

Life Dreams.

The world goes surging to and fro,
The wheels of life are turning,
We meet to part and meet no more,
And leave our hearts still yearning.

From Death to Life.

There were six of us seated before a blazing
fire, which cast a generous glare into the
hermely unlighted room. Outside a winter
storm howled over the chimneys, and beat
fiercely at the window panes.

then what misery was it that gave itself such
uncanny expression? Not fear, nor bodily
pain, but something nameless to us. While
we were debating these questions in smothered
tones, the cry came once again. This
time in words we understood:
"Help! Oh, God! help!"

arrested by a very singular voice.
"Here it is again!" muttered the Doctor,
agitatedly.
"A low, confused murmur, resembling
nothing that I had heard before, arose in the
air for an instant, and died away. Again it
arose, coming from a point over our heads,
and gradually descending until it appeared
to emanate from some invisible source be-
side us. I knew of nothing with which to
compare the intonation except it may be the
articulation of the telephone, or that of a
ventriloquist.

THE PLAGUE OF 542.
A Haze of Death Beside Which Yellow
Fever is Healthfulness in Itself.
The pestilence of 720 swept away 52,000,
or more than two-thirds of the 75,000 inhab-
itants of Marseilles, in less than five weeks;
but of the 6,000 abstemious Spaniards that
inhabited the "Suburbs of Catalans" only
200 died, or less than 4 per cent. The most
destructive epidemic recorded in authentic
history was the four years' plague that com-
menced in A. D. 542 and raged through the
dominions of Chosroes the Great, the Byzantine
Empire, Northern Africa and South-
western Europe. It commenced in Egypt,
spread to the East over Persia and the Indies,
and penetrated to the West along the coast
of Africa and over the Continent of Europe,
Asia Minor, with its plethoric cities, Con-
stantinople, Northern Italy and France suffer-
ed fearfully; entire provinces were aban-
doned, cities died out and remained vacant
for many years, and during three months at
Constantinople each day! (Gibbon's "His-
tory," vol. iii., chap. xliii.); and the total
number of victims in the three continents is
variously estimated from 75,000,000 to 120,
000,000 (Procopius, "Anecdotes," cap. xviii.;
Cousin's "Hist.," tome ii., p. 178.) But in
Sicily, Morocco and Albania, the disease was
confined to a few seaport towns, and the
Caucasus and Arabia escaped entirely.

Facts and Figures.
In less than 30 years, 72,000 miles of rail
road have been constructed in the United
States. The value of property has in the
same period increased from \$8,000,000,000 to
\$30,000,000,000.
Great Britain last year imported oranges to
the extent of 3,533,781 bushels, with a money
value of \$7,758,825. This is an increase since
1860 of 2,379,781 bushels, showing that the
consumption in eighteen years has multi-
plied threefold.
Statistics show that more boys than girls
are born in Great Britain, but that there are
about a million more women than men in the
kingdom.
Dickens' complete works have been pub-
lished in twenty-four different editions in the
United States, the "Pilgrim's Progress" in
over sixty, and "Robinson Crusoe" in over
fifty.
There were 3,186,805 letters and parcels
received at the dead letter office at Washing-
ton during the past year.
According to the Lausanne Gazette, 33,467
Swiss emigrated between 1868 and 1876, of
whom 31,345 came to America.
It is a singular proof of the vast expendi-
ture that is now incurred by illustrated
newspapers, says Truth, "that the Illus-
trated London News should have commissioned
Mr. Millais to paint a Puss in Boots for their
Christmas number."
A lady lately left several thousand pounds
as a personal bequest to Charles Spurgeon.
He enquired into the circumstances of the
relatives of the donor, and finding that they
were needy, and that nothing had been be-
queathed to them, he divided the legacy
among them.

Winter Rules.

As our winter approaches we are reminded
of protective measures against the chilling
changes of the weather, and the rules that we
published last year are so essential that we
reproduce them.

Never go to bed with cold or damp feet;
always toast them by a fire for ten or fif-
teen minutes before going to bed.

When going from a warm atmosphere into
a colder one, keep the mouth closed, so that
the air may be warmed by its passage through
the nose, ere it reaches the lungs.

Never stand still in cold weather, especially
after having taken a slight degree of exercise;
and always avoid standing upon ice, snow,
or where the person is exposed to a cold
wind.

After exercise of any kind, never ride in an
open carriage nor near the window of a car
for a moment. It is dangerous to health and
even life.

Never take warm drinks and then immedi-
ately go out in the cold air.

Merely warm the back by a fire and never
continue keeping the back exposed to heat
after it has become comfortably warm. To
do otherwise is debilitating.

When hoarse, speak as little as possible
until it is recovered from, else the voice may
be permanently lost, or difficulties of the
throat be produced.

Never begin a journey until the breakfast
has been eaten.

Keep the back—especially between the
shoulder-blades—well covered: also the chest
well protected.

Never lean with the back upon anything
that is cold.

Never omit regular bathing; for unless
the skin is in an active condition the cold will
close the pores and favor congestion or other
diseases.

In sleeping in a cold room, establish the
habit of breathing through the nose, and
never with the mouth open.

An Amazed Wedding Party.

An American recently solved a mystery
which had confounded and amazed a wedding
party in Rome. The bride was the daughter
of one of the most noble marquises of old or
modern Rome, and the groom was the scion
of another noble house. We copy from the
New York Tribune: When the wedding
contract had been signed the groom took the
hand of his young wife in his own and kissed
her fingers. She smiled at this, and allowed
her hand to rest where he had placed it. But
in a moment, to the dismay of the company,
a voice was heard, as from her lips, saying:
"Impertinent! how dare you touch my hand?
Be off, fool!" Still she smiled as before, and
her lover gazed upon her face in dismay. Sudden-
ly she seemed to laugh, and it was a dry
and ironical laugh that startled people
more than the words they had heard before.
"Has the girl gone mad?" some one asked.
She faintly, and her friends gathered closely
around the sofa on which she had fallen.
At this moment a young American, described
as "of great learning but generally very
taciturn and almost timid in man-
ner," offered to examine into the cause
of the strange occurrence, and ap-
proached the sofa. Casting his eyes
on and around the sofa and then about the
room, he proceeded to crawl along the floor
on his hands and knees until he came to a
large ottoman. Behind this he found a
young servant who had been dismissed from
the house that morning and went away de-
claring that she would be revenged. By some
means she had found her way into the parlor
and concealed herself behind the ottoman.
Being a ventriloquist; she was able there to
speak in a tone of voice which was naturally
attributed to the bride.

RECENT CONVERTS TO CATHOLICISM.—A cor-
respondent writes to us regarding the list of
"Rome's Recruits" recently published in the
Whitehall Review, a list occupying six col-
umns and comprising names of baronets,
generals, admirals, equires, rectors, coroners,
etc., and greatly rejoiced over by "Mother
Church." Our correspondent thinks that if
the list were carefully examined, there would
not be found the name of one possessing a
spark of true religion; and that many of the
so-called converts had already been Roman
Catholics in their antecedents and training.
He instances three or four names familiar to
Canadians. One is Viscountess Bury, daugh-
ter of the late Sir Allan MacNab. Her mother
was a Romanist. Her father's Protestantism
was doubtful, and the young lady received a
Roman education. Others are the two sons
and two daughters of Bellew, the elocutionist,
who visited this country a few years ago. He
was a Romanist. And another is Miss Head,
daughter of Sir Edmund Head, at one time
Governor-General of Canada, of whose Pro-
testantism and general character our corre-
spondent seems to have formed a very low
opinion.—Canada Presbyterian.

LEMON PIE.—Take the juice and rind of
one lemon, one cup sugar, the yolks of three
eggs, one teaspoonful of butter and sufficient
milk to fill the plate; bake in a rich paste,
beat the whites of the three eggs to a stiff
froth, with two tablespoonfuls of powdered
sugar and spread over the top; return to the
oven and brown slightly.

GRILL SAUCE.—Twenty-four large tomatoes,
ripe; eight large onions, four green peppers,
four tablespoonfuls salt, eight tablespoonfuls
sugar, four tablespoonfuls cassia, two tea-
spoonfuls ginger, two cloves, eight tea-
spoonfuls vinegar. Boil together until thick. When
cool, rub through a sieve. Bottle and
cork.

CLEANING TINWARE.—An experienced house-
keeper says the best thing for cleaning tin-
ware is common soda: Directions: Dampen
a cloth and dip in soda and rub the ware
briefly, after which wipe dry. Any blackened
ware can be made to look as well as new.

COTTAGE PUDDING.—Three tablespoonfuls
melted butter, one cup sugar, one cup sweet
milk, one egg, one pint flour, two tea-
spoonfuls cream tartar, one of soda. Steam one
and a half hours; serve with sauce.

MILITIA RE-ORGANIZATION.

A Small Standing Army to be Raised.

MONTREAL, Dec. 11.—The United Service
Gazette states that Sir Selby Smyth, com-
manding the militia forces of the Dominion,
has been authorized by the home authorities
to form a small standing army in this coun-
try, and that a complete modification of the
militia and volunteer forces is likely to take
place.

MR. SPURGEON ON WOMEN.—In a most
amusing speech at the opening of a bazaar at
Norwich in aid of female education in India
Mr. Spurgeon said—"I think there is no one
of us but feels that women are a superior
part of the race, especially if we are married,
for we know then by experience. When I
am marrying a young couple, I generally tell
the young lady to let her husband be the
head for that is according to Scripture and to
nature; but I always advise her to be the neck,
and twist him round which way she likes.
I believe the practical experience of most of
us men is that, though we like to be head,
though we like the nominal sovereignty, yet
we mostly like to be twisted about a little,
and with our full consent, under the supreme
rule of the queen of the household, for there
we generally find our safety and our happi-
ness." Mr. Spurgeon, in the same speech,
related an anecdote of a black man and his
wife whom he received into the church at the
Metropolitan Tabernacle. When the negro
came before the church, Mr. Spurgeon said,
"Wall, friend, I suppose you can speak well
of your wife,—she is a Christian woman?"—
to which the negro made the following re-
markable answer: "Yes, I believe she is a
good woman; but even black women are
provoking sometimes." But they r...
her into the church.

Schools like Eaton and Rugby have exerted
a more powerful influence upon the people
of England than all her armies and navies.