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THE WORLD.

European Legislatures.

AFTER enjoying a brief holiday the old world legislatures have resumed or will soon resume their sessions. Subjects of exciting interest are likely to occupy the attention of most of them. In the British parliament which met last week there will be a temporary truce to the interminable Irish question, though opposing parties will come no nearer to each other. The cleavage occasioned by Home Rule will not disappear for a long time to come. The irritation it has caused will be perceptible when other matters are up for consideration. The opposition believes in its ability to accomplish the defeat of the Gladstone ministry, so that the brief autumn session will no doubt be full of incident and interest. The French Chamber of Deputies has also convened for the transaction of business. Of all the prominent law-making bodies the French is the only one that has no very exciting question calling for legislative solution. The Franco-Russian relations may no doubt occupy the time and attention of the Deputies. The recent demonstration of affection between Frenchmen and Russians may tend to strengthen the colonial aggressiveness the former have been recently manifesting. Affairs in Siam may evoke reference in the Chamber. The unpleasantness between Moor and Spaniard in North Africa will no doubt give rise to animated debate. Certain evening Parisian journals are laboring industriously to create the impression that the fanaticism of the Riffs has been stirred by

English intrigue. While in this mood it is possible that the continued occupancy of Egypt by England may come in for fresh animadversion. In the German reichstag the old conflict under other conditions will be resumed. The army bill is out of the way, but the additional tax on required for the increase in numbers it demands has yet to be decided. The popular dislike of higher taxes is becoming intense. Dr. Miquel's proposal to levy rates on beer, tobacco, and bourse transactions, by no means strikes a popular chord. The users of these commodities—and in Germany they are many—decidedly oppose an additional impost upon their luxuries. Nor are operators on change any more favorably disposed to give government a quota of their gains. Emperor William is as determined to carry his point as President Cleveland was to secure unconditional repeal of the silver purchase clause of the Sherman bill. So lively times may be expected when the reichstag assembles. Italy also has special difficulties. An empty national purse, being one of the chief. Membership in the triple alliance is no doubt a great honor, but it is also a very expensive luxury for the people of the peninsula. They can not back out, and neither can they pay their way. The people are bending beneath the pressure of taxation already imposed, and new imposts must be devised if the sovereignty of King Humbert is to be kept out of the receiver's hands. A cabinet crisis is likewise imminent. Premier Giolitti's hold on office is not very secure. His predecessors, Rudini and Crispi, have been bidding for a return of popular favor. Rudini's chances of success are slim, Crispi has the prestige of being a Garibaldian and possessed of ability and force of character, but it is suspected that his reputation has been smirched by the bank scandals that brought disgrace to several prominent Italian politicians and others. Efforts are being made by the friends and admirers of Guiseppe Zanardelli to push him for the premiership so soon as the office is vacant. If difficult circumstances afford the best opportunity for skillful statesmanship, then Italy has the condition, but has she the man for the emergency? Another member of the triple alliance is also having troublous times. Austria is in the throes of a ministerial crisis. The Taaffe ministry has fallen to pieces and the formation of a new administration is a task of much difficulty. Though several of the parties in the reichsrath have but little confidence in the Austrian politician of Irish ancestry, Kaiser Francis Joseph has great confidence in his ability and integrity. The emperor is loath to give him up. The suffrage bill and Czech martial law are both exceedingly troublesome questions, and delay in their settlement may lead to serious results. Members of European parliaments will have much to look after this winter besides their social engagements.

hymns, it is true, are excellent; they have been endeared by long use to every Christian heart. Not so, however, with the tunes. They are of every style and variety, from the most classic and elevated of our German and English compositions, down to the veriest trifles, sung daily by our street boys. Every year we are assailed by some new compilations of "church music," claiming to be the best ever published. Each of these compilations contains tunes enough to occupy a congregation from fifteen to twenty years merely to learn how to sing them acceptably. Now, you know full well the effects of appropriate tunes adapted to particular words. Many such instances we have; for example the "Old Hundredth," as a song of praise to the Almighty, "Dundee," "St. Paul," "Nazareth," "All Saints," "Hebron," "Arlington," "St. Ann's," "Mear," "Lutzen," "Grafton," "Pharaoh," "St. Thomas," "Thatcher," "St. Michael's," "Monmouth," and many others, where the words and tunes are so closely wedded, that a change seems almost sacrilege; and who shall say, that such a union is not productive of a devotional feeling, to say nothing of the fact that a familiar tune can be much better sung, than one which is introduced for the first or second time.

Now, I will give you my plan, by which good congregational singing can be obtained. It is this: Let from twenty-five to fifty excellent tunes be selected, such as have been rendered classic in the religious world, and such as, at the same time, must necessarily be popular, because they give expression to the pious sentiment of all men. These tunes will comprise all the various meters contained in the hymn-book, and arranged with appropriate words (selected from the hymn-book) will be amply sufficient to meet the wants of any congregation; at least, it will be all they can be expected to learn to sing well. Such a collection of tunes could be published at a comparatively small cost, and, could it be brought into use by the Presbyterian church, its value would be inestimable. Every individual of a congregation could possess such a little book and learn how to use it, both at church and at home, which they would never think of undertaking with the cumbersome volumes now seen in the hands of the few called "the choir." But what is better than all, there would be uniformity. All Presbyterian churches would sing the same tunes, and, moreover, good tunes; and by constant repetition both pastor and people would learn to sing them well. Nothing seems to me more desirable than the accomplishment of this object, where a vast congregation unite their voices, like the sound of many waters, in praising God, not with the spirit only, but with the understanding. How inexpressibly glorious the contemplation of such a scene to heavenly intelligences! It is, indeed, a course of preparation for the exalted state, where saints and angels shall rejoice together beyond the Jordan of death.

Any musical pastor, or religious musician, or cultivated church member might make the selection. Such a musical church committee could easily issue such a little work at a very small cost. Music printing is now as cheap as any other printing. No individual would probably be a gainer in a pecuniary point of view, but great good would be accomplished. Presbyterian ministers, wherever stationed, would find the same tunes, in use among the people, and such tunes, too, as would not become worn by constant repetition.

Many gentlemen of the Presbyterian denomination, eminent alike for piety and intelligence, have expressed themselves on the subject, and are enthusiastically agreed, that could such a plan be effected, it would certainly rebound to the glory of God and the good of the church.

SHAKESPEARE AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

BY REV. H. D. JENKINS, D.D.

THERE lie upon my study table certain pamphlets which have made me weary. By refusing to buy The Great Cryptogram and its supplements, answers and addenda, I have sought to preserve my sanity and peace of mind. But mail after mail thrusts upon me the work of ambitious pamphleteers. The latest documents received insist with vehemence that Shakespeare's dramas were written by a physician and a lawyer, one or both, sometimes working in harmony and sometimes at cross-purposes. It has become so much the fashion to "see double" of late that even when I receive a letter from some member of my family I am tempted to suspect its genuineness, and I can not refrain from a suspicion that the most innocent expressions are cover for the most shrewd designs. If my ministerial brother indulges in a bit of slang, I am profoundly impressed with the conviction that his rascal of a boy just home from college has "edited" that epistle before posting it. The world is rapidly becoming to me "a phantasmagora or a hideous dream," the best assured history or most venerated biography a mere "thing of shreds and patches." I have even come to doubt the genuineness of a good many of the sermons in

my "barrel," sometimes with fear and apprehension, and, it must be confessed, sometimes with a sigh of relief.

But all this is only introductory to my main purpose, that of showing how rapidly the text of "the immortal William" is being subjected to the process of redaction. Following the literary plan of the day, by which authors of reputation hire unknown assistants to collect their material, or even to write their "celebrated works," I secured the services of a young people's literary club connected with my church and set them at the task. A dozen questions were proposed by which it would appear whether or not the real writer of a large part of Shakespeare's dramas had been visiting the World's Fair; and I am bound to confess that after the results of this search were brought together it was the unanimous opinion of the society that Shakespeare had been "in it."

For instance; when the question was asked, What did Shakespeare think of the World's Fair? one of these young ladies turned promptly to As You Like it, (111, 2.) and read:

"Oh wonderful, wonderful, and most wonderful,
Wonderful and yet again wonderful;"

while a second supported her with a line from The Tempest (V, 1.)

"A most high miracle."

That these expressions were self-evidencing proof of a visit to the Columbian Exposition "all the best scholarship" will readily admit.

Nor did we need to look far to find that the nineteenth century editor had expressed his opinion of Columbus as a man,

"Not fearing death, nor shrinking from distress,
But always resolute in most extreme."

(Henry VI., II, 4.)

And that the interlining had been done in Chicago, or at least by a Chicago man, was evident when we read in King Henry VIII., (II, 4.) the opinion that it was

"The most convenient place
That I can think of."

If there were still a doubting Thomas not able to accept the results of the most critical acumen he was put *hors du combat* when in answer to the question, How did Shakespeare feel after a week at the Fair? the answer was read by one who had been there,

"Never so weary, never so in woe,—
I can no further crawl, no further go;
My legs can keep no pace with my desires."

(Midsummer Night's Dream, III, 2.)

But to make assurance doubly sure another added from Coriolanus (I, 1.)

"Go get you home:
You fragments!"

Some member of the circle suggested that he knew a part of Shakespeare had been written after a meeting of the lady managers, for the sentiments there expressed were echoed in certain lines which were thereafter produced,

"Why, sir, I trust I may have leave to speak;
And speak I will, I am no child, no babe;
Your betters have endured me say my mind,
And if you can not, best you stop your ears.
My tongue will tell the anger of my heart,
Or else my heart concealing it will break,
And rather than it shall, I will be free,
Even to the uttermost, as I please in words."

(Taming of the Shrew, IV, 3.)

That the writer, whoever he may be, had visited the Fisheries Building could not be disputed after a dozen quotations were fired off in rapid succession, among which were, the affirmation that here he found

"An alligator stuffed and other skins of ill-shaped fishes;"

(Romeo and Juliet, V, 1.)

and

"Here is a smell . . . all the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten,"

(Macbeth, V, 1.)

and it was doubtless in the Anthropological Building that he found "Anthropophagi, and men whose heads do grow between their shoulders." (Othello, I, 3.)

Nay, we were able to trace the footsteps of this bold redactor more closely still; for we found that in the American section of the Art Gallery he saw

"Beauty truly blent," (Twelfth Night, I, 5.)

while in the French section he discovered in abundance,

"Poor naked wretches." (King Lear, II, 4.)

That at least one of the many engaged upon the text of the great dramatist had visited the Parliament of Religions was plain from his exclamation,

"In religion

What damned error but some sober brow
Will bless it, and approve it with a text,
Hiding the grossness with fair ornament."

(Merchant of Venice, III, 2.)

And of what but such a city so soon to disappear could the writer have been thinking when he penned the lines,

"These cloud-capped towers, these gorgeous palaces,
The solemn temples, the great globe itself,
Yea, all which it inhabit shall dissolve,
And like an unsubstantial pageant faded
Leave not a rack behind." (Hamlet.)

So when the merry circle broke up that evening we were either convinced that we had made another great discovery in the province of higher criticism, or that we had had a share in "most excellent fooling," and that in either case the hour had been wisely spent.

THE STARS IN NOVEMBER.

THE great feature that distinguishes November from other months is the fact that during that month the earth plunges through the meteor zone, whose perihelion rests upon the portion of her orbit that she passes about November 13. This zone, says the *New York Times*, is an immense ellipse, containing an innumerable number of meteors, which make a revolution in about thirty-three years. The earth on ordinary years does not encounter the great shoal or swarm, but every thirty-three years she passes through the midst of it, and there is a superb display of celestial pyrotechnics.

The meteors are spreading far and wide through the zone or ring, and seem to indicate that, in the distant future, they will fill every portion of it. When this takes place the showers will be more nearly equalized—that is, there will be larger showers every year, while the grand display will diminish.

The following little history of the November meteors has been very happily called the "Romance of a Comet." In the year 126 of the Christian era a stray comet made a visit to the sun's domain, coming from the infinite depths of space, and intending to return to them. It chanced to come too near Uranus, when the great planet made it a prisoner by force of attraction, changed its orbit into an ellipse, and it has ever since continued to wander within the limits of the solar system, and give about three grand exhibitions to terrestrial observers every century.

The last exhibition took place twenty-seven years ago, and so the next will be due in 1999, just before the close of this century. The long-looked-for shower will then appear, when the heavens will be on fire and shooting stars by the millions will be darting toward the earth. The tiny meteors are called Leonids, because their radiant point is in the constellation of Leo, the lion. It will be well to look for them about the 13th, for the earth captures every year a few stragglers along the path. They are easily known, for they move swiftly, have a greenish or blue tint, with vivid and persistent trains.

November has its own moon three out of the four weeks, and is not obliged to content itself with a left-over from the previous month for more than the first seven or eight days of its allotted space on the calendar. On the 16th there is phase of first quarter, which makes us wonder if the old man who is said to live up there in the land of green cheese is as happy with his first quarter as we were with ours. The full moon, on the 23d finds Luna well up in northern declination, and she will be bright orb and a very welcome object for us to look upon. She will not seem as warm and comfortable looking as when she is in far southern declination.

On the last day of the month we shall have the period of last quarter, to be followed on December 8 by the last moon for this year. The moon and Saturn are in conjunction on the 6th, followed a few hours later by a meeting with Mars, and two days later with Uranus. We are not able to appreciate the beauties of all this, as the sun is near enough to play a very important part, and, by his light, overpowers that of the other celestial bodies. The one-day-old moon and Mercury next have their monthly seance, and this is succeeded on the 12th by a meeting with Venus, which, in the tender, hardly bright light of sunset, should prove an attraction. On the 23d Jupiter and the moon pass within hail, followed on the 24th by Neptune, which brings the monthly conjunctions to a close.

On the 3d Uranus is in conjunction with the sun, and passes from an evening to a morning star, being closely allied to Saturn and Mars. It was in April that Uranus was in opposition, so that we see he has occupied six months in making half the circuit, the other marking place being at the close of July, when he was in quadrature. Uranus is to be found in the constellation of Libra.

Mercury, on the 5th, reaches a point as far east from the sun as the latter will admit of his going during this swing around the circle, and on the 26th we find the planet in inferior conjunction with the sun, which tells us that he is about passing from an evening to a morning star. We shall once again have Mercury with us in the evening, at which time he will be fully twice as

far from the sun as he succeeds in getting in November, and, as he will then be some 5 degrees or so to the northward of the sunset point, we may catch a glimpse of him after Old Sol has passed on to rise in another hemisphere.

Saturn, like Dante's soul in purgatory, has for some little time past been "contented in the flame," but we now find that he has emerged somewhat from the golden curly locks of the sun, and is engaged in setting up an establishment of his own, from which will henceforth shine a light of increasing brilliancy. Early on the morning of the 6th, he was in conjunction with the waning crescent of the old moon, but it will take a remarkably strong pair of eyes to discover him, as he is hardly far enough away for the sun to admit of his being easily distinguished.

As the upper limb of the sun is about setting, and the lower tracts of the sky are flushing between the feathery branches of the clouds, we see glittering in a background of primrose color the face of the lovely Queen of the Planets, whose control over the heavens is absolute, until, yielding to an inevitable law, she, too, sinks to rest beneath the horizon, which, like a summer's sea, meets heaven and hides all the world beyond. In a little more than a month fair Venus reaches her furthest east, after which she will be curtailing her length of stay; but her disk is getting larger, and she will even be still more beautiful through the crisp December air and clear atmosphere than she is at present.

About the time that Venus sinks to rest, if we turn our eyes to the eastward, we shall see a group of bluish stars rising slowly above the horizon. This will be the famous Pleiades, which are soon after followed by the King of the Planets, the great Jupiter himself, while the bright star that rises next in order is Aldebaran, whose location is in the eye of the mighty bull, Taurus, which the giant Orion is supposed to be fighting. This is Jupiter's opportunity to amaze and interest us all with his brilliancy, as on the 18th he will be in opposition to the sun, which means they are separated 180 degrees, and that the planet is in the most favorable situation for observation.

Jupiter has for some time been a morning star, but he now once again challenges Venus for the supremacy of the evening sky, and 'tis to be regretted that his fair rival does not remain longer to add grace and beauty to the picture of the gold and silver dots on the azure ceiling. All available telescopes are now being directed toward Jupiter, and every opportunity is improved for studying the present aspect of this great planet. There is a famous red spot on the surface of Jupiter that has been made a subject of discussion, and its characteristics, color, etc., are still matters of great interest. The spot was first seen fifteen years ago, and has been visible ever since. This marking on the face of our planetary neighbor is said to be 30,000 miles long and 7,000 wide, and, strange to say, we are still in the dark as to its cause. If anything new is learned about this strange phenomenon it will probably be when the planet is at or near opposition.

Neptune is also slowly approaching opposition, and will arrive there early in December. He is never visible to the naked eye on account of his great distance, though he ranks the third in size of the giant planets, being exceeded only by Jupiter and Saturn. Thus far we know little concerning the member that travels on the system's remotest bounds. Seen through a telescope, he has a perceptible disk of a delicate greenish tint. No markings are visible on his surface, and his own satellite seems to move backward, or from east to west. It remains yet to be proved whether his orbit is the boundary of the sun's territory, or whether planets yet unknown people the realms of remoter space, owing allegiance to our central orb. If such planets exist, they will surely be found, as telescopes increase in power and observers accumulate the vast amount of material for the use of the astronomers of the future.

THE TELAUTOGRAPH.

NO one who visited the World's Fair Electricity building could fail to be impressed by the wonderful advances in electric science which the exhibits revealed. Students and experts were delighted with what they saw, and the non-scientific visitor gazed with astonishment and awe at the results of discoveries and inventions which have been made within the period of an average lifetime. Surprising as are the adaptations of what is in reality still an occult power, to transportation, manufactures, lighting and heating, they may fitly be regarded as an earnest of greater things yet in store for future inventors.

An interesting series of papers on "Electricity at the World's Fair" from the pen of Mr. Charles M. Lungren is appearing in the *Popular Science Monthly*. The one given in the current number contains a lucid description of Professor Elisha Gray's important and valuable invention, the Telautograph. Mr. Lungren says: The Centennial left us in the telegraph a new method of com-