

Listen to our humble cry;
Hear our solemn litany.

By Thy deep expiring groan;
By the sad sepulchral stone;
By the vault whose dark abode
Held in vain the rising God;
O from earth to heaven restored,
Mighty, re-ascended Lord,
Listen, listen to the cry
Of our solemn litany.

—Sir R. Grant.

The Monthly Record.

HALIFAX, N. S., JULY, 1886.

Price 25 cents yearly, in parcels of 4 or more to one address. An extra copy is sent to a club of 10 or more, if prepaid. Single copies will be sent at 50 cents yearly. PAYMENT IN ADVANCE.

Articles for insertion should be with the Editor before the middle of the month.

All orders and all remittances of cash are to be sent to the Editor or Publisher.

Remit cash by Post Office Order, Bank Draft, or Registered Letter. Address—

REV. P. MELVILLE, A.M., Editor, Hopewell;
MR. THOS. GLOVER, Merchant, Pictou, or
MR. W. G. PENDER, Printer, Carlton House,
Halifax, N. S.

OUR SHORTER CATECHISM.

QUESTION 16. "The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself, but for his posterity, all mankind, descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him and fell with him in his first transgression."

That is, there is a most real and necessary relation (1) between the Creator and His creatures, and (2) between parents and their offspring. God's recorded covenant with Adam revealed this relation to man, but did not ORIGINATE it; for it existed by the necessary laws of cause and effect in the Order of Creation, including the Nature of Things and the very Divine Nature itself. As the branch must grow in union with its vine, or die if it is cut off, so Adam and all his race must grow and flourish by union with God, or perish if that union is broken off. It is vain to argue that Adam's sin could not affect his race; for if the branch is cut off from the vine, all its buds are cut off with it, and all its prospective shoots and fruits. Man left the Fountain of Life and

became "carnally-minded which is Death." And so the degenerate branch has degenerate buds, for "like begets like," and every race has a unity and solidarity like the branches growing from one stem. No doubt God is able and willing to graft the branches into the True Vine again; but many men and women are so dead in sin as to hate His Life and refuse to be joined again into His Love!

17. "The Fall brought mankind into a state of Sin and Misery." This is plain enough. Sin is a sad state of Disorder; and Misery is the bitter train of Woes and Collisions that it always brings and multiplies.

18. "Man's sinful state consists in, 1st, the guilt of Adam's sin (viz., a coward conscience); 2nd, the want of Original Righteousness (viz., of Divine Union and Likeness); 3rd, the corruption of his whole nature (Innate Selfishness or Original Depravity); 4th, all actual transgressions, (viz., Overt Sins of Will and Action). These are painful facts. We inherit a sense of guilty fear, an estrangement from God, a perverse selfishness, and vicious propensities to serve the flesh, the world, and the devil; namely, to indulge the baser nature in disorderly rebellion against the higher and harmonizing principles. But though the "first transgression" was sadly eminent in dire results, still every sin of every parent tends to degrade the Heredity of the offspring; so that some races seem to have almost lost the human faculties, and become nearly brutal or diabolical.

19. "All mankind by their fall lost Communion with God (viz., open vision and loving fellowship); are under His wrath and curse (viz., at enmity with God, so as to think Him angry and cursing us); and thus liable to all earthly miseries, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever." These are indeed the awful fruits of the frightful Disorder called Sin. They are too horrible for contemplation. Escape for thy life! Flee from the wrath to come!

20. "God did not leave our fallen race to perish in their sins and miseries; but of His mere good pleasure (viz., His pure Infinite Love) elected some (at least) to everlasting life, and entered into a covenant of grace with them (revealed His Divine Nature of Love, or Grace itself, as well as Truth) to deliver them out of their state of sin and misery, and to bring them into a state of salvation by a Redeemer."

This doctrine is most precious and soul-saving, if properly understood and realized. Yet Infidels hate it and try to make our God appear Despotical, Partial, and Arbitrary. We answer, Not at all. For (1) Election was of God's mere good pleasure, for He hath no pleasure in the death of souls, even the most wicked.