

POETRY.

"WATCH YE."*

When Summer decks thy path with flowers,
And pleasure's smile is sweetest;
When not a cloud above thee lowers,
And sunshine gilds thy happy hours,
Thy happiest and thy fleetest:
Oh! Watch thou then lest pleasure's smile,
Thy spirit of its hope beguile.

When round thee gathering storms are nigh,
And grief thy days has shaded;
When earthly joys bloom but to die,
And tears suffuse thy weeping eye,
And hope's bright bow hath faded:
Oh! Watch thou then lest anxious care,
Inva'de thy heart and rankle there.

'Mid all life's scenes, 'mid weal and woe,
'Mid days of mirth and sadness;
Where'er thy wandering footsteps go,
Oh! think how transient here below,
Thy sorrow or thy gladness:
And watch thou, always lest thou stray,
From Him who points the heavenward way.

THE PREACHING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST.†

The western sunbeams faintly fell
On Jordan's ancient stream,
Whose stately trees and reedy bank
Have furnish'd oft a theme
To the outcast sons of Israel
Of many a mournful dream.

The wild ass from the mountain-side
His thirst was quenching there;
A calm unknown in northern climes
Was brooding o'er the air;
No thoughts, save holy ones, might bide
Amidst a scene so fair.

Then through the desert's solitude
There went a sudden cry,
"Repent, ye viper-sons of sin,
The looked-for hour is nigh:
The long-foretold Messiah comes;
His herald voice am I."

And who is this amidst the wild
With leathern girdle bound,
With sackcloth robe of camel's hair
His shoulders wrapt around;
Who makes each cliff and rugged dell
With one wild cry resound?

'Tis he who prophet-bards foretell,
Elias came again;
The greatest and the holiest
Amongst the sons of men;
Whose home is in the wilderness
Beside the wild wolf's den.

And while to Jordan's sacred tide
Astonished thousands throng,
Still hear hear him bold and fearless chant
The same unwelcome song,
That strikes them like a thunderbolt,
So stunning and so strong:

"Ye valleys rise! ye mountains, bow!
Prepare a pathway clear—
The Lamb of God, the Saviour comes,
His footsteps now are near;
The sandals from whose holy feet
I am not meet to bear.

He comes to sift the tribes of earth
With wrath upon his brow—
To triumph over death and hell—
To bring the proud ones low;
Yet mildly shall the chains be loosed
From off the captive now.

He comes to heal the broken heart—
To light the darken'd eye—
The lame shall leap like Judah's roe,
Free and exultingly;
The deaf shall hear his blessed name
In the dumb man's joyous cry!"

* From the Church Magazine.

† From the Church of England Magazine.

ENCOURAGEMENT.

No man is alone who has Christ for his companion;
no man is without God, who, in his own soul, pre-
serves the temple of God undefiled. The Christian
may indeed be assailed by robbers, or by wild
beast, among the mountains and deserts; he may be
afflicted by famine, by cold, and by thirst; he may
lose his life in a tempest at sea,—but the Saviour
himself watches his faithful soldier fighting in all
these various ways, and is ready to bestow the re-
ward which he has promised to give in the resurrection.
—*St. Cyprian.*

LITTLE SINS.

Little sins are pioneers to hell. The backslider
begins with what he foolishly considers trifling with
little sins. There was a time when all the evil that
has existed in the world was comprehended in one
sinful thought of our first parent; and all the evil
now is the numerous progeny of one little sin.—*Rev.*
W. Howels.

AN AGED CLERGYMAN.

Dr. Riply, senior pastor of the first Congrega-
tional Church in Concord, Massachusetts, entered on
his ninetieth year on Friday last, and on Sunday gave
an extemporaneous sermon to his people. He has
been engaged in preaching at Concord sixty-three
years.—*Chr. Wit.*

A statue, in a mutilated condition, supposed to
be the statue of Pharaoh, or one of the Pharaohs
of Egypt, has been discovered at Hieropolis, and is
about to be transported to this country and deposi-
ted in the Museum of the Board of Commissioners
for foreign Missions in Boston.—*Ibid.*

A Jewish family of nine persons conformed, on the
13th, to Christianity in Gainsborough Church. The
cause of this sudden conversion of this Israelitish
family is not known; it is not many years since the
father publicly disputed the utility of the Society
for converting Jews to Christianity, and attempted
to prove the impossibility of such an object ever
being attained.

The man who is seeking a heavenly country, will
shew the spirit of one whose conversation is there.—
Cecil.

THE CLOSING SCENE.

Let all remember the closing scene of death must
sooner or later be realised. Your friends shall stand
round your dying bed, in the heart sinking stillness
of anxious suspense, gazing through tears of affec-
tionate anguish on your changing countenance, and watch-
ing for that breath that shall part you from them
for ever. O! that, whether that breath shall be
drawn by you with the softness that leaves attending
relations uncertain whether it has passed your lips,
or shall be heaved aloft with the strongest convulsive
gasps of violent dissolution, you may possess in
your departure the blessed hope of the Gospel—that
when you lie shrouded for the grave, and when you
are laid in the mansions of silence, it may be said
over you with truth by surviving friends, "sorrowful
yet rejoicing," "blessed are they that die in the
Lord; that they may rest from their labours, and
their works do follow them."—*Dr. Warlow.*

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ermen.
Halifax, June 10, 1840.

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C. H. BELCHER.

Halifax, May 6th, 1840.

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III. Entrance to Halifax Harbour,
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