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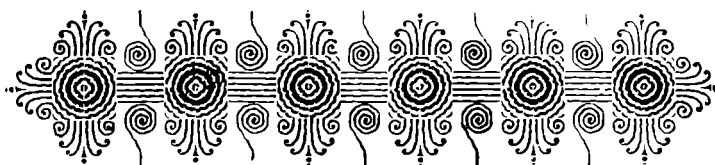
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THE
Sword and the Trowel.

JANUARY, 1900.

The Standard Life of C. H. Spurgeon. Vol. IV.*

AS early as possible in January, Messrs. Passmore and Alabaster will (D.V.) publish the fourth and last volume of *C. H. Spurgeon's Autobiography*. There is a special appropriateness in the Standard Life being completed in January, for the life that it commemorates closed in that month, eight years ago; and January was, for many reasons, a memorable period in Mr. Spurgeon's history. On January 6, 1850, he was converted; in January, 1851, he preached his first Sermon; in January, 1852, he became Pastor at Waterbeach; his long London ministry virtually commenced in January, 1854; he was married on January 8, 1856; and the "home-call" came to him at Mentone, January 31, 1892.

The compilers cannot let the final instalment of their labour of love go forth to the public without an expression of their devout thanksgiving to God for the special help received from Him throughout the whole progress of the work. Burdened with many forms of Christian service, and with little leisure and less strength, they would never have undertaken the arduous and responsible task unless they had felt an overwhelming conviction that it must be done, and that they must do it. The increasing testimonies to the value of the Standard Life, as the successive volumes have been issued, have been a great source of encouragement to them; and they confidently anticipate an equally hearty welcome for Vol. IV., which, for many reasons, must possess attractions peculiarly its own. The plan

* *C. H. Spurgeon's Autobiography*. Compiled from his Diary, Letters, and Records, by HIS WIFE, and his Private Secretary. Vol. IV. 1878—1892. 381 pages, Demy 4to. With over 100 Illustrations and facsimile reproductions of MR. SPURGEON'S Manuscripts. Price, 10s. 6d. Also issued in monthly shilling parts. Passmore and Alabaster, 4, Paternoster Buildings, London; and of all booksellers and colporteurs.

The Effect of an Unfulfilled Prediction

HOW gracious was our Heavenly Father, having made the greater lights, to add "the stars also" (Genesis i. 16)! Their sweet company often soothes and comforts the missionary who recollects their greatness, and remembers that his Father is greater than all of them, and that HE says, as of old, to His faithful servant, "I am thy shield and thy exceeding great reward."

Just lately, a member of the great family of stars has rendered us signal service in our work. Some time ago, it was predicted that a comet would reappear, that it would come into collision with the earth, and that, in consequence, the world would be destroyed on November 13, 1899.

As the time drew near, the people here became very anxious and nervous; and when it was reported that the comet had actually appeared in South America, the excitement increased daily. The approaching end of the world became the subject most freely discussed in the street and market; and, all day long, people were coming to the missionaries to enquire about it, and our meetings increased rapidly in numbers and interest. Now the date is past, the excitement is over, but the improvement in our meetings continues.

My time has been much taken up, since my return, in getting things to move once more. Now, thanks be unto God, they *are* moving; and we would gratefully say to our co-workers in the homeland, "Beloved, still pray for us."

Soussa, 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.

Early in January, Messrs. Passmore and Alabaster will (D.V.) be ready to supply Vol. XLV. of *The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit*, Sermons by C. H. SPURGEON revised and published during the year 1899, price seven shillings. Like its predecessor, it contains a selection of the very early discourses of the beloved preacher as well as a greater number of those that were delivered by him during 1882 and 1883, together with Expositions of the Scriptures read and explained in his well-known impressive and instructive manner. There is no need to commend the volume to *Sword and Trowel* readers; the intimation that it is nearing completion will be sufficient to remind many of them to order it of their bookseller, or one of the colporteurs, or direct from the publishers. For a minister, missionary, or other Christian worker,

there could hardly be a more welcome New Year's present.

Several more *Annals* have come to hand since our last notice. From Drummond's Tract Depot, Stirling, we have received three that are always welcome, and that are worthy of unlimited circulation because of their clear Evangelical teaching:—*The British Messenger* (1s. and 1s. 6d.), *The Gospel Trumpet* (6d. and 1s.), and *Good News* (fourpence).

A similar commendation can be given to Vol. XX. of *Our Own Magazine*, the organ of The Children's Special Service Mission, published at 13A, Warwick Lane, E.C. The Magazine is a great favourite with young folk and those who labour for the Lord among them, and it is greatly helpful to both classes of readers; no wonder it has a circulation of 109,000 monthly.