# TORONTO, CANADA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1847.

# poetry.

VOLUME XI.-No. 23.]

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"GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY." (From " Christian Songs," by the Rev. J.G. Lyons, LL.D.)

Oh! sweep the loud harp's tuneful strings, Break forth like song-birds after showers, To tell how He-the King of kings-Came to this ruin'd world of ours :-If angels beam'd on Judah's hills. And bid those watchers then rejoice, Shall we whose ears that message fills, Mock with cold hearts the sacred voice?

When he-the Son of God-was born, We walk'd in darkness far astray, But fair as Greenland's arctic morn, He chas'd our long drear night away :-His head that manger cradle press'd He toil'd and suffer'd many a year, To give the fainting nations rest, To dry the mourner's bitter tear.

Who, who, that ever breath'd on earth. Bard, prophet, hero, saint, or sage, Gave cause like this for righteous mirth. To men of every clime and age ? Oh! it were shameful and unwise Before those waning lights to fall, Yet look with cold and careless eyes On HIM-THE CENTRAL SUN OF ALL.

Go, tell the trembling slaves of guilt, Whose breast is sad, whose eye is dim, That Just One's sacred blood was spilt. To win back Heaven's lost smile for him :-All, all may join his glorious bands, In that far world of light and bliss, Who keep His pure and high commands With meek and faithful hearts in this.

MEDITATION FOR CHRISTMAS. (From " Short Meditations," by the Rev. W. F. Hook, D.D.)

Approach, my soul, and regard that lowly stable, hollowed out of a rock, and with a rude door or fence from the weather; lift the latch and enter. On this side stand horned cattle. From one corner there proceeds a gentle light; turn thee and look. There is a man past the prime of his life, and a tender and delicate woman. They are watching with tenderest earnestness over a manger, or crib for holding the food of the cattle. Thou mayest look still nearer ; there, in that manger, lies in helpless infancy One-and that One is the Lord! How does the Blessed Virgin watch with adoring love over the first slumbers of Him Who had deigned to choose her as the mother of His manity! Look with her at the Blessed Child-at Him Who is "Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace!" Thou mayst regard those hands now lifted up in the impotence of infancy; think upon them so often lifted in prayer; upon the blessings, the healings, the raisings om the dead, for which these blest hands were so often stretched out. Think of them bound; think of them pierced through with nails! Look upon those feet, now too small and weak to support the weight of His Sacred Body; hereafter they are to walk upon seas and to bear Him about on missions of mercy and love, and to be nailed and pierced, and transfixed to the cruel cross. The head and face, so beautiful and smiling in rosy infancy, encircled with a thorny crown, buffetted, spit upon! The side, now so sound, and smooth, and fair, to be pierced with a sharp and polished spear! Think upon the agonies, the labours, the sufferings, which are coming upon that holy Babe;

angel and thee. All generations shall can there of all generations shall can there of all generations shall can there of all generations which he blessed, by the fruit of whose womb all generations are blessed. If Zachary was amazed with the sight are blessed. If Zachary was amazed with the sight are blessed, are blessed. If Zachary was amazed with the sight are blessed of the there of the sight are blessed. If Zachary was amazed with the sight are blessed of the the sphere of the sphere are blessed. It Zachary was amazed with the sight of this angel, much more the Virgin. That very sex hath more disadvantage of fear : if it had been but a hath more disadvantage of fear : if it had been but a hath more disadvantage of fear: if it had been but a man that had come to her in that secresy and sudden-ness, she could not but have been troubled: how much more, when the shining glory of the person doubled the extra coming in which all the and more, when the shining glory of the person doubled the extra coming in which all that are the hour is coming in which made alive. The hour is coming in which all that are the benefit of a world lying in wickedness.

The

The troubles of holy minds end ever in comfort. - in their graves shall hear his voice, and shall come the astonishment! Fear, as all passions, disquiets the heart, and makes of life; and they that have done evil, to the resurrecit, for the time, unfit to receive the messages of God. tion of condemnation." "Had Jesus Christ delivered Soon hath the angel cleared these troublesome mists no other declaration than this last," says an excellent lation in the remotest corner of her soul, by the glad importance, and well worthy of that splendid apparatus in the canton of Valais, on the left side of the Rhone; How often does secret discontent, a bad temper, or an Thy Son, and address Thee as "our Father!" Our O God, witness with our spirits, that we are thine, were the points in which mankind long wanted and that the waters of the Dranse, accumulated behow can we fear any of those spiritual wickednesses! wished to be informed. Yet many have been the scoffs hind this dyke, already formed a large lake. Upon ments that even childhood must know, make you fret-Give us assurance of thy favour, and let the powers of and sneers thrown out by unbelievers against the Gos- their report, the alarm was spread, not only through- ful, I fear that you should be blown from the safe hell do their worst.

God of Nature; that he, which made all things, should and cultivated by women and children. Just the The government sent an engineer, who found the gratitude is a blight, and pride is a canker, that lies so make his human body of hers; that her womb should contrary; since, if God ever vouchsafed a religion to dyke across the valley was six or seven hundred feet deep, so deep as often not to be seen by the eye of which was personally united to the the world, it must be adapted to either sex, and to in length, four hundred feet high, and three thousand man, and works at the very life of the soul. world: "Lo, thou shalt conceive and bear a son, and in being so. shalt call his na me Jesus." It is a question, whether there be more wonder in the conception, or in the fruit; the conception of the Virgin, or Jesus conceived. Both are marvellous; but the former doth not more exceed all other wonders, than the latter exceedeth it. For the child of a virgin is the reimprovement of that power which created the world: but that God should be incarnate of a virgin was an abasement of his Majesty, and an exaltation of the creature beyond all example. Well was that child worthy to make the mother blessed. Here was a double conception; one in the womb of her body, the other of the soul: if that were more miraculous, this was more beneficial; that was her privilege, this was her happiness; if that were singular to her, this is common to all his chosen. There is no renewed heart, wherein thou, O Saviour, art not formed again. Blessed be thou, that hast herein made us blessed. For what womb can conceive thee, and not partake of thee? who can partake of thee, and not be happy?

## CHRISTMAS CUSTOM IN GERMANY. (From Sharpe's Magazine.)

the wild honey also was a species of herb indigenous For three or four months before Christmas the girls to Judæa. think that for this end He left His Father's throne; are all busy; and the boys save their pocket-money to Had any messenger of a different character been He emptied Himself of all His glory, He entered into make or purchase presents. Then on the eventhe wonb, came into the world on a cold winter's night in a poor stable, was wrapt in coarse coverings, and became subject to poor parents. And all this was for thee, thou poor soal; thou, who sbrinkest from the least pain, tremblement to parents at a little distance from the wall; a mul-least pain, tremblement to parents at a little distance from the wall; a mul-least pain, tremblement to parents at a little distance from the wall; a mul-least pain tremblement to parents at a little distance from the wall; a mul-least pain tremblement to parents at a little distance from the wall; a mul-least pain tremblement to parents at a little distance from the wall; a mul-least pain tremblement to parents at a little distance from the wall; a mul-least pain tremblement to parents at a little distance from the wall; a mul-least pain tremblement to parents at the totel matter of the distance from the wall; a mul-least pain tremblement to parents at the totel matter of the distance from the wall; a mul-least pain tremblement to parents at the totel matter of the distance from the wall; a mul-least pain tremblement to pain the table, at a little distance from the wall; a mul-least pain tremblement to parents at the totel matter of the distance from the wall; a mul-least pain tremblement to pain tremblement to parents at the totel matter of the distance from the wall; a mul-least pain tremblement to pain tremblement to parents at the totel matter of the distance from the wall; a mul-least pain tremblement to pain tremblement to parents at the totel matter of the distance from the wall; a mul-least pain tremblement to pain tremblement to pain tremblement to pain the totel matter of the distance from the wall; a mul-least pain tremblement to pain the totel matter of the distance from the wall; a mul-least pain tremblement to pain tremblement to pain tremblement to pain tremblement to pain the totel matter of the distance from the wall; a mul-hours; but the next day, at five or clock in the event ing tremblem least pain, tremblest at the least danger, art disinclined titude of little tapers are fixed on the bough, but not were in direct opposition to this opinion, and ought to to forego any luxury, and pamperest thy poor mortal so as to burn it till they are nearly consumed; and have disabused them of the same. Had he been the frame; thou, who sinnest without compunction, who coloured paper, &c., hangs and flutters from the twigs. ambassador of any worldly sovereign, he must have etrest without a sigh, and who even now art not melted Under this bough the children lay out, in great order, been invested with all the external splendour and into passionate grief to think that all this condescen-the presents they mean for their parents, still conceal-gion and hardline and a spiritual Lord and a spiritual sion, and humility, and endurance was to save thee ing in their pockets that which they intend for each the ambassador of a spiritual Lord and a spiritual from the ing in their pockets that which they intend for each the ambassador of a spiritual and a spiritual conduction of the s from the just penalty thou hast incurred. But, for other. Then the parents are introduced, and each kingdom, all these things were laid aside; "his robe once, think not of thyself but of Him, Whose life of presents his little gift; they then bring out the resorrow and suffering thou oughtest to follow, and if He mainder, one by one, from their pockets, and present deigns to make thee partaker in any degree of His suf-them with kisses and embraces. On the next day, in that he brought from his Sovereign was an invitation ferings, rejoice, and count it the greatest honour to be the great parlour, the parents lay on the table the to repentance and faith." gifts for the children. A scene of suber joy succeeds; The Incarnation and the Birth of our Saviour re- as, on this day, after an old custom, the mother tells mains to us not as a mere fact in this world's history, privately to each of her daughters, and the father to the ministry which he was appointed to discharge; his sons, that which he has observed most praiseworthy, they may also have contributed to his success, by raisteries in His Church. He Who once condescended and that which was most faulty in their conduct.

Ehtur th.

(From Simond's Switzerland.)

thee, thou hast prophesied of thyself; we believe the them afterwards? Where is the wise man of the the things of the world, that he may judge of his real G. of which the following ingenious explanation was which art in HEAVEN," and we shall feel constrained thee, thou hast prophesied of thyself, here and thee and the world that can give us instruction and assurance on angel and thee. All generations shall call thee world that can give us instruction and assurance on blessed, by the fruit of whose womb all generations which he blessed, by the fruit of whose womb all generations which he is point? "Son of man, can these dry bones live?" this point? "Son of man, can these dry bones live?"

THE ROSE BUD.

(By Charlotte Elizabeth.)

news of her Saviour. How can joy but enter into her of prophecy and miracles with which his mission was and it is remarked of the simple and industrious race evil inclination, prey upon the beauty of the christian Father Thou art, because Thou hast formed us out of heart, out of whose womb shall come salvation !--- introduced and attested; a message in which the who inhabit it, that for a century past there has not character, destroy its promise in this life, and perhaps the dust of the ground; our Father Thou art, because What room can fear find in that breast, that is assured wisest of mankind would rejoice to find an answer to been a punishable crime committed among them, nor devour its hope for the life to come! I watch you Thou hast adopted us into the children of Thine inof favour? "Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found their doubts, and rest to their inquiries." The obser- even a law-suit. The torrent of the Dranse, issuing closely my dear child, with feelings of far deeper interfavour with God." Let those fear, who know they vation is just and noble. And yet, such a message from the glacier of Chermontane, at the upper extreare in displeasure, or know not they are gracious.— one of the heathen sages, were he now living, might mity of this valley, forms one of the outlets of that for I desire to present you to the Lord, without spot our Father, because we are the brethren, and Thou scries of glaciers, forty leagues in length, which ex- or blemish, and there are many dangers both without art the very Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In all fidence for joy. What should, what can they fear, In this manner, to silence false philosophy and prewho are favoured of Him, at whom the devils tremble? tended wisdom, has God "ordained strength out of almost divin winter, it becomes swollen during the Not the presence of the good angels, but the tempta-Not the presence of the good angels, but the tempta-tions of the evil, strike many terrors into our weaktions of the evil, strike many terrors into our weak-ness; we could not be dismayed with them, if we did ness; we could not be dismayed with them, if we did truths, which none of the philosophers of Greece and Description of April last, and suspecting something extraness; we could not be dismayed with them, if we day not forget our condition. "We have not received the Rome could discover; the creation and redemption of the discover; the creation and the discov spirit of bondage again to fear, but the spirit of adop-the world; the origin and abolition of evil; the resur-unusual quantity of ice, fallen from the glacier of such summer rays should scorch my bud. For in sea-seeing that Thou hast not denied them this, the greatspint of boldage again to load, out if that spirit, rection of the dead; and the final judgment. These Getroz, on Mount Pleureur, blocked up the valley, sons of great ease, the heart is often lifted up, and forpel, as being the religion of women and children. out the canton of Valais, but even in Italy; travellers shelter, where I would have you always lying still, at It was no ordinary favour that the Virgin found in Never surely was wit worse employed. For if the feared to take the route of the Simplon, being aware the Saviour's feet. The friendship of the world, and heaven. No mortal creature was ever thus graced, religion be in itself true and excellent, it can receive that when the ice gave way there would be a sudden its pleasures, are like insects that creep over the leaf, that he should take part of her nature, that was the no prejudice from the circumstance of being embraced inundation, which would overflow the whole country. secretly devouring, and defiling where they pass. In-

Godhead; that she should bear him that upholds the every age. Christianity is that religion, and glories feet broad at its base; the lake was seven thousand There was once a perfect flower on earth :- an untwo bundred feet in length, and six hundred in breadth, and had already risen to half the height of the dyke, that is, to two hundred feet. He decided upon open-ing a gallery through the ice, beginning fifty-four feet above the actual level, to give himself, time to finish above the actual level, to give himself time to finish the name of this bright flower; a plant of renown.- racter, which have in several instances been displayed the work before the lake rose up to it; its daily in-crease being from four to five feet, according to the temperature. On the 11th of May he began to work crease being from four to hve feet, according to the temperature. On the 11th of May he began to work at the two extremeties of the gallery, fifty men, re-lieving each other alternately, laboured night and day, in continual danger of being buried alive in their gal-icontinual danger of being buried alive in their gal-in continual danger of being buried alive in their gal-in continual danger of being buried alive in their gal-in continual danger of being buried alive in their gal-in continual danger of being buried alive in their gal-in continual danger of being buried alive in their gal-in continual danger of being buried alive in their gal-for in the heavy of holiness, the world sees nothing in the heavy of holiness the world sees nothing is a man of profound learning and cultivated taste. With lery by some of the avalanches, which fell at short in-tervals; several were wounded by pieces of ice, others had their feet frozen, and the ice was so hard as to right," a crooked and perverse generation call it wearbreak their tools. But, notwithstanding all these difficulties, the work advanced rapidly. On the 27th of May, a large portion of the dyke rose upwards, with such a frightful poise, that the workmen believed the about his head, and their points were turned in to about his head, and their points were turned in to about his head, and their points were turned in to be about his head. and their points were turned in to be find a successor who will so successfully consiliate the successor who will so successfully consiliate the about his head. and their points were turned in to be find a successor who will so successfully consiliate the successor who will so successfully consiliate the about his head. returned to their labour. This accident happened several times afterwards; some of the floating pieces of ice, to judge from their height out of the water, must have been seventy feet thick beneath the surmust have been seventy feet thick beneath the sur-face. The 4th of June the gallery, six hundred and eighty feet long, was completed, but, as it was twenty feet higher in the middle, it was necessary still to level it. The weather had been very cold, and the lake had not yet reached the height of the gallery; the labourers, therefore, continued lowering it till the 13th, when towards ten at night, the water began to flow ten feet; the 16th, thirty feet. At two o'clock on that day, the length of the lake was diminished one thousand nine hundred and fifty feet; for the gallery wearing down as fast as the lake beaute and fragrance. More pure than the like of the head for the present same and fragrance. lowered, the water ran freely, but without the Dranse beauty and fragrance. More pure than the lily of the that he should for the present remain undisturbed by the lowered, the water ran freely, but without the Dranse overflowing; and a very few days would have sufficed to drain this great reservoir. Loud explosions, how-ever, announced that large masses of ice were loosened in thickness towards the lake, while the current, as it wore away this same barrier on the opposite side, threatened a sudden rupture. The danger increa-sing, the agriment sent from time to time, to warn

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and of the beasts of the field, and of creeping things innumerable; Creator of man, Father of our souls and of our bodies, great Source of all we are, and have, The canker is a disease which takes hold of the flow- and hope for; To THEE, the eternal Parent of the The valley of Bagne, long, narrow, unequal in er at a very early period, but does not show itself un- universe, we lift our thoughts, in the humility of praybreadth, and confined by high mountains, is situated til it has eaten away the principle of life in the bud. er, when we bid our tongues obey the commands of

## Ecclesiastical Intelligence.

### ENGLAND.

[We insert the following for the sake of the particulars which it furnishes in addition to what has already appeared in our columns on the same subject.—ED. CHURCH.]

THE BISHOPRIC OF MANCHESTER .- The Rev. James Prince Lee, M. A., late Fellow of Trinity College, Cam-bridge, and for several years past the distinguished Head Master of King Edward's Grammar School, in this town,

wore away this same parter on the opposte side, threatened a sudden rupture. The danger increa-sing, the engineer sent from time to time, to warn the inhabitants, to be on their guard. As the water began to make its way under the ice, the crisis ap-peared inevitable, and not far distant. At half-past four in the evening a terrible explosion announced the breaking up of the dyke; and the waters of the lake rushing through, all at once formed a torrent, one hundred feet in depth, which traversed the first eighteen miles in the space of forty minutes, carrying away one hundred and thirty chalets, a whole forest, and an immense quantity of earth and stone. When it reached Bagne, the ruins of all descriptions carried along with it formed a moving mountain, three hun-dred feet high, from which a column of thick vapour arose, like the smoke of a great fire. An English traveller, accompanied by a young artist, Mr. P. of Lausanne, and a guide, had been visiting the works, and on his return was approaching Bagne, when, turn-ing round by chance, he saw the dreadful object just ing round by chance, he saw the dreadful object just before we can contemplate God as "our Father," we DEATH OF THE MASTER OF ST. PETER'S COLLEGE, ing round by chance, he saw the dreadful object just described coming down, the distant noise of which had been lost in the nearer roar of the Dranse; he clapt spurs to his horse to warn his companion, as well as three other travellers who had joined them; all dis-mounting scrambled up the mountain precipitately, and arrived in safety beyond the reach of the deluge, which in an instant, filled the valley beneath; how-ever, Mr. P. was no longer to be found; during se-veral hours they believed him lost, but they learned afterwards that his restive mule, turning at the sight werat hours they believed min tost, but they learned afterwards that his restive mule, turning at the sight of an uprooted tree, perceived all at once a still more threatening sight, and dashing at once up the mountain, had carried him beyond the reach of danger.
From Bagne the inundation reached Martigny, four leagues in fifty minutes, bearing away in that space thirty-five houses, eight wind-mills, ninety-five barns, but only mine persons, and very few cattle; most of the inhabitants having been on their guard.
The village of Beauvernier was saved by a projecting rock, which diverted the torrent; it was seen passing like an arrow by the side of the village withthe family of God, they have deemed it their highest without much thoughtfulness of their state of pro-ficiency in those virtues and graces which alone are meet for the kingdom of God? But time the descent for the kingdom of God? But whilst thus much and more may be said in praise of retirement, it is to be observed that the se-clusion recommended by the example of holy men in Scripture had no communion with the life of a con-firmed hermit or recluse. Our Saviour and the holy men whose examples are before us, used retirement as a preparation for active service, not as the great end of their temporal being. The end contemplated was not abstinence from the world, but zealous labouring in the midst of it in the cause of God and virtue. he prays not to her: he salutes the Virgin; Prays not to her: he salutes her as a goddess. For us to salute her,  $a_s$  he did, were gross presumption: for neither are we  $a_s$  he was, neither information can be desired?  $a_s$  he was, neither information (because of form the world, but zealous labouring  $a_s$  he was, neither information (because of form the world, but zealous labouring)  $a_s$  he was, neither information (because of form the world, but zealous labouring)  $a_s$  he was, neither information (because of form the world, but zealous labouring)  $a_s$  he was, neither information (because of form the world, but zealous labouring)  $a_s$  he was, neither information (because of form the world, but zealous labouring)  $a_s$  he was her is information (because of form the world, but zealous labouring)  $a_s$  he was her is information (because of form the world, bu they came forth openly and boldly as regenerators of the scheduled the lake of Geneva at eleven o clock at night, and was lost in its vast expanse, having gone inguto mercy. May we ever hear that Father saying the Rev. J. M. Denison. Prayers were read by the Rev. J. W. Neat, B. A., the newly appointed Min-their retirement affords no sanction to those persons' over eighteen Swiss leagues in six hours and a half, \* spirit, saluted her that was flesh and blood here on lute her who is a glorious spirit in heaven. For us to

reckoned worthy of enduring anything for Him.

but as the present source of new and ever blessed mysto be born in a manger, does now continually deign to be born in a cradle even less worthy and less pure- CHILDREN INSTRUCTED IN CHRISTIAN even in the heart of fallen man-yea, He has condescended to be born in me; let me therefore carry about with me an awful remembrance of these holy mysteries; and earnestly pray that my body, sanctified and exalted by union with the Divinity, may be so reverently accounted of by me, that I may not dare to profane it by wicked affections, low thoughts, covetous desires, and unbeseeming wishes; but that I may become in body, soul, and spirit, wholly united unto the Lord; and may follow the Lamb withersoever He goeth.

#### THE VIRGIN MOTHER AND THE HEAVENLY MESSENGER. (From Bishop Hall's Meditations.)

mother of him that was God, but to obscure Galilee\_\_\_ things necessary for him to learn, in order to his sala part which even the Jews themselves despised, as vation; in a day, in an hour, he shall know more than forsaken of their privileges? "Out of Galilee ariseth the sages of antiquity were able to discover, from the no prophet." Behold, an angel comes to that Galilee dispersion of the nations at Babel to the coming of out of which no prophet comes, and the God of Christ, or would have discovered, from thence to the prophets and angels descends to be conceived in that consummation of all things. This is a very wonder-Galilee out of which no prophet ariseth! He, that ful consideration; and we must dwell a little upon it, filleth all places, makes no difference of places: it is for the honour and praise of revelation, and of that the person which gives honour and privilege to the Being who vouchsafed it to man. place, not the place to the person; as the presence of "In the beginning God created the heavens and the God makes the heaven, the heaven doth not make the earth." A child easily repeats and understands these nonour glorious. No blind corner of Nazareth can few words of Moses. But the child who does so is at hide the blessed Virgin from the angel. The favours once in possession of a truth, which heathen philosoof God will find out his children, wheresoever they are phy, for ages and generations, sought in vain; none withdrawn.

despised, on whom to bestow his honours: we cannot all; whether there were many Gods, or one. run away, as from the judgments, so not from the If the world were made by a good and gracious God, mercies of our God. The cottages of Galilee are pre- whence came so much evil as we all see and know to ferred by God to the famous places of Jerusalem: he be in it? Here the wisdom of paganism was for ever cares not how homely he converses with his own.- at a stand. Bewildered and lost in its reasonings and Why should we be transported with the outward glory guesses upon the subject, it soon came to question of places, while our God regards it not? We are not whether God were indeed good and gracious, or of the angels' diet, if we had not rather be with the whether there could be any God who governed such a blessed Virgin at Nazareth, than with the proud dames world. Let these men listen to a child nurtured in in the court of Jerusalem. It is a great vanity to the Christian Scriptures. "By one man's disobedience

TRUTH.

# (From a Sermon by Bishop Horne.)

God is honoured when children are taught to confess and proclaim his truths, because hereby it is shown that his truths are such as children may confess and proclaim. All may receive the saving doctrines of our religion, and learn its wholesome precepts. Over the door of the school of the celebrated Plato, we are told, was written a sentence, importing, that no one must presume to enter there who had not first studied and rendered himself master of geometry. No such requisition is made by our blessed Master of those who mean to enter themselves in the number of his scholars. In other respects, learned or unlearned, wise or unwise, noble or ignoble, great or small, young Whither doth the glorious angel come to find the or old, come who will, and he shall be instructed in all

could then with any degree of certainty determine by It is the fashion of God to seek out the most whom the world was made; whether it were made at

were the honey of the wilderness; and the message

THE BAPTIST IN THE DESERT.

(From "Christian Examples," by the Rev. A. Williams M. A.)

John spent the early portion of his life in compara-

tive retirement; not, however, as a hermit recluse

from all society with men, but in some less inhabited

spot, such as the wilderness of Judæa. Here the

Spirit of Prophecy came upon him. He preached in

the desert, where the greatest multitudes passed; he

wore a garment of camel's hair, the most coarse and

common garment,-similar to that worn by the pro-

phets of old-to express his contempt of the vanities

and ostentations of life. His food was the sponta-

neous produce of the country; showing his self-denial

and subjection of all his appetites. He avoided wine

and strong drink, as a Nazarite being separated and

holy to the Lord. Whether the locusts which he ate

were the animal so called, prepared in the manner

usual among the Jews, or whether it meant a peculiar

herb growing about that country, which seems most

probable, is uncertain. Many have conjectured that

The austerity which the Baptist practised, and the devotion of his solitude, were a happy preparation for ing a character for eminent mortification and sanctity; they inured him to the oppositions which he was to expect in his work, and they also prevented any such intimacy with Christ as might possibly have occasioned some suspicion as to the impartiality of the testimony which John afterwards bore to him: for it is to be observed that although certain paintings of celebrity represent the infant Jesus and John the Baptist as companions in childhood, yet were they brought up not only in different houses, but in different provinces,-the one in Judæa, the other in Galilee; and whereas the one was the supposed son of an artisan of not the highest class in a city of mean repute, the father of the other filled one of the most respected situations at Jerusalem,-that of priest.

The comparative seclusion of the Baptist previously to his entering on his office, supported as it is by the example of other holy men of God, admonishes us generally, that a life of undivided enjoyment is not the one which has been preferred by the best and wisest of our race; and in particular, that retirement is a most befitting preparative for any great work to which we may be set apart; and, if so, certainly for our encounter of the evils and temptations of this trying scene. And we can scarcely, if indeed at all, imagine a man, in earnest about his salvation, passing his season of probation without the practice of retirement .---The wisest as well as the holiest of men have regularly apportioned some part of each day for examining into the character of the past, and for the supplication of grace to enable them to meet the future. At the very ast—for this is commanded—such retirement should be adopted on the Sabbath which God Himself hath but only nine persons, and very few cattle; most of ordained as a regularly-recurring interval of rest from the inhabitants having been on their guard. the pleasures and business and cares of life. And how can any think to make progress heavenwards,

afterwards that his restive mule, turning at the sight death, even the death of the Cross, before the sinner

firmed hermit or recluse. Our Saviour and the holy trees and rubbish, but only thirty-four persons appear ther, for guidance and for help. And if they have have user who is a glorious spirit in heaven. For us to bray to her, in the angel's salutation, were to abuse bus how gladly do we second the angel in the praise of her, which was more ours than his! How justly how belses her, whom the angel pronounceth blessed! How worthly is she honoured of men, whom the angel pronounceth blessed! That the diffes thee not! That which the angel said of the suffer of has the ent of all which the steer of the suffer of has the second as in the after anon has placed that belief." At a certain time we die. Our bodies are laid in that deiffes thee not! That which the angel said of the suffer of all with the angel said of the suffer of dust. And what is to befall that deiffes thee not! That which the angel said of the suffer of all with the angel said of the suffer of that belief."