

SELECTED.

HYMN FOR CHRISTMAS.

HAIL, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free!
From our sins and fears release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the saints, thou art;
Long desired of every nation,
Joy of every waiting heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child, yet God our King,
Born to reign in us for ever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

From the Episcopal Recorder.

EXTRACTS FROM THE CHARGE OF BISHOP BROWNELL
TO THE CONNECTICUT CONVENTION—OCTOBER, 1836.

In taking the most cursory survey of the present condition of our Church; and especially if we extend our view to the unnumbered millions who have not yet embraced the Christian faith, our minds are spontaneously directed to the affecting exclamation of our Saviour: "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."

Perhaps few Dioceses in our country are better supplied with Clergy than Connecticut; and, yet, by a survey, taken in June last, twenty-one parishes were found to be entirely destitute of clerical services and superintendence. Several of the vacancies have been supplied, but I shall still have to exhibit to the Convention a lamentable deficiency, at the present time.

The wants of the new Dioceses at the West are still more pressing, and the call for additional Clergy more urgent. Indeed I believe I may say of all our Bishops, that, in the fulfilment of their high duties, the subject which gives them the most solicitude, is the obtaining a number of Clergy any wise adequate to the wants of their Dioceses. One hundred additional ministers would probably be not more than sufficient to fill existing vacancies.

The committees of our Board of missions feel this want still more sorely. This is especially the case with that committee which is charged with the interests of the Church in the wide-spread region of the West. It is not the want of pecuniary means, but the want of duly qualified Missionaries, which prevents them from responding to the many fruitless calls which are made upon them. Were one hundred such Missionaries now at their disposal, they might find situations of usefulness for them all; and doubt not the Church would cheerfully contribute the necessary means for their support.

The great West is often the theme of conversation, in reference to its extent, its population, its wealth, its resources, and the pecuniary speculations of which it has been the theatre; but its moral and religious aspect presents a still more interesting scene for the contemplation of the Christian philanthropist. Here is a country extending from the Alleghanies to the Rocky Mountains, and from Lake Superior to the Gulf of Mexico, and embracing one of the most fertile regions of our globe. Into this country, a tide of emigration is rushing, with an impetuosity that baffles all calculation. Within the memory of many of those who hear me, this region was regarded only as a vast wilderness, inhabited by wild beasts, and by a few tribes of wandering savages. Forty-five years ago, the only considerable portion of this country inhabited by civilized men, was a little district along the margin of the Mississippi; and the whole region contained a population of not more than 150,000 souls. At the present day, it exhibits the appearance of a vast empire, and contains near six millions of inhabitants. In the short period of fifteen years to come, it will probably contain more than twelve millions; which will then be a majority of the whole population of the United States. Children now present, may live to see this region embrace one of the most popu-

lous, wealthy, and powerful empires in christendom.

Brethren, there is a sublimity in this onward march of population and power, which cannot fail to arrest our minds, and dispose us to reflection. What are the future prospects, and what is to be the destiny of this gigantic nation? What will be the religious, the moral, the intellectual state of this mighty population, thus suddenly congregated together in a new world? A regard for the temporal welfare of these increasing millions, would induce us to wish to see them in the possession of all the advantages of enlightened knowledge, and Christian morals. A sympathy in their eternal weal, should dispose us to wish to see them blessed with the consolations and the restraints of religion, and with the salutary ministrations of the Gospel. Indeed, this is a matter in which the welfare of our common country, and of posterity, as well as the happiness of immortal souls is concerned. From the manner in which the new regions of the west are settled, it is unreasonable to expect that competent provision should yet be made for the support of religious and literary institutions. The emigrants do not go out, like the pilgrim fathers of New England, accompanied by their pastors and schoolmasters. Most of them are hardy adventurers, who carry with them only their families, and a bold spirit of enterprise and industry; and the first avails of their labour must be applied in payment for the lands on which they settle. The sparseness of population, and the want of sufficient means, must for a long time retard the establishment of seminaries of learning; and the same causes must produce a destitution of the institutions of religion. Now, in such a country, although the first settlers carry with them the intelligence and virtue of the older states, there must soon be, in the rising generation, a mighty mass of uneducated mind; of mind deriving its image and impress from almost every nation of the world; mind liable to be swayed by prejudice, controlled by fanaticism, or led astray by the frenzy of political ambition: but, at the same time, capable of being enlightened by knowledge, and improved and blessed by all the means of sanctification and salvation. It is a question of transcendent interest, whether this mass of mind shall be directed to evil or to good: Whether it shall be so nurtured and matured as to add virtue, and strength, and stability to our free institutions; or whether a mighty power of ignorance, and infidelity, and violence shall grow up in these wide regions, which, at no distant day, may bring confusion into our national councils, and break up the strong foundations of our national constitution? The problem is of simple solution. Its result depends mainly on the question, whether this country shall be blessed with an enlightened and pious ministry? With such a ministry, its prospects are bright and auspicious; without it, they are gloomy and fearful. This is the efficacious instrument, ordained by heaven for restraining the destructive passions of men, and for promoting all those liberal and humane institutions which render society estimable, and life desirable. Such is the unvarying testimony of the world's history. If we search through christendom for that portion of country in which the rights of man are best understood and enjoyed, where salutary laws prevail, where knowledge is generally diffused through the community, where industry and enterprise repose securely on the fruits of their labour, where science and the liberal arts are cultivated and honoured, and where religion sheds its hallowed influence over all the enjoyments of life, and looks forward to a happy immortality, we shall find that portion of country well supplied with an enlightened, pious, and faithful ministry; and nowhere else—nowhere else can these blessings be found and enjoyed. Brethren, what an ample field does our western world present for the salutary influences of such a ministry! How few are the labourers who have entered on the wide domain! How important that many should be found and sent! "Pray ye therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest."

Alas, brethren, to how small a portion of mankind is the Gospel yet known! Five hundred millions of the human race, for whom the Saviour died, are even now "perishing for lack of knowledge!" The degradation, the ignorance, and the guilt of these miserable heathen are no less obvious now, than they were near eighteen hundred years ago, when their character was so strikingly delineated by St. Paul; and

their condition is no less deserving of our sympathy. When we take a survey of the countries they inhabit, spectacles of idolatry, of superstition, and of suffering, every where meet the eye, and shock the soul. We may see thousands of miserable pilgrims, hurrying to the worship of a wooden Juggernaut, crushing each other to death in the crowd, or throwing themselves before the bloody wheels of the idol, and leaving their bones to bleach on the desolate fields. "On the rivers which flow through their countries, we may see the carcasses of self-murdered fanatics, of aged parents, murdered by their children, and of infants murdered by their parents, floating down to the ocean to glut the monsters of the deep. We may see the smoke ascending from the funeral pile which consumes the living widow with the dead body of her husband, and leaves their hapless children doubly orphans."

Such is heathenism. Such is the condition of five hundred millions of human beings who know nothing of the blessed hopes which the Gospel reveals, or of the duties which it enjoins! We know that there is no hope of their renovation from this degradation and misery, but through the benign influence of the Christian religion. We know that "there is no other name given under heaven among men, whereby they must be saved, than that of Jesus of Nazareth." "But how shall they call on him in whom they have not believed. And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent?" "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few. Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest."

I know it has sometimes been said, that God will convert the heathen in his own time, without our aid. It is certain that the Almighty can do this. He who rules in the armies of heaven, can certainly do his pleasure among the inhabitants of the earth. He can raise up missionaries from the very stones, to preach his Gospel. He can send his ravens to feed them, or he can rain down manna from heaven for their support. In like manner he can preserve our life and our health, without our care, and make the harvest to grow though we sow not the seed. But this affects not our duty; and the solemn mandates will still remain—"Preach the Gospel to every creature;"—"As ye would that men should do unto you, even so do to them." These divine commands save every doubt, and sweep away every difficulty. Their import and binding force have been solemnly admitted by our Church, and she has publicly acknowledged her obligation to assist, according to her ability, in communicating the light and the blessings of the Gospel to "the nations that are sitting in darkness and the shadow of death." * * * * *

From data which cannot be questioned, it has been estimated that, in our own country, there are almost four thousand parishes now destitute of settled pastors; that, allowing one minister to a thousand souls, six thousand additional clergy are needed to supply the country, at the present time; and that an increase of five hundred annually, will be required to supply the increase of population, and the vacancies caused by death. Upon the same calculation, five hundred thousand clergymen would be required to supply the world! How small a portion of these numbers can be supplied by the Church to which we belong! It has been further estimated from authentic data, that notwithstanding the great efforts of other religious denominations to augment the number of their ministry, through the instrumentality of education societies, the increase is still far short of the progressive increase of population: that to send a supply to our western settlements, equal to that enjoyed by the Atlantic states, would require nearly double the number of the present ministry; and that nearly twice the present annual supply would be required to satisfy the increasing annual demand. Alas, where are the missionaries for the five hundred millions of heathen!

Brethren, these are startling calculations. Yet I fear their results are not to be controverted. In the view of these considerations, what is the duty of our Church? How is she to increase the number of her clergy, in any way proportioned to the demands upon her? These are vital questions which it behoves her seriously to ponder, quickly to decide, and vigorously to act upon.—*To be Continued.*