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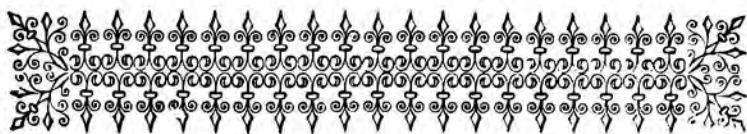
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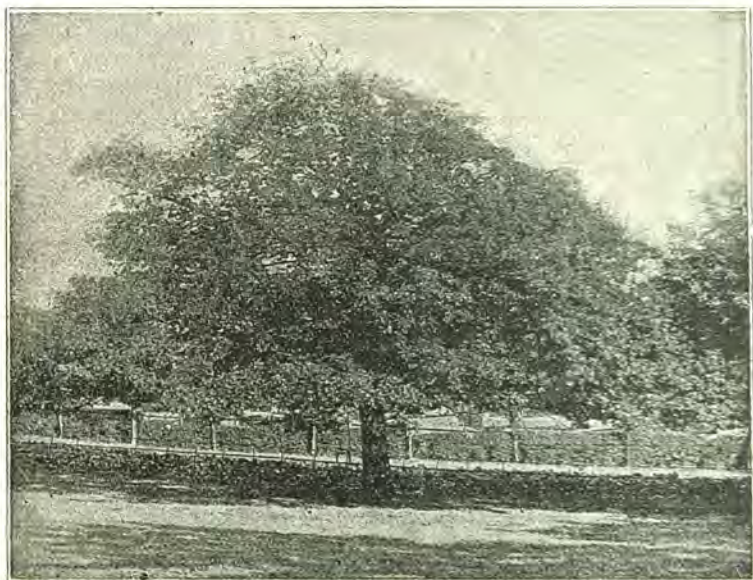
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THE
Sword and the Trowel.

NOVEMBER. 1897.



"The Question Oak" at "Westwood."

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

(Continued from page 552.)



STUDENT'S QUESTION.—*What is the best way to read a book, so as to get the most good out of it?*

MR. SPURGEON'S ANSWER.—You must read very much as you find that you can. Probably, no two persons read in exactly the same fashion. If you are to derive much benefit from a book, you must bring much to it. Try to get a grip of

From that time, William Rivers could say, with other believers in the Lord Jesus Christ,—

“Soon as my all I ventured
On the atoning blood,
The Holy Spirit entered,
And I was born of God.”

Depend upon it, my unconverted reader, you can never be prepared to meet God save through faith in the blood of Jesus Christ. Your inner consciousness tells you that you are not ready, nay, you shrink from the very thought of meeting God, and, like Adam, would hide yourself from Him.

You must know in your heart that you cannot hide from God, but *must* stand before the judgment-seat to give an account of the deeds done in the body, and to answer for your rejection of the Son of God.

PREPARE! PREPARE!

How? By looking unto Jesus; by trusting in His blood. The blood of Christ will save you. The blood of Christ will cleanse you. The blood of Christ will give peace, power, glory. “We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace” (Ephes. i. 7). “The blood of Jesus Christ . . . cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John i. 7).

The Arab's Question.

“DID HE, THEN, REALLY DIE?” The questioner was a dark-skinned Arab. “Did He, then, *really* die?” he broke in as I was speaking. His earnest face and eager tone quite struck me, and I thought,—“How great the contrast; this man, for the first time, hears witness borne concerning the death of Jesus, while I have constantly heard such testimony from my very boyhood!”

Another morning, there is a group of men gathered round my fellow-missionary, trying for a long time to solve a knotty point,—namely, whether gross sin (fornication) is really sin at all!

What wisdom, and patience, and grace, we need in dealing with these Moslems, on whose minds error rests with the weight of thirty generations! Almost throughout the whole period of English history, these people have been soaking in the lies of Mohammed till they are dyed with falsehood, and it has become to them a second nature.

This effect is illustrated by the case of a patient brought to me this month. He had been digging a well, and some dry mud had fallen on him. “Surely that was a simple matter,” says someone. Yes, it was; but there was a great deal of that dry mud, and it felt some sixty feet, tearing the poor man's scalp terribly, and so severely wounding him that it is a wonder he lives to tell the tale. So, in like manner, the mass and momentum of Islam's errors make their power appalling. Truly, a church of converted Moslems will be one of the greatest trophies of Jesus's conquering grace.

This month, I have again visited “the holy city” of KAIROUAN, and I am strongly led to try to open a branch medical mission there. The natives are anxious for it; Mr. Cooksey, who has just settled there, wishes it; and if only God lays it upon the heart of someone to bear the expense, I think (D.V.) that it can be done. It is an opening for which we have long

prayed ; and, since the Lord put it into the heart of one reader of the *Sword and Trowel* to provide the *Sousse baraka*, which has been such a blessing to thousands, I venture to mention the need of this long-closed city of 20,000 souls.

Spain had *Ne plus ultra!* for her motto ; but, when America was discovered, she changed it to *plus ultra!* "More beyond" must ever be our motto, and "Advance, missionaries!" our watchword. In the 170 millions of Moslems may yet be found a new world for Jesus to conquer, for did He not say, "Many shall come from the East," and did not the Holy Spirit at Pentecost enable the apostles to tell forth the mighty works of God in the language of the Arabians?

T. G. CHURCHER.

Sousse, Tunisia, North Africa.

The "Spurgeon Memorial" Sermon Society.

AS many friends have been puzzled by newspaper notices concerning the above Society, we publish for their information the following *official* report of the meetings convened in accordance with the directions of Mr. Justice Byrne in the action "*Willett and Finnigan versus Taverner*":—

A special and very largely attended meeting of the Council was held at the Society's offices, 79, The Drive, Hove, Brighton, on Thursday morning, September 30th, 1897, among those present being Revs. Charles Spurgeon, of Greenwich, Joseph W. Harrald (private secretary to the late Rev. C. H. Spurgeon), Hugh Shearer, S. B. Lane, F. G. Wheeler, John S. Geale, and Mrs. Gates (founder of the Railway Mission), when it was resolved, with only one dissentient (Mrs. Taverner):—

I. "That the decision of the Council in dismissing Mr. Taverner from his position as secretary be hereby confirmed."

II. "That this meeting of Council hereby approves of the action taken by Messrs. Wm. Willett and Wm. Finnigan on their behalf against Wm. Taverner, the late secretary of the said Society, to recover the property of the said Society still retained by the said Wm. Taverner after his dismissal, and authorises the continuance of the said action."

III. "That the trust deed conveying the property of the Society to the elected Trustees, in trust for the Society, be hereby approved."

At the meeting of subscribers (which had been advertised in the leading London papers and most of the religious weeklies), held in the Y.M.C.A. Hall, Steine House, Brighton, the same afternoon, it was resolved, with only three dissentients (Mr. Taverner, his mother, and one other person):—"That this meeting, having heard the President's statement, desires to express to the President and Council its full approval of the steps taken by the Council with reference to Mr. Taverner, the late secretary, and while desirous of expressing its appreciation of Mr. Taverner's services, hereby expresses its disapproval of his conduct in defying the Council ; also that the trust deed prepared at the instigation of the President and Council having been read over, the same be signed by the President, Mr. Wm. Willett, and the hon. treasurer, Mr. Wm. Finnigan, on behalf of the Society, and that it do henceforth fix the constitution of this Society."

All communications with reference to the Society and its work should be addressed to Mr. Wm. Finnigan, 79, The Drive, Hove, Brighton.

WILLIAM WILLETT, *President* ; WILLIAM FINNIGAN, *Treasurer*, and *Secretary (pro tem.)* ; JOSEPH W. HARRALD, JOHN S. GEALE, DAVID DAVIES, SAMUEL B. LANE, *Trustees Elect*.