ROBERT G. INGERSOLL.

Life is a narrow vale between the cold And barren peaks of two eternities. We strive in vain to look beyond the heights.

We cry aloud; the only answer Is the echo of our wailing cry.

From the voiceless lips of the unreplying There comes no word; but in the night of Hope sees a star, and listening love can

The rustle of a wing These myths were born of hopes and fears And smiles; and they were touched and colored

By all there is of joy and grief between The rosy dawn of birth and death's sad They clothed even the stars with passion And gave to gods the faults and frailties Of the sons of men. In them the winds

Streams, springs, mountains, woods and perfumed dells Were haunted by a thousand fairy forms.

And waves were music, and all the lakes

OUR ROBIN.

CHAPTER III.

Our grounds at Podmore are not extensive. Indeed the house itself, though old and roomy, is not pretentious, and it stands modestly in the midst of some fifteen acres only. More than half this space is taken up by the lawn, pleasure-grounds, and garden; the remainder is portioned off into two meadows. In one of these our cows graze, whilst the second is devoted to providing hay for winter use.

The near field is separated from the pleasure-grounds by a light iron paling; on all remaining sides the meadows are encircled by a belt of beechtrees. Amidst these trees there runs a narrow moss-grown foot-path, which is known by the sentimental title of Lovers' Walk. Of late years, I have grown almost to hate this pathway, on account of its painful associations; but on this, the first morning of Robin's visit, she insists on a thorough inspection of our domains.

"I am never happy till I am well coached in the geography of the place hitherto has been aimless and indo-I am staying at," she explains; "so lent. This flashes across my brain pity-the walk is such a pretty one. you must take me everywhere, show suddenly as I sit there on the seat beme everything, and introduce me to side my old schoolfellow; and then the everybody."

"You frightfully energetic creature!" I say, with a sigh, as I put on my broad-brimmed hat and seek for my everybody, that is out of the question, seemed to rouse us. As you know, I not to walk at all." We hardly visit at all; we don't care for society."

"Don't care for society!" repeats Robin, puckering her brows, "How funny!-that is"-correcting herself-"I don't think I care much for society. Only one must mix more or less with one's fellows, if only to keep one's wits

"Well, our wits may rust, for all we care!" I answer rather defiantly.

In the first place, we visit the stain love with our old retriever, Nell. She expresses, however, strong disapproval of the carriage-horses.

"They remind one of two fat old aldermen," she says, surveying them with smiling pity; "they must have been eating their heads off for years;" and she assists the process by presenting a piece of bread to my special pony, Scamper.

"They have," I answer calmly, "Aunt Louisa drives twice a week, and that is about all."

"How frightfully cruel!" exclaims Robin indignantly.

"Cruel?" I repeat interrogatively. "Yes, cruel-to keep them here doing nothing. How they must hate their stalls!

"They are exercised every morning," I explain.

"Yes, and like it almost as much as we used to appreciate our constitution-

"Of course I should like it, and to-

Scamper, my boy, we will let you see a little life!"-and she gives his nose an affectionate kiss. We are leaving the yard, when her

eye lights again on Nell, who, encouraged by the attention she has already have even time to utter an exclamation received, begins to whine like a spoilt of surprise, Nell, poor, foolish, enthuchild and pull impatiently at her chain. "May I unfasten her?" asks Robin eagerly, and approaching the kennel.

"As you like," I answer carelessly. "She is so frightfully demonstrative, when she does obtain her liberty, that I seldom touch her. She will almost beech tree. tear you to pieces, as a pleasant little way of showing her gratitude."

But before I have finished speaking Nell is free. She at once verifies my words by springing upon Robin, who frees himself from Nell!s overpowerall but loses her equilibrium; secondly, she darts at me. For once however in cane buzzes through the air, and away my lifetime I have taken time by the forelock, and I avoid Nell's affectionate intentions by dodging her skilfully behind the pump. Foiled in her endeavors to reach me, she relieves her feelings by tearing madly round the yard for some minutes, after which she subsides into soberness once more, and, still panting, follows us meekly enough

as we wander away from the stables. "And now I really think we have seen everything," I say, with a sigh of keep a big dog like that chained to its satisfaction, taking out my watch to kennel all day. "How would you

To own the truth, I have fallen into such lazy habits that even strolling about the grounds for an hour quite

tires me. "Have we? Don't those fields belong to you?" asks Robin, pointing with ruthless hands towards the meadows.

"Yes," I reply, sinking down on a seat that is handy; "but we must not walk about in the hay-crop, and I am

invaded their domain." "And is there no way round the meadows?" asks my indefatigable slightly as he says, with a faint

friend. She is leaning her elbows on the top of the iron fence, feeding the old cow, of solitude. Look at Diogenes." Buttercup, with bunches of long tender grass, and laughs a little at my terror himself or anybody else!" answers of the gentle, kind-eyed animal; Robin | Robin irreverently. is on the best of terms with all brute

of terms with her. "Yes: there is a path called the by quarreling. Lovers' Walk," I answer, with a weary 'No, thank," he replies, relapsing mind. She told him that he was Lucy's sigh; "but surely you don't want to into his usual dreamy tone; "I have murderer." explore that! There is nothing to see." just come from there." Then he raises

she softly strokes Buttercup's nose. "Half a mile, if it is an inch," I say

"Only that? Then we must certainly go, unless you feel yourself unequal to the exertion"—this a little satirical- | brother. ly. "In that case I'll go alone. I suppose I couldn't lose my way?"

"Not if you tried your hardest. If you go in at one end, you are bound to come out at the other, unless you deliberately turn round in the middle,"

"Are you coming?" asked Robin. She had left the fence, and now stands before me, the very picture of to a common sense-view of life." health and happiness, her bright eyes the vigorous young life within her.

"Oh, I will come, if first you let me | pet our path on either side. rest a little!" I rejoin, making a valliant effort not to be uncivil on Robin's spend hours here," she says, glancing first day.

Nell's curly head, which is at once tree, and-" thrust upon her knees; then she looks

"You are very much changed in the

pallid cheeks.

"I am all right; it is only because ings." your are in such overflowing health and spirits yourself that you think me delicate," is my rather rude answer. Robin however only laughs her low

cheery laugh. "Yes, I am strong," she says, looking down, with a contented smile, at farthest meadow there is a summerfirm round wrist, and re-arranging house, which used to be a favorite the broad silver band which encircles haunt of mine; but from it we can see it; "and I am thankful for my strength; the waters of the pond in which she it makes one somehow feel so happy.' "Yes," I say vaguely. "I suppose

it must be a pleasant feeling." Then Robin began to talk of her ter, her various occupations and again.' amusements, until, listening to her, it suddenly dawns upon me that my life turns Robin, with ready sympathy. feeling of confidence which first drew me towards Robin springs once more

"Robin," I say, edging nearer, and there is not much worth seeing, though were all going to sleep, and worse never had much energy, and what I By this time we have reached the tween Evan Morgan and Morgan sun is not light; that it is an opaque mass; poor Jack's misfortune, we have been last stage of dilapidation. No one and Thomas Williams, and all other light, a phosphorescent atmosphere floating going from bad to worse; we seem likes to give orders that it shall be combinations and permutations not to be at all wondered at that not until afraid Jack will soon get past recovery, unless we can rouse him.

"Poor dear! There-don't fret!"and Robin laughingly wipes my eyes with her own handkerchief. "They ought to have sent you up to me, or at the ruin. asked somebody here, or done somebles, where Robin falls head over ears thing," she declares, with her usual energy.

"Oh, not that! I don't mind for myself," I explain, in a broken voice. more and more melancholy every day."

pityingly. "Bee Bee," she says then, "you know I always did speak my mind at school; and I must say, my dear"with a half curl of her upper lip-"that I think your brother more deserving of contempt than pity."

"Robin, how can you?" I exclaim, withdrawing my arm, and sitting indignantly bolt upright. "You don't know what love is. Jack is brokenhearted, and-and-I think his con-

stancy is beautiful," "Of course it is very fine and very romantic of him to go about the world with his hair two inches longer than any other man's, and wrapped in a cloak of sombre recollections; but at "If you really wish it, we will drive the same time it is unutterably selfish this afternoon," is my reluctant con- and unmanly. I can understand a woman-a very weak woman, I mean -moping herself into melancholy morrow we'll take your pony out. Ah, | madness; but men should be made of more reliable stuff. Does he mean to waste his whole life in this fashion?"

> I am about to answer a little hotly, when John himself emerges from a side path close to our seat. Before I siastic doggie, flings the full weight of her loving, but corpulent body, upon him, and, taking him at a disadvantage-since he has no idea that she is at liberty-sends him staggering back against the trunk of a neighboring

"Down-down!" I cry, laughing,

and springing to the rescue. But John, after the first shock, rises to the occasion, and, by an artful ruse, ing attentions. His light walking flies the dog in pursuit.

"What mad spirits Nell is in!" says John, smiling slightly. "Thanks for taking her out, Blanche.

"Your thanks are not due to me; 'twas Robin who insisted on letting her loose." "I should think I did!" remarks Robin calmly, and contemplating my brother with a somewhat ireful eye. "I consider it the greatest cruelty to

John-"to be shut up in one room from morning till night?" John Smiles his rather dreamy

like"-speaking with emphasis, and to

"As a rule, I am shut up, from choice.' "Ah, well, poor Nell is but a dog,

and consequently endowed with a certain amount of spirit!" Robin makes this somewhat cutting convinced the cows would toss us if we observation in such a tone that it is impossible to take offense-evidently it is intended as a joke. Jack flushes

> shade of animation-"Wiser men than I have been fond "Crusty old maniac-no good to

"We are going round the Lovers' creation, and brute creation, to judge Walk, John; will you come?" I ask, would induce me to let her see John, from appearances, is also on the best breaking into conversation. I have she went home and wrote him a wild no wish for Robin and Jack to begin revengeful letter, which I fully

"It can't be far," muses Robin, as his straw hat slightly to Robin and walks slowly away.

As we turn our steps in the direc-

"He is not used to jokes," I argue

"and does not understand them." .. Well, he will have to learn then," returns Robin, composedly. "I am not going to treat him as if he were Solomon. The fact is, both you and your aunt have humored him far too much-he wants to be brought round

My friend goes into ecstasies over dancing, her round cheeks rosy with the tender mosses interspersed with just a few late primroses which car-

"If I were you, Blanche, I should up at the vivid green canopy which She seats herself beside me on the rustles overhead. "I should bring garden bench, and lovingly caresses out my book, lie down at the foot of a

"And," I interrupt, laughing, "sigh or rather stares—at me long and for a romantic young painter to come

along and sketch you. "Just so," laughs Robin; "I should last two years, Blanche," she says sud- | not even object to the romantic young artist, so long as he were not too "Do you think so?" I say, feeling romantic. Of course he would have the warm blood creep over my usually to idealize my nose a little"-stroking that white, but somewhat insignificant "Yes; you have grown frightfully feature-"otherwise I should scarcely quiet, pale, and languid-how is it?" be in sympathy with my surround-

"Talking of romance," I say, after a time, and returning to my ordinary rather mournful tone, "there has been a kind of aversion to this walk, in my mind, since the day on which Lucy was drowned. At the corner of the lost her lfe. I can show you without leaving our own grounds, the very spot where she sank; and I cannot

"I can quite understand that," re-"At the same time, it certainly is a for his morning stroll; he must find it even more depressing than yeu."

"Ye-es," I answer slowly, for the same thought had entered my own they simply pluralized the name, head. "He used, I know, to avoid the and called the family Clements, garden gloves. "I will try to take putting my hand round her waist, "I place; but lately I have often noticed Stephens and Adams. In Wales this the discharge of many volcanoes in the priyou everywhere, since you wish it; did want you so, dear. I knew we him coming from this direction. Of is a very favorite plan, though very have hindered the light of the sun from fallcourse, I don't like to remark on it | often they do not even add the I warn you. As to introducing you to than to sleep, down here, and nothing it is better for him to walk here than plural, and the stranger to the ing. Beside that, David Brewster and Her-

once possessed is all used up. Since arbor. It is a rustic structure, in the Evans, and between William Thomas that it is only the candlestick that holds the settled in a fog of gloom; and I am | pulled down; yet, since we are not | which can be twisted out of half a | that Thursday morning its light fell on the likely ever to care for it again, no one dozen names. is ever sent to prop it up.

> blues," remarks Robin, her bright face | peculiarities-must be assigned such | a time in the history of the world when clouding for a moment as she glances names as Wolfe, Hawke, Fox, Crane,

times we used to have here," I say, oned on their shields. One of the an insufferable light, throwing a glare all with a sigh, "when we were all chil- most luminous instances of the over our earth. Beside that there are the dren. Lucy would come dancing over schoolmaster being all abroad was the fields to join our picnics in the ar- the derivation laid down by the "I've got Harry; but Jack seems to get | bor; and often we used to sit here for English and writing master at a pubhours and tell each other stories of the lic school, of the name Dove. The Robin looks at me a few moments future. Frequently enough the pond origin of the name was actually asworked into these fabrications. It was cribed to an ancestor having kept ance. It was a star-light night, when sudstrange, was it not, that the life story doves in his back yard at some time | denly the sky became overcast. In the of two out of three should have been or another! so nearly and darkly connected with Royalty and nobility have also

ly. Her eyes are fixed upon the dis- and baron are all names that may tant water, shimmering in the sunlight, be met with every day, while the lessand seen but indistinctly through the er nobility and the territorial gentry thick foliage of intervening trees. have furnished such names as lord,

of-fact present, I strain my eyes in the most every grade in the hierarchy direction indicated and become aware being represented in one form or anthat a tall slight form, clad in gray, other. is standing beside the pond, apparent- There is a story told of the anly gazing down into its waters. I start cient Wiltshire family of the dukes as my eyes light on the figure, and for of Lake house which illustrates this visible." My hearers, there are ten thoua moment my heart seems to cease peculiar form of surname and also sand sources of light besides the light of

faintly. And then I continue very over a modern peerage. At the besoftly, as though fearing my words ginning of the century, a brand-new might echo across the intervening peer cannoned against the master of fields-"it gave me a start at first, the Lake house on the hunting, field, attitude reminded me so of Lucy."

now slowly skirting the pond.

"How odd!" murmurs Robin. "I was under the impression that Lucy was an only child."

her step-sister, and older by some sev- ly, "but what college you do belong en or eight years than Lucy. We used to. to think in the old days that she was "My good man," replied the underover-bearing and tyrannical with the graduate, with intense solemnity. poor child. There is no doubt that "I have no other name to give you. she resented the idea of her engage- Go away. I'm trying to find my ment, and hated John with all the bed."

strength of her ill-governed nature." "And both their parents were dead?" "Yes; they died when Lucy was a

gagement?"

faith was to be placed in men. Her the popular sports and pastimes. herself. She must have loved her in for thinking men. a wild selfish way; but she certainly. The reflex action of popular sports tyrannized over her abominably, and is best shown in a pronounced case.

In the floor rose instead of falling. Before the account where it says the windows of heaven were opened, it says, all the fountains of the great deep at times rendered her life very wretch. at times rendered her life very wretch- All readers are familiar with the

"Did she feel her sister's death much?"

"Yes." I answer, with a shudder.

demanded an interview with John. I death, declaring that, but for us, Lucy would never have thought of venturing upon the ice. When she found is in my estimation the most degradthat neither her entreaties nor demands believe has rankled ever since in his

Where Our Names Come From,

It is surprising to many to find tion of the beeches, with Nell at our how large a portion of English surheels, I remonstrate with Robin on the names have a plain, every day meancavalier way in which she treats my ing, and stand for a thing as well as for a family, says a writer in All the Year Round. But, though a same may sound base or ridiculous on first hearing it, there is so little in a name that, even with mere acquaintances, it scarcely seems incongruous that a man oversix feet high should be called Little, and a V. C., Co-

ward. Most English surnames are taken from counties or towns, from protessions or trades, from some personal peculiarity, from the father's name, with son, Fitz, Mac, Ap or O' fixed or affixed; or, lastly, from the family in middle ages.

We have Cornwalls, Cumberlands, Yorkes and Somersets, from counties; and Wiltons, Barnets, Chichesters and Henleys from towns. Almost every profession and trade is included in the list of names; the town gives us Butcher, Baker, Mason, Sadler and Draper; the country Farmer, Shepherd, Fisher, Hunter and Fowler; and the household, Cook | God created the heaven and the earth. assigned such names as Potts, Buckle and Tucker. Personal peculiarities or qualities account for almost as many: there are Long and Short Rich and Poor, Bigg and Little chromatic scale-Black, White, for a bride and groom. many more.

no striking personality or peculiarity to mark them out from their fellows, were content to be known as So-and-So's son, and thus founded even now look at that wretched sheet the families of Richardson, Johnson, northern home, her brothers and sis- of water without picturing it all Rubertson and Williamson. Not only did this principle obtain among the English peasantry, in feudal times, but even among the Norman families; and so we have Fitzpatrick and Fitzwilliams; while in Scotland I wonder why your brother chooses it there are all the Macs; in Wales, all

the Aps. and in Ireland all the O's. Sometimes the neighbors did not even take the trouble to add son;

"It is enough to give one the haps, in some few cases to personal The metallic bases emit light. There was Swan and the like, the owners being "If you could only picture the good called after the cognizances emblaz-

given surnames to humbler folks. "Yes," answers Robin, a little vague- King, prince, duke, marquis earle "Who is that?" she asks abruptly. knight and squire. From the church,

the pride of the untitled nobility in "I don't know, I am sure," I return the superiority of an ancient name

and, turning round, cried: "Lucy! But Lucy is dead!" objects "Do you know whom you'r riding over sir? I'm lord So and-so!" "It can't be Alice, surely," I contin- "And I, my lord," replied the old ue, still gazing at the figure, which is gentleman, with quiet dignity, "am

duke of Lake." "And who is Alice?" demands Robin There was a story current at Cambriskly-she is such a girl for sifting bridge not long ago, to the effect that the proctor one night discover-"Alice is poor Lucy's sister," I re- ed an undergraduate on Magdalen ply. "But it cannot—no, it cannot be bridge, endeavoring, as he thought, Alice," I add, with a sigh of relief. to get in bed. The outraged Don "She never by any chance comes to demanded the inebriate's name and college, and the latter replied:

"Nutt of Magdalen." and received the same answer.

The proctor repeated his question, "Your idea is more than half right," "I don't want to know what colanswer thoughtfully. "Alice was lege you are not of," he cried, angri-

Brutalizing Sport.

A people has its character in its "Why did Alice object to the en- own keeping, whether it would shape that character by laws or by custom-"I hardly know. She had some There is, perhaps, no way in which strange sad love story of her own, and the national character is more read- inhabited? had come to the conclusion that no ily and surely shaped than through wish was, I believe, to keep Lucy unmarried, as a genial companion for of athletics the chief interest it has the base loved her in the popular sports and passings of order to have the water as deep severy states, it must have rained 800 feet every day, I reply, the Bible distinctly declares that the most of the flood rose instead of that the most of the flood rose instead of

Spanish bull-fight. It is the direct filled with water, and they rush forth, and successor to the gladiatorial fights all the lakes and rivers forsook their bed.

The fountains of a great deep were broken with wild beasts at Rome, A con- up, and then the windows of heaven were tributor to the New York Home opened. Is it a strange thing that we should "She came storming over here, and Journal writing from Madrid has a be asked to believe in this flood of the Bible, demanded an interview with John. I for pointed words of comment on when geologists tell us that again and demanded an interview with John. I few pointed words of comment on never told him, but received her myself. She accused us of her sister's be read with profit even in this counstant, which can be read with profit even in this counstant, which can be read with profit even in this counstant, which can be read with profit even in this counstant, which can be read with profit even in this counstant, which can be read with profit even in this counstant, which can be read with profit even in this counstant, which can be read with profit even in this counstant, which can be read with profit even in this counstant, which can be read with profit even in this counstant, which can be read with profit even in this counstant, which can be read with profit even in this counstant, which can be read with profit even in this counstant, which can be read with profit even in this counstant, which can be read with profit even in this counstant, which can be read with profit even in this counstant, which can be read with profit even in this counstant, which can be read with profit even in this counstant, which can be read with profit even in this counstant.

"Taken altogether," he writes, "it ing national sport to be seen in the well, then, another thing, in regard to civilized world. To see the Spaniards the size of the ark. Instead of being a mud take their tender little children to scow, as some of these skeptics would have us understand, it was a magnificent ship, witness this terrible spectacle, and nearly as large as the Great Eastern, three train them to glory in the torture of times the size of an ordinary man-of-war.

At the time in the world when ship building was unknown God had this yessel coning was unknown, God had this vessel condismay and pity." structed, which turned out to be almost in

BROOKLYN'S MINISTER

Talmage the Great Divine Dwells on Facts That are Pointed. He Speaks of the World in It'

Transformation Scene. Salvation on Tapp For all Those Who Have Erred in Life.

BROOKLYN, March 24 .- At the tabernacle this morning, after expounding some passages of Scripture in regard to the mysteries, the Rev. T. De Witt Talmage, D. D., gave out the hymn beginning: "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word."

The subject of his sermon was "Tough

Things in the Bible," and his text, II Peter iii, 16: "In which are some things hard to be understood." Dr. Talmage said The bible is the most common sense book in all the world. But there are many things crest borne by the founder of the in it which require explanation. It all depends on the mood in which you come to this grand old book. You may employ on its mysteries the rule of multiplication or substraction. There are things, as my text suggests, hard to be understood, but I shall solve some of them, hoping to leave upon all carnest minded people the impression that

if four or five of them can be explained, perhaps they may all be explained. THE CREATION'S DURATION.
Hard thing the first: The Bible says the world was created in six days, while geology says it was hundreds of thousands of years in progress of building. In the beginning. and Butler. To trades, too, must be "In the beginning." There you can roll in 10,000,000 years if you want to. There is no particular date given--no contest between science and revelation. Though the world may have been in process of creation for millions of years, suddenly and quickly, and in one week, it may have been fitted up for man's residence. Just as a great mansion Large and Small; while of names may have been many years in building, and taken from colors there is a whole | yet in one week it may be curtained and chandeliered and cushioned an upholstered

Gray, Brown, Pink, Scarlett and You are not compelled to believe that the world was made in our six days. It may not have been a day of twenty four hours, the Then, again, men whose fathers day spoken of in the first chapter; it may boasted no surname, and who had have been God's day, and a thousand years years with Him are as one day. "And the evening and the morning were the first day" -God's day. "And the evening and the morning were the second day"-God's day. You and I living in the seventh day, the Sabbath of the world, the day of gospel redemption, the grandest day of all the week, in which each day may have been made up of thousands of years. Can you tell me how a man can get his mind and soul into such a blasphemous twist as to scoff at that first chapter of Genesis, its verses billows of light surging up from sapphire seas of glory !

LIGHT EVEN BEFORE THE SUN. The Bible represents that light was created on Monday, and the sun was not created until Thursday. Just think of it! a book declaring that light was created three days before the sun shone! Why, don't you know that heat and electricity emit light independent of the sun? Besides that, when the earth was in process of condensation, it was surrounded by thick vapors and ing on the earth until that Thursday mornmountains gets sadly confused be- schel, the astronomer, and all the modern around it, changing and changing, so it is earth. Beside that the rocks in crystalization emit light. There is light from a thou-To mediæval heraldy-though, per- sand surfaces, the alkalies, for instance. there were thousands of miles of liquid granite flaming with light. Beside that it has been found that there are burned out volcanoes explosion and activity, must have cast forth aurora borealis and the aurora anchalis. A book on "Physical Science, ' says:

"Captain Bonnycastle, coming up Gulf of St. Lawrence on September 17, 1826, was aroused by the mate of the vessel in great alarm from an umisual appeardirection of the land of Cornwallis county an instantaneous and intensely vivid light. resembling the aurora, shot out on the hitherto gloomy and dark sea on the lee bow that was so brilliant it lighted everything distinctly, even to the masthead. The light shores, and the waves, which before had been tranquil, became agitated. Captain Bonnycastle describes the scene as that of a blazing sheet of awful and most brilliant showed the face of the high frowning land recollections of the past to the matter- priest pilgrim, parson and clerk, al- more intensely obscure. Long, torturous tion. The topsail yard and mizzen boom had been burned directly below them, and until just before daybreak, at 4 o'clock, the most minute objects were distinctly

EXPLAINING THE GREAT FLOOD,

deluge and Noah's ark. They say that from the account there it must have rained 800 feet of water each day in order that it might be fifteen cubits above the hills. They say that the ark could not have been large enough to contain "two of every sort," for | saying; "Come thou and all thy house into there would have been hundreds of thou- the ark.' sands and hundred of thousands of creatures. They say that these creatures would have come from all lands and all zones. They say there was only one small window in the ark and that would not have given fresh air to keep the animals inside the ark changed my mind in regard to some matters which once were to me very mysterious. They are no more mysterious. This is the key to the facts. This is the stery of an eye witness, Noah, his story incor-porated afterward by Moses in the account. Noah described the scene just as it appeared to him. He saw the flood and he fathomed its depth. As far as eye could reah everything was covered up, from horizon to horizon, or, as it says, "under the whole heaven." He did not refer to the Sierra Nevadas, or to Mount Washington, or America had not been discovered, or, if it is because you have not it had been discovered, he could not have seen so far off. He is giving the testimony manner of men when he says everything went under, and Noah speaks after the manner of men when he says everything did go under. An eye-witness. There is no need of thinking that the kangaroo leaped the ocean or that the polar bear came down from the ice. Why did the deluge come? It came for the purpose of destroying the outrageous inhabitants of the then thinly populated earth, nearly all the population,

ANSWERING THE SKEPTICS. And as to the skeptical suggestion that in order to have the water as deep as the Bible saying that there are caverns in the earth strange that infidel scientists wanting us to believe in the twenty floods of geological discovery, should, as soon as we believe in our flood of the Bible, pronounce us non compos mentis?

modern vessels. After thousands of years | this battle of Joshua against the five of experimenting in naval architecture and in ship carpentry, we have at last got up to Noah's ark, that ship leading all the fleets of the world on all the oceans. Well, Noah saw the animal creation going into this ark. He gave the account of an eye witness They were the animals from the region where he lived; for the most part they were animals useful to man, and if noxious insects or poisonous reptiles went in, it was only to discipline the patience and to keep alert the generations after the flood. He saw them going in. There were a great number of them, and he gives the account of an eye witness. They went in two and two of all flesh.

THE ANIMALS IN THE ARK. Years ago I was on a steamer on the River Tay, and I came to Perth, Scotland. I got off and I saw the most wonderful agricultural show that I had ever witnessed. There were horses and cattle such as Rosa Bonheur never sketched, and there were dogs such as the loving pencil of Edwin Landseer never portrayed, and there were sheep and lowl and creatures of all sorts. Suppose that "two and two" of all the creatures of that agricultural show were put upon the Tay steamer to be transported to Dundee, and the next day I should be writing home to America and giving an account of the occurrence. I would have used the same gentle. phraseology that Noah used in regard to the embarkation of the brute creation in the ark -I would have said they went in two and two of every sort. I would not have meant would suppose that the people who read the letter were common sense people

"But how could you get them into the ark?" ask intidel scientists. "How could they be induced to go into the ark? He would have to pick them out and drive them God who gave instinct to the animal inspire that instinct to seek for shelter from the storm? However, nothing more than ordinary animal instinct was necessary. Have you never been in the country when an August thunder storm was coming up and heard the cattle moan at the bars to get in! and seen the affrighted fowl go upon the perch at noonday, and heard the affrighted dog and cat calling at the door, supplicating entrance! And are you surprised that in that age of the world, when there were fewer places of shelter for dumb beasts, at the muttering and rumbling and flashing and quaking and darkening of an approach ing deluge, the animal creation came moan ing and bleating to the sloping embankment reaching up to the ancient Great Eastern and passed in? I have owned horses and cattle and sheep and dogs, but I never had a herse or a cow or a sheep that was so stupid it did not know enough to come in when it rained.

NOTHING AT ALL WONDERFUL. And then, that one window in the ark which afforded such poor ventilation to the creatures there assembled-that small win dow in the ark which excites so much mirth fulness on the part of infidels. If they knew as much Hebrew as you could put on your little finger nail they would have known that that word translated there means window course, a whole range of lights. Those ignorant infidels do not know a window pane from twenty windows. So if there is any criticism of the ark, there seems to be too much window for such a long storm. And as to the other charge that the windows of the ark must have been kept shut and consequently all inside would have perished from suffication, I have to say that there are people in this house to-day who, all the way from Liverpool to Barnegat lighthouse, sick enough to regurgitate Jonah. Beside the hatches battened down because of the storm. Some of you, in the old time sailing vessels, were kept nearly a month with the hatches down because of some long storm. on a mountain 17,000 feet high, and that, of course, as soon as the animals came forth | ports, I suppose it can carry coal; if a ship they would all be frozen in the ice. That is geographical ignorance! Ararat is not gers to Liverpool, I suppose it can carry merely the name for a mountain, but for a hilly district, and it may have been a hill 100 feet high, or 500, or 1,000 feet high on which the ark alighted. Noah measured the depths of the water above the hill, and it is fifteen cubits, or twenty-seven feet.

Ah! my friends, this story of the ark is no more incredible than if you say to me: "Last summer I was among the hills of terrific storm I ever saw, and the whole country was flooded. The waters came un over the hills, and to save our lives we got in a boat on the river, and even the dumb creatures were so affrightened they came mouning and bleating until we let them in FOUND IN ALL TRADITIONS.

We are not dependent upon the Bible for the story of the flood entirely. All ages and all literatures have traditions, broken traditions. The old books of the Persians tell about the flood at the time of Ahriman, who so polluted the earth that it had to be washed by a great storm. The traditions of the spread over the whole sea between the two | thrus was king there was a great flood, and he put his family and his friends in a large vessel and all outside of them were destroyed, and after a while the birds went forth and they came back and their claws were light-a long and vivid line of light that | tinged with mud. Lucian and Ovid, cele-Brought down suddenly from my sad too, come pope, bishop, abbott dean, abreast. The sky became lowering and Bible, described a flood in the time of Deucalion. He took his friends into a boat, and lines of light showed immense numbers of large fish darting about as if in consterna- So all lands, and all ages, and all literatures, the animals came running to him in pairs. seem to have a broken and indistinct tradi were lighted by the glare as if gas-lights | tion of a calamity which Moses, here incorporating Noah's account, so grandly, so beauti-My prayer is that the God who created the world may create us anew in Christ Jesus; and the God who made light three days before the sun shone may kindle in our hearts a light that will burn on long Another hard thing: The story of the after the sun has expired; and that the God who ordered the ark built and kept open might enter it for shelter, may graciously incline us to accept the invitation which this morning rose in music from the throne,

> Another hard thing to be understood The story that the sun and moon stood still to allow Joshua to complete his victory Infidel scientists declare that an impossibility. But if a man have brain and from suffocation. They say that the ark | strength enough to make a clock, can be not was finally landed on a mountain 17,000 feet | start it and stop it, and start it again and high. They say they do not believe the stop it again! If a machinist have strength story. Neither do I. There is no such and brain enough to make a corn thresher story in the Bible. I will tell you what the can be not start it and stop it, and start it strength and wisdom to make the clock of the universe, the great machinery of the worlds' has he not strength enough and wisdom enough to start it and stop it, and start it again and stop it again! Or stop one wheel, or stop twenty wheels, or stop all the wheels! Is the clock stronger than the clock maker! Does the corn thresher know more than the machinist! Is the universe mightier than its God! But people ask how could the moon have been seen to stop in the daytime! Well, if you have never seen the moon in the daytime observer of a very diligent heavens. Besides that, it was not necessary of an eye-witness. God speaks after the for the world literally to stop. By unusual refraction of the sun's rays the day might have been prolonged. So that, while the earth continued on its path in the heavens it figuratively stopped. You must remember that these Bible authors used the vernacular of their own day, just as you and I say the sun went down. We simply describe what appears to the human eye. Besides that the world, our world, could have literally stopped without probably very near the ark before it was | throwing the universe out of balance. Our launched. What would have been the use world has two motions—the one around the If submerging North and South America, sun and the other on its own axis. It might have stopped on its own axis, while at the same time it kept on its path through the heavens. So there was no need of stellar confusion because our world slackened its speed or entirely stopped in its revolution on its own axis. That is none of the business of Jupiter, or Mars, or Mercury, or Saturn, or the Dipper. WORLDS CHANGING CONSTANTLY.

> > telegraphed, through the Associated press, to all the world-the astronomers from the city of Washington-that another world had been discovered. Within a comparatively short space of time, astronomers tell us, thirteen worlds have burned down. From their observatory they notice first that the worlds look like other worlds, because they became a deep red, showing they were on fire; then they became ashen, showing they were burned down; then they entirely dis appeared, showing that even the ashes were scattered. Now, I say, if God can start a world, and swing a world, and destroy a world, he could stop one or two of them without a great deal of exertion, or He could by usual refraction of the sun's rays continue the illumination. But in fidel scientists say it would have been belittling for other worlds to stop on account of such a battle. Why, sirs, what Yorktown was for revolutionary times, and what Gettysburg was in our civil contest, and what Sedan was in the

the same proportions as our staunchest was in the Napoleonic destiny-that was | zine.

armies of Gibeon. It was that battle that changed the entire course of history. It was a battle to Joshua as im portant as though a battle now should occur in which England and the United States and France and Germany and Italy and Turkey and Russia should fight for victory or annihilation. However much any other world, solar, lunar or stellar, might be hastened in its errand of light, it would be excusable if it lingered in the heavens for a little while and put down its sheaf of beame and gazed on such an Armag

WONDERS OF MODERN TIMES

In the carly part of this century there was what was called the dark day. Some of

these aged men perhaps may remember it it is known in history as the "dark day.

Workmen at noon went to their homes and

courts and legislatures adjourned. No astronomers have ever been able to explain that dark day. Now, if God can advance the night earlier than its time, can He not adjourn the night until after its time! I often used to hear my father describe a night—I think he said it was in 1833—when his neighbors aroused him in great alarm. All the heavenly bodies seemed to be in motion. People thought our earth was coming to its destruction. Tens of thousands of stars shooting. No astronomers have ever been able to explain that star shooting. Now, does not your common sense teach you that if God could start and stop tens of thousands of worlds or meteors He could start and stop two worlds! If 600,000. A common sense man myself, I God can engineer a train of 10,000 worlds or meteors, and stop them without accident or collision, can not He control two carriages of fight, and by putting down a golden brake stop the sun, and by putting down a silver brake stop the moon! Under this explanation, instead of being skeptical in, and coax them in." Could not the same | about the sublime passage of the Hible, you will, when you read it, feet more like going down on your knees before God as you read "Sun, stand thou still above Gibeon, and thou moon in the valley of Ajalou." Then there is the Bible statement that a whale swallowed Jonah and ejected him upon the dry ground in three days. If you will go to the museum at Nantucket, Mass., you will find the skeleton of a whale large enough to swallow a man. I said to the jan itor, while I was standing in the museum "Why it does not seem from the looks of this skeleton that that story in the book of Jonah is so very improbable, does it?" "O,

no," he replied, "it does not." There is a

cavity in the mouth of the common whale

large enough for a man to live in. There

have been sharks found again and again

with an entire human body in them. JONAH AND THE GREAT FISH. Beside that, the Bible says nothing about a whale. It says, "The Lord prepared a great fish;" and there are scientists who tell us that there were sea monsters in other days that make the modern whale seem very insignificant. I know in one place in the New Testament it speaks of the whale as appearing in the occurrence I have just mentioned, but the word may just as well be translated, "sca monster -any kind of sea monster. Procopins says, in the year 532, a sea monster was slain which had for fifty years destroyed ships. I suppose this sea monster that took care of Jonah may have been one of the great sea monsters that could have easily taken down a prophet, and he could have lived there three days if he had kept in motion so as to keep the gastrie juices from taking hold of him and destroying him, and at the end of three days the monster would naturally be explains the whole thing. It says: Lord prepared a great fish." If a ship carpenter prepare a vessel to carry Texan beeves to Glasgow, I suppose it can carry Texan beeves; if a ship carpenter prepare a vessel to carry coal to one of the northern carpenter prepare a vessel to carry passen passengers to Liverpool; and if the Lord prepared a fish to carry one passenger, I suppose it could carry a passenger and the ventilation have been all right.

SETTLING THE GREAT MATTER So all the strange things in the Bible can be explained if you wish to have them explained. And you can build them into a beautiful and healthful fire for your hearth, New England, and there came on the most or you can with them put your immortal interests into conflagration. But you had Bible very soon. I want this morning to caution you against putting off making up your mind about this book. Ever since 1772 there has been great discussion as to who was the author of Junius' Letters, those letters so full of sarcasm and vituperation and power. The whole English nation stirred up with it. More than a hundred volumes written to discuss that question: "Who was Junius!" "Who wrote the letters of Junius?" Well, it is an interesting question to discuss, but still, after all, it makes but little practical difference to you and to me who Junius was, whether Sir Philip Francis, or Lord Chatham, or John Horne Tooke, or Horace Walpole, or Henry Grattan, or any one of the forty four men who were seriously charged with the authorship. But it is an abscrbing question, it is a practical question, it is an me, the authorship of this Holy Biblewhether the Lord God of Heaven and earth or a pack of dupes, scoundrels or impostors. We can not afford to adjourn that question a week or a day or an hour, any more than a sea captain can afford to say: is a very dark night. I have really lost my bearings; there is a light out there. I don't know whether it is a lighthouse or a false light on the shore; I don't know what it is; but I'll just go to sleep and in the morning I'll find out." In the morning the vessel might be on the rocks and the beach strewn with the white faces of the dead crew. The the lighthouse is before he goes to sleep. more than 100 years that the antedeluvians | O, my friends, I want you to understand that in our deliberations about this Bible we are not at calm anchorage, but we are rapidly coming toward the coast, coming with all the furnaces ablaze, coming at the rate of seventy heart throbs a minute, and must know whether it is going to be harbor or shipwreck.

BROUGHT SAFE INTO HARBOR.

I was so glad to read in the papers of the fact that the steamship Edam had come into harbor. A week before the Persian rows, a hundred miles out, saw signals of distress, bore down upon the vessel, and found it was the steamship Edam. She had lost her propeller. She had 200 passengers on board. The merciful captain of the Persian Monarch endeavored to bring her in, but the tow line broke. He fastened it again, but the sea was rough and the tow line broke again. Then the night came on and the merciful captain of the Persian Monarch "lay to," thinking in the morning he could give rescue to the passengers. The morning came, but during the night the steamship Edam had disappeared, and the captain of the Persian Monarch brought his into harbor saying he felt because he sad give complete rescue to that lost ship. I am glad that afterward another vessel saw her and brought her into safety. But when I saw the story of that steamship Edam, drifting, drifting, drifting, I do not know where, but with no rudder, no lighthouse, no harbor, no help, I said: "That is a skeptic, that is an infidel, drifting, drifting, drifting, not knowing where he drifts." And then, when I thought of the Persian monarch, anchored in harbor, said, "That is a Christian, that is a man who does all he can on the way, crossing the sea to help others, coming perhaps through a very rough voyage into the har bor, there safe and safe forever." Would that there might be God one to-day who would go bring in these souls that are drifting. In this assemblage, how many a score shall I say, or a hundred, or a thousand !- not quite certain about the truth of the Bible, not certain about anything. Drifting, drifting, drifting. O, how I would like to tow them in. I throw you this cable. Lay hold of that cable of the gospel. Lay old of it. I invite you all in. The harbor Beside that, within the memory of man is wide enough, large enough for all the shipping. Come in, O you wanderers on there have been worlds that were born and that died. A few years ago astronomers the deep. Drift no more, drift no more. Come into the harbor. See the glorious lighthouse of the gospel. "Peace on earth, good will to men." Come into the harbor. God grant that it may be said of all of you who are now drifting in your unbelief as it might have been said of the passengers of the steamship Edam, and as it was said centuries ago of the wrecked corn ship of Alexanderia, "It came to pass that they all escaped safe to land

He must Cool Down. Minister-"My friend, I'm astonish-

Deacon-"What at?" "I thought you were a good Chris-

tian, but I never heard such language as you used when you fell just then."
"I am sorry! But you'll have to put me down as a backslider until I get cooled down a bit "-- Drake's Maga-Franco-German war, and what Waterloo