larger mammals—the elephant, the giraffe, the bison, the whale, the seal, and many others—which must soon be extirpated unless protected from being hunted to death.

It was one of Victor Hugo's whims never to wear an overcoat, no matter what the weather might be, and his fatal illness is ascribed to a cold contracted by thus neglecting to protect himself.

RECLAIMING TIDE MARSHES.

Their Utility for Agricultural Purposes—The Sea-Marsh Soil of Louisiana.

The department of agriculture at Washington has just issued a volume devoted to the reclamation of tide marshes and their utility for agricultural purposes. It is estimated by the department that the area of the country for such purposes can be increased at least 10,000 square miles.

The principal reclamations are in New Jersey along the Maurice river, in Pennsylvania on the Delaware, where one farmer has a splendid farm of 1,000 acres safe from the highest tides, in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, where valuable lands have been diked for rice, in Louisiana and Texas, where they have been reclaimed for rice and sugar cane culture and cattle raising, and in Washington territory, where nearly one-half of the area formerly occupied by the channels of Puget sound, amounting to 1,000,000 acres, have been converted into rich, arable lands.

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