

THE CHRISTIAN SENTINEL.

THREE RIVERS, FRIDAY 14th JANUARY, 1831.

FEMALE SEMINARY, TROY, N. Y.

Had a selection been made for a situation beautiful in natural scenery, healthful, and of ready access from all quarters, independent of those circumstances which very frequently leave choice almost out of the question in the affairs of human life, perhaps no spot in the northern parts of the United States could have been pitched upon combining these advantages in a greater degree than the City of Troy. Though the city itself is situated on the North River, and not much elevated above its surface, yet the surrounding scenery is very pleasant. But in order to enjoy it to the full, the spectator must ascend Mount Ida on the East, which completely looks down on the City, and opens a vast expanse of view to the West, North, and South. The river with its Steam Boats is seen gently meandering for many miles in each direction; the town of Lansingburg is in full view on the North and the spires of Albany on the South; West Troy is in front; the dam with its locks on the river stretches across above Troy like a miniature cataract; the western Canal with its magnificent locks comes creeping down the hillside; and countless farms, the seats of abundance and comfort, spread themselves out upon the gently sloping country rising on the west of the river, almost as far as the eye can distinguish a human habitation. Nor should we forget one item in the picture which particularly arrests the attention—a fine Gothic Edifice—St. Paul's Church, situate nearly in the centre of Troy.

At this delightful place is the celebrated FEMALE SEMINARY, under the management of Mrs. WILLARD. Its deserved celebrity has drawn to it young ladies from every state in the Union, and some few from Canada. At it are taught all the more valuable branches of female education, to which are justly given a preference before the ornamental; but not by any means to their exclusion. To a certain degree, ornament is indispensable in every department of life, and merely, as we think, because the beautiful is an invariable and unfailing source of pure and innocent pleasure. What an object of disgust is the toad! and who can avoid being almost enchanted in contemplating the astonishing beauty of the male humming bird, or some of the butterflies!—On the plan and routine of instruction in the Seminary we shall not attempt to enlarge. Suffice it to say, that its examinations give general satisfaction, and show that the intellect of the pupils has received primary attention.

The PRINCIPAL is doubtless a clever woman—and as she is self-instructed, she is entitled to the greater need of praise. Several of her school books are of her own compilation; their use of course being sanctioned by the Trustees of the Seminary. One of her chief excellencies as a teacher is, her tact of management among her pupils. She appears to maintain enough of state to command respect; but it is so tempered with some other ingredients as equally to inspire love and affection. While her pupils are set quite at ease in her company, they cannot forget that they are under the eye of a superintendant. Her manner of reproof for a fault is always such as to beget compunction in the heart without any appeal to irascibility; and to convey the most efficient rebuke without a reproachful insinuation. She is therefore, what she ought to be, the loved and venerated mother; and the law of love governs in her little dominion. Many happy husbands cannot but call her to recollection in the pleasures of domestic life.

We have mentioned the architectural pride of Troy—the Gothic structure, St. Paul's Church: but we must further notice it, and in connection with the Female Seminary.

More than twenty-five years ago, a few Church families induced the Rev. David Butler, of Connecticut, to become their pastor. Mr. Butler was ordained by the good, the excellent, the Apostolic Bishop Seabury, whose invaluable sermons are a rich treasure of the soundest divinity. Mr. Butler can boast of no brilliancy; but, like the Bishop who ordained him, he is a sound and judicious divine, and well understands rightly to divide the word of truth. His divinity is systematic; namely, it plainly sets forth the nature and use of the Church, her ordinances and doctrines; and their

fitness and adaptation to the needs of sinful man. He is a practical preacher, and his congregation has grown, "men know not how,"—but it budded, and put forth leaves, and grew by degrees without noise or tumult, and seemingly without effort, till now it has become a goodly tree; and furnishes a peaceful shelter to many who have taken refuge in it to escape from the "wind and storm," and the "no small tempest" of some most remarkable revivals, which for a time shook the city of Troy to its very foundations, and divided it into two parts.

When Mr. Butler first went to Troy, his "little flock" could not maintain him, and the Vestry of Trinity Church, New York, gave it assistance. But within seven years past, it had so increased as to be able to build the fine Gothic structure before mentioned, the pews of which sold for 48,000 dollars.—And here again we must introduce the Ladies Seminary. Mrs. WILLARD belongs to the Church; and the congregation, with becoming liberality, assigned a convenient portion of the gallery of the Church to her and her school. Such as choose follow her to St. Paul's, and join in the public services. Many young ladies are thus, some from choice and some from curiosity, made acquainted with our invaluable forms of devotion; and frequently continuing there for two, three, or four years, their hearts become knit to the Church, and her beautiful services become the delight of the Lord's Day to them. And here behold the blessed effects of female influence when exercised in connection with "that good part which shall not be taken away from" those who choose and adhere to it. These young Ladies, thus attached to the Church in the Troy Female Seminary, have actually planted no mean number of Churches in their respective countries. The heavenly seed sown in their hearts under Mr. Butler's Ministry, has grown, and borne fruit, doubtless to everlasting life. When they have married and settled in the world, they have, in not a few instances, induced their husbands to engage in building Churches and have succeeded to their fathers' wishes. May the blessing of heaven rest on Troy Female Seminary, and make it the MOTHER OF CHURCHES for generations to come!

We were at Troy twice last summer;—and we cannot close this tribute of affection to the SEMINARY, the CHURCH, and the worthy RECTOR, now grown grey in the service, without adverting to the excellent manner in which the whole service was performed. The organ and the Congregation seemed to have but one voice, and the chanting we thought superior to any we ever heard; and what was no less pleasing, and creditable to those concerned—the people made the responses in a style that would have cheered the heart of an Angel.

LETTERS FROM A FATHER TO HIS DAUGHTER.

(Continued from p. 146.)

LETTER II.

I was very much gratified, my dear daughter, to receive your letter, both because you wrote, and for the subject of the letter. There is no topic of greater interest to a parent's heart, than the spiritual concerns of his child; and this topic is, at this time, one of peculiar interest to mine. It is a great point to have the attention arrested and drawn to this momentous concern; since the result may always be expected to be beneficial, if it is pursued, as I doubt not you will pursue it, with a determination to know the truth and to follow fearlessly its dictates.

Believe me, religion is not a source of gloom or of sorrow, but of happiness and peace. To be reconciled unto God, we must abhor and forsake sin; but it does not necessarily follow that we must pass through a state of alarm and of agony and of strong convictions. All are not affected alike. The work of conversion is variously effected; though its final results are the same in all. We must acquaint ourselves with God, and be at peace with him, that thereby good may come to us. We must search the Scriptures with profound and devout attention; yet we must not expect salvation from reading them, but from the Saviour of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets did write. We must pray daily and fervently: yet not relying on our prayers to save us, but on the Being to whom they are addressed. We must exercise our