

In a recent scientific lecture in the Church of the Strangers, New York, Prof. C. A. Young, the astronomer, of Princeton College, uses the following language: "Do not understand me at all as saying that there is no mystery about the planets' motions. There is just the one single mystery—gravitation—and it is a very profound one. How it is that an atom of matter can attract another atom, no matter how great the distance, no matter what intervening substance there may be; how will it act upon it, or at least behave as if it acted upon it, I do not know, I cannot tell. Whether they are pushed together by means of an intervening ether, or what is the action, I cannot understand. It stands with me along with the fact that when I will that my arm shall rise, it rises. It is inscrutable. All the explanations that have been given of it seem to me merely to darken counsel with words and no understanding. They do not remove the difficulty at all. If I were to say what I really believe, it would be that the motions of the spheres of the material universe stand in some such relation to Him in whom all things exist, the ever-present and omnipotent God, as the motions of my body do to my will—I do not know how, and never expect to know."

The *Congregationalist* gives a very encouraging account of the work accomplished by the "New England Divorce Reform League," the need of which was demonstrated by the fact that in one year New England granted 2,113 divorces, Maine alone legalized 587, Rhode Island granted 271, and New Hampshire 314. As the result of the Reform League, Maine has made marked changes for the better in her laws; alterations have also been made in those of New Hampshire and Massachusetts, and three States have provided for the official collection of statistics. It is high time that the reform was taking effect in many other parts of the country. Our divorce statistics would disgrace even a Mohammedan country.—*New York Observer*.

The Roman Catholics of Germany are preparing to celebrate the anniversary of Luther's birthday, as a counter-action to the Protestant commemoration. A movement has been organized at Dusseldorf for an international day of prayer in all the Roman Catholic churches of the world on Luther's

birthday to pray for unification and triumph of the church. It is a very appropriate occasion for such a movement, and it is to be hoped that they will give their people some instruction on the state of the church when Luther came upon the stage. The reformation which Luther was instrumental in effecting was not altogether outside of the Romish church.—*Ec.*

It is so much easier to destroy than it is to build up. A child may pull a watch to pieces, but it takes a skillful workman to put one together. A fool can burn a book, but it takes a wise man to write one. The "free thinkers" and "liberals" may pull the Bible to pieces and make merry with the doctrines that it teaches, but when they try to replace it with their systems of ethics, they make a sorry show. To succeed in their attempts against Christianity would be, like ruthless Goths and Vandals; to leave nothing behind them, where once was peace and plenty, but the ashes of desolations, and the terror and darkness of death.—*The Criterion*.

Thou foolish one, this night thy soul shall be required of thee, then whose shall all these things be? If Jesus should appear in person and propound this question to each individual Disciple in Oregon, it is our candid conviction that during the coming year there would be more funds raised for the spread of the gospel than have ever been raised all together, and no one Disciple impoverished thereby. And some preachers that we could name, whose families are in need, while they are laboring incessantly for the Master's cause, and to build up a better state of morals for our people and save the souls of our sons and daughters, preparing them for a better life here and the enjoyment of endless life to come, would be better sustained. Well, brethren, Jesus is propounding this question to you every day. Now, what kind of an account can you render of your stewardship? Are you, while you are rendering to Cesar the things that belong to Cesar, rendering to God the things that belong to God? Loose the preachers hands and let them go out, for there are but few of them on this coast. See that their families are cared for, so that the preacher may not be hampered in his work, and, if we are not mistaken, in one year you would see such a turning to God that would make our hearts all glad, and all God's people would say, Amen. *

PERSONAL MENTION.

We notice that Brethren Timothy Coop and A. S. Earl, of England, and Sister Annie De Launay, of France, will be at the Foreign Christian Missionary Convention which convenes in Cincinnati the 24th inst., and will deliver addresses. These addresses will be a feast to the people of that Convention.

The Convention at Salem last week appointed a number of delegates to the General Christian Missionary Convention at Cincinnati. Among the number was Bro. A. W. Lucas of our town. They are all on the Pioneer Excursion to the East. We hope they will have a safe journey and a pleasant time.

Bro. D. M. Doty and wife left Monmouth for their home in Scio, on Tuesday morning last. Bro. D. preached two excellent discourses for us on Lord's day.

Bro. R. H. Moss, of Centerville preached in Dallas on last Lord's day, and in Monmouth on Monday evening. He paid the *HERALD* office a pleasant call. We met Bro. M. at Salem and were very glad to form his acquaintance.

Bro. Wm. Scott, our agent at Wheatland, Or., called on us last Monday. He would like to have some preachers to visit his neighborhood.

THE STATE MEETING.

The State meeting at Salem has come and gone. It was our pleasure to be present most of the time and to participate in its deliberations. It is not our purpose to write up a report of the proceedings, for this and the addresses, etc., will be published in due time. For the present we wish only to say a word by way of approval and encouragement. This was the first State Meeting we have attended since coming to Oregon, and we are glad to have enjoyed the pleasure of meeting with this earnest band of Christian workers. Here we met and formed the acquaintance of a number of brethren and sisters of whom we had heard much since coming to the State.

The delegation from different parts of the State was reasonably good considering the disadvantages under which the missionary cause on this coast has to labor. Those in attendance were intelligent and earnest in the work, and showed by

their words a determination to do all in their power to push forward the cause of the Master. The business was dispatched with promptness, order and dignity, and the spirit of the convention was good throughout. We noticed on a few occasions a disposition to "progress," as we thought, beyond the teaching of Christ and the apostles in some respects, which tendency should be promptly checked in order to save the cause and the missionary work on this coast. If we have a distinctive plea to present to the world we can not afford to push it into the back ground. But if we do not have one, and can offer nothing better to sectarian Christendom than they now have, then we had better go over to the denominations and be done with it. The idea that our ablest editors and preachers are progressing beyond and giving up the ground occupied by the Campbells and others in the beginning is mischievous in its tendency and untrue as a matter of fact. Neither would the ministry or brotherhood of Oregon be at all favorably impressed with any attempt to lead off in the wrong direction and to thus largely give up the simplicity of primitive Christianity. We thank God that as a brotherhood, Oregon stands firm.

The future prospects for the missionary work are flattering. The people are beginning to see the necessity of an Evangelist or Evangelists after the New Testament type to set the churches in order and preach the gospel in destitute places and thus convert the world to Christ. The brethren are becoming more liberal year by year, and yet there is still great room in Oregon for the conversion of pocket books and church treasuries in order that our missionary work be made a permanent success in the State. Quite a number of liberal pledges were taken for the year, and we hope there are many more to follow. We feel safe in saying that on the whole the last Convention is the best one ever held in Oregon and that the brethren generally feel a more pressing demand for coöperative work than ever before.

The church at Salem, under the management of Bro. J. W. Spriggs, did their part well in entertaining the delegates and visitors. At noon each day lunch was served by the sisters in the church parlors which was a convenience and pleasure to