

"Men shall beat their swords into pruning hooks" comes like a fond echo reverberating across the barren waste of centuries in whose dim wake the white testimonies of battles palely gleam. It was a prophecy long ago; it is still a prophecy on the lips of the steel-clad present. And it is just now a question whether our pruning hooks shall not be beaten into swords. We are not for war. Give us rather famine and pestilence; but not the famine of brutality nor the off-endered pestilence of inhumanity, before whose presence the very flower of Russia is withering in Siberian dungeons! The Christian conscience and moral sense of Europe and America have been outraged by recent crimes of Russian authority, if, indeed, anything can harshly touch that conscience and moral sense. Shall not the powers of civilization, rising above the walled boundaries of state, lift their voices against the unparalleled scenes of Siberian exile? Think of angelic women being dogged to suicide by the insolence of brute force, all because pale Fear incarnate sits trembling on Russia's throne! Let the world hang its protest on the cloudy battlements of the skies to be delivered in the thunders of heaven. The time of retribution will not always tarry. The flames of Siberia's hell shall kindle a conflagration in the heart of St. Petersburg and all Russia shall be tried by fire!

A critic takes exceptions to the statement that "It is only lately that strictly orthodox ministers have advanced the theory that heathen who die without having been given a chance to accept orthodoxy have any chance for salvation," and quotes two passages of the New Testament to show that they have such a chance, provided they be not robbed of it by the preaching

of missionaries. The statement was correct, since it refers only to what strictly orthodox ministers have been preaching, not to what may be found in the scriptures. There are many things in the Bible that orthodoxy has ignored, and this is one of them. The advancing intelligence and refinement of the age are gradually opening the blinded eyes of orthodoxy to see many things in the Bible utterly at variance with its bigoted teachings in the past. WEST SHORE has no "feelings towards religion," but has towards theological bigotry and assumption that seek to lay down rules for the guidance of the creator of the universe.

John Boyle O'Reilly is to lecture in Portland, March 18. He will have a good hearing. Mr. O'Reilly is a representative man, generous of heart and broad in his sympathies. He is editor of the *Boston Pilot*, the most popular Catholic journal published, and a poet of more than national fame.

Not a sparrow falls to the ground without God's notice was said when sparrows were about as insignificant things as could be selected; but in these days the "sparrers" are of vastly more consequence, and something else should be substituted—members of the legislature, for instance.

It may be that farming for market does not pay in Oregon, but the farmer who sold a car load of onions to a Portland dealer for \$728 does not think so.

The "Narrative of Dr. Goldrims," in the issue of WEST SHORE of February 15, 1890, was written by Mr. Allison French, of Rockford, Wash.

SIBERIA.

And must we speak our disapproval, then,
By the red lips of steel, while blades of war
Draw sacrificial life-blood of a Czar?
Although we have but flinty hearts of men,
Yet are we moved to pity sorrow when
Our eyes behold her crucifixion mar
The peaceful countenance of every star
Whose light falls on a cold Siberian den?
Must we stand by, my brothers, struck too dumb
To lift our voices 'gainst the ghastly crime
Of Virtue exiled to a land of woe;
Or shall we hasten now to tap the drum,
Or kneel, and swell with prayer the passing time,
And watch to see if God will strike the blow!

LEE FAIRCHILD.