MATTRESSES

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"Bendigo" in a New Light.

once famous champion of England, I'm only two years old at present, but of late better known in connection with the election business of It's two years ago since Jesus came his native town of Nottingham, to me, and had a bout with me, and made his first appearance in the I can tell you he licked me in the pulpit in connection with a series first round. He got me down on of special services held at the Lon | my knees the first go, and there I don Cabmen's Mission Hall. The found grace. I've got a good many evening service was crowded to cups and belts which I won when I overflowing, and the proceedings was a fighting character. Them were, as one of the speakers describ- cups and belts will fade, but there's ed it, conducted "by shifts," the a crown being prepared for old leaders, including Bendigo, going Bendigo that'll never fade."down stairs to address the crowd Reynolds's Newspaper, Dec. 6. collected in the lower room after having spoken to the congregation in the regular meeting hall. The service was opened with prayer by Mr. John Dupee, superintendent of the mission, after which the congregation very vigorously joined in the singing of a hymn. A second of the Church of Jesus Christ of Lathymn followed upon the reading of a psalm; and Mr. Dupee proceeded to say a few words about "their dear and saved brother, Bendigo."

With a frankness that in no wise With a frankness that in no wise Preston, H. H. Dalrymple, "" disconcerted the veteran prize- ovid, Peter Jensen. fighter, Mr. Dupee discussed and Liberty, E. N. Austin, described the condition in which he had lived up to about two years ago. The speaker was, it appeared, a fellow-townsman of Bendigo's and his recollection of him went back for nearly forty years, at which time his state was so bad that Mr. Dupee, Almy, Samuel Pike, Wyoming Territor then a lad, used to walk behind Evanston, Wm. G. Burton, " him through the streets of Nottingham praying that he might be forgiven. But now he was saved, and, Oxford, George Lake, Oneida co., Idahc, quoting the hand-bill that had ad- | Clifton, Wm. Pratt, vertised the meeting, Mr. Dupee Bridgeport, N. W. Packer, Franklin, L. H. Haten, hailed him as "a miracle of mercy, the greatest miracle of the 19th Clarkston, Simon Smith, century," which view the congre- Newton, W. F. Littlewood, gation endorsed by fervent cries of "Praise the Lord!" "Hallelujah!" Smithfield, Samuel Roskelly, " Whether Bendigo would stand Hyde Park, Robt Daynes, steadfast in the new course he had *Logan, W. B. Preston, begun to tread was a matter which | Providence, M. D. Hammond, ,, -Mr. Dupee did not hide it-was freely discussed in the circles where the ex-champion was best known. | Wellsville, Wm. Maughan, But Bendigo had now gone straight | Mendon, Henry Hughes, for two years, and he (Mr. Dupee) WM. B. PRESTON is Presiding believed that he would keep straight.

At the outset Bendigo's enthusiasm was somewhat misdirected, as manifested at an infidel meeting he attended in company with his sponsor. "Who's them fellows on the platform?" said Bendigo to Jeweyville, J. C. Dewey, Jim. "Infidels," said Jim. "What's Calls Fort, Thomas Hasper, "that?" inquired Bendigo. "Why Bear River City, Wm. Neeley, "Mantua, H. P. Jensen. fellows as don't believe in God or the devil." "Then come, along and we'll soon clear the platform," said Bendigo, beginning to strip.

Mr. Dupee said they would sing a verse of a hymn, after which Bendigo would address them, and the plate would be handed round for a collection to cover the cost of the bills of Bendigo's traveling expenses. The hymn was a well known one with, as given out by the preacher, an alteration in the second line thus:-

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise him for brother Bendigo."

This sung with mighty volume of sound, Bendigo, who had all this time been quietly seated on the platform, advanced, and began to speak in a simple, unaffected, but wholly unintelligent manner; he was decently dressed in a frock coat, with black velveteen waistcoat, buttoned over his broad chest. | C. He is still, despite his threescore years, straight as a pole, and has a fresh healthy-looking face, that belied the fearful stories told by his friends of his dissipation. Except a certain flattening of the bridge of the nose, 'a slight indentation on the forehead between the eyebrows, and the crooked finger on his left hand, he bore no traces of many pitched fights of which he is the hero, and might in such an assembly have been easily taken for a mild mannered family coachman. "I've been a fighting character," WM. W. CLUFF presides ov r he said, and this was a periphrastic way of referring to his old occupation in which he evidently took pleasure. "But now I'm a miracle. What could I do? I was the youngest born of twentyone children, and the first thing that was done with me was to put SAMUEL F. ATWOOD, Presidme in a workhouse. There I got amongst fellows who brought me out, and I became a fighting character. About thirty years ago I came up to London to fight Ben Gaunt, and I licked him. I'm 63 now, and I didn't think I should ever come up to London to fight for King Jesus. But here I am, and I wish I could read out of the blessed book and I could talk to you better. But I never learnt to read, though I'm hoping by listening to

the conversation around me to ABRAHAM HATCH, Presiding pick up a good deal of the Bible, On Sunday, "Bendigo," the and then I'll talk to you better.

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The writer has used, very generally, the language of prominent and disinterested parties, knowing that such matter has the

greater weight.