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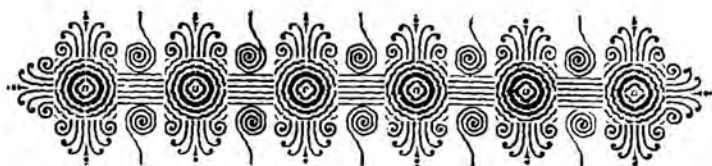
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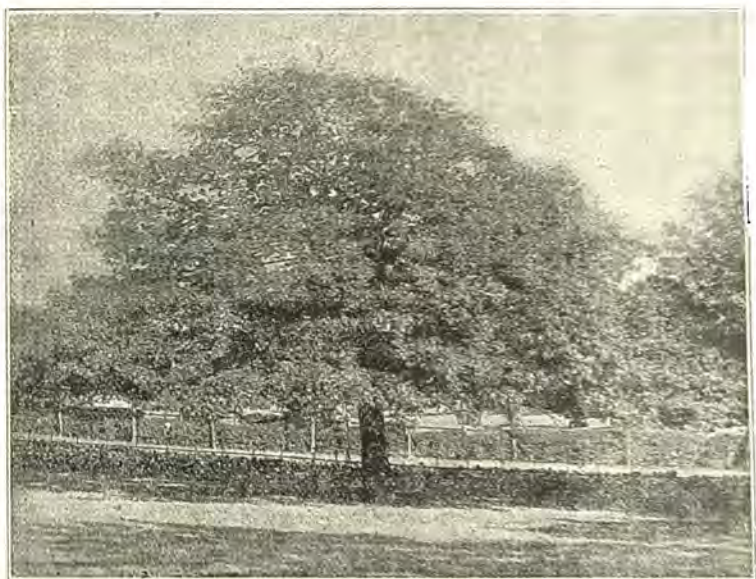
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THE
Sword and the Trowel.

OCTOBER, 1897.



"The Question Oak" at "Westwood."

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

(Continued from page 503.)



STUDENT'S QUESTION.—*What course would be the best to adopt in the case of church-members who have been absent from the Lord's table for a year or longer?*

MR. SPURGEON'S ANSWER.—After a certain time, in most churches, their names are removed for non-attendance: and that should be the general custom. In the case of some persons,

respond, and send forth streams of sacred influence that shall renew their hearts, beautify their characters, and ennoble their lives. By His Spirit, He will shield them amid the world's temptations and dangers, sustain them in the midst of earth's conflicts and sorrows, and take them—

"SAFE HOME AT LAST."

"Behold, He Cometh!"

LO! He comes! the King of Zion,
 Crowned with power, and robed in light,
 Gates of brass, and bars of iron,
 Yield to His resistless might;
 And His coming,
 Puts the hosts of hell to flight.

Lo! He comes! the hills before Him
 Part asunder in dismay,
 Saint and seraphim adore Him,
 Riding down the shining way;
 And, with gladness,
 Hail the long-expected day.

Lo! He comes! the clouds, unfolding,
 Show His awful majesty,
 And, His dread approach beholding,
 They that pierced Him turn to flee,
 While His chosen
 Shout with joy their Lord to see.

Lo! He comes! who once, in meekness,
 Silent stood at Pilate's bar;
 Now, no longer veiled in weakness,
 See His glories stream afar,
 And proclaim Him
 As "the bright and morning Star."

Foots Cray.

E. A. TYDEMAN.

The Sultan and the Water-melon.

MOSLEMS seem to know no equals, for, unless they feel that you are their master, they at once begin to play the master over you. Accordingly, the Sultan of Turkey is reported here as saying, "Christians are a water-melon, and I am the knife to cut it up." One speaks of him as *rub es serrere* (the little god), and another declaims against "that wicked injustice of the Christians, which seeks to wrest Thessaly from the victorious believers." Such a mental state does not incline to a patient hearing of the gospel; but, happily, we meet with open as well as closed hearts, and generally avoiding worldly subjects, keep to higher things,

according to their own proverb, "He who rides the camel need not fear the dogs."

Their warped way of looking at things is constantly coming up; for example, a man argued that it would be wicked for him to abstain from *all* sin, "because," said he, "one of God's names and attributes is the Judge, and if there were no sin there could be no Judge, so our sin is necessary that God's character may be completed."

I have read that, were every copy of the four Gospels destroyed, the works of the early Christians are so rich in quotations from them that from their writings alone the Gospels could be wholly reproduced; and Moslems, without the Gospels, which they cannot or will not read, sorely need them to be reproduced in the works of us, the later Christians; for how else can these millions be evangelized?

What *can* be done, was lately shown by an English Christian who, afflicted with total deafness, came to winter in North Africa. He became a diligent tract-distributor, sowing broadcast the precious seed; nor was his deafness always a disadvantage, as when he had given a Gospel to a Romish priest, he could apologize that his infirmity quite prevented him from hearing the other's excited words. Might not many another disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ follow the example of the storks, and winter in North Africa, to the advantage of their own health, and perhaps, to the everlasting benefit of others? I suppose neither work nor workers would suffer much if we all had the spirit of a young missionary, who died lately in the Soudan. At his baptism, he went back to fetch something which he had forgotten, and on returning said, "I want my *purse* to be baptized, too."

Our numbers for August are 237 visits received, and 271 nights' lodging given. We have planted and watered the good seed; may the Lord give the increase, and that abundantly!

Sousse, Tunisia, North Africa.

T. G. CHURCHER.

Notices of Books.

Any Book reviewed or advertised in this Magazine will be forwarded by Messrs. Passmore and Alabaster on receipt of Postal Order for the published price.

Light and Love. A Series of Sermons preached at the Metropolitan Tabernacle. By Pastor THOMAS SPURGEON. Arthur H. Stockwell and Co. Price 2s. 6d. nett.

THOSE who heard these sermons preached were glad to be able afterwards to read them, and many will be thankful to have them in this neatly-bound volume for preservation and reference, and also as gifts to friends. Possibly, all our readers are not yet aware that Pastor Thomas Spurgeon's discourses are issued week by week by Messrs. A. H. Stockwell and Co., 17, Paternoster Row. This collection of twenty of them, revised by the preacher, will give a good idea of the ministry that is still so successfully maintained in the Metropolitan Tabernacle, and will, we trust, move many to remember in prayer the one

who occupies so high and responsible a position. Among the score of sermons included in this volume are three very memorable ones,—those delivered at the opening of Bexhill School-chapel, on the fifth anniversary of the "home-going" of the preacher's beloved father, and on the occasion of the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. There ought to be a ready sale for *Light and Love*, and then, no doubt, the publishers would speedily follow it with a second series, which is sure to be desired by many who read this first one.

The Publication of the Kingdom of God. By JAMES VAN SOMMER. Partridge and Co.

A VERY suggestive pamphlet on a most important topic.