

CHRISTIAN FAMILY.

Miss M. STUMP, Editor.

The Silent City.

BY L. V. S.

Just beyond the dusty high-road, In its sweet seclusion lies, Gleaming white, the silent city 'Neath the bending summer skies...

NUMBER IV.

SAMARIA.

In the midst of a lovely valley, broad and basin-shaped stands the hill which Omri bought of Shemor for two talents of silver, and upon which he built the lofty palaces for the proud court of Israel...

It was only after a prolonged siege of three years that Shalmanezar, king of Assyria, captured it, and carried the people away to his own country. It was reoccupied again with Assyrians, who were called Samaritans...

colony of 6000 soldiers were placed there, and a large district of country given them for their support. But Ceasar's temple is now "as a heap of the field," in the fearful doom foretold by the prophet Micah...

The first Christian church out of Jerusalem was organized in the idolatrous city of Samaria, and here in less than a year after the death of our Savior, Philip came preaching Christ to a wicked and untoward generation.

The ancient glory of Samaria has faded, till at last it has, as a city, been blotted from the face of the earth, leaving only a sparse record coming down to us through the steadfast tread of the years...

MAY WELLING.

Naming a Baby.

BY MRS. JULIA C. R. DORR.

Have you found a name for baby? Of course it is the most wonderful child that ever was born; and prettiest, the brightest, and with such winning ways! You will hardly believe me when I tell you that thousands just as remarkable are born every day...

But to go back to the baby's name. Your grandfather, as well as his father, and your great, great grandfather, who came over in the Mayflower, (or if not in that getting-to-be mythical vessel, in some other,) rejoiced in the euphonious cognomen of Obadiah. I pray you, Alice do not let the desire to hand down family names, lead you to bestow upon your boy an appellation that will be a torment to him all his days...

the one hand, nor overshadow him with its own greatness on the other; a name that will fall smoothly from your lips now; and from the lips of a later love by and by; a name that is tender enough for a baby, and manly enough for a man. Call him John!—Etc.

"Cleopatra's Needle."

There is danger of much confusion growing out of the announcement that "Cleopatra's Needle" is about to be removed from Alexandria, Egypt, to England. Travelers in Egypt will still find "Cleopatra's Needle" there, where it has stood for the last three thousand years. And they will write home that they saw "Cleopatra's Needle," and tell us how it looked, and about the hieroglyphics with which it is covered, etc.; and yet "Cleopatra's Needle" will be in London, perhaps. The truth is, that there are two of these "needles," the one upright, and the other prostrate, about one hundred and fifty feet distant, and eight or ten feet below the surface of the sand, not kept from covering and hiding it by constant care. It is this prostrate one which was long ago given to England, but which, after it was uncovered and its weight estimated, it was thought would prove to cost more than it would be worth when set up in England; and, therefore, it has lain there until now. England ought to feel very rich, before she undertakes to move it; for it is said that the Obelisk of Luxor, in the Place de la Concorde, in Paris, which is only six feet longer than the Cleopatra's Needle, or seventy six feet, weighs 500,000 pounds, and cost four francs, or eighty cents, per pound, or 2,000,000 francs. It took five years to do the work, and the most elaborate and powerful machinery was required to lower and elevate it.—Etc.

The Liberal Soul.

Somehow, whether we can explain it or not the liberal soul, all things being equal, is made lat. Liberality will not atone for want of industry or thrift; but, brains and activity being equal, getting comes to those who give. There are some natural principles upon which this can be explained, but it finds its completest solution in the fact that God, who governs the world, plays into the hands of those who play into His hands. David Dale's countrymen explained his great wealth by saying that he gave his money to God in shovelful, and God shoveled it back again.

Of course God's shovel was the biggest, and God's arm the strongest, and the balance was ever on David Dale's side. So it was with the Lawrences; so it has been with our own Cornells, Prestons, Hoyts, Seneys, and others, and so with hundreds in all the world, who give systematically and proportionately to God. John B. and William W. Cornell, from the beginning, gave as they had ability. We remember their three cents a week for the stewards, and their two cents a month for missions, given out of hardearned apprentice's wages. We have since seen their scores of thousands in a single gift. Arithmetic may incredulously smile, but it is true, "there is that scattereth and yet increaseth."—N. W. Christian Advocate.

We shall never become angels. Yet we may, so great is God's goodness to men, attain to a higher honor and glory than they possess. Though now we are a "little lower" than they, yet hereafter those of us who, by being made members of Christ, the second Adam, have become children of God and heirs of the incorruptible inheritance shall be in Him raised to the high position of judges of those other creatures of His hand. "The saints" shall judge not only the world, but also angels.

Some Statistical Items.

Harvard College, Cambridge, has an annual income of about \$1,000,000.

The opium trade of San Francisco amounts to about \$1,000,000 per annum.

This country imports \$15,000,000 worth of spool cotton from Great Britain every year.

It costs the city of New York, as a corporation, over \$1,000,000 a year for illuminating gas.

The average depth of the Atlantic ocean is three miles; that of the Pacific ocean four miles.

At our present rate of increase, the United States will contain 50,000,000 inhabitants by the year 1880.

It has been calculated that the total available coal in Great Britain is fully equal to the wants of the nation for 360 years.

A new census shows that Paris has a population of 1,900,000, which was the number in 1870, just previous to the Franco-German war.

Five sixths of the inhabitants of New York are foreigners; and two thirds of the population of Boston are from foreign lands. Two thirds of the last are of Irish descent.

It is declared that two thirds of the bonds representing the United States debt are held in Europe. The annual average reduction of the debt during the last ten years has been a little over \$71,000,000.

Europe has near as we can make out, 500,000 miles of railroad, and America 200,000. India has 41,600 and Australia 10,000, according to the English papers, though we doubt the correctness of the last figures.

There is a canal in China 2,000 miles long passing through forty-two cities. The oldest and largest chain-bridge in the world is also in that country, at Kingtung, reaching from the top of one mountain to the other, and is in regular use.

Boxwood and its Uses.

There are certain demands in the industrial arts that are perfectly met by only a single one out of the numberless products of nature. A good illustration is the boxwood used by wood-engravers, which is the one material in the world that is exactly suited to their wants. This wood grows in the regions around the Black and Caspian Seas, the very names of the ports from which it is shipped being unfamiliar. For all fine engraving Turkey boxwood is used, and as its quality varies much, some skill is necessary to a good selection. The best is of a delicate yellow color clear and free from spots; it cuts smoothly and evenly, with no crumbling or tearing, but every line cut will be perfect. In consequence of its scarcity and high price, many substitutes have been resorted to; maple, apple, pear, mahogany, have been experimented upon; but hitherto no wood, metal, or composition has been discovered that possesses the requisite qualities. In addition to engraving, boxwood is used for scales, rules, gauging rods, and similar articles. It differs in color from all other woods, and it is somewhat remarkable that it comes to perfection only in a comparatively limited region of country in the vicinity of the Black Sea. It weighs about seventy-five pounds to the cubic foot, and is very costly.—Journal of Chemistry.

Forty years once seemed a long weary pilgrimage to tread. It now seems but a step. And yet, along the way are broken shrines where a thousand hopes have wasted into ashes, footprints sacred under their drifting dust; green mounds where grass is fresh with watering tears, shadows even which we could not forget. We will garner the sunshine of those years, and with chastened step push on toward the evening, whose signal lights will be seen swinging where the waters are still and storms never beat.

Strange Origin of a Martial Air.

An illustration of the difference between the emotions sometimes inspired by music and those it was intended to express, is afforded by the recently discovered history of the melody under the influence of which the soldiers of Simon Bolivar marched to victory in the war of South America Independence. This "Marseillaise" of the tropics was the composition of a European musician, Hubert Robertart, who in it exhausted his musical talents in the efforts to describe the tenderness and simplicity of rural life. Bolivar, when in Europe, became his friend, and received from him a copy of the pastoral. Returning to South America, the future liberator of his country found himself in course of time at the head of his fellow-countrymen in resistance to Spanish tyranny. A military march was needed to fire the enthusiasm of the soldiers in the heavy charge, and that portion of Robertart's *chef d'œuvre* in which the shepherdess listens for the first time to her shepherd's tale of love, became the patriots' battle-melody. Twenty-five thousand men were slain to the music of these pensive strains, and Bolivar afterward wrote to his musical friend, hailing him as the Ruler of the New World.—Lippincott's Magazine.

SALT WATER AS AN ANTIDOTE FOR OBESITY.—According to the Paris *Medicale*, sea water taken internally, acts like a diuretic and purgative salts, a remarkable fact being that the diuretic effect increases when the purgative diminishes. The water should be obtained, when possible, from some depth and far from shore. It is to be left to settle for six to twelve hours, and filtered. It is to be taken three times a day, in doses of a small glassful, or in half that quantity at a time, with fresh water or milk. It is stated as a fact that sea water thus used facilitates the oxygenation of the blood, and that it hastens the elimination of effete materials. In combination with this treatment, sea-water baths are to be taken, free exercise is to be practiced, and fattening foods avoided.—Etc.

BELGRADE.—This is a long straggling town upon the crest and down each slope of a rocky ridge. The castle, a superb ruin, occupies an angle where the Save and Danube join. Up the hillside winds a labyrinth of walls, embarrassing to an enemy, but bewildering to a garrison. The river front is protected by fortifications, with half a dozen covered ways to aid the defense, and a citadel above. We are reminded how the art of war has changed by a glimpse of those two monitors moored in the river and at the disposal of Austria's representative. They could batter this anfortalice to shreds where they lie. The walls are brick, and a Babylonish garden of shrubs and flowers hangs upon each yard of bastion.

The full length bronze statue of Fitz Greene Halleck, for which a site has been selected in the Central Park near those of Shakespeare and Sir Walter Scott, will be erected and unveiled early in May, on which occasion William Allen Butler will deliver an address, and John G. Whittier will contribute a poem. The statue of Halleck will be the first ever erected to an American poet.

Our brightest hopes are very often crushed, and, as faded flowers, we toss them aside, to grasp for others of almost as short duration; yet it is hope that makes us willing to do and dare, and without it life would indeed be dark and gloomy.

Be deaf to the quarrelsome, blind to the scorners, and dumb to those who are mischievously inquisitive.