

THE CHRISTIAN MIRROR.

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1842.

HAVING in our last number called the attention of our readers to the close of the first volume of the CHRISTIAN MIRROR; it only remains for us now, in presenting them with the last number of that volume, and soliciting their continued support, briefly to state, that our best exertions shall be employed to render the second volume still more worthy of the patronage of the religious community generally.

Our motive in the publication of the MIRROR is a sincere desire to disseminate the principles of experimental religion, and to press upon the attention of our fellow-sinners the absolute necessity of personal piety,—under the solemn conviction, that the inconsistencies of mere professors, in the present age, is the most powerful obstacle to the spread of vital godliness. The command of our Lord Jesus Christ himself to all his faithful followers is, "Let your light so shine before men, that others seeing your good works, may glorify your Father which is in heaven."—which certainly cannot be applied to any but such as have "fled for refuge to lay hold on the hope set before them" in the Gospel—those who live constantly in the enjoyment of a delightful assurance of the favour and love of God. Whatever may be the extent of our religious knowledge, if destitute of this saving grace, we are, as the Apostle expresses it, but "as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal."

In the prosecution of these important objects, we shall, as we have hitherto done, studiously avoid all interference with the peculiarities of any section of the Christian Church—but shall endeavour, to the utmost of our humble ability, to promote union and co-operation among the friends of the Redeemer, of every denomination.

The latest Missionary and other religious intelligence, will be regularly published in the MIRROR,—persuaded as we are, that such information cannot fail to interest all who desire the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom.

Interesting information on other important subjects will likewise be found in our columns; together with useful extracts of a miscellaneous character.

Having thus very humbly and briefly laid before the reader the principles and object of our journal, we once more resume our labours, respectfully soliciting the continuance of that support which has been hitherto kindly extended to us.

It would be an act of ingratitude in us, were we to allow this opportunity to pass by without expressing our thanks to our respected correspondents generally, for the valuable assistance they have rendered us; and in doing so, we would earnestly solicit a continuance of their favours.

We have much pleasure in directing the attention of the friends of Christian union, to an abstract (under the head "Religious Intelligence") of the proceedings of a very important meeting, composed of ministers and laymen belonging to eight different Protestant churches, lately held in New York, for the purpose of uniting their energies in the great work of the conversion of the world. This is a delightful "sign of the times," and will doubtless, with the Divine blessing, be attended with the most cheering results; for we are persuaded, that until the different bodies of Christians heartily and unitedly engage in this great work, the spread of the Redeemer's kingdom must proceed at a comparatively slow pace.

"IN THE MIDDLE OF LIFE WE ARE IN DEATH."

NEVER were we more forcibly reminded of this solemn truth, than while perusing the following melancholy instances of the uncertainty of human life; and we place them on record, in the hope that the reader, as well as ourselves, may be induced to attend to the Divine injunction, "Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh." In addition to these solemn dispensations of Providence, the late awful explosion of the *Shamrock* steamer, by which, according to the latest account, sixty-eight human beings were suddenly launched into eternity, is doubtless still fresh in the memory. If, then, we hold our life at such an uncertain tenore, in what manner of persons ought we to be in all holy conversation and godliness?"

TWO MINISTERS STRUCK WITH LIGHTNING AT THE COMMUNION TABLE.—A correspondent at North Stamford, Connecticut, gives us the following narrative:—

"Sabbath day, the 3d inst., was a solemn day to the people of this parish. The morning devotions in the house of God were ended, the exercise of the sacramental feast had commenced, the bread broken and distributed, the cup taken, when the house in which we were assembled, was struck with lightning. The venerable Platt Buffett, of Stanwich, was present, and assisted the pastor, R. v. Henry Fuller, in the exercises. He had poured out the wine, taken the cup, and was giving thanks to God, when he and Mr. Fuller were instantaneously prostrated to the earth. The groans and shrieks which instantly broke from the congregation it is utterly impossible for me to describe; there seemed to pervade the assembly the most solemn awe; all appeared to feel as if standing on the very verge of death. The bustling thunder, the vivid lightning without, the thrilling scene within, contributed to render the gloom most terrific. Mr. Fuller was not so seriously injured, though feeling considerably affected in some limbs. Mr. Buffett was very seriously injured; we supposed him dead for some ten minutes; no signs of life were apparent until water was procured, and thrown upon him. He still suffers great distress at the stomach, takes no food, but is perfectly rational."

"The electric fluid entered the chimney top, descended to the stove pipe, and exploded immediately over the communion table, where those servants of God were standing.

"Some others were slightly affected, though not seriously.

"The congregational meeting-house in New Canaan was struck about the same time, and several knocked down. An academy and a dwelling house in the same town, and a dwelling in this parish, were considerably injured."

DEATH BY LIGHTNING.—On the evening of Sunday, the 3d instant, a young man by the name of G. A. Bell, who had become a preacher in the Episcopal Methodist connexion, was instantly killed by lightning. He had preached twice that day in Old's neighbourhood, in rear of Elizabeth town, and was on his return to Beverly, where he resided. Having got as far as Mr. Brown's, the threatening aspect of the clouds caused him to stop. As it was about sunset, by the request of Mr. Brown, he concluded to stop over night, and went with him to the barn to help to put up his horse. Being near the door while Mr. Brown was getting out some hay, the shock occurred which deprived him of life. Mr. Brown was severely stunned, but soon recovered, and went to Mr. Bell, who had fallen, and found him lifeless.—*Brockville Recorder.*

MELANCHOLY DEATH OF TWO SISTERS.—In our obituary (says the *Inverness Courier*), will be found recorded the death of two young ladies, the Misses Roy, Treeton Cottage, by Ardaraire, which occurred under striking and affecting circumstances. The eldest had been confined to bed with illness, and was supposed to be in a dying state, when her sister approached her bed to take her farewell of her. The latter was in her usual health, but on approaching the bed, she instantly fell forward and expired! The invalid sister survived this awful shock only about four hours, and both were interred in one grave on Friday last, in the family burying ground at Forres. The young ladies were beloved by all for their

kind and pious dispositions, and their unceasing attention to the poor and afflicted. "They were lovely in their lives, and in their death were not divided."

THE BIBLE SOCIETY.

THE UPPER CANADA BIBLE SOCIETY, prompted by a just and grateful sense of the liberality it has for several years experienced from the parent Institution, has fallen, we think, upon the very best expedient it could have adopted to give practical and substantial expression to that sentiment:—It has addressed a Circular to all the ministers of the Gospel within the sphere of its operations, requesting them to bring the claims of that noble Society before their respective congregations, and to take up a collection in aid of its funds, on the first Sabbath in August, or at their earliest convenience.

To those who cordially acquiesce in the aphorism of the immortal Chillingworth,—"*THE BIBLE, I say, THE BIBLE is the religion of Protestants,*"—it is impossible that such an appeal should be made in vain.—*Wesleyan.*

SABBATH SCHOOLS.—On Whit-Monday there was a pleasing procession in Manchester connected with the Church of England Sunday Schools, which numbered 12,635 children;—a sight worthy the occasion, and the religious character of our native country. We'll might Montgomery sing of Britian:

"I love thee, when my soul can feel
The seraph-ardours of thy zeal;
Thy charities, to none confined,
Bless like the sun, the rain, the wind;
Thy schools the human brute shall raise,
Guide erring youth in wisdom's ways,
And leave, when we are turned to dust,
A generation of the just." *Chr. Guar.*

Those subscribers who intend having their volumes bound, are informed, that by leaving them at the office of the MIRROR, for that purpose, they will be furnished with a title-page, and, as far as practicable, lost or soiled numbers will be replaced.

A few complete sets of the first volume may be had, bound or unbound, by an early application.

Our city was visited, on Tuesday evening, with one of the most terrific hail storms we ever remember to have witnessed; it lasted, however but a few minutes.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN MIRROR.]

MORAL AND INTELLECTUAL CONSTITUTION OF MAN.

NO. V.—ORIGIN AND AGENCY OF DISEASE.

(Concluded.)

We shall now enter upon a few historical notices, plain and undeniable, to substantiate what has been before advanced upon this subject:—

It may not be amiss to commence with our own ancestors. When Julius Cæsar landed at Dover, 55 years B. C., in what condition did he find the aborigines, as regarded their physical state? Did he find them groaning under the diseases and sicknesses that afflict their successors—complaining of, and subject to, debility and pulmonary diseases, injured lungs and hereditary complaints?—enervated by luxury, and effeminately degraded? No. With their moral character we have nothing to do whatever. It is true, they were ferocious, armed with rude hunting materials, to supply the necessitous demands of nature, and clothed with the skins of such animals as they slew in the chase—living in the caves of the earth, or in the bowers of the woods—disease unknown amongst them—and death came without pain, because it overtook its victim through a natural and gradual decay of the whole system; and thus they lived from generation to generation, brave, warlike, healthy, and blessed with longevity—their food the fruits of the earth, and flesh of animals—their drink water, poured from the rocky urn, the only one God ever made for the use of his creatures. There was no incentive to luxury and inertness—no predisposition to corporeal debility—consequently, by simply coinciding with the demands of the natural laws, they escaped the artifi-