decision come to yesterday by the

Notes from Gwalia.

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DR. PARRY'S CHOIR.

It isn't very often that Welsh singers fail to hit the top note of success whenever they try. But it seems from he report in last week's Cardiff Times hat the performance of the Welsh hoir at Crystal Palace, London, July 7. was a flat failure, almost a dis-

The lesson of "insufficient rehearsal" s probably another term for over conence, and it teaches that with all he natural singing ability which Wales possesses, yet there must be raining, there must be art.

The Times article will be interesting Welshmen generally, as a blow truck at the pride of Wales-her song is felt wherever there is a Welsh

The prominent part taken in the performance by Dr. Joseph Parry, who is well known here, will be doubly interesting. Here is the full report: Wales was today given a large and

prominent place in the great choral festival of the Tonic Sol-fa association at the Crystal Palace, when, under the conductorship of Dr. Joseph Parry, a representative Welsh choir, said to comprise 3,500 voices, occupied the Handel Orchestra, and for two hours discoursed a programme of Welsh musie before a large and sympathetic nudience. It must, however, be confessed at the outset that the concert fell far short of fulfilling the high expectations that had been formed; that the performance, truth to tell, was on the whole sadly disappointing. Not that the Welsh concert was not in many respects distinctly enjoyable Many of the selection, indeed, given by the choir were heartily, if not enthuslastically, applauded; and the performance of Dr. Parry's tone poem, now produced for the first time-the very item in the programme that the promoters were most anxious about-pass. ed off very successfully, and created a desire on the part of most musicians favorable circumstances. But Wales prides itself upon the inapproachable claims, and rightly so, to have attained the very pinnacle of perfection in this particular branch of the musical art. and when, therefore, a Welsh choir leaves its own country and proceeds to the gathering place of nations, there, with the eyes of a whole kingdom upon it, to give an exposition of Welsh music and Welsh choral singing, its performance must be judged by a very high standard of excellence. Regarded then in this light, today's perform-

ance was intensely disappointing. LACK OF TRAINING.

"It was obvious to the merest tyro present that the choir suffered from a lack of training. The voices were all that could have been desired-clear, resonant, and tuneful; they were capable of a performance that would have rendered it almost impossible for any body of singers to equal, much less to surpass; but-'tis useless to gloss over the fact-the choristers had not learned all their pieces! This is not the mere isolated opinion of the writer. The choristers, when the performance was over sorrowfully admitted it, and sought sympathy on the ground that they had not been supplied in time with copies -an allegation which should at once be refuted, if refutation is possible. Mr. encer Curwen, in an Interview we publish below, while animated with a strong desire to be as complimentary as possible to Dr. Parry, was forced to acknowledge that the performance "suffered from insufficient rehearsal." The woeful consequences of this insufficient training became evident in a variety of ways. There was a want of understanding between choir and conductor; the singers were frequently out of tune, occasionally out of time; the singers did not "keep the beat" (as one musician put it); and in many of the pleces the choristers utterly spoiled the effect by their hesitancy and halfheartedness, and, as often as not-and this applies more especially to the basses—by being too precipitate. Although the concert finished well with a really rousing, spirited, and altogether magnificent rendering of the processional march "Hail, Prince of Wales," there was a sense of general relief on the part both of Welshmen in the audience and Weishmen in the chorus when the concert was got through and done with. Last year, on a similar occasion, the choristers and their friends assembled in large numbers in the concert room in the Central Trancept, where mutual congratulations were indulged in and congratulatory speeches delivered by well-known Welsh M. P.'s. No such meeting was held today, and luckily so, for the choristers and their friends would have precious little to congratulate each other upon, and the probability is that mutual recriminations, and not congratulations, would have been exchanged. The local choirmasters, we take it, are primarily responsible for training the choirs. It is quite conceivable, however, that their best efforts might be neutralized by the neglect of the central authorities in supplying them in time with copies of the music, and in making the requisite arrangements for frequent and thorough rehearsals on the part of the constituent choral bodies. Dr. Joseph Parry himself, it is conceded, devoted considerable time and labor to the task of visiting the sections and organizing rehearsals; his zeal and enthusiasm in all that pertains to the promotion of Welsh music are too well known to need recapitulation, but it is suggested that the methods he adopted in the present instance were not altogether beyond criticism, and that possibly he attempted too great a task consonant with his numerous engagements. Mr. Spencer Curwen generously suggested performance, and at its close, Dr.

that "the difficulty of training such a | Parry was very enthusiastically apwidely-scattered choir is too great." In plauded. previous years that difficulty was more than surmounted, and Mr. Curwen's explanation therefore will not help to own compositions, the idea being to reconcile the friends of Welsh music give the Londoners an idea of what to the unpalatable fact that the Welsh festival held today was in no sense the success which had been anticipated,

COMPOSITION OF THE CHOIR. The choir consisted nominally of 3,-500 voices, made up of the following contingents:

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This makes a total of 3,460, but the actual number of choristers present did not exceed more than 2,700, and the orchestra was far from full. There were four Cardiff brass bands in attendance -viz., the Military band (conducted by Mr. James Matthews), the St. Paul band, the St. Peter's band (conducted present to hear it repeated under more | by Mr. A. Thompson), and the Postoffice band (conducted by Mr. T. Sansum), while the orchestra consisted of about excellence of its choral singing; it 169 instrumentalists drawn from London and South Wales. For the purposes of the "Tone Poem" the vocalists were arranged on the orchestra in a peculiar fashion, being divided into so many left-hand and right-hand choirs. The four brass bands occupied each its allotted space-one to the extreme right and another to the extreme left of the conductor, while the remaining two oc-cupied seats on each side of the grand organ, which was manipulated by Mr. Bryceson Trebarne, A. R. C. M. . Dr. Joseph Parry took his sent on the

onductor's stool promptly at 3.15, and | lis this news came as a complete surhis appearance was the signal for a very enthusiastic outburst of cheering. audience at this time numbered several thousands, though as the concert proceeded it slowly but gradually dwindled to about one-half. The enclosed area in front of the orchestravas by no means fully occupied, and prominent London Welshmen were conspicuously absent. It so happened, unfortunately, that there was simultanously another important assembly in London-the reception at a garden pary by the Marquis and Marchioness of Bute of the members of the London Cymmrodorion society, and this possibly accounted for the absence of many Welsh members.

OPENING NUMBER.

The concert opened with the renlering of the "In Memoriam," a particularly effective requiem, composed by Dr. Parry, and which in Wales has often been heard to advantage. It opens with a mournful solo passage for sorrano voices, the beauty of the passage would have been demonstrated and appreciated. As it happened, however, the passage was rendered only by a few specially selected voices in a subdued, in fact, that even in the front reats the voices could only with very great difficulty be distinguished from the accompaniment. The joyous hymn at the close of the requiem, depicting the triumph of the departed o'er all the ills of earth, was very finely rendered indeed, and was several times repeated. Then came four selections from the conductor's latest cantata, "Cambria," which, it will be remembered, was first produced at the Llandudno eisteddfod last year. The choir had not sung many notes before it became clearly evident that they had not learnt, much less mastered, the piecea.

"Choir and conductor was repeatededly at cross purposes, leads were given and missed, and it was a distinct relief when the last of the choruses was finished. "The Pilgrims," the well-known eisteddfodic male voice test piece, came next, being rendered, of course, by the male members of the chorus. This was a very enjoyable item, and was heartily applauded. "Toriad Dydd ar Gymru," which will remembered as the centenary chorus of the Sunday school union in Wales, was very well received. Had it been a shorter piece an encore would doubtless have been demanded. As to the reception given to the "Tone Poem" an ambitious composition for two choirs, organ, orchestra, and four brass bands, Dr. Joseph Parry, the composer, has every reason to feel gratified. The work, the theme of which is "a dream," was conceived, it appears, and worked out after a careful study of Dante's "Inferno," "Letters from Hell," and Elis Wyn's "Visions of the Sleeping Bard." It is divided into three parts. In the first, the orchestra depicts night, religious meditation and sleep, and leads into the second movement, in which are given dream visions of the place of torment. A chorus, "Moans of lost souls," with the full accompaniment of bands, organ and orchestra, is wierdly effective. The third move-ment is entitled "Dream visions of Heaven," and includes several choruses. The piece occupied 25 minutes in

The programme included eight hymn

tunes, all selected from the doctor's

a Welsh Cymanfa Ganu was like. The

time, however, was now so far ad-

vanced that the programme had to be

materially shortened, and four hymn

tunes only were sung. These were "Cwmavon," "Llundian," "Maine" and

"Caernarfon," not one of which can

be regarded as really representative

of the music of the sanctuary in Wales

JOHN T. WATKINS, ARTIST.

The ill success of the Crystal Palace

choir has a significance right here at

home. It shows in contrast to the good

success of natural ability augmented by

proper training. John T. Watkins re-

turned home last week with the record

of repeated conquests in that high

school of vocal culture-the Royal Ac-

ademy. Mr. Watkins bids fair to be-

came a singer of national reputation

His ambition is to enter grand opera

and there demonstrate his vocal talent.

All he wants is the key to unlock the

There are in this very city a score

of young men who possess voices which,

though uncultured, are still as pleasing

to the ear as many that ring to ecs-

tasy the heart of a theater. All that is

needed are indomitable perseverance

and pluck, such qualities as distinguish

Wales, considering her God-given ad-

vantages, has too few representatives

It is of course due to harassing barriers

just such as now confront Mr. Watkins.

But the future may be better, in this

And laying aside all other feelings the

Welsh people of Scranton, as Welsh-

men, will not hold back a helping hand

or encouraging word to John T. Wat

THE FALL OF DOWLAIS CHOIR.

The most startling piece of news

the Eisteddfodic directors is that

which tells of the fall of the once famous Dowlais club. To the general pub-

prise, but those who had followed the

upon the collapse of the society as in-

evitable. And they were right. Things

had not gone smoothly for the last two

years or so, although there was now

and again the semblance of good fel-

lowship and united action within and

a seeming sterness of purpose when

the day of battle came. As showing

how irrecoverably broken up is the

once invincible choir, it is only neces

sary to state that something like 30 of the best singers have thrown in their

lot with Mr. Dan Davis, and will sing

with the Merthyr Choir in the Newport

competition. Sic tranit gloria mundi.

GLENMORGANSHIRE'S HEALTH

The present health of Glenmorgan-

shire is exciting unusual comment in

Wales. Since Dr. Williams began his

duties as medical officer the death rate

has wonderfully decreased. Dr Wil-

liams quotes figures which indicate

the low death rate of 17.00 per 1,000 of

less by 2.6 per 1,000 than in 1895, and

lower by .01 than the corresponding

death rate for England and Wales.

The highest rates recorded are 20.6 for

Aberdare and 20 for Merthyr; while

the lowest are 9.9 for Oystermouth,

19.8 for Penarth, 11.5 for Gower, and

Once more does the medical officer de-

plore the high infantile mortality, but

it is consoling to know that while

the county, 201 died before completing

the first year of life, the infant mor-

tality rate for 1895 was 180.7. An in-

teresting paragraph on this head may

SCHOOL BOARDS AT LOGGER-

HEAD.

There is at present a serious dispute

between the school boards of Ystrady-

fodwg and Pontypridd. Hafod is situ-

ated partly in both parishes, but the

school is built in the former parish,

There are, however, about 500 children

attending from the latter parish, and

Pontypridd refuses to pay anything

towards their education unless they

get "representation" with the "taxa

tion." This the Rhonddn board flatly refuse, and it has just discussed the

advisability of turning the boys' de-

partment into a pupil teachers' school,

and converting the girls' department

into a mixed school. Should the Edu-

cation Department sanction this, the

children from the Pontypridd parish

would be turned out, and this would

necessitate the building of another

REV. FRED. EVANS' DAUGHTER.

Miss Nellie Frances Evans, the laughter of the celebrated divine,

the Rev. Dr. Frederick Evans, who still

lies seriously indisposed at Llandebie -stricken down while on a visit to his

native land-was married the other

day at Milwaukee, when according to the Milwaukee Journal, "the Rev.

Vyrnwy Morgan, D. D., of Swansea,

The Rev. Vyrnwy Morgan we all know,

but who is "the Rev. Vyrnwy Morgan,

D. D."? A Milwaukee correspondent is kind enough to write to us stating:-

"Mr. Vyrnwy Morgan, in compliance

with the laws of the State, had to

qualify himself in order to perform the

above marriage, inasmuch as he was

a citizen of another country. His friends will be glad to learn that he

has been invited to undertake the pas-

torate of a Baptist Church in Ohio,

which numbers nearly 500 members.

It is one of the largest and most im-

portant churches with the Welsh in America; it is not yet known whether

SCHEME FINALLY ABANDONED.

South Wales coal owners have final-

ly abandoned the proposed scheme for

the control of the coal output. The

measure of the support assumed to be

essential to secure its success has not

the repeated appeals addressed to the dissenting colliery owners, both

the Coal Owners' association and the

workmen, and the scheme, therefore, is thrown overboard. This was the

forthcoming, notwithstanding

performed the ceremony."

school in the locality.

Wales.

he will accept."

The Cardiff Times says:

be fittingly reproduced.

of every 1,000 children born in 1895 in

12.9 for Ponthrdawe (east division)

trend of events "on the bill" looked

has for some months fluttered

in the higher musical world of today

gate-Money.

John T. Watkins.

"Hail, Prince of Wales."

for imperfection in training.

NOTES OF INTEREST. The difficulty which recently cropped up in connection with the forthcoming chief choral contest at the Newport National Eisteddfod, and which threatened to result in the withdrawal of the Merthyr and the Pontypool and Abersychan choirs from the competition, has been agreeably settled.

Gwalia's sons and daughters. She says: "I have found the people, in general, not only more refined than in many of the counties of England, but also better educated. The manners of the Welsh peasantry, even if they do not understand you, are never uncouth; they are even courteous and

Rev. L. T. Hughes, late of Canning-The hymns, however, were well sung, but why did the doctor not give a ton, Somersetshire, who salled for America on April 7th in company place to "Aberystwyth" in the pro-gramme? The concert concluded with with the Rev. W. R. Edwards, late of Brynmawr, has declined an invitation a spirited rendering of the march, to the pastorate of Williamstown, Pennsylvania, but has accepted a The Times then gives interviews by Mr. Spencer Curwen and Walter Goodunanimous call to the English Congregational Church at Algeats, Verrich, in which both criticise the choir mont, New York.

> On Tuesday afternoon, July 20, a terrific thunderstorm passed over Rhymney, accompanied by heavy rain, which caused the flooding of several houses and the tearing up of some of the roads. When the storm ceased news arrived that a lad named Willie Moseley, son of Thomas Moseley, Newtown, had been killed while haymaking on his grandmother's farm at

At a meeting of the Llandyfodwg school board, held at Nantymoel, Ogmore Valley, on Monday, July 19, a long and heated discussion took place on the desirability of having Weish taught as a specific subject in the Board schools. M. J. Baker moved a resolution, which was eventually carried, that it be compulsory on head teachers to teach the language to all the children in the upper standards whose parents desired it.

The South Wales Musical Review is the latest addition to the periodical literature of Wales, and all eisteddfodwr will accord it a hearty welcome It is published by the Principality Music Publishing company, 9, Senghenydd-place, Cardiff, and is excellently printed on good stout paper. The present is the third number. A very effective setting of Burns's "O. Wert Thou in the Cauld Blast," for four voices, and printed in both notations. forms the supplement. It is being praised by the critics.

"The only Welsh book," writes a correspondent who delights in blography, "printed by Mr. Raikes, the founder of Sunday schools, was a translation of a letter by the Bishop of London against Whitefield and the Wesleyan Methodists. This was translated into Welsh by the Rev. Theophilus Evans, the author of "Drych y Prif Oseoedd," and printed in 1740. In the same year Mr. Whitefield's reply this letter was translated into Welsh, and printed at Pontypool, where a number of Welsh books were printed in the last century."

What can Mr. Owen M. Edwards mean in the July number of Wales by suggesting the passage from Shakespeare's "Tempest," "Hence, bashful cunning, and prompt me, plain and holy innocence!" as "A motto for a Welshman?" We have heard of the 'deep" Welshman, and have protested rural districts than in other parts of

to these slurs from the camp of the Philistine, but from Mr. Edwards-if the common-sense construction of the passage be the one intended-it is real-

Lord and Lady Bute have added yet another to their long list of services to the Honorable Society of Cymmrodorions. Some three years ago the Marquis and Marchioness displayed the pictorial and other treasures of St. John's Lodge, their beautiful London residence, to the members of the society at an evening conversazione. This year the president and Lady Bute invited the members and their friends, numbering over 1,000, to garden party given in the lovely grounds attached to St. John's Lodge.

The annual inspection of the Glamorgan Volunteer Artillery was held at Lavernock, near Penarth, Saturday afternoon, July 17, Lieut .-Col. G. B. Allen, R. A., commanding Militia and Volunteer Artillery defences, being the inspecting officer. Out of a total enrolled strength of 795 officers and men and five permanent staff sergeants, there were on parade 595, Including 275 from Cardiff, 94 from Bridgend, 107 from Penarth, and 81 from Barry. There was also a corps of cyclists numbering a dozen fully coulpped men, who were in the charge of Sergeant Reads.

MODERN WARFARE.

Long Campaigns Will Give Place to Single But Decisive Encounters. From the Pall Mall Gazette.

As between any two European peace trained armies of the present day' the extreme percentage of loss to be anticipated locality' i. e., on particular brigades and divisions, will not exceed on in three (of which one is killed to four wounded), whereas for whole armies of a quarter of a million and over one in ten is the very outside punishment we we may reasonably expect.

Compared to the slaughter of the Seven Years' War, and the best contested fields of the Napoleonic period, this is very little, indeed. At Zorndorf the Russians left 21,000 out of 52,000 on the ground, and, this is undoubtedly the bloodiest battle recorded since the introductron of portable firearms, Eylau, Friedland, Wagram and Boro dino all exceed the figures for any pitched battle since the breechloader appeared in the field. Moreover, the horror of the whole thing is not to be measured by figures of percentage only, but by the density in which the killed and wounded lie, and the fate of the latter afterwards. In a modern battle 20,000 men would fall on an area of about twenty square miles; at Zorndorf the 21,000 Russians and 12,-000 Prussians lay on a single square mile, and of the wounded, not one in three survived; whereas in 1870 nine out of ten recovered, and the Prussian medical staff anticipated even better results next time.

But death on the battlefield is by far the least of the two evils the soldier has to face. There is death on the line of march and in hospitals along the road. Whereas, formerly, particularly under Napoleon, ten would die by the way for one who fell in action. In the last Franco-German war only one man died of disease for two killed in action. Indeed the health of men in the full prime of life was actually slightly better in the field than in

It may, however, be argued that, even granted that battles and marches may be less destructive, there will be more of them, because every ablebodied man being trained for war, the resistance will be more prolonged against the epithet as a slander; and | than formerly, but this prolonged enthe ignorant have supposed that there | durance is only conceivable under the is less innocence and virtue in Welsh supposition that the leaders on both sides are hopelessly incompetent, and the kingdom. Wales is accustomed both fear to stake all on a single col-

A Builder's Experience.

A USEFUL LIFE RENEWED IN A REMARKABLE MANNER.

Udney Y. Wilson Was Near Death's Door. Doctors Failed to Help Him—A Home Remedy Succeeded in Saving Mis Life.

From the Evening News, Detroit, Mich.

Udney Y. Wilson, contractor and builder, living in Detroit, Mich., at 87 High Street, West, said regarding Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People: "For years I have been out of doors in all kinds of bad weather, looking after my building contracts. I have worked many days in the rain and cold to complete some building. About two years ago I noticed I could not get around as I should, and commenced to have a severe pain in my back. I tried the usual remedies without getting any relief, and for nearly a year I suffered intensely. I kept up as long as toculd, as I had several contracts for buildings that had to be completed.

"At night I could not sleep. My physician said it was my kidneys, and every day I went out doors they would keep me awake nearly all the following night. Instead of getting better I became worse, and worried a great deal about my work. The doctor wid I must quit work and go to bed, or he would not be responsible for my life.

"All the medicines I took only helped me temporarily. Some days I would feel better and go out a day only to be again confined to my bed for weeks at a time. One day my wife suggested that I try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, and I langhed at the idea.

"Finally when I got into such a condition that I would take almost anything in the hope of relief, I tried the pills. They helped me from the start, but I would not acknowledge it and said it was the other medicines that had just commenced to work. I disliked

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lision-a supposition that nothing tends to justify. On the contrary, every leader brought up in the modern school is taught to understand the vulnerability of all modern military organizations, and is penetrated with the conviction that one downright "knockout" blow effects more than weeks of purposeless sparring, and where both start determined to bring matters to a climax, the decision cannot long be delayed. Judging from what we know of the relative efficiency of continental armies, we believe that the first round of the great encounter will also be the last, for the momentum of the blow which decides will simply paralyze every nerve of the opponent's body, and, adding up all sources of casualties that can occur in a short campaign of this description, we conclude that at the very worst the actual cost in human life to the powed will not amount than five per cent. of their several pop-

ADVERTISE IN THE TRIBUNE.

the population, estimated at mid-year. 1896, to be 575,669. The death rate is Sunday School Lesson for August 8.

Working and Waiting for Christ.

I Thess. IV, 9 to V. 2.

BY J. E. GILBERT, D. D., LL. D., Secretary of American Society of Religious Education.

INTRODUCTION .- Suspending our studies in apostolic history we shall have three successive lessons in the Epistles. The first letter to the Thessalonians was the beginning of Paul's writings. While employed at Corinth, A. D., 52, he received intelligence, probably through Timothy. (Acts xvii, 5.) that the disciples in Thessalonia were persecuted, and that some of them had been put to death. Under the prompting and guidance of the Holy Spirit he wrote to comfort the church by awakening hope concerning the departed, seeking at the same time to confirm all in holy living. As a strong incentive thereto he referred to the second coming of Christ (Chap. 1:10), a subject which had large place in the preach-ing of those days as well as in the thought of our Lord (John, xiv:3). Whatever Paul may have intended to teach on that matter, he was greatly misunder-stood by the Thessalonians, and a second letter was required to set them right.

FRATERNITY.-Our lesson opens the middle of the chapter with the sub-ject of brotherly love (verses 9 and 10). This is not introduced as a new theme. Evidently Paul gave advice on this sub-ject to the converts at Thessalonia when he was with them, and he declares they needed no further instruction, that the spirit of God taught them to love one another (Eph. v.2). He also recognizes the fact that they did exercise this admirable grace toward all the brethren in that region, and concluded by urging them to increase more and more. This commendation and exhortation of the apostle may have served several purposes. Inasmuch as fraternity is the human side of Christianity, the proof of love to God (1 John, iv:31), the evidence of a regenerate nature (1 John, iii:14), this was a sure method of promoting spirituality. In the hour of trial through which they were passing they needed to hold together, to care for each other, to comfort and strengthen each other (1 John, iii:18).

INDUSTRY .- There are two possible offenses against fraternity-it may be abused or limited. One may assume an unwarranted intimacy, meddling with things that do not belong to him, expecting pecuniary assistance to supplement idleness or prodigality. Or, he may conclude that those outside the church are not entitled to the same consideration as those inside, a mistake into which the Jews fell (John, iv:9). Paul applies as a corrective to both these errors, the homely and often overlooked virtue of industry (Verses 11 and 12). Summed up in few words, his advice is, "Mind your own business." The quiet, faithful pursuit of some chosen and useful vocation is an important means of grace (Acts xx:35). It enables a man to obtain an honest and decent living for himself and family (1 Tim., v:8) and to stand in right relations with the world. The wise man (Prov., vi:6) and the apostle (2 Thess., ili:10) are in perfect accord on this point. The sluggard is not a high type of a Chris-

BEREAVEMENT .- The death of a true friend is always a sore affliction. The union of hearts is by invisible ties which can never be severed without intense pain. The departure of a loved one, whose presence and spirit were sources of comfort, removes out of life part of its sweetness and leaves a void that can never be filled. The religion of Christ loes not forbid sorrow in the time of hereavement (John, xvi:20). But it does impart an element which renders sorrow unlike that experienced by others (Verse 13). In this letter to the Thessalonians Paul was anxious that believers should not experience or manifest the grief that belongs to unbelievers, a grief that burdens the heart, and clouds the life. He would have them think of the brethren who had been taken away as members still of the household of faith, separated only by a thin vell, not lost forever, but gone before into the better life, and waiting for the promised reunion. This hope would soften and sweeten their sorrow.

RESURRECTION .- To strengthen that hope it was necessary for the apostle to refer to the resurrection (Verses 14 and 15). This he did in a very simple and effective manner. Assuming that the effective manner. Assuming that the Thessalonians believed what he had taught them that Jesus rose from the dead, he affirmed that believers would be raised with Him. He must have referred that souls passed at death immediately into the conscious presence of Christ (Phil., 1:33). That rising would occur at the second coming of the Lord (1 Cor., xv:23) and would include His followers. Those who might at that time be living on the earth would not prevent (an old English word of Latin derivation, meaning to go before or precede) those who had been in their graves. By this state-ment he intended to show that death, which so many dread, did not diminish the prospect of good to be received when Jesus comes to reward His people.

CIRCUMSTANCES .- To make the fact of the resurrection more impressive Paul relates (Verses 16 and 17) the preceding. attending and subsequent events. Notice three particulars: First, Jesus shall descend from heaven (Acts i:11) with a shout, with the voice of an archangel (Rev., x:-6), with the trump of God (1 Cor., xv:52). Second, this phenomenal second advent shall be followed by the rising of the righteous dead. Third, the righteous living shall then be caught up to meet Jesus in the air (Acts i:9). In this way the family of the redeemed of all the ages will be united with their illustrious head (John, xiv:31), never again to be separated. The apostle must have known these things by direct revelation, for they were mentioned as oc-currences then future. Indeed, while centuries have elapsed and many generations of men have lived and passed away since these predictions were made, the momentous occasion here described is yet distant. The last great day, the closing up of the present order still delays its

EXHORTATION .- The purpose of the apostle in referring to the resurrection was not speculative but practical. With him the one grand design of all doctrine was the regulation of life (1 Tim., iii:15). And so he exhorts the Thessalonians to a good use of the information which he had furnished (Verse 18). He would have them comfort one another with these truths. What if friends have been taken away by death; what if the tender ties that bind hearts in the most delightful relations have been severed-let those who have been bereaved remember that friends are not lost, that in and through Jesus Christ they shall be regained, that in some bright day, the resurrection day there shall be a reunion. Who will not then endure the present separation and sorrow, sustained by such a precious hope? Let the words of consolation be spoken from one to another throughout the entire church until all its members are sustained in the midst of earth's afflictions by the prospect of heaven's reward (2 Peter, iii:12-14).

UNCERTAINTY.-Next follows a most valuable suggestion or caution (Verses 1 and 2). Paul reminds his hearers, what he assumes they already knew, what, nevertheless, they were liable to forget, that the time of Christ's coming and of the resurrection was uncertain, as much so as the coming of a thief in the night (Luke, xii:39). Our Lord had also declared (Matt., xxiv:36) that the day was unknown to men and angels, and known only to God. It may at first though rection should have been disclosed, and that the time should be concealed among the secrets of the Almighty (Deut., xxix 29). Further thought will convince all that this is a wise and merciful provis ion. Its very uncertainty invests the last day with most solemn import, requiring of all an attitude of constant expectation and perpetual readiness (Matt. xxiv:42). And, after all, it does not conern man to know the times and seasons of God (Acts, 1:7).

CONCLUSION.—The topic assigned for this lesson, "Working and Waiting for Christ," gathers up its chief thoughts. The supreme duty of every soul at every moment in this brief mortal life is to cultivate love toward others and to fill ar allotted place with faithful services. But as there is another life into which a must shortly enter, as there is to be set up another kingdom (Titus, ii:13), me ought to comfort and strengthen their hearts, looking forward to the day of the great consummation, but patiently waiting God's own time for bringing His children home. The obligations of the present may be rendered easy by the expectations of the future. The life that now is should be lived under the influence of the life which is to come. ence of the life which is to come. Man should be a citizen of two countries—his earthly relations should be viewed in the light of his heavenly relations. The great lesson to be learned is "to labor and to



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