

Correspondence.

[FOR THE PROVINCIAL WESLEYAN.]

Young Men's Christian Association.

[BY THE REV. C. CHURCHILL.]

[The Parish Job and his Times.]

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to have only the skeleton vestiges. He referred to the 35th verse of the 38th chapter, to show, as he considered, a prophetic allusion to the electric telegraph. The passage reads, *Canst thou send lightning, that they may go and say, where is he, who is so great? He concluded with a judicious extract from Dr. Reid, on the mental constitution and character of the patriarch, as well as the literary characteristics of the book itself.*

The idea of a prophetic reference to the electric telegraph is certainly ingenious, and it is prophetic so far as this, that the Almighty utters his voice, to show Job how ignorant he is at best, of the works of nature, and the wonders of His beneficent Hand. There appear to be in the chapter several references to the operations of nature, which science in our day has to a great measure unfolded, as displayed to the understanding of man. For instance in verse 16, "Hast thou entered into the spring of the sea?" or hast thou walked in the search of the depths?" verse 18, "Hast thou perceived the breadth of the earth?" declare that thou knowest it all." verse 19, "Where is the way where light dwelleth; and for as darkness where is the place thereof?" verse 22, "Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow, or hast thou seen the treasures of hail?"

In hearing the vivid description of patriarchal life; the manners, customs, attainments, and civilization of that remote age, we were ready to say with Solomon: *They that have been in the land of the living, and that which is done, that which shall be done; and there is no new thing under the sun. Is there anything which they may say, which we have not known already of old time which was before us.*

Many, we feel convinced, from hearing this instructive and suggestive lecture, will be induced to search the Word of Truth in an inquiring spirit. While they experience increased delight in the discovery of its intellectual treasures, may the Sun of Righteousness shed its illuminating rays, that they may find the pearl of great price, with whose value, nothing earthly can compare.

[Halifax, December 16th 1856.]

[FOR THE PROVINCIAL WESLEYAN.]

THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

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Arrangements have been made for giving a course of Lectures, during the winter; the parents of the children, and the friends of the School are invited to attend. The Lectures will embrace subjects of thrilling interest, so as to give instruction to the wise, yet treated in such a manner as to make even the less advanced feel that they are addressed, and that it is intended they should understand. A number of dialogues, published by the British and Foreign Bible Society, have been obtained for the purpose of illustration, and will aid in giving a more intelligent and impressive knowledge, of the subject to the youthful audience.

The lecture has been given by the Hon. Judge Wilnot, who has the management of the School. Subject—"The Rosetta Stone"—showing its importance as the key to the hieroglyphical inscriptions, in which the national records of some of the greatest empires of the world were made. The wisdom of God in causing so many "stone books" to be written—their importance in confirming the historical and prophetic parts of the Bible—the strong probability that those mystic inscriptions in the wilderness of Sinai, written with an iron pen, and engraven on the tablet of the rock, would yet tell of the Jewish nation, and would prove a memorial of God's dealings with His people, during their long sojourn in that desert land—the wonderful manner in which the evidences of Christianity are accumulating during this age of progress and scientific discoveries—the massive and magnificent ruins of long past cities and empires, and the mighty sepulchre, to prove the truth of the spirit-inspired volume, to confute the sceptic, and to comfort the sufferer.

The Rev. Mr. Brewster is appointed to give the next Lecture, on the "Manuscript Ages," and which will I have no doubt, prove interesting and profitable.

But though the Sabbath School is doing a noble work, and though every effort is made to give it greater efficiency, yet it is evident, that at present, with respect to the young men—for it does not apply to the female part—the number in Church-connection does not bear nearly the proportion to the number trained in the school. This may partly be accounted for by the many removals to other places; and the seducing and depraving influences, to which in this city they are exposed, when about the age at which they generally leave the school. This subject has lately occupied the serious attention and prayerful deliberation of the Pastor and leading members of the church. As best adapted to supply the desideratum, a "Young Men's Bible Class" has been organized; to its interests, Mr. Brewster will devote, on every evening week. Upwards of four hundred young men, and already it gives promise of successful results.

One case is of more than ordinary interest. A young man educated in the Roman Catholic faith, has come to seek instruction. He was from early years, conscientious, and careful to attend to his religious duties, and already it gives promise of successful results.

His parents were disturbed, and took the book to the Priest to have his opinion respecting it. With that *Catholicity* which is characteristic of what has been called the "Holy Catholic Church," influenced by the same spirit which has so often led that Church to seal up the fount of useful knowledge, to cripple the noblest energies of the unfolding mind, to inscribe upon her "high places," on her temples, on her altars, on her sacred institutions, "Ignorance is the mother of devotion"—he consigned the volume to the flames, and advised the parents to send away their son from under the paternal eye, lest he should bring them into disgrace, by his heretical opinions. This unnatural advice was attended to, and the young man was obliged to leave the home of his childhood.

After coming to this city, being informed that Mr. Brewster was instructing young men in Biblical and Theological knowledge, he at once sought admittance. A Bible was presented to him, which he read very highly. His account is, "I read the Bible with care, and with earnest prayer, that the Holy Spirit may teach me and guide me into all truth. I love Jesus, he has given me strength to love his name, and I wish to consecrate myself to his service."

I might add, in conclusion, that a Bible class for Young Ladies has been formed, is numerously attended, and is likely to produce good results.

My earnest prayer for these, and all other instrumentalities which may be employed, is, that they may be crowned with abundant success, and that as the Church is favored with "showers of blessings," while to the Head of the church we would ascribe the praise. "Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, and blessed be His glorious name for ever; and let the whole world be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen."

[Fredericton, Dec. 4th, 1856.]

[FOR THE PROVINCIAL WESLEYAN.]

MEMOIR OF ELIZABETH JANE BALL,

OF NORTHAMPTON, ENGLAND.

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