

its centuries, it may be its thousands of years; the continents and islands which its dominions includes, have perhaps their day, as those which preceded them have had; and the very revolution of the sky by which centuries are numbered, will at last languish and stand still.—*Whewell.*

CHRISTIAN TREASURY.

THE UNELEST MARRIAGE.—To you who have not married "in the Lord," and are not at the present moment living "in the Lord," the marriage state cannot be a state of permanent happiness; the motives which first drew you to each other, the qualities which first endeared you, are weakening and diminishing every day. From worldly motives, and from worldly motives only, you entered into an union which God has promised to cement and bless, but God bestows no blessing, nor even a promised blessing, unsought, "ask and it shall be given," is His reiterated command. You asked not His blessing upon your union, His guidance in undertaking it, for He was not then, nor is He now, the object of your thoughts, or your desires. What, then, is the prospect which lies before you, and what the termination to which you look? We will not advert to those unhappy conclusions which too frequently terminate unions such as these—separation, or hatred, or sin. We will suppose your lot to be far more favorable, as favorable as the happiest lot where all is earthly can ever be; and still we say, what is your prospect? A life, perhaps a long life, to be passed with one who has no qualification, the charms of which will not sensibly and unquestionably decline: while as years advance, and there will flit across the mind from time to time some painful forebodings of an hereafter, some fearful suggestions of a coming eternity, there is no solace, no comfort, no counsel to be found in your one, your only partner; no one at home when life's evening approaches, and the dark clouds are gathering around the western horizon, to cheer that twilight hour, and to speak of hope beyond the grave, and of joys which will never fade, and of suns which will no more go down: no one when the heart is heavy, and the body bowing beneath increasing infirmities, and the spirit sorrowful, to shed that blissful ray of heavenly contentment and spiritual peace throughout the family circle, which marks the presence of a faith which shall not fail, and of a love which cannot die. Brethren, it is a desolate and dreary prospect, and at present it is your own. But there is time, there is grace, there is power to change it. God waiteth to be gracious. Christ stands at the door and knocks; the choice is this day with yourselves: whether you will live cheerlessly and die hopelessly, or live "unto the Lord," and die unto the Lord, so that living or dying you shall be the Lord's, partakers together of His grace here, and of His glory hereafter.

BLUNT.

THE BLEST MARRIAGE.—To you who have married "in the Lord," or who have since, your union, been brought to the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord, and to a participation in the joys of His salvation—it is scarcely too much to say that your lot—whatever be your station, unless you are suffering from great and pressing privations, or are at present under the chastening hand of God—is the happiest that the sun can shine upon. Trials and troubles there will ever be, some drops from the bitter fruit of Edèn will find their way into every cup; but, unquestionably, the higher the cup is filled with the grateful love of God, and with the holy love of each other, the less room will there be for the distillations of that worse than Upas tree to mingle with it. . . You must look forward to an hour of separation; although to you it will be but temporary, still it is the part of Christian wisdom, and Christian prudence to extract every sting which God in mercy enables you; do not, therefore, leave this for a death-bed, or a parting hour. And if not this, then surely none of still sharper point, or still more poisonous. "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." Days of darkness and hours of trial will come to you, my beloved Christian brethren, as well as to those who have not married in the Lord, but how different, how widely different, are your prospects. Would that we could place the ungodly man for one hour within the blessed enclosure, and upon that high eminence on which you stand; the sight of the prospect which lies before you would surely avail to soften, if not to change, and to convert his heart; but this cannot be. You may however, rejoice in them yourselves, and fill your hearts with thanksgivings and your lips with praise, that He who has made you to differ from others, has not only made your wedded life a holy state and a happy, but a promise and foretaste of a far holier and a far happier which is awaiting you. As years roll on, and as the enjoyments of this life are daily and hourly contracting into a still smaller compass; as the friends of your youth, and the companions of your maturer age, are called away, and few of those who have cheered and gladdened life remain, then do the blessings of a truly Christian union shine forth with a splendour rivalling the last rich rays of the setting sun. To see those whom you have loved through life, and still love dearer and more tenderly as life's tide is ebbing fast into the ocean of eternity, to see them standing with you on the brink of time, and looking calmly on those dark waters which have no returning tide, ready, like yourself, to enter into the valley of the shadow of death, with the same rod and staff to comfort them, the same Saviour to support them, the same eternal mansions to receive them: knowing that your truest enjoyments here have been those which have partaken most largely of the occupations and delights of eternity, these are joys well worth the purchase of the longest and the happiest life which earth has ever seen, and these are delights which none but those who are "in the Lord," can ever know.—BLUNT