

Christian Mirror

AND GENERAL MISSIONARY REGISTER.

"MANY SHALL RUN TO AND FRO, AND KNOWLEDGE SHALL BE INCREASED."—DANIEL xii. 4.

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POETRY

THE STUDENT'S PRAYER.

[Recommended to be written within the cover of his Bible, for daily use.]

Lord, open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. O Thou who art the great Prophet of thy people, open mine understanding, to understand the scriptures; Blessed Spirit of all grace, whose it is to take of the things which are Christ's and show them unto us, enlighten, impress, raptly renew, and sanctify, that I may rightly view, receive, believe, and exemplify the important truths contained in this sacred volume, that I may be made wise unto salvation, through faith in Christ Jesus; and may my natural and acquired talents, gifts and graces, be devoted to thy service; (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,) and the best interests of my fellow men. Grant these favors for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

V. D. M.

SELF-EXAMINATION.

Are my affections placed above,
Supremely, on a God of love?
Is there a life of grace within,
And do I daily die to sin?
Does all appear as dross beside,
Compared to Jesus crucified?
My temper, is it meek and mild,
Am I in confidence a child?
Does faith lay hold, and Christ embrace,
Do I delight to seek his face?
Do I his righteous cause defend,
And make his glory my chief end?
Does prayer, sweet, sacred peace afford,
And do I love his holy word?
Can I—can all most plainly trace
My progress in the Christian race?
Dear Saviour! all my heart renounce,
I guilty plead to this renounce:
Oh thou Holy Spirit give,
To teach me how I ought to live;
Apply thy blood—thy blood alone,
What plead my cause before the throne;
Be thou my righteousness and strength,
And crown the work of grace at length
With glory, which shall never be
By me—by all—ascribed to thee.

GENERAL LITERATURE.

(From the Church of England Magazine.)

THE BROKEN SABBATH.

[CONCLUDED.]

Monday's sun rose upon what the northern peasantry term a "white world." White it was indeed, and glittering; for the storm had ceased, and the sky was cloudless and the air frosty, and roof and tree and cliff shone gaily in the sparkling festoons with which stealthy night had appalled them. The eldest son opening the house door looked out upon the dazzling sea: as he did so a wounded pigeon he was nursing profited by the opportunity to hop from the stand & flutter away, pursued by the youth, who feared that it might perish in the snow. After a chase of about fifty yards, he overtook the disabled fugitive, and as he gently grasped it in his hand his eyes fell upon a spectacle, such and so sad as never son witnessed—such and so sad the heart of man shrinks from contemplating, and the pen of man almost fears to trace. But higher and bolder emotions than horror and alarm preponderate in a Christian breast and nerve his hand to fulfil the duty of a narrator. The incident yet to be recounted was ordained of God, not to be hidden or veiled, but that all men hearing it might repent—not to

Point a moral or teach a tale,
but to turn men from the power of Satan to serve the living God.

The dove had struggled along a narrow path, which conducted to a small stream of about three yards in width, distant, as already said, some fifty yards from the house. On its precipitous brink beside the slightly swollen waters, the little creature, wearied by its efforts to escape, and unable to pass the rivulet, was caught by its pursuer.—On the very brink, and at the self-same spot where the meddling bird ceased to fly, lay two human bodies in the calm repose of death. The clothes of the stiffened corpses were covered by a layer of snow, somewhat less than an inch in thickness, while on their pale and placid cheeks a few uncoloured flakes still lingered. Their faces were turned towards each other as they lay upon the bank, and their frozen hands were joined together when the endearing affection of the conjugal bond no longer animated their cold and insensible hearts.

Reader, you have no need that I declare unto you who those two sleepers were, whose fleecy night-robes had been woven of the clouds of heaven. Nor will the least impassioned person, into whose hands the history may fall, doubt that the terrible operations of a child blackened not to recognize the lifeless remains of parents thus awfully summoned into regions where "fire and brim, snow and vapour, wind and storm," shall no more be ministers fulfilling the word of God.

The loud wail which surprise and anguish evoked from the horror-stricken young man was quickly borne over the snowy waste, and child and neighbour, and distant cottager, and familiar friend, hastened with breathless presages of evil to the fatal spot. For a few moments

the appalled crowd gazed on the melancholy spectacle; the moments were indeed very few, for some bystanders suggesting that there might be hope in the application of human means towards effecting their resuscitation, the ready arms of rustic sympathy soon upraised the frozen bodies, and so, amidst tears and sighs and sobs, and hands wringing and lips quivering—sad contrast to the welcome of their yesterday—they were carried over the threshold of what, on the morn of that same yesterday, they called their home.

Whatsoever warmth, or friction, or every known expedient might accomplish, was persevered in, till the futility of all human efforts became irresistibly apparent. Man is not privileged to breathe into a man's nostrils the breath of life, or quicken the dead by causing him to become a living soul. Nor then was the power of the Creator delegated to the anxious multitude which thronged the dwelling-house of those inanimate forms, anon ordained to sleep in the dust of the earth till awakened by the "voice of the archangel and the trumpet of God." The morning of the following day sufficed to prepare the coroner, and assemble a jury, who, having viewed the bodies, and the spot they were found on, brought in a verdict "that the death of the deceased was caused by the suddenness of the weather, and the severity which the deplorable incident had inflicted." For my own part, I felt it no less my duty than impelled by an irresistible impulse, to ascertain with all accomplishable precision, the accompanying circumstances of this affecting calamity; nor in fact had I much difficulty in doing so, for every tongue was ready and willing to proclaim facts so anxiously sought after. It appeared from the testimony of persons who had been in the company of the unfortunate couple at the last public house where they stopped, that the conscience-stricken man had expressed some misgivings as to his competence to read the Sunday evening's chapter of scripture to his family, and desired to have an hour's sleep before going home; that his wife dissuaded him, alleging the lateness of the time; and strongly urged him to proceed. The poor man's stockings being loose and drawn over his knees, showed that he had waded the brook, probably carrying over his wife. It seems likely that while he sat on the bank readjusting his dress, sleep overtook him, and that his wife, perhaps in the first instance intending to watch, and arouse him in a few minutes, became herself its victim, and awoke no more. But many of their neighbours questioned the veracity of the publican, and asserted that the lost pair must have drunk much more freely than these interested parties chose to admit; while all agreed in deposing to their habitual sobriety and decorum. Charity would induce us to adopt whatever conclusion would mitigate, in the greatest degree, the blamable character of the flagrant transgression, through means of which this erring pair were suddenly summoned into eternity. Suddenly summoned, under circumstances of a peculiar and most surprising nature; for the messenger of death must have delivered his errand so near to their home that the house