# RELIGIOUS READING.

#### A NEW YEAR.

2 know not what the year may bring. Nor know I what the year may take, But take or bring what'er it may.
- Tknow that there can come no day
In which I may not trust and sing: "The Lord, my soul, will not forsake."

Ilis promise stands forever sure: 'Mid changing scenes unchang inging scenes un Whatever else may pass away, Upon His word my faith I'll stay; His mercy must for aye endure. And that is joy enough for me.

Should care be mine or loss of health, Or poverty, or loss of friends, Since the dear Lord of all is mine, My soul shall never more repone: For happiness comes not of wealth, Nor joy on earthly source depen

With God's forgiveness for the past. And with It's grace for dars in store, Though short or long those days may be, The future hath no bread for me: He will be with me to the last, His love be mine for eremore,

Come have or blessing, good or ill, All things are under it is control; The boundless universe it's cave. I nome the less list more r share. And all thongs serve to work it is will For the best weifare of my roul.

bo will I start the year with song. And blues tool a name from my to day: Bing when the sky it even and break, Sing mid the derivers of the next; Through all 1 with the process protong. • And provide pass from entits away. -n! M (Grad, in N. Y. Cheerter.

International Sunday-School Lessons

FURTH OFARTER Dre 7-Review Service of Song, Missionary, Temperature or other Lesson selected by the School FIRST QUARTER-JESS.

Feb H--The Gandwriting on the Mall. Ban. 5: 1628
 Feb 21--The Second Temple. Erral: 1-13: 25-28
 Feb 28--Neinen ab 8 Trayer. Neb. 1:1-11
 Mar. 7--Rendug the Law. Nob. 8: 1-12
 Mar 11--Rendug the Tawn. Nob. 8: 1-12
 Mar 21--Nessah's Mestenger Mal 3: 1-6; 4: 1-6
 Mar 22--Nessen Service of Song. Missionary, Temperance or other Lesson selected by the school.

### THE "UNKNOWABLE."

The Scientists' Strange and Incredible Conclusion--God's Manifestation of Himself.

It is a peculiarly suggestive fact that scientists, who are so largely disciples of the positive philosophy, keep running against evidences of the supernatural, as a blind man will run against obstacles in his course. "Something that makes for righteousness,' they say; the "ultimate"; the "un-knowable". They can not see it, nor define it nor comprehend it, but there is a great Something back of this infinite maze of phenomena. And now the evolutionists are feeling after a sub-ordinate truth. One of them inquires: "What is ahead? If there is nothing higher, is degeneration to follow? Is Maudsley right? Is Hartmann with the pessimists correct? Are we to expect constant physical wonders and no psychical? Are we to pass steadily into the instinctive, auto-matic state of the life forms that precede us? If not, what limits are there to our spirit powers? As moral beings, are we to become as unconscious as we are in nutrition and reflex action? I believe the optimists are right?" Very well. Now suppose that the positive philosophers and scientists should succeed after another century, or ten of them, in getting some kind of a definition of that influence which is everywhere making for righteousness; in as certaining something positive in regard to its modes of manifestation; in discovering in it some clear evidence of consciousness and purpose, thus demonstrating its personality, would it not seem strange to them that such a personality should leave us to grope after Him in darkness, crying like lost children for their Father, and not once stretch out a hand of help and assurance? It would be passing strange, "Are we to expect nay, incredible. constant physical wonders and no psyh would certainly b chical? unreasonable expectation. Christians ought to be more devoutly thankful for this than for anything else, that we are not left alone and without God in the world; that Christ has come in the darkness bearing aloft the light of immorality. "My Father! My Brother!" a child would cry with rapture when a torch was thus brought to it when lost and in the darkness, and struggle with sore feet and benumbed limbs to rush forward. Thus indeed do all upon whom God lifts up the light of His countenance.-Interior.

doctrines of Christ makes a mon better or worse. It obedience attends conviction, he is a better man; if not, he is the worse for his conviction. The servant who knew his Lord's will and did it not was considered worthy of many stripes. Every truth of Gospel bears on human character and destiny, and no man who is consciously a pilgrim to eternity can be indif-ferent to that truth. A colorless mina in relation to it is impossible. All professed or apparent indifference, unless in utterly hardened souls, is feignea. The Gospel appeals to, and finds an unfailing sanction in, the primary instincts, feelings and moral sense which are the universal heritage of men. In their heart of hearts they feel that it is true, and that they ought to obey it. They can not refuse to obey it without doing violence to their moral nature; and obcdience is always involved in evangelical faith. The moral basis of faith is the purpose of righteousness, which leads to obedience to the truth as fast as it becomes known.

In the light of these facts we are able to see the error of those who make logical demonstration and intellectual comprehension necessary precedents to The source of certitude in refaith. spect to religious truth does not lie in the understanding, but in the relations of that truth to the needs of the soul. Very few men have ever been argued into religion, and for the reason that the argument was addressed to the inteilect alone, and left the heart, which "believeth unto righteousness, untouched. The understanding, if left to itself, is a blind and false guide. It is to the conscience and the heart that the Gospel comes home with power. Besides the intuitive perception which men have of the excellence of the Gospel in its adaptation to their wants they also have the influences of the Spirit to convince them of its truth. The Spirit does not use syllogisms to convict men of sin, of righteousness and of judgment to come. He speaks directly to the conscience.

The Bible teaches that the indispensable condition of faith is conformity to the truth; and paradoxical as it may seem the Divine order is, first, the be lief, and then the understanding of the truth. "I believe that I may under-stand," said Anselm; and Christ said: "If any man will do God's will," has the spirit of obedience which is essential to faith, "he shall know of the doctrine."-N. W. Christian Advocate.

WHICH WILL YOU TAKE?

#### A Few Thoughts for the New Year--Th Upward and the Downward Path.

Again you stand at the parting of the ways, and again you must choose which road you will take. You can not stay where you are; nothing stands still in the whole range of God's universe. Sun, moon and stars move onward; earth, with its winds and tides, moves; the days, years, centuries move on; the generations are carried irre-sistibly forward, and every individual life is borne on by the mighty inpulsion which guides all to some supreme consummation. In this universal sweep your life is bound up, and, struggle as you may, you can not escape from it; indeed, to separate from it would be to separate yourself from God and to become solitary in a darkness which no sun would ever lighten again. It is only for you to choose which path you will take; you may be born on to larger, nobler, diviner life, or you may swept onward to ever-increasing weakness, failure and decline. In every experience there is a two-fold possi bility; it must leave you stronger or weaker; it can not leave you as it found you. God forces no man to become good or evil, wise or foolish, strong or weak. He presents to every man, in every hour, the choice between the two. A moral purpose is cut into the very heart of the universe, and written ineffacebly on every minute of time; every day is charged with power to make or to destroy character, and you can no more escape the hourly test than you can resist the ravages of of death. If you refuse opportunity, neglect duty, waste the gifts of life, you must grow weaker, smaller, more and more unhappy, by the operation of a law as inexorable as that which holds the planets in their spheres; if, on the other hand, you take hold of life resolutely, spring to its tasks with strenuous and joyous energy, pour yourself into its opportunities, meet its duties valiantly, match your strength and purpose against its trials, temptations and losses, then the same irresistible power that laid the foundations of the universe will build you up into strength, beauty and usefulness. You will be borne onward to an unfolding life of peace, rest and joy. The door stands open again; which way will you take?-Christian Union.

### GERMAN FARMERS.

What an American Agriculturist Saw Among the They Live and Work.

Interesting as these old cities are. with their quaint buildings and galleries filled with pictures one of which often gives interest to an hour's study, and rauch as one finds to amuse him in watching characters and modes of doing things in the street, yet I found myhomesick for the country and a sight of a farm-house with the familiar surroundings; it had been so long since I had seen a nice sward in front of a cozy home, a well stocked garden, a neat barnyard with proud Leghorns or Black Spanish strutting about disput-ing rights with the golden bronze turkeys, and a barn, at this season bursting with riches, that I said to myself: "I will take a trip around in this garden spot of Germany and feast my eyes on the riches an old civilization can give." I know what a farm is at home, but we are a young people; we sacrifice every-thing to the "almighty dollar"; here, with a thousand years of civilization, I shall find in perfection what we have in embryo. So, with anticipation whetted by long deprivation, I planned a pedestrian tour, avoiding the railway routes, that I might have the real coun-

try flavor. As we got away from the city I could not cease praising the soil, and as there are no fences here, it was singularly like one of our rolling prairies-hardly a stone to be seen, rich loamy soil. Winter grain was all coming up with a "good start"; mile after mile of beets or chiccory, all the roots averaging a foot in length I should say, tremendous crops; women by the hundred on their hands and knees, generally having an old piece of sacking to creep on, some with spade-handled spuds digging up the roots, arms and backs like Amazons; others with cleaver knives creeping after the diggers, and dextrously chopping the tops off, then piling the roots one side; turnips, some ready to dig, and in other fields just coming up-ev-idently no early freezing here. Im-mense factories to grind the sugar beets and chiccory every few miles; teams, almost continuous, going to and fro, loaded with roots, over roads like a floor so splendidly macadamized; yet in the fields, following the diggers, were plows at work, showing abundant help and teams. Potatoes now being dug-how? Always by women, on their knees, with short-handled rakes, and with their bands; their heads tid up in red cotton kerchiefs, their dress the universal blue calico that graces all German women. As they turned to look at us, their faces see ned cast in one mold hard, red, wrinkled, their dress only distinguishing the sex; otherwise, they were as coarse, rough, ungainly, as the men.

But all this time not a farm-house! Why, where do they live? I thought. After awhile I saw a cluster of tiled buildings, that seemed jammed to-gether in this prairie; evidently here was the home of this multitude owning the rich soil I had passed with eurions eyes. As I came nearer and nearer, the picture I had made of the homes in America came up in bold relief. Good Heavens! is this the way farmers in the richest section of Germany live? On one side of some houses were living rooms, on the other the stables; the 'best to do'' had their houses separated from the stables only by a yard; all reeking with manure; not a spire of grass, not a flower growing out of doors; here and there was a vine growing up the side of the house; but so sordid was the appearance of everybut for the money value of the grapes they might yield. The children generally were running wild-being those too young to work-black with filta. In front of many houses were three-inch pipes, bringing the liquid manure to proper height for the big cask that carried it to the fields. It was a common sight to see the crop of beets banked up not ten feet from the front doors of the dwell-ings. In fact, there were enough disgusting sights and smells in that first village to call an indignation meeting in any Americaa town. I looked in vain for the prettily located church, surrounded by the "green", and the commodious sheds for the carriages; or the village school, nestling under the spreading oaks; or the inviting inn, with broad approach, and the comfortable stables; in fact, everything that makes an American village or farmhouse attractive was wanting here. The least repulsive house was the beer-sa-loon, with a riddled target over the door. We went through half a dozen such villages, differing, the one from the other, in the degree of filth and repulsiveness. But is it to be wondered at? Can a stream rise higher than its source? Where women are treated as beasts, can homes be better than kennels? Where all the able-bodied men are in the army, what can women do but work in their place?-Hanover (Ger-

# THE SENSE OF SMELL. Donelan, on the Corner. Look in and see. The Son Dest of the No.

says and

land.

of the

But the dust which constitutes the

chief part of the red fog of the Atlantic,

the sea dust of the Northern seas, and

the sirocco-dust of South Europe, is

neither cosmic nor volcanic, though it-

Vessels, hundreds of miles from land,

have been at times eveloped for days in

a fog consisting of brick-red or cinna-

mon-colored dust, which covered the

sails and rigging with a thick coat, and

rendered the air so hazy that no vessel

which was more than a quarter of a

mile off could be distinguished even at midday. Off St. Jago, during certain

months of the year, a very fine dust is almost constantly falling, which, says Mr. Darwin, roughens

says Mr. Darwin, roughens and slightly injures astro-nomical instruments, hurts the eyes, dirties everything on board, and at times fails so thickly that vessels have

been known to run ashore owing to the

obscurity, and are recommended to

avoid the passage between Cape Verd

and the Archipelago. Considerable quantities continued to fall upon the

Beagle when she was between three and four hundred miles from shore, some

of the variously colored transparent par-

ticles being a thousandth part of an inch square, few larger, and the greater part consisting of tine powder. On the

succeeding days, as the vessel proceed-ed on her way, the dust became so fine

that it could be collected only on a damp sponge; but it has been known to fail

on vessels one thousand and even one

thousand six hundred miles from any

From the direction of the wind and

the fact that the dust falls during those

months when the harmattan raises

clouds of it high in the air, and blows

from the northwest shores of Africa, it was at first naturally concluded that the

part of it, no doubt, may be so; but on

examination it was found that the great

sisted mainly of those minute, flint-cased forms of plant-life known as di-atoms, which exist in almost all water-

salt, fresh, or brackish. Further exami-nation also revealed the singular fact

that, though the dust came directly from Africa, of all the many different

organic forms, none were peculiar to Af-rica, and all but two belonged to

fresh-water families; and it has since

been proved that all the organic portion of the dust, whether it fell at Cape Verd, Maka, Gonoa, Lyons or in the

Tyrol, has come from the south side of

the equator, and has been transported

from the banks of the Orinoco and

Amazon. When, however, we find that

particle of mineral matter one-thou-

sandth part of an inch square can be carried three or four hundred miles, and

that a narrow strip of vegetable sub-

stance something more than half an inch long, and the twolfth part of an inch wide, clearly belonging to some tropical tree, has been carried more

than twelve hundred miles from any

coast where it could have grown, we

wonder less at the long journeys taken by these minute one-celled plants, 41,-

part of the dust was organic, and

was all African too. The mineral

con-

too, has traveled great distances.

How a Dog Forms Opinions and Jadges Man's Character.

A man's sense of enjoyment and his means of comprehension, though in some ways vastly superior to those of the lower animals, are in other directions immensely inferior. Take, for instance, the sense of smelling; a man, says a recent writer, may walk for miles without once being actually conscious that he possesses such a sense as smell beyond the general sensation of being in a pure and fresh atmosphere. Half a dozen times, perhaps, in his walk he wakes up to it. A bean field in bloom, or a bank of violets, or burning weeds, or new-mowd hay, or some blossoming woodbine, or the wallflowers or fnignonette in a cottage garden-some one or other of these may arrest his attention at rare intervals by their fragrance, and so steal into notice; but the man does not look for them, and he is quite content to begin and finish his walk-if it so happen-without any of them. How different with the dog who has set out with him, and has been enjoying his walk side by side with his master, receiving impressions from the same surroundings and under the same circumstances! What a completely different aspect things have had for him! His stances! sense of enjoyment has been-like his master's-according to his capacity; but what different influences have appealed to him! If, when they reach home, the dog were able to make known his impressions, and spread them out side by side with his master's, they would probbe as opposite as the poles-just as unlike as if they had been received, these on this earth, and the others among the mountains of the moon. Watch the dog for an instant, and see what his interest is centered in, what sense it is that engrosses his attention most. He has an exceedingly quick eye and ear, and it would be difficult for even a mouse of lightest foot to emerge from its hole and creep round the old stump close by and in again without being detected. The faintest rustle of a leaf the slightest movement would be sufficient to betray its presence. Either through eye or ear, very likely through both at the same instant, the dog will be made conscious of the interesting little circumstance. But, quick as all his senses are, it is to that of smell, above all, that the dog trusts. This is the final arbitaer-the test to which all difficult problems are subjected, and by which all doubts are solved. It is in a world of scents that a dog lives and noves and has his being. What a cumoves and has his being. What a cuthis spot in the road! and that last nette he passed-how interesting! How anlike all other nettles he ever met with! He must return and investigate. And, doing so, he becomes, for a few moments, so engrossed that his master's command can scarcely persuade him to eave it. And then, as to judging of character, let a reader who possesses a log say whether he knows of any test that can be for one moment compared with the test supplied by the bundle of nerves that spread themselves out at the tip of a dog's nose. If a pun may be pardoned, I would express my belief that by no other known means can so correct diagnosis of a man's character be obtained. At all events, all will agree that a dog depends upon it without any reserve whatever, and no amount of flattery will serve to alter the opinion he has by such means ar-rived at. And who does not remember how, when Ulysses returned home, af-

000,000,000 of which occupy only one cubic inch of space, and weigh but two hundred and twenty grains. - From "The World's Lumber Room," by Selina ter his many years' absence, disguised as a beggar, neither length of time nor change of appearance and clothing served for a moment to deceive his faithful hound. While every other member of the household was regarding him as a stranger, his dog came up and instantly discovered his identity.--Christian Union.

THE SENSE OF PAIN. How Sir Humphry Davy Learned to Bu

lieve in the Injary of Pain. Sir Humphry Davy, when a boy, did not believe in the injury of pain, but he was not long in that belief, for one day when he was in the water a crab savagely took hold of his big toe and so earnestly bit it as to make him ery out from pain. This proof of pain made him guard against it from other causes for when he was etperimenting with carburetted hydrogen and other gases injurious to life, on feeling oppression on his chest and a sense of sufficiation he was thereby warned to desist or risk his life by going any further in the pro-cess. Lord Kames advises parents to slightly cut their children's fingers to make them sensible to pain, and to teach them to avoid whittling sticks, for fear of pain, by cutting the finger. The skin is advance guard and sentinel against any injury and violence be-neath it, and is the seat of sensibility. Sir. Charles Bell says that the surgeon who makes use of the knife informs his patient that the worst is over when the skin is passed, and if in the progress of an operation it is found necessary to extend the outer incision, the return to the skin proves more trying than the original cut. The tendons, muscles and ligaments which hold together the joints and the cartilages feel neither cuts or bruises. Paley describes the contrivances by which everything we eat and drink glides over the entrance to the windpipe on its road to the gullet without falling into the windpipe The slit at the top of the wind-pipe, which never closes while we reathe, is endued with an acute sensibility to the slightest particle of mat-ter, so that the least thing which touches e margin of the aperture causes its the margin of the aperture cause has sides to come firmly together, and the intruding body is stopped at the inlet. The convulsive coughing we have when choking is the energetic effort of nature to drive off whatever has evaded the epiglottis. Oculists have observed that if the eye be touched even so lightly as with a feather the muscles are thrown into uncontrollable spasms, but that it can near considerable pressure between the cyclids upon the cyc itself with but lit-tle sensation and without any suffering: If the eye had not been endowed with the properties which excite constant winking we would be stone blind.— Christian Union. can bear considerable pressure between Mrs. Frank Gillman, of Hollis, N. H., has made a quilt containing 9,794 pieces.

he too without tooth, and must b. with sand and gravel in order C on the work of grinding the food. dianapolis Journal. apolis Jo

-When food is to be fried have the pan very hot before the fat is put in, and have the fat hot before beginning to fry. Then the minimum amount of fat will be absorbed.-N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

-In using cold dips for the scab and -In using cold dips for the scab and other diseases of sheep, unless the dip-ping is done in a thorough manner the solution will not penetrate close, com-pact wool and reach all the parasites on the skin, owing to the dirt and other matter in the wool.—Troy Times.

-A good way to roast a spare rib is to crack the bones in the middle, fold over and stuff with cegular turkey dressing; sew it up with a stout thread, put into the dripping pan and put in a coffeecup of water; sprinkle pepper and salt over the meat, and let it cook un-til tender and brown. Then it is so that each side will be equally brown .--Chicago Times.

-Milk Soup: Four large potatoes, two onlons, two ounces of butter, one pint of milk, three teaspoonfulls of tapioca, salt and pepper to taste; boil the vegetables slowly with two quarts of water several hours, then strain through the colander and add the milk and tapioca; boil slowly and stir constantly for about fifteen minutes, then serve. - The Household.

-To use cold turkey pick the meat off the turkey bones, shred it in bits not too small, add dressing and pieces of light biscuit cut up fine, mix togeth-er and put in a dripping-pan. Pour over it any gravy that is left, add water to thoroughly moisten, but not enough to make it sloppy; place in a hot oven for twenty minutes, and when eaten all will agree that the turkey is better this time than it was at first.—The Calerer.

-Mince Meat for Pies: Three pounds of boiled beef, one pound of suet, three pounds of brown sugar, one-half peck of apples, two pounds of raisina, one and one-half pounds of currants, one pound of citron, one nutmeg grat-ed, mace-five cents' worth of powdered allspice, and cinnamon to suit the taste. Chop the meat, suct and appies fine. Then put them together with seasoning. Slice the citron fine. Pour on sweet cider to make a thick batter of it, and warm it thoroughly. It is seasoned through so much better. - Western Rural.

-A writer advises ridging the gar-den in the fall. Good idea. It is the highest land that dries and warms first in the spring. If you will take the trouble to observe how much sooner a door-yard in town or city, that is raised above the level, becomes green in spring you will see what high land does for vegetation. A garden that is ridged will be ready for planting much sooner than one that is not, and whether we want vegetables simply for our own use or for market purposes it will pay us to ridge. Don't be afraid of getting the ridges too high. The higher the The furrows serve as drains. better. Prairie Farmer.

### MULCHING FOR PLANTS.

#### A Winter Protection Which Should Not Be Neglected.

There are many plants and trees that need some protection to carry them safely through the winter. It is not the river cold that, as a rule, does the mischief, but rather the frequent sudden changes, freezing one day and thawing the next; small plants especially are injured in this way; and often entirely killed, unless afforded some protection by mulching. The strawberry in exposed positions is very often in-jured if left uncovered; but the strawberry is a plant that requires much more care in covering than most of garden plants, because, being a partial evergreen, it is not safe to cover it to any great depth, or to cover it with any material which will settle down so close as to shut out the air; coarse hay is really one of the best coverings that can be given the strawberry; but cornstalks, or even evergreen boughs, make a very good covering. Raspberry plants may be laid down and covered with earth, because there are no leaves to preserve. Young, and even old, trees are very much improved by heavy mulching; but if anything is used to mulch with that will make a good shelter for mice care must be taken to protect each tree with a mound of earth to reach above the mulching. The material to be used for mulching the orchard must be governed by the condition of the soil; if the soil be a moist, heavy soil a few inches in depth of sand makes an ex-cellent mulch, and will very much improve the orchard if it be spread over the whole land; but if the soil be somewhat light and dry the soil from an old swamp is an excellent material, and a covering of two or three inches over the whole surface will make a lasting improvement. The practice of spreading on such material for a mulch, and covering only a small space around each tree, is a very poor one. Before ap-plying sand or leaf mulch to an orchard, the land should receive a good dressing of manure. An orchard that has been in grass a few years will be greatly benefitted if covered late in the autumn with a mulching of leaf-mould deep enough to amother the grass to a degree sufficient to kill out a portion of the roots. This benefits an orchard more than it does to plow it, and if the material is near, it costs but little, if any more. Plants, the tops of which die out every year and send up new shoots every spring, and are only half hardy, can easily be protected by covering with some material that will settle down close and shut out the air. One of the best materials for this purpose is moist leaves; but, to keep them in place of the best materials for this purpose is moist leaves; but, to keep them in place after they have been packed down closely, they must be covered with boards or a slight covering of earth. Currant bushes always do better when well mulched; the best material for this purpose is good stable manure, the more the better, if not deep enough the heat. There are few plants that to heat. There are few plants that grow which take so kindly to stable manure as the currant, and few that it will pay to feed so liberally. -- Massa-chusetts Ploughman.

Gaye. MOUNTAIN TROUT. How The Beautiful Fish Climbs Steen Hills. Not long since I followed one of these

dashing trout-streams from the valley up the mountain. Nature seemed to have done her best to protect the little fishes that lived in the dark deep pools and eddies. The higher I climbed up the mountain, the more fish I found: the stream became a succession of falls, some of which were three feet or more in height-the brook in its track forming steps down the mountain-and 1

THE BASIS OF TRUE FAITH.

#### Conformity to the Truth the Indispensable Condition of Religious Belief.

The vital truths of Christianity are neither difficult to ascertain nor to be lieve. They are not hidden, as by a malign power, in order to make access to them arduous and doubtful. They are already revealed-lie, as it were, on the surface of the inspired Book, and are easily apprehended and believed by minds unprejudiced egainst them and unbiased by the love of sin: but the unbinsed search for truth is the exception rather than the rule. Most men, having the alternative whether to admit something to be true which is opposed to their own inclination, or instead to recognize that which is false to be true because it suits them better, will slightthe guidance of conscience and right reason and obey the impfilses of the lower nature. To put it plainly, in the presence of religious truth and obligations which involve purity, self-denial, self-sacrificing, heroic endeavor, they skulk and give in to the appetites and dodge and sneak away from the eternal harmony of truth and duty. They "do not obey the truth, but obey un-righteousness." This is why they find This is why they find it difficult to understand and accept the simple, practical truths of the Gospel. A deal of sympathy is wasted on men who pose as martyrs to their doubts, and think it bespeaks a superior intellect to be skeptical and

question commonly received beliefs. Religious truth is vitally related to the will, conscience, affections and life. Our moral nature must be enlisted in any complete persuasion of that trath, and our moral character must be shaped thereby. Belief of the

## GEMS OF THOUGHT.

-The word of the Lord is suited to each individual as if he were the solitary occupant of the universe.-N. Y. Observer.

-God sometimes washes the eyes of His children with tears, in order that they may read aright His providence and His commandments.-Dr. Cuyler.

-Last year a Buddhist priest of very high rank ate with Mrs. Ingalls, a Baptist missionary. A few years ago priest would not even speak to a woman. This is a striking illustration of the indirect and mighty leveling influence of the Christian religion .- Central Baptist.

-A certain strain of nobility of character is needed to enable one to see without envy the better fortune of his neighbor, even though that neighbor is also his friend. It sounds absurd to declare that success is not siaful in it-self; but it is a truth that many never learn, or if they believe, never practice. -Baptist Weekly.

-There are some Sunday-school classes in Boston, composed chiefly of young people from wealthy and cul-tured families, whose teachers make it a condition of membership that each scholar shall choose some person in sick-ness or need, for whom he or she agrees to spend some part of the time each week. One young lady reads aloud to a poor boy confined by an ac-cident in the hospital. Another is teaching a servant to read. Another makes garments for some poor children.

many) Cor. Country Gentleman.

### Nature's Agriculturists.

Prof. Henry Drummond remarks that there can be no succession of crops without the most thorough agriculture, and that where man is not doing this work nature employs other agents. Darwin has shown how the soil of England is tilled by earth worms to an extent of having ten tons of diy earth per acre annually transferred from below to the surface, by passing through their bodies and being depos-ited as their casts. But in the hard baked soil of tropical climates the worms are unable to operate, and other agencies are demanded, an effective one being, Prof. Drummond finds, the termite, or "white ant." This creature lives upon dead vegetable matter, and its tunnelings, like the action of the earth worms, constantly bring fresh layers of soil to the surface Unlike the carth worms, however, it is very destructive to man's works, and in spite of its subsoil plowing is rather a dreaded foe than a valued friend.-Arkansas Traveler.

-In sowing timothy with wheat and other grains the best results are ob-tained by having the ground dragged and rolled first.-N. E. Farmer.

began to wonder how the fish came to be up there.

In the village, I chanced to mention the subject to a friend who owned a mill on the same stream; and he told me that the fishes' ascent, and to be used to him, until one day his boy called him out to the dam, where the riddle was solved. The dam was nearly four feet high, and to relieve the stream, several auger-holes had been bored in it, allow ing a small stream of water to jet forcibly out and go splashing down into the clear pool below. As my friend ap-proached the spot, and looked through the bushes, several large-sized trout were seen moving about under the mimic fall, evidently in great excite-ment, and darting into it as if enjoying

the splash and roar of the water. Suddenly, one of the fish made a quick rush that sent it up the falling stream, so that it almost gained the top but by an unlucky turn it was caught and thrown back into the pool, where i darted away, evidently much startled. Soon another made the attempt, dart ing at it like the first, and then rapidly swimming up the fall, but only to meet the fate of its predecessor. This was tried a number of times, until finally, a tront larger than the others made a dash, mounted the stream, and entered the round hole. The observers were almost ready to clap their hands, but it was not successful yet. As the water stopped flowing for a moment, they saw that though the athletic trout had surmounted the fall, the hole was too small for it to pass through, and there the poor fish was lodged. The lookers-on hastened to relieve it, and found that its ide or pectoral fins were caught in the wood, but by pushing the fish ahead, which you may be sure they did, they liberated it, and it darted away into the upper pond. Here, then, was the explanation. The

Here, then, was the explanation. The trout climbed the mountain by swimming up the falls, darting up the foaming masses, and adopting every expedient to accomplish their journey. For these fish deposit their eggs high up stream, so that the young fry, when hatched, may not be disturbed by predatory fish and other foes living in the lower waters. -C. F. Holder, in St. Nicholas.

- California produced a pear, this year, that measured 17 7-8 inches from end to end and 14 8-4 inches around the thickest part.