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THE WESLEYAN.

sings in this life, and of the most exquisite enjoyment in the it is to be found in the inherent, hereditary depravity of an future :- such, at least, there is reason to believe, is the de- nature : these must pass through a process of spirited resign of a benevolent Creator in communicating life to sentient newal in order to the enjoyment of God here or bereater. beings. We should, therefore, on the days we commemo- The personal experience of this " inward spiritual grace." rate, in reference to the time of our entrance into this world, remember the invaluable blessing of life conferred, and with grateful joy raise our hearts to our Great and Infinite Benefactor. But birth-days should not only remind us of the gift of life, but of our obligations to God for the preservation of our existence.-How numerous are the dangers, seen and unseen, through which, every successive year, we have been preserved ! whilst death has been unceasingly performing his office upon the human family-whilst persons of all ages and conditions have been removed into the changeless future, our natural existence has been continued, and our life prolonged-How much depends upon the continuance of life, I need not now stay particularly to point out, that on this, depend the continuance of our probationary state, all opportunities of receiving and doing good, and preparing for Eternity. Our life once brought to a close, in that very moment our thoughts perish ; our efforts cease ; we enter a scene, where opportunities of redeeming abased privileges are never enjoyed, but where our eternal destiny, whether of bliss or pain will take its character from the deeds already done in the body. What cause of gratitude that we have been spared, and our state of trial has been prolonged ! Instead, therefore, of drowning our senses with the intoxicating draught, or yielding our minds to the exclusive solicitations of thoughtless mith, we should, on our birth-days, gratefully remember, that, amid much sinfulness, we have been brought through the chequered scenes and strange viciseitudes of another and another year !

Birth-days, or at least, a portion of them, should be spent. in serious reflection.

There are times which prompt to reflections of a serious nature :--- such for instance, as when we stand over the dying forms of our own friends, or follow to the grave their cold remains : then reflection, will, as it were, involuntarily force itself upon us, and to divest ourselves of its hold the most determined effort is found to be accessary. Such a tune also for reflection should be the return of those days on which we commemorate our entrance into the world, and whilst they successively arrive, we should reflect seriously upon the flight of time, bearing in mind that another and another year, important periods of life are gone-gone never to return. An examination of the past will seldom fail to convince as of opportunities of receiving and doing good animproved-numerous religious privileges unenjoyed-mercies abused-offers of salvation rejected-neglect of duties, and commission of sina. By a person at all concerned for his eternal welfare these things cannot be remembered with indifference : in all, they should excite deep humiliation, and heart felt, pungent contrition. Nor should we content our solves with a mere review of the past, associated as it is with painful conviction of sins of omission and commission, but we should likewise earnesty seek divine forgiveness thro the divine propitiation of Christ, knowing that with the Lord there is mercy that He may be feared and plenteous redemption that He may be sought unto.

should be to us a matter of the first magnitude ; and on ear birth-days, when our attention is directed to the subject of our natural birth, we should in an especial manner, seek for the renewal of our hearts in righteousness and true holiness For what will our natural birth avail without the birth from ubove ? Without this our natural existence, in the end, will prove a curse-a curse brought on ourselves by a wilfal aglect of means established for the attainment of an inward transformation. On the return of our birth-days, let m me ourselves, Am I born again-born of God-is my evil no. ture subdued--- is my heart renewed in the image of God !--If we cannot answer these questions affirmatively, oh ! let us be concerned, and pray to God for the renewing influence of the Holy Spirit, and, as guilty sinners, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. " As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name :---which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of Gen." (John i. 12. 13.)

Birth-days should be so commemorated as to lead us faithfully to employ every future year in the service of God and preparing for the eternal world.

The great object of this life is to prepare for that Eterniy which will succeed it. They, who make no preparation, who allow their years and religous privileges to pass away unimproved, who live unto themselves, following the devices and desires of their evil hearts, will be excluded from the heavenly inheritance, and punished with everlasting destrection from the presence of God and from the glory of his power. On the other hand, they, who devote themselves to God and his service, who faithfully improve their time and every other talent, will be welcomed into the mansions of ever during felicity. " Be not deceived ; God is not mocked : for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also resp. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh resp corruption ; but he that soweth of the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." (Gal. vi. 7. 8.) Such being the case, our birth-days, while they remind us of past folly, neglect, and sinfulness, should stimulate us to renewed and increased devotedness in the cause of unfeigned, scriptural, experimental, and practical piety, so that we may answer the design of our Creation, and " glorify our God below and find our way to heaven." Were the occasions, of which we speak, thus employed, instead of being spent in the light and triffing manner in which are usually observed, they would prove seasons of spiritual profit, and we should be able, with the Christian Poet, to sing

"God of my life, to thee

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EXALISHN of the progre variably the singers, and with cooks, the merit of the globe to life.-Mech

Birth-days should be so remembered as to prompt us to the obtainment of a heavenly-birth.

Such is the necessity of a spiritual, or hearenly-birth, that, without it, there is no admission into the kingdom of God, on earth, or in heaven. (John iii. 3. 5.) Thus inward

My cheerful soul I raise Thy goodness bade me be. And still prolongs my days I see my natal hour return, And bless the day that I was born."

MISCELLANY.

COAL, IRON, AND STEAM .- In has been calculated that in this country (England) about fifteen thousand steam-engines are daily at work. One of those in Cornwall is said to have the power of a thousand horses ; the power of each horse, according to Mr. Watt, grace is styled, by the Church of England, " a death unto being equal to that of five men and a half. Supposing sin and a new-birth unto righteousness." The necessity of then the average power of each steam-engine to be

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