

Poetry.

A CHRISTMAS EVENING PASTORAL.

(From the Newcastle Church Chronicle and Record.)

"Ye shall have a song as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept.—Isaiah.

My own dear Church, how can I choose But turn, in spirit, back to thee, As on this hallowed night I lose Myself in positive reverie...

How sweet to hear at even-tide The pealing of thy silver chime, In tuneful changes, far and wide Give note of coming Christmas-time!

Thus verily as a sylvan tent The old age puts its greenness on; The bowery aisles all redolent With goodliest smell of Lebanon...

It shines on robes without alloy, On priestly vestment, pure and white, And on the shepherd's head, whose joy Is to watch his flock by night.

Thrice blest, who thus the night prolongs Who soar on eagle's winging time, And emulate the "shining throng" That pass away to Heaven too soon!

Through many a friend is dead and gone, Though many a satisfied face miss, Long may thy tapers gleam and ring On this, that calls, dear Church, to feast like this!

THE LITTLE ISLANDER, &c. (The following interesting details are extracted from the pages of the Irish Island Report for 1839, as conveyed in a letter from a Clergyman to the Secretary of the Ladies' Irish Island Auxiliary Association.)

My Dear Friend,—As you are anxious for a brief sketch of the Lord's dealings with the dear child in whom you have, from time to time, taken so lively an interest; I shall not in this place enter into the circumstances of her family more than to say, that about a year and a half since, they were induced to leave the Island of—, where the children had been reared in profound ignorance, under the ill assorted guardianship of a careless Protestant father, and an ignorant Roman Catholic mother.

Well may we say with the Psalmist, "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings has thou perfected praise." The steadfast resolve and vigour of determination afforded by divine grace to this infant, would have done honour to the most matured believer.

TO THE MEMORY OF J. H. THE LITTLE ISLANDER. Sleep, infant Martyr, sleep, Safe in thy silent bed; No fond or gentle breast Was wont to soothe thy rest, Go to the quiet dead!

speedily attained concerning the things belonging to her peace, that far exceeded either her years or the anticipations of her instructors. But her mother's resolution, opposed as it was to the very spirit of the Romish faith, was speedily denounced from the altar, and her nearest relations and friends were commanded to afford her the least assistance, while she continued to act in a manner so contrary to the wishes and principles of her spiritual guide.

The wisdom which is from above had been granted to her, and it certainly had prepared her for that happier region to which it was the intention of her heavenly Father very shortly to remove her. After a few months, the family in which she resided was attacked with the measles, and our little friend was in a short time taken ill: though attended with every possible care, it soon became evident, that the disease was likely to prove fatal to a being so tender and feeble.

The days of her pilgrimage were indeed numbered, but her end was perfect peace. When I told her the day before her removal that she was dying, she replied that she was glad of it; I asked her why? She said she wished to be with the Lord Jesus. I inquired "what was her hope of being with him?" "Jesus had died for her." Had she any fears? "No, she could not doubt him and he would not forsake her." Was she happy? "Yes, quite happy."

Her parent was so struck by her whole demeanour that though all her family were convinced and sought to persuade her, that the child's death was a judgment on the mother for giving her up to heretics, she declared that she rejoiced to have given her her own way at last, for she saw her child was happier now than ever she could have made her. Happiness was indeed stamped upon her countenance, and sounded in every word she uttered; nor could we desire any display of divine mercy, more eminently fitted to awaken gratitude, quicken faith, or enliven our zeal for the salvation of sinners.

The Gospel, my dear friend, may not convert towns, parishes, or even families; but God has a people who shall be brought to him, a seed who shall serve him, and the Gospel message to us Gentiles continues to be what the Apostle James describes it, "to take out of them a people prepared for his name." May he of his great mercy, gather out of our Island population an abundant harvest—accomplish the number of his elect quickly, and hasten his kingdom of glory for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake!

Hostility to the Book of God. "From the Journals of our Inspectors, I could fill pages of your Report with mournful histories of the sufferings of our Teachers, and lamentable evidence of priestly hostility to the book of God. At present I shall only transcribe from an Inspector's Journal, one fact of the latter character. On the 16th November, 1841, I inspected the—Irish School, Master; it is in the parish of—he produced a number of adults well instructed in the Scriptures. The Rev. Mr.—, in the course of last Summer repeatedly, from the altar, called on—to give up his Irish Bible, but the teacher publicly refused; the Priest on the following Sabbath, informed the congregation that—the Inspector had got an entrance into the parish; he implored them, 'in the name of the Lord, to raise up their hands and voice against him, for that, already, he had that infernal machine (the Irish Bible) at work. Oh forget not the unhappy readers in Clontarf parish; there, out of thirteen Teachers eight already have joined the Protestant Church, and soon the rest will follow; after the Bible has that parish in a blaze, the flame has entered ours—but I am resolved to extinguish it.' For this end on the following day, he went to the Teacher's house. On entering, he inquired where was the Devil who lived there? 'God save us,' replied the affrighted wife, 'there is no Devil living here.' 'There is,' said the Priest, 'there are two Devils in this house—your husband and the Irish Bible.' Whilst the trembling woman was informing him where her husband was, he saw the Irish Bible, some Testaments, Portions, and Tracts, on a board fixed to the wall, and laying hold on them, he deliberately pulled out the fire and burned them to ashes; the poor wife remonstrated in vain; the Teacher's aged mother who being entirely unacquainted with English, and had long listened with delight to her son reading the Irish Bible, when she beheld it burning in the fire, burst into tears, and in agony of grief uttered, in the Irish language, the following natural and mournful exclamations, (though I fear the report is already too tedious, I cannot refrain from transcribing in English, what is still more impressive in the language in which it was spoken):—'Oh God! Oh God! now is burned the book of books, and father of all good stories; there were in it stories from Heaven, stories from Angels—Oh yes! and stories of Jesus; stories of his Apostles and Saints, and amidst all was the dreadful! but Oh the joyful for sinners!—the story of the crucifying Friday!—Oh! it's burnt, it's burnt—the book of my soul—the book of my heart—the book of my Saviour!'

THE NEWGATE CALENDAR, OR CABINET. A NEW YEAR'S TALK TO CRACK. BY JAMES ANALL, JUDGE. All Demagogues are traitors when in place, When out—the will of the serpent—race. These—like McKenzie—raised to Lord Mayor, These—like—Satan whispering lies—Evil's despair. J. J. Hamilton: Printed for the Proprietor—and sold by all Booksellers, 1843. Price, Two Shillings and Six Pence. 287

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