

Gentle Courtesy.

Professor Luigi Monti has been in the habit, for many years, of dining with the poet Longfellow, every Saturday. He tells this story of the poet's genial disposition. On Christmas Day, as he was walking briskly towards the old historic house, Mr. Monti was accosted by a girl about twelve years old, who inquired the way to Longfellow's home.

He told her that he would show her. When they reached the gate she said, "Do you think I can go into the yard?"

"Oh yes," said Signor Monti. "Do you see the room on the left? That's where Martha Washington held her receptions a hundred years ago. If you look at the windows on the right, you will probably see a white-haired gentleman reading a paper. Well, that will be Mr. Longfellow."

She looked gratified at the unexpected pleasure of really seeing the man whose poems she said she loved.

As Signor Monti drew near the house, he saw Mr. Longfellow standing with his back against the window, his head, of course, out of sight. When he went in, he said,—

"Do look out of the window and bow to that little girl, who wants to see you very much!"

"A little girl wants to see me very much—where is she?"

He hastened to the door, and, beckoning with his hand, called out, "Come here, little girl, come here if you want to see me!"

She needed no second invitation, and after shaking her hand and asking her name, he took her into the house, and showed her the "old clock on the stairs," the chair made from the village smithy's chestnut tree, presented to him by the Cambridge children, and the beautiful pictures and souvenirs gathered in many years of foreign residence.—*Companion.*

—The journals which have least sympathy with the total abstinence movement are, compelled to take notice of the vigorous advance which is just now taking place along the lines of the temperance reformation. The New York Herald says: "The total abstinence advocates all over the country are just now vigorously at work pressing their pet theories, and strange to say, they are meeting with a fair degree of success in fields which seemed to be the most unpromising and unproductive. Away down in Texas, for instance, where the opportunities for moral reform and regeneration are almost unlimited, the State constitution has been amended by an immense majority, prohibiting through all time the manufacture or sale of alcohol except for the most innocent purposes, and all that is required to give it effect is the passage of a few trifling statutes. Petitions are pouring in upon the wise men of the Indiana Legislature asking them to engage vigorously in the anti-whisky campaign, and bills on the same subject are falling thick as snowflakes in the Pennsylvania Assembly. The temperance fever has again broken out in Ohio, while Iowa is moving in that direction of enforcing the prohibitory clause of her constitution, which has been a dead letter for a quarter of a century."—*Ec.*

DESERT PUDDING.—Here is a delicious pudding for desert: One pint of nice bread crumbs (not crumbs of stale bread unfit for the table) one quart of milk, one cup of sugar, and the well beaten yolks of four eggs, the grated rind of one lemon and a piece of butter the size of an egg. Bake until done. Whip the whites of four eggs, and beat in a cup of pulverized sugar in which you have put the juice of the lemon. Spread over the pudding a layer of jelly or raspberry jam, or any sweetmeat you prefer, then pour over it the whites of the eggs. Set in the oven to brown slightly. Serve cold with cream. This is an excellent desert for an elaborate dinner, as it may be made early in the morning, and so be out of the way.

Will-Power Over Sickness.

Physicians know but little of power by which the will resists and overcomes disease. Numerous cases are on record where men given up to death have recovered by a resolute purpose that they would not die.

In Dr. Kane's expedition in the Arctic regions, the sturdiest men among his crew were helpless in their bunks, while he, the slenderest of them all, by a resolute will kept at his regular duties, and tended his sick companions also.

Chief-Justice Parsons, of Massachusetts, was a noted hypochondriac. He invariably excused himself from public meetings of all kinds on the plea of ill health, and was sincere in the excuse.

It came to be a common joke among his friends, "It is useless to invite the Judge. His head, or his heart, or his stomach will be in the way, and he won't come."

But sickness never hindered him from performing his duties in court. If a session were to be held in Portland (Maine was then a part of Massachusetts), he would rise from a sick bed, enter his carriage, and take the long and hard ride without flinching.

Often at home, when the doctor was tending him daily, and he was taking fearful doses of medicine, he would leave the sick chamber, and sit the whole day in the court-room, with a perfect mastery of himself, and of the most difficult problems in law. His strength of will was marvellous.—*Companion.*

Fickle and True.

"We never can forget," said they, "The friend that dies. By night or day Our hearts will turn to him, and call. The name so dear to us, and all The world will in a shadow be. Because his face we cannot see— Because we can no longer touch The hands we love and miss so much."

But one sat silent, and no word Told that what others said was heard By him. His thoughtful eyes were turned To where the sunset glory burned Above the mountain's purple peak. "And you?" I said. He did not speak, But laid his hand in mine, and gave A look that haunts me in my grave. I died. They made beneath the sod, So far from the earth, so near to God, A low grave for me, and they said Their words of sorrow for the dead, I heard them weeping over me. "Ah, they will often come to see My grave, and talk with me," I said; "They'll not forget the friend that's dead."

The long, still hours have come and gone With naught to me of dusk or dawn. Of all who talked that summer day Of friendship none have come this way To linger by my grave, and take A flower from it for the sake Of days gone by. I am forgot By those who would forget me not.

But he who spake not of his love Comes hither, and he kneels above My grave, and tells me tenderly Of what he lost in losing me; Of how he misses every day, The face the grasses hide away. Oh, friend of mine, with heart so true, How near I am to God and you!

—The great problem before the churches is how to fill their pews as the theatres are filled; how to gather the crowds that circuses draw; how to reinforce the beggarly handful that make up the prayer meeting audiences—in a word, how to popularize religion in the best sense of that abused term.—*Golden Rule.* The solution would be an easy one if Christians were only willing to work for Christ with the energy that the world works for worldliness. If every church member would put forth the same effort to get his un-Christian neighbor to attend church with him next Sunday, that the world does to get him to attend the theater or the ball-room, or some other place of amusement, every night in the week, some ministers would be astonished at the almost miraculous increase in their audiences next Sunday morning; and some churches would be astonished at the interest the world was beginning to take in them.—*Evangelist.*

Missions.

The progress of missionary effort in China and Japan is attracting more and more the attention and awakening the surprise of the churches of this country. In Japan the first Protestant church is scarcely eight years old, and of the sixty-seven now organized few are more than four. Missionaries report that whole towns are persuaded to give up their idols, and the calls for more helpers to proclaim the truth as it is in Jesus are most appealing. Several foreign consuls in China write of the inevitable spread of Christianity among the teeming millions of that nation. One of these gentlemen says that should his anticipations of the spread of the Gospel be fulfilled in only a small degree the political advantages will be "impossible to exaggerate."—*Ec.*

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