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AGRICULTURAL.

MATTER PREPARED SPECIALLY FOR THE "RECORD-UNION."

Irrigated Agriculture—Fruit Canneries—Curing of Raisins—Exporting Raw Materials—Etc.

England, Ireland and Scotland are among the best naturally watered countries in the world. They lie in the path, or near the path, of the Gulf stream, that leads out of the Gulf of Mexico and crosses the Atlantic ocean in a northeasterly direction, carrying with it a stream of hot air, which, coming in contact with the cooler air off Norway and Sweden, flows back over the British Isles and discharges the distilled dampness on those islands in fogs and rains. The very atmosphere of Great Britain is at all time of the year full of moisture, and the soil seldom suffers for the want of the necessary dampness to keep vegetation in a green, growing condition. Notwithstanding this fact much of the meadow and pasture lands of England are irrigated artificially to stimulate the growth of the grass early in the season, and to increase the production. It has been found that by flooding these meadows and pastures in the winter and early spring, the frost is taken from the soil, and the grasses get an earlier start and make a ranker growth the following season. Then many of the English farmers have ray grass meadows, from which, by irrigation during the summer, they obtain from three to four crops of green hay by the process of feeding called soiling, and keep the grass growing fresh and green most of the time during the winter season. The best natural meadows of the Northern Atlantic States are those that are annually flooded by the overflow of adjoining creeks. In many places in these States production for hay and grass for pasture is kept up to a high state by artificially forcing water over the lands. The agriculture of China—the oldest and most prolific agriculture in the world—is almost universally an irrigated agriculture. The oldest agriculture of which the Bible gives any account was stimulated by irrigation. The first labor-saving machinery of which ancient history gives any description, was machinery for raising water for irrigating purposes. Ancient Egypt was the product of an irrigated agriculture. Though the river Nile has always been subject to annual overflows, which submerges the valley and keeps the soil moist till late in the spring, still agriculture, even on the very banks of the river, owes very much to artificial irrigation. The agriculture of India—from which England draws largely for the support of her vast manufacturing population—is almost wholly dependent on artificial irrigation to keep up the products to a paying standard. Mexico and Peru and other sections of the southern portion of this continent, were once the seat of a rich agriculture, sustained by artificial irrigation, the ruins of which are at once the admiration and wonder of travelers. The best results of agriculture in all parts of the world, from the earliest historic period down to the present time, have been secured by artificial irrigation. The history of agriculture without irrigation, in every country where it has been practiced for a long period of time, has been a history of the exhaustion of the soil and the impoverishment of the agriculturists and the agricultural laborers. Nature seems not to have anticipated the cultivation of the soil, and hence has not provided for such a condition of things. The science of agriculture is as much an artificial science as the science of architecture or the science of medicine, or any other of the sciences which have engaged the study and ingenuity of man, and to bring it to the highest perfection it requires artificial conditions. When the most rainfall is needed to support agriculture in a prosperous condition, as a rule the least rain falls, and, on the contrary, when the least is needed the most falls. Thus the world over the most rain falls on the mountains, and in countries so broken and uneven as not to be cultivatable, while the least falls on the broad flat prairies and in the wide deserts. A study of these facts should teach man not to expect permanent success in the cultivation of the soil until he has provided the means of regulating the supply of water to the wants of the soil he is cultivating. While there are many localities in California where the rainfall is sufficient to support a high state of cultivation if properly distributed, we think it is equally true that there is not a single locality where artificial irrigation would not, judiciously practiced, double the production of a general agriculture. The very fact that in the same locality, in the same climate and character of soil, some crops need more water to perfect them than others, shows man that, in order to bring agriculture up to its highest success, he should be prepared to regulate the supply of water as demanded by the circumstances. Wherever man supplies and regulates the water for agricultural purposes, then success of agriculture is assured beyond a peradventure. Wherever man depends upon nature for the supply of water for agricultural purposes, there the success of agriculture is as uncertain and precarious as the weather. The farmers of any country are not the only parties interested in this subject of an irrigated agriculture. Commerce, the mechanic arts, the manufactures, the learned professions—all are equally interested in the subject with the farmer. Indeed, we think, as a rule, the representations of other industries are more interested than the farmer, for the reason that society is so organized that they secure a greater degree of prosperity from the success of agriculture than does the farmer himself. Of all the States in the American Union California suffers more from the want of an irrigated agriculture than any other State; and on the other hand, with an irrigated agriculture California would become the richest agricultural State in the Union. No other State has a climate adapted to so wide a range of agricultural products. We may also say that no other State is so well situated for a general, successful and comprehensive plan of irrigation as California. The whole State is made up of rich alluvial valleys, and elevated watersheds immediately adjacent. The valleys all have their natural water courses, through which flow the waters of these elevated watersheds, thus bringing the waters—the element of untold riches—almost to the door of every farmer in the land. With a complete system of irrigation in operation over the State the increased production of a single year would almost pay the expense of bringing the water onto every farm. With irrigation generally introduced and practiced the farmers of California would in time hold mortgages on the balance of the world; without it their lands will remain under mortgage to those who take advantage of their disadvantages. The farmers of Holland are said to hold as a class more American securities than any other people in the world—the bankers are merely their agents. The agriculture of Holland is an irrigated agriculture. Indeed almost the entire country is an artificial country, from which the water is shut out by levees and brought in by irrigating canals.

Success to the Fruit Canneries.

Canning fruit for export in California is comparatively a new industry, but, notwithstanding, it is to this industry that the present boom in fruit culture is chiefly due. We like to ship our green fruit to Chicago and New York and realize large profits, but there is great risk in the business, and at best this trade can dispose of but a small, very small, amount of fruit. To the canneries we must look for the great market. When once carefully put up in cans, fruit can be kept almost an indefinite period, and can be shipped to any part of the world. The markets for green fruits are easily glutted, but for canned fruit the market is too extensive and too continuous to be supplied in a day or a week, or ever. Those who contemplate going into the fruit business will do well to make their calculations on the market the canneries promise rather than on those that call for green fruit.

Exporting Raw Materials.

The ugliest feature of the export trade of California is the fact that we export so much in the shape of raw materials. Our wheat should go in the shape of flour, instead of as it does, just as it comes from the thrashing machine. Our wool should go at least in a cleansed form, instead of in its dirt, as it does; perhaps we should have said in the form of yarn or cloth. Our hides should go out of the State in the form of leather, or rather in the form of boots and shoes and harness. No country ever became truly prosperous, and no country ever supported a large population, while its commerce was employed in the export of raw material and in the import of manufactured articles. Agriculture and commerce cannot alone build up a State; manufactures must be a co-ordinate industry with them. We need home markets, which can be supplied only by manufactures.

Favorable for Raisins.

The two years' past seasons were very unfavorable for curing raisins. The seasons were late in the spring, and grapes matured late, and we had early rains to interfere with the curing of the raisins. This season has a good beginning. The season being early, the raisin-makers got to work sooner, and since the first of the present month the weather has been all that could be desired. Should this favorable weather continue until the first of October a large portion of the raisin crop will be secured in good order, and the product will not only be first-rate in quality, but the largest ever made in the State.

Irrigation Reduced to an Economical Science.

Our friend R. B. Blowers, of Woodland, has so far perfected his irrigating machinery that from a single load of straw used as fuel he can raise and send out over his land over a million gallons of water. From a single well tapping one of the blind or ancient channels of Cache creek he can flood 300 acres of land at any time in the summer season. With this machinery and water he keeps the phylloxera from his vineyard and secures the best raisins made in the State, and simply illustrates what can be done by enterprise, intelligence and perseverance. Mr. Blower's land is no different from the ordinary lands in the wheat-growing sections of Yolo and other wheat producing localities, and yet from twenty-five acres in vineyard he has sold in a single season over $14,000 worth of produce. His seedless Sultana vines this year will average 100 pounds of grapes to the vine.

Water as a Fertilizer.

Water properly used on land is one of the best fertilizers. Water coming down upon our valley lands from the water sheds above us and applied in quantities to convert the wheat land into orchards, vineyards and vegetable gardens will keep up the fertility of these lands to the highest stage perpetually. With water we can insure the perpetual production of all the lands in the State, and make every acre bud and bloom as the rose.

Demand for Fruit Trees

There will be a great demand for small fruit trees to set in orchards as soon as the rains have come in sufficient quantity to set them out. The California nurseries will be unable to supply the demand, and a good trade will probably spring up between this State and Eastern nurseries. It is the opinion of some of the best orchardists that it is much better to plant trees from a colder climate.

FOR FARMERS.

It is proposed to hold an agricultural and mineralogical exhibition at Madrid, Spain, in 1882.

The importation of American lard is prohibited in Hungary. American pork and bacon have been proscribed for some time.

The Polled Angus and Aberdeen cattle, both Scotch and both black, will be exhibited at the next St. Louis Fair, and possibly the Polled Norfolk, an English breed, may be there too.

A scientific, artistic, agricultural and industrial exposition is to be held at Orizaba, Mexico, in November next. The United States will be well represented, and Colorado will take this opportunity to exhibit her products, both mineral and agricultural.

A mongrel sire of any kind of stock should never be used. If a farmer is not able to purchase a thoroughbred alone, he should get others to unite with him and make a joint purchase, dividing purchase price and cost of keeping. When that is done no thoroughbred need be without such a sire.

The most profitable method of rearing cattle is to give them all the food they can digest well from their birth up to the day of their slaughter, if reared for bullocks. But if for making oxen and bulls and cows for breeding, then feed no more than to keep them in prime working and breeding condition. An ox may be too fat or too poor for good work, and so may a bull to get first-rate offspring or a cow to do well in the dairy or as a breeder.

EDUCATIONAL.

There are now in this country 271,144 teachers, or one teacher to every 184 of population.

Of all the New England colleges Harvard has had the largest addition to her endowment fund during the past year. She has received $1,000,000, Yale has had $250,000, and Dartmouth $150,000.

The authorities of Victoria University at Manchester, England, have decided not to insist upon classical knowledge, except for the ordinary degrees in arts, and have made divers new regulations for degrees in science and law.

Professor Monier Williams' proposed Indian Institute at Oxford is now assuming tangible shape. The University has undertaken to make annual grant toward the expenses of its maintenance, and a site for a building has been fixed upon.

West Virginia, which in 1865 had only 1,865 school districts, 133 school-houses, 387 teachers, and an attendance of 15,975 pupils, has now 3,529 districts, 3,557 school-houses, 4,224 teachers, and an attendance of 142,850 pupils. In 1865 only twenty counties of the State had any free schools.

At the recent meeting of the Ohio teachers one of them said that the system in that State lacked an independent head; that the State School Commissioner should have greater scope of power and should be assisted by a board of twelve. He declared also that the State needed better facilities for the education of teachers.

Dennison University at Granville, O., has just had its endowment fund increased by $100,000. In 1873 the University passed a law abolishing the Greek letter societies, under the impression that the fraternities were immoral in their influence. The enforcement of the law not only created bad feelings, but was practically evaded; and it has now been repealed.

The public school fund of Indiana last year amounted to $9,065,254 73, and the average attendance upon the schools was 321,659. The State has ninety-two County School Superintendents, nearly all of whom met in Convention at Indianapolis recently. A plan was submitted for uniting the public school system of the State with the University.

A new course of study has been adopted in the public schools of Utica, N. Y., which reduces the time required from sixteen years to twelve. The primary grade is to take two years instead of four; the intermediate grade three years instead of four; the reduction in the advanced school course is from four years to three; and the last change is the establishment of distinct courses in the academy, for two, three and four years respectively, with corresponding diplomas.

SMALL ECONOMIES.—There are women to whom small economies, little improved ways of caring for things, never occur, but who gladly avail themselves of any knowledge they may gain. Such a woman will rejoice to know that her carpet-sweeper will last much longer and will work more satisfactorily if the wheels are oiled occasionally; that her wringer, if the screws are loosened when it is put away, will also take on a new lease of life; that in the course of a year she may save several dollars if she drives a nail on which the stove-hook may hang, and see that it is hung there, and is not left on the stove, where the handle is sure to burn and drop off.

IMPURE BLOOD causes poor circulation, then disorders, such as liver and kidney complaint, dyspepsia, constipation, piles, skin disorders, etc., which are curable by King of the Blood.

THE COUNCIL.

THE METHODIST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL IN LONDON.

Prefatory Letter—What the Council Represents—The Essays—Statistics—A Noteworthy Event.

[Correspondence of the RECORD-UNION.]

LONDON, August 23, 1881.

On the 7th of September this great city will witness the convening of an ecclesiastical body which will equal in dignity and importance any similar gathering ever held, and the influence of which will be felt all over the globe. We refer to the Ecumenical Conference of the world's Methodism. This Conference will continue two weeks. Its sessions will be held in City-road Chapel, a church whose designer and builder was John Wesley, whose walls echoed frequently with Wesley's voice, in whose parsonage that venerable minister died, and in the cemetery adjoining which, side by side with the dust of his noble coadjutors, the founder of Methodism lies buried. This church is a brick structure, exceedingly plain in its architecture, and very limited in its dimensions. At the tightest squeeze it will not accommodate more than 2,500 people, and it has the additional disadvantage of not being centrally located. For these and some other reasons the Conference would better have been held in some of the commodious and celebrated halls which abound in the metropolis. But Methodism was born in London, and consequently it is most fitting that the first family reunion should be held here, while the same sense of fitness points unerringly to City-road Chapel, the old homestead of the family, as the place which should be the immediate scene of this great gathering.

WHAT IT REPRESENTS.

The Conference will represent the Methodism of the world. In other words, its 400 delegates will represent about twenty-eight distinct church organizations, about five millions of church members, and a Methodist population estimated at twenty-three million souls. The men constituting the Conference will be, as regards intellect, learning and official rank, the flower of their several denominations. In the distribution of representatives, the total number of 400 is divided equally between the two hemispheres. The basis of representation from the different churches is, of course, the numerical strength of each. The two hundred delegates who represent the Methodism of the United States and Canada have now nearly all arrived on this side, and, preparatory to the assembling of the congress, are seeking health, knowledge and pleasure on the continent and elsewhere. Having been duly admonished by the censors of the Methodist press at home that Christian ministers should do nothing in a foreign land that they would fear to do among their own people, these reverend gentlemen will, doubtless, take due heed to their ways, and we may hope that they will seek all their amusements in the strict line of legitimacy. When they return to England and appear in London, as they will early in September, to be quartered in the princely houses of the elite of London Methodism, they will find themselves regarded as ecclesiastical lions; and will be feted both in social and religious ways to a degree they probably have not anticipated. The one fact which, above all others, insures the delegates to this Conference the liberties of this great city and a royal good time generally, is that Alderman McArthur, the Lord Mayor of the Metropolis, is a member of the Methodist communion, and, indeed, a delegate to the Ecumenical. If he can't make "the boys" enjoy themselves, who can? It is certain, too, that he will have the will to

TREAT THEM HOSPITABLY

As well as the ability, for he is a man of large heart and liberal tastes, though, withal, a strict Methodist. Mr. McArthur is the only Dissenter, i. e., the only man outside the communion of the Established Church, who has ever reached this high dignity. His elevation rather hurt the feelings of some of the big fellows, and their dissatisfaction has deepened as time has worn on, for while they are compelled to admit that he makes, in all essential particulars, a most excellent official, they still have observed with horror that he throws the great weight of his official influence almost wholly in favor of the Methodists, and, what to them is still worse, that he allows Methodist principles to have an influence over the public banquets and receptions held at the Mansion House. The fact is, I suppose, that having the fear of John Wesley's "General Rules" before his eyes, he holds his guests in a little restraint on such occasions, not allowing them to "trip the light fantastic" or to guzzle brandy quite as much as they desire. This to American Methodists will be good news, and in using the columns of the RECORD-UNION to propose "three cheers" for this honorable Methodist official, and "three groans" for those who are mad at him, we feel sure of meeting a hearty response both from the editor and from your large constituency of religious readers.

BY SPECIAL REQUEST

Of the British and Continental section the opening sermon of the Conference will be preached by that prince of public orators, Bishop Simpson. This will be the grandest occasion of the Bishop's life, and, as he is now over 70, and in rather feeble health, it is not likely such an opportunity will ever come to him. The fire that sparkled in his eye and burned in his words and irradiated his entire frame in the middle age of his ministry is expected to come back to "the old man eloquent" for this emergency, and those who are privileged to listen to this opening sermon will be favored mortals indeed. We shall tell it to our children, and they will talk of it to the generation succeeding. The afternoon of the opening day will be an occasion equally memorable. It is not down on the bills exactly, for the formal selection will not take place till the Business Committee shall meet on the 5th of September, but it is perfectly understood that at this first session the chair will be occupied by the Rev. George Osborn, D. D., President of the British Wesleyan Conference, and that this dignitary will deliver the address of welcome to the delegates from America. Responses to this address will be made by Bishop Holland A. McTyeire, D. D., of the Methodist Episcopal Church South; Bishop Henry W. Warren, D. D., of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and by the Rev. George Douglass, D. D., of the Methodist Church of Canada. Following these formal greetings and responses it is probable (though this is another thing not down on the bills) that a season of social festivity will occur, the Conference adjourning in all likelihood to that seat of civic dignity, the Mansion-house, to be entertained there by his Lordship and the Lady Mayoress with something in the nature of a banquet, supplemented by a feast of reason and a flow of Methodist soul, such as by those participating will perhaps never be forgotten. Your correspondent has only one wish in connection with this anticipated feast, and that is, that when the good things are brought on he may be there to taste and enjoy them. Should this privilege be accorded him he will not fail to show his gratitude by describing the proceedings as best he can for the benefit of those not so fortunate.

ON THE SECOND DAY,

Thursday, the 8th instant, the regular discussions will begin. Among the topics to be discussed are—Methodism, its history and results; Methodism as a power, purifying and elevating society; the evangelical agencies of Methodism, Methodism and the young, the Lord's day and temperance, possible perils of Methodism, education, the use of the press for the advancement of Christianity, Methodist hymnology, home missions, foreign missions, and Christian unity. Each of these general topics is divided on the programme into two or more special themes, for each of which an essayist and invited speaker have been appointed, the former to occupy twenty minutes and the latter ten, the remaining thirty minutes necessary to complete the hour allotted to the theme being occupied by voluntary speeches not exceeding five minutes in length. A glance over the programme shows that it has been constructed with a remarkable regard for the great American propensity for speech-making, for it affords opportunity for forensic displays to no less than 300 of the 400 delegates to the Conference. These opportunities, we venture to predict, will all be eagerly embraced, and if the delegates from our own shores do not gobble up the lion's share of them we shall be much disappointed, and shall be led to the conclusion that the American eagle does not thrive in the foggy atmosphere of the British Isles.

THE ESSAYS.

Those selected by the two sections of the Executive Committee to read essays or to lead off in debate are the following: Rev. Wm. Cooke, D. D., Methodist New Connexion of Great Britain; Rev. W. X. Ninde, D. D., M. E. Ch.; Rev. Arthur Edwards, D. D., M. E. Ch., Rev. M. C. Osborn, British Wesleyan; Rev. Wm. Arthur, M. A., British Wesleyan; Bishop L. H. Holsey, Colored M. E. Ch.; Rev. A. W. Wilson, D. D., M. C. Ch. South; Rev. S. S. Barton, United Methodist Free Churches of Great Britain; Rev. W. Autliff, D. D., Primitive Methodist of Great Britain; Rev. J. B. M'Ferrin, D. D., M. E. Church South; Hon. J. W. F. White, M. E. Ch.; Mr. W. Shepherd Allen, M. P., British Wesleyan; Rev. F. W. Bourne, Bible Christian Churches of Great Britain; Rev. Charles H. Payne, D. D., M. E. Ch.; Rev. John P. Newman, D. D., M. E. Ch.; Rev. J. Stacy, D. D., Methodist New Connexion of Great Britain; Rev. Joseph Wood, M. A., Primitive Methodist of Great Britain; Rev. J. McH. Farley, M. E., Zion Church; Rev. H. A. Thompson, D. D., United Brethren Church; Mr. G. J. Smith, British Wesleyan; Rev. John Baker, M. A., British Wesleyan; Rev. B. T. Roberts, Free Methodist Church; Bishop D. A. Payne, African M. E. Ch.; Rev. Joseph Kirsop, United Methodist Free Churches of Great Britain; Rev. Charles Garrett, British Wesleyan; Rev. Marshal W. Taylor, M. E. Ch.; Rev. John M. Walden, D. D., LL.D., of the M. E. Ch.; Wm. Beckworth, Primitive Methodist of Great Britain; Rev. J. Gutteridge, United Methodist Free Churches of Great Britain; Rev. E. B. Ryckman, D. D., Methodist Church, Canada; Rev. Daniel Curry, D. D., M. E. Ch.; Rev. W. L. Watkinson, British Wesleyan; Rev. J. W. McKay, D. D., Irish Methodist; Rev. C. M. Giffin, Independent Methodist; Bishop J. P. Thompson, M. E. Zion Church; Rev. S. Antliff, D. D., Primitive Methodist Ch. of Great Britain; Rev. T. G. Osborn, M. A., British Wesleyan; Rev. F. A. Mood, D. D., M. E. Ch. South; Rev. C. G. Andrews, M. E. Ch. South; Rev. G. W. Oliver, B. A., British Wesleyan; Rev. W. B. Pope, D. D., British Wesleyan; Rev. Geo. R. Crooks, D. D., M. E. Ch.; Rev. Bidwell Lane, A. M., Methodist Ch. of Canada; Rev. J. Dymond, Bible Christian Ch. of Great Britain; Rev. J. S. Withington, United Methodist Free Churches of Great Britain; Rev. J. C. Antliff, M. A., Primitive Methodist of Canada; Rev. C. K. Marshall, D. D., M. E. Ch. South; Rev. H. W. Holland, British Wesleyan; Rev. Geo. Osborn, D. D., British Wesleyan; Rev. James M. Buckley, D. D., M. E. Ch.; Hon. James Ferrier, Methodist Ch. of Canada; Rev. Hugh Gilmour, Primitive Methodist of Great Britain; Rev. T. H. Bainbridge, British Wesleyan; Rev. G. B. McElroy, D. D., Methodist Protestant Ch.; Rev. S. B. Southerland, D. D., Methodist Protestant; Rev. Richard Green, British Wesleyan; Rev. T. B. Stephenson, LL. D., British Wesleyan; Rev. Jacob Todd, D. D., M. E. Ch.; Rev. J. M. Reid, D. D., M. E. Ch.; Rev. E. E. Jenkins, M. E. British Wesleyan; Rev. J. H. Rigg, D. D., British Wesleyan; Rev. R. S. Maclay, D. D., M. E. Ch.; Rev. W. A. Potter, D. D., M. E. Ch. South; Rev. John Kilner, British Wesleyan; Rev. J. S. Banks, British Wesleyan; Rev. Leroy M. Vernon, D. D., M. E. Ch.; Rev. A. Salzberger, Ph. D., M. E. Ch.; Rev. H. J. Piggott, B. A. (Rome), British Wesleyan; Rev. C. C. McKechnie, Primitive Methodist of Great Britain; Rev. C. W. Miller, D.D., M. E. Ch. South; Rev. Augustus C. George, D. D., M. E. Ch.; Rev. William Cocker, D. D., Methodist New Connexion of Great Britain; Rev. John Myers, United Methodist Free Churches of Great Britain; Bishop, J. A. Shorter, African M. E. Ch.; Mr. David Allison, LL.D., Methodist Ch. of Canada; and Rev. Benjamin Gregory, British Wesleyan. Besides the formal essays and addresses of these gentlemen, there will be on every subject and at every session a number of short voluntary speeches, and it is by no means improbable that these will exceed in interest and force, as they certainly will in freshness, the more stately emanations preceding them.

STATISTICS.

Your readers may be interested in the following points in regard to the different American churches represented in the Conference:

The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in December, 1784, at Baltimore. It then had 14,988 members and 84 itinerant preachers. This church now has 1,742,922 members and 12,096 itinerant preachers. Sends to the Ecumenical 80 delegates.

The Methodist Episcopal Church South was organized at Louisville, Ky., in May, 1845. Its first general Conference was held in May, 1846, at Petersburg, Va. At its birth it had about 450,000 members. It has now 830,000 members and 3,860 preachers. Sends to the Ecumenical 38 delegates.

The Methodist Protestant Church was formed in 1830. Commencing with 80 ministers and 5,000 members, it now numbers 1,314 ministers and about 115,000 members. Sends to the Ecumenical six delegates.

The United Brethren Church originated a little over a century ago in Pennsylvania and Maryland, under the labors of Philip W. Otterhein, a German Reformed preacher. For some time this was exclusively a German church, but it has long lost this distinctive character. It has 160,000 members, and 2,000 ministers. Representation on Ecumenical six, but sends only two delegates.

The Evangelical Association was formed by Jacob Albright in 1800. It is almost exclusively a German church. Membership, 112,197, with 893 ministers. Sends to the Ecumenical two delegates.

The Free Methodist Church was organized at Pekin, N. Y., in 1860. It has 12,642 members and 271 ministers. Sends to Ecumenical two delegates.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in 1816, with about 3,000 members. It now has a membership of about 215,000. Sends to Ecumenical twelve delegates.

The Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (colored) was formed in New York in 1820. It began with 1,500, and now has nearly 200,000, and sends to Ecumenical ten delegates.

The Union American Methodist Church (colored), organized by Rev. Peter Spencer, has only 2,000 members and 121 preachers. Every member of this church is required to contribute no less than $2 50 a year to the support of the gospel. Sends to Ecumenical two delegates.

The Wesleyan Church was organized at Utica, N. Y., in 1841. It was a strong anti-slavery church, and since the war has declined. It has now 250 ministers, and about 25,000 members. Sends to Ecumenical four delegates.

The Colored Methodist Episcopal Church was formed at Nashville, Tenn., December, 1874, under the Direction of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. It has 638 ministers, and 112,300 members. Sends to Ecumenical six delegates.

The Primitive Methodist Church reports 196 ministers and 3,210 members. Sends to Ecumenical two delegates.

The Congregational Methodist Church originated in 1852. Membership, 10,000. Sends two delegates.

The Independent Methodist Churches report an aggregate of about 15,000 members. Sends two delegates.

The Canadian Churches will be represented as follows: Methodist Church, 12 delegates; Methodist Episcopal Church, 4; Primitive Methodist Church, 2; Bible Christian Church, 2; British Methodist Episcopal Church, 2.

The 200 delegates representing British and Continental Methodism are distributed as follows; Wesleyan Methodists, 88; Primitive Methodists, 36; Free Church Methodists, 22; New Connexion Methodists, 12; Bible Christians, 10; Wesleyan Reform Union, 4; Irish Wesleyans, 10; French Wesleyans, 2; Australian Wesleyans, 16.

AN INCIDENT.

Since arriving here I have learned of an interesting incident that occurred at the British Wesleyan Conference which met recently in Liverpool. Bishop Ryle, the resident episcopate of the Established Church, sent a letter of fraternal greeting to that body. The letter spoke of the great work being done by the Wesleyans, and bade them Godspeed in that work, sentiments which were afterwards given more practical expression, the venerable prelate inviting the leading men in the Conference to dine with him at the episcopal mansion. Such a thing as this never occurred before. It is an event, too, which is worthy of note, not only on account of its novelty, but because, taken in connection with the fact that many of the Wesleyan churches in this country use the prayers of the Church of England in their public services, it seems to indicate a determination on both sides to shake hands across the ecclesiastical chasm that so long divided them, and to be brethren, with all that the name implies. If this act of Bishop Ryle should be supplemented by a similar course on the part of the Bishop of London toward the great Ecumenical Council, it will be safe to conclude that the era of general good feeling has indeed arrived, and that Christianity in the near future will make rapid advances in these isles.

H. T.

THE EMPTY CRADLE.

She sits beside the cradle,
And her tears are streaming fast,
For she sees the present only,
While she thinks of all the past—

Of the days so full of gladness,
When her first-born's answering kiss
Thrilled her soul with such a rapture
That it knew no other bliss.

Oh, those happy, happy moments,
They but deepen her despair!
For she bends above the cradle,
And her baby is not there.

There are words of comfort spoken,
And the leaden clouds of grief
Wear the smiling bow of promise,
And she feels a sad relief.

But her wavering thoughts will wander,
Till they settle on the scene
Of the dark and silent chamber,
And of all that might have been.

For a little vacant garment,
Or a shining tress of hair,
Tells her heart in tones of anguish,
That her baby is not there.

She sits beside the cradle,
But her tears no longer flow;
For she sees a blessed vision,
And forgets all earthly woe.

Saintly eyes look upon her,
And the voice that hushed the sea
Stills the spirit with the whisper,
"Suffer them to come to Me."

And while her soul is lifted
On the soaring wings of prayer,
Heaven's crystal gates swing inward,
And she sees her darling there.

AFTER MANY DAYS.

A remarkable romance is related by a Morehead City (N. C.) correspondent. About fifty years a prepossessing young woman appeared suddenly in a small mountain village near Asheville, and obtained work in a farmer's family. She called herself Mary Burt, but gave no further clue to her origin. Her tasks were so skillfully performed, and she could sing a song, dance a reel, tell a story so well that she became a village favorite. Fifteen years later the mystery surrounding her was forgotten. Having declined more than one good offer of marriage, she settled down as a good-natured old maid, became the beneficent "aunt" of the neighborhood, and finally was persuaded to take charge of a country school near by.

After several years of teaching her whole character seemed to change. She became moody, melancholy, and fond of solitude. Purchasing a lovely and lonely spot among the mountains she had a rude hut built, and there she lived without any companionship but that of her dog, cat, cow and chickens. Her only book was the Bible, and this she nearly learned by heart. The publication of this woman hermit's story in the Asheville *Citizen* not long ago brought a solution of the mystery. The article was copied into a Vermont paper, and attracted the attention of Robert Fletcher, a prominent citizen of that State, and Fletcher soon after visited Asheville, sought the editor of the *Citizen*, and together they went to Miss Burt's house. The hermit did not recognize the Vermonter, but she soon learned that he was her old lover.

A mistake had kept them apart for half a century, but when Fletcher left Asheville a few days later, Mary Burt Howe, for that was the hermit's full name, accompanied him as his wife. When Miss Howe and Fletcher were young they were engaged to be married. The young woman fancied her lover was attached to another girl, and suddenly left her home in Maine. Going to Boston, she there shipped as stewardess on a ship bound for Liverpool. The vessel was wrecked on the North Carolina coast, and after many adventures at sea in an open boat and among friendly Indians on land, Miss Howe found her way to civilization. Robert Fletcher traced his runaway sweetheart to the ship on which she sailed, and, hearing of the loss of the vessel, always mourned her as dead till the North Carolina paper gave him a happy surprise.

DO EVERYTHING WELL.—People who witnessed the exercises said that they never knew a man to straighten out a rope with more unstudied grace and earnest zeal than William did. He seemed to throw the whole vim and concentrated energy of a lifetime into this emphatic gesture. As he hung there limp and exhausted at the end of the rope, the Chairman of the Vigilance Committee said, while he took a cigar from William's vest pocket and lit it, that he had never known a man to jump into the bosom of the great uncertain with more "chic," or more sprightly grace and precision, than William had. This should teach us the importance of doing everything thoroughly and well. Whatever we undertake, aim to do it better than any one else. It is better to be hanged, and know that we have brought out all there was in the part, and to know that we expiated our crimes in a way calculated to win the respect of all, than even to run for the Senate and get scooped.—[William Nye, Esq., Superintendent of the Laramie Sunday-school and religious editor of the *Boomerang*.

WOMEN that have been bedridden for years have been entirely cured of female weakness by the use of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. Send to Mrs. Lydia E. Pinkham, No. 233 Western Avenue, Lynn, Mass., for pamphlets.

THE QUIET HOUR.

TANGLER'S CORNER AND PUZZLER'S CONTRIBUTION BOX.

Charades, Enigmas, Riddles, Puzzles, Word Squares, Answers to and from Correspondents, and Solutions.

Answers to September 3d.

PRIZE REBUS ANSWERS.

1159. Electricity, Othello, Man, Toombs, Arabian Nights, Shasta, Annanias, Ney, RECORD-UNION, Crocodile; (whole), Sacramento.

1160. Urbanity, Ennui, Ingenuity, Sin, Newton, Souvenir, Boosy, Self; (whole), Business.

1161. Utopia, Urbane, Olive, Sibyl, Bellona, Charity, Loyal, Mercy; (whole), Columbus.

1162. Napoleon, Walton, Hattie, Trouble, Owen, Great Bear, Newspaper, Anarchy, Ibex, Sandy; (whole), Washington.

1163. North Star, Organ, Idler, Grass, Rose, Ellen, Lone, Industry; (whole), Religion.

1164. (No. 1)—Heber, Merry, Tunion, Youth, Gus, Rose, Utah, Thought, Olive, Ruby, Eternal, Happiness; (whole), Merry, Thought (a wishbone). (No. 2)—Right, Unionist, Overt, Deceit, Amity, Beauty, Ugly, Oceanus, Texel, Rose, Mary; (whole), Troubadour.

New Tangles.

1169. Progressive half square, by Quest:

A consonant; to perform, or to let; a university officer; mistress; a grammer (obs.); to grant; given.

1170. Puzzles, by Quiz:

(1) 500 — Eps. (2) N g S (3) N +

1171. Charade, dedicated to Sybil, by Silver King:

We strolled beneath the towering trees,
Lis'ning to birds and humming bees;
Awed by the lofty sighing pines,
Charmed by sweet flowers and trailing vines.
"Look at this third!" I cried in glee;
"Is that what you whole?" said he.
"Second would not, first it one—
'Tis but a rough and prickly cone."

1172. Picture and charade for H. H., from Rose:

[Time]—That of our good grandmother's days,
Which some old fogies continue to praise,
When woman never asked to vote,
Nor sought to wear her husband's —— coat.

[Scene]—A low-roofed cottage, whose open door
Reveals a snowy sanded floor;
A fireplace deep, with andirons tall,
And sundry kettles, large and small;
An oaken "settle" standing at one side,
With high stiff back, and seat too wide;—
On the other a brick oven, by its size
Suggesting countless mince and apple pies,
Baked beans, delicious, with brown bread,
And Indian pudding, cooked till red.
Sentry-like, a clock in the corner stands,
Marking the hours with remorseless hands;
Rush seated chairs, upright and straight,
Hard as any transgressor's fate.
No soft Persian rugs the floor adorn,
But braided mats from husks of corn;
While overhead from swinging rods,
Droop strings of scarlet pepper-pods;
Yellow pumpkins, cut in slips and dried,
Sage, thyme, and marjoram in bundles tied;
Catnip, wormwood, and snowy elder flower,
With festoons of apples, sweet and sour.

This old-time picture is incomplete
Without a woman, quaint and neat;
Who, with skilled and clever hands,
Is turning the LAST and FIRST soft strands—
As with weary arm and aching sole,
Back and forth she passes at WHOLE.

1173. Square, by Hattie Heath (six letters):

An esculent plant; to sell; a kind of sailing vessel; element; old womanish (Latin); rebels.

1174. A word, by Gus:

One of the equal parts of thirty; a letter and a Roman numeral; the shape of a flume; an organ of the body; expressive of hundreds; whole; true to life; brilliant; bright.

Answers to Correspondents and Correct Solutions.

Hattie Heath—1159 (answer correct, but not the analysis; but it is very good, for all that), 1163 (same), 1165, 1166.

Silver King—1153, 1154, 1156, 1158.

Gus—1156, 1158, 1162 (in part), 1167 (no, sir).

A New Prize.—Silver King, writing from far off Arizona, says: "I also send to your address a breastpin, made of specimens taken from the Silver King mine, which I wish to offer as a prize for the best historical charade, to be composed (?) on the name of some noted person, place or event of modern history, time and manner of award to be arrranged by yourself." The breastpin has been received. While it is an odd specimen, it is pure, and will be valued doubtless very highly by the winner, more because of its peculiarity and the manner in which received than because of its intrinsic value. We had rather that Silver King had made his own terms. Being left to the "Quiet Hour," we nominate Sibyl as sole referee, believing implicitly in her integrity, sound judgment and ability to make the award. The charades must all be mailed by October 1st for all tanglers resident within the State, and by October 8th for all without the State. Contributors must distinguish the articles for competition by marking upon the upper left-hand corner of the sheet the words "Silver King Prize," and must put no other matter, contribution or communication upon the sheet than the charade, the words stated, name of contributor and the full answer.

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What Nature denies to many Art secures to all. Hagan's Magnolia Balm dispels every blemish, overcomes Redness, Freckles, Sallowness, Roughness, Tan, Eruptions and Blotches, and removes all evidences of heat and excitement. The Magnolia Balm imparts the most delicate and natural complexional tints—no detection being possible to the closest observation.

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It will cure entirely the worst form of Female Complaints, all ovarian troubles, Inflammation and Ulceration, Falling and Displacements, and the consequent Spinal Weakness, and is particularly adapted to the Change of Life.

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That feeling of bearing down, causing pain, weight and backache, is always permanently cured by its use.

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For the cure of Kidney Complaints of either sex this Compound is unsurpassed.

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Loss of appetite, Nausea, bowels costive, Pain in the Head, with a dull sensation in the back part, Pain under the shoulder-blade, fullness after eating, with a disinclination to exertion of body or mind, Irritability of temper, Low spirits, Loss of memory, with a feeling of having neglected some duty, weariness, Dizziness, Fluttering of the Heart, Dots before the eyes, Yellow Skin, Headache, Restlessness at night, highly colored Urine.

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WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, DO HEREBY certify that we have associated ourselves as partners, under the firm name of GEORGE SCHROTH & CO., for the purpose of buying and selling grain and manufacturing flour and other mill stuff, at the new Phœnix Mills, in the city and county of Sacramento, State of California; and that the full names of all the members of the firm are hereunto subscribed.

Dated August 15, 1881.

GEORGE SCHROTH, Of Sacramento, Cal.
JOSEPH H. ARNOLD, Of Sacramento, Cal.
FERDINAND KOHLER, Of Sacramento, Cal.

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