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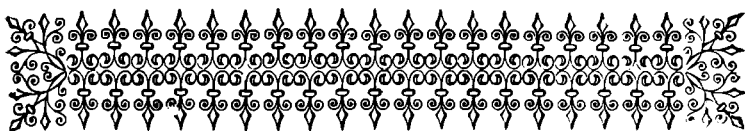
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THE

Sword and the Trowel.

JUNE, 1898.

The Young Pastor's "Posy."

MEDITATIONS BY C. H. SPURGEON BEFORE HE LEFT WATERBEACH.

(Continued from page 204.)

L.—THE WHEAT AND THE WEEDS.

N our harvests, the weeds are often twined round the wheat, and get carted into the barn, though they are not wanted there; but, in the last harvest, not even a little thistle will be carried in, and the smallest bell-bind will be separated from the corn.

* * * *

LI.—DIGGING FOR TRUTH.

Barely look at your Bible, and, by the Holy Spirit's blessing, you may pick lumps of gold with your penknife; but if it lie not on the surface, dig a little, and soon you will unfailingly come to a vein of the purest metal.

* * * *

LII.—EVEN THE STUMP OF SIN IS EVIL.

The "old man" in a Christian is like Dagon after his second fall; the head and hands are gone, but the stump remains. Like the stump of an old tooth, it will cause you many a pang; and like the stump of a tree, it will soon be sprouting most vigorously unless you keep the hatchet going.

* * * *

LIII.—ONLY ONE ROAD TO HEAVEN.

Moral people, who cannot see their vileness by nature, are at

church should meet, to consider the first steps that needed to be taken, such as the election of a building committee, &c. That meeting would, accordingly, be held in the Memorial Hall of the Stockwell Orphanage on *Friday evening, May 27*. He hoped that, on a later occasion, an opportunity might be found for all the members to meet together to hear all that could be told them about the work needing to be done, and the best ways of doing it. In the meantime, all could pray for the guidance needed in each step to be taken, and for the Lord's blessing to rest upon every effort that should be made. The Pastor, after giving particulars of the help coming from old and young, Jews and Gentiles, Nonconformists and Churchmen,—for all of which he was more grateful than he could express,—closed an exceedingly interesting meeting with prayer and the Benediction.

"Three Cheers for the Engineers!"

THE news of the burning of the Tabernacle, and of the widespread sympathy it evoked, reached North Africa well-nigh together, and produced real sorrow of heart, yet tempered by the assurance that, still, "all things work together for good to them that love God,"—even the



SCENE AT BACK OF BARAKA, SOUSSE.

beloved Church and Pastor now so sorely tried. We pray that the great loss may yet prove to be but the flaming herald of a much greater blessing.

We have registered 567 visits from patients during April, and given 291 nights' lodging in the *baraka*. We have been encouraged by signs of

blessing among the people. Men have spoken up, among their fellows, for Jesus as the Saviour, and when dealt with afterwards, have said, "Oh, yes! since such a time, when I was here before," or, "when I brought So-and-so for medicine, I have believed." Others have said that they learnt about Jesus in their own village from someone who had been to us. It may be objected by some that these testimonies are not much;—perhaps not. The tender blade of the spring wheat is not much to look at, yet it rejoices the sower's heart, and confirms his faith in the promise which says, "Ye shall reap, if ye faint not."

A friend who visited us, last month, took a number of photographs, which we hope to be able to use from time to time. The one given in the present number of the Magazine represents the scene at the back of the *baraka*, where the patients come overnight, to await their turn for receiving medicine in the morning. They travel to us from all directions,—some journey as many as seven days to reach the *tabeeb's* (the doctor's) house, which needs no advertisement. They are made freely welcome at the shelter,—coming and staying as they wish, with that complete freedom which Arabs love.

The people's dire need is daily before us; and the little we can do, just in speaking, once or twice, to these who are bound by a thousand ties to sin and Islam's deadly lies, makes us quite sad. Yet are we grateful for so glorious a gospel to preach, and such a gracious God to bless it. Nor are we unmindful of those who, quite unseen by us, by prayer and generosity sustain us in the work. Lord Charles Beresford says that, after his sea-fights, he piped all hands on deck, and called for "Three cheers for the engineers!"—those whose devotion out of sight had enabled the fighting men to win the victory; and we, while remembering that the battle is wholly the Lord's, would like to give three cheers for *our* engineers, whose prayers and gifts keep us afloat, and who shall share the Lord's "Well done," when the arduous day is won.

Sousse, Tunisia, North Africa.

T. G. CHURCHER.

Proceedings at "The Fire Conference" of the Pastors' College, Evangelical Association.

THE great fire, which burnt up "our holy and beautiful house," settled most conclusively the name by which the Conference of 1898 will continue to be remembered. At the opening meeting, held at Abbey Road Chapel, St. John's Wood, on *Monday afternoon, April 18*, the President, Pastor Thomas Spurgeon, referred to the titles by which certain of the gatherings of previous years had been distinguished; such as, the *dark-bright* Conference of 1883, at which the now-glorified President was only able to be present on the *Monday evening*; the *Bible and Missionary* Conference of 1890; the *Holy Ghost* Conference of 1891; and the *Conference of the Cross* in 1897. The President added that, from various indications, it seemed to him that this year's Conference would be a *heart-searching time*, and his brief introductory address was directed to that end. Even as he spoke, it was felt that "the Spirit of burning" was at work, and a very tender, gracious influence was manifest in this first part of the proceedings of the memorable week.

Tea followed the prayer-meeting, and very hearty thanks were presented to Pastor H. E. Stone and his friends for the cordial welcome they had given to the brethren. At the evening public meeting, the President presided, and gave a brief account of the history of the College, and of its present position and prospects, incidentally alluding to the attacks which had been recently made upon the Institution, and which he accepted as