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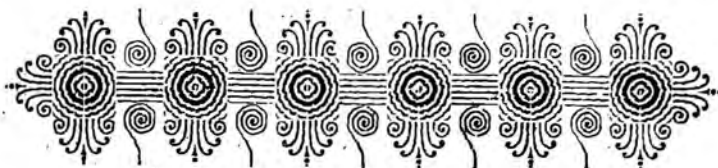
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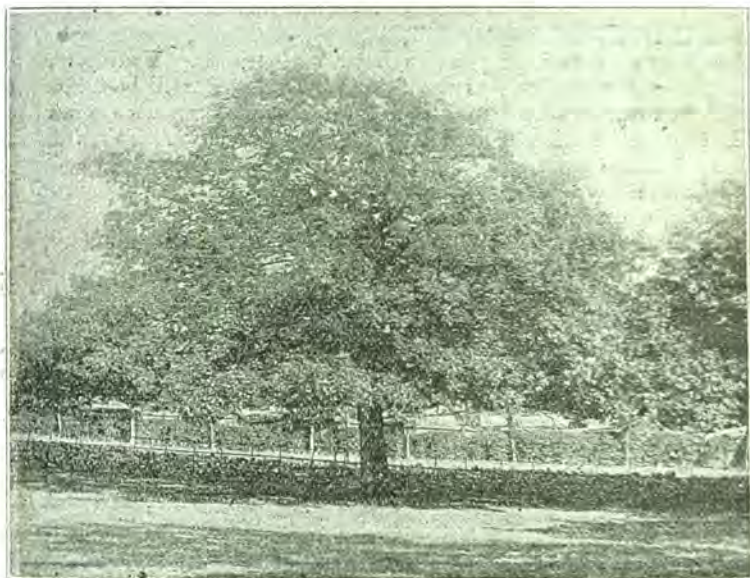
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THE
Sword and the Trowel.

MARCH, 1897.



"The Question Oak" at "Westwood."

C. H. SPURGEON'S IMPROMPTU ANSWERS TO STUDENTS' QUESTIONS.

(Continued from page 54.)



STUDENT'S QUESTION.—*If the redemptive work of Christ is not equally available for all men, can we honestly offer salvation to them?*

MR. SPURGEON'S ANSWER.—It is not our business to "offer salvation" to anyone, but to carry out the great commission given by our Lord Jesus Christ: "Go ye into all the

One evening, many years ago, a very tall old man, in his shirt-sleeves, with his hat set back, and a leathern apron tucked around him, strode up the aisle of a village chapel. At the sight of him, his pale-faced wife rushed out of the vestry door. Sitting with his hat on, the man, maddened with drink, glared at the minister. A hymn was sung, and then the people were dismissed. The intruder, stung by an awakened conscience, swiftly made his way out. Sobered sufficiently to put on a coat, he sought the pastor's house. A walk followed, and the two for a long time paced the dark lanes, an October gale swaying the trees overhead. The storm sweeping over the man's soul showed itself in fierce strides and halts, when he would swing his long arms as if to strike his companion. Suddenly standing still, he said, huskily, "I had a praying mother forty years ago; I don't believe I shall be lost."

A few weeks after this, the same two stood in almost the same place. The full moon shone out of a clear sky. A gospel service had just ended. "By the help of God, sir, the drinking days are over." The words came from the old man who had rushed up the aisle.

Yet again the two met. Changed, and in his right mind, a humble baptized believer, the former terror sat beside his friend. "What would your wife think if she saw you sitting by the likes of me?" "We are all one in Christ Jesus," was the reply.

Yet once more, much later, these two met. A little room,—a shoe-maker's bench and tools,—a Bible and bradawls on the bench together,—a grizzled man in his shirt-sleeves, with a leathern apron on,—a pair of horn spectacles pushed up on the iron-grey hair,—a tiny window, through which the setting sun shone crimson, covering the old man with glory,—a soul beaming through the seamed face as light through a stable lantern. "How are you getting along?" asked the visitor. "I have a little faith, and would not give it up for the world," said the man who had, once upon a time, with blasphemies, shaken his fist at the lightning. Soon after this, the night of Nature came on, but the star of hope cheered the gloom, till he saw the sun-rise, and entered upon the perfect day.

Trying Times in Tunisia.

THE Medical Mission has gone steadily forward during January. 262 visits have been made, 277 nights' lodging have been given to poor country patients, and four visits to villages have been recorded. On these occasions, I have accompanied three missionary brethren now stationed here, the Truth being thus more fully explained and enforced than formerly when I was alone. This week, we had

A SPECIALLY GOOD TIME

in a large country market, a *Mok'nine*. We hired a native *ouf* for the day; this was soon filled with patients, and a hearty gospel service was then held, with reading, preaching, and singing,—R. C. Morgan, Esq., the Editor of *The Christian*, giving one of the addresses, through an interpreter. Our hearts were glad, for such a service has not been held there for at least a millennium.

The pleasure, however, is not unmixed, for

A BITTER PERSECUTION

has broken out against us, and Monsieur Revoil, the "Resident-Adjoint" in Tunis, has expressed in the strongest terms his own and the French Government's determination to suppress all missionary work of every kind. A press law has been revived, partly, he says, for this very purpose, and we are now forbidden to give away or sell a copy of the gospel, even in our own houses. On one missionary a fine has already been inflicted, and he says the next offence will carry imprisonment with it, which he is ready to suffer for the sake of the gospel. Two Swedish missionaries have been interfered with while selling Scriptures in another town, and two lady-missionaries at Sousse have been summoned on a criminal charge of selling a gospel and giving away a tract!

THE REASONS GIVEN

are, first, that the murder of Dr. Leach and his family indicated Moslem fanaticism against us, though there is no evidence that Moslem religious feeling had anything to do with the crime, and all the accused persons in prison are said to be *Roman Catholic Maltese*. The other reason given, is the fear of a Mohammedan rising, although, even before the French occupation, during troublous times, the native government never interfered with the free sale of Scriptures, which has gone on for the last seventy years.

The *real* reason, after the late interpellation in the French Chamber concerning Algeria is, doubtless, a political one, and to please the Jesuits. It seems strange that, in a great free country, boasting of its "liberty, equality, and fraternity," such things as these should be.

Surely this new trouble is a new

CALL TO PRAYER

that the Lord will graciously make the wrath of man to praise Him, while protecting and prospering His own Word and Work. The difficulty has been put before the British Government, but we feel happy about it *only* as we look upwards. "Brethren, pray for us."

Sousse, Tunisia, North Africa.

T. G. CHURCHER.

In Memoriam—C. H. Spurgeon.

THE fifth anniversary of the "home-going" of the ever-beloved C. H. SPURGEON was specially celebrated at Brighton, Bexhill, Greenwich, and the Metropolitan Tabernacle, and also at many other places of which we are unable to give particulars owing to lack of space.

Tuesday, January 26, was almost entirely devoted to three meetings in connection with the "SPURGEON MEMORIAL" SERMON SOCIETY. In the morning, the General Council met at the Y.M.C.A. offices at Brighton, and sought to make such arrangements for the future working of the Society as seemed to be necessary from its phenomenal growth during the past year. The time available did not suffice for the full consideration of the complete plan of operations, so the Council met again on the following Monday morning. As the result of the deliberations, a series of resolutions was passed with the object of placing the Society on a sound financial basis, and the following officers, with an Executive Committee of eight Brighton ministers and friends, were appointed for the ensuing twelve months:—President, Mr. Wm. Willett; Treasurer, Mr. Finnigan; Honorary Secretary, Pastor J. S. Geale; Secretary, Mr. W. Taverner.