

diligently applied himself both to classical and mathematical studies. His removal from school to Oxford produced little change in his plans and pursuits; in order to improve his time to the utmost, he agreed with one of his college companions to read together two hours every morning, before the commencement of their regular college exercises; and by steadily pursuing this plan, he soon became marked out as an individual of whom the highest expectations might be entertained.

These expectations were speedily realized. In his first year at Oxford, Mr. Heber obtained the university prize for Latin verse, and about two years after, an extraordinary prize being proposed in the university for an English poem on the subject of Palestine, Mr. H. secured this also, by the production of a poem of very unusual beauty and excellence. In the year 1804, having previously taken his degree, Mr. Heber was elected Fellow of All Souls, and in the following year, obtained the prize for an English essay on the *Sense of Honour*.

Having completed his academical course, Mr. Heber, in company with his former school fellow and friend, John Thornton, Esq. commenced a tour through Sweden, Norway, Russia, Poland, Austria, Bohemia, &c. Shortly after his return, he entered into Holy Orders, and in 1808 was inducted into the family living of Hodnet. In the following year he married Amelia, the daughter of Dr. Shipley, late dean of St. Asaph.

Mr. Heber's proceedings at Hodnet were such as might reasonably have been anticipated from that diligence and devotion which he had previously manifested. He applied all the powers of his mind, to render the great truths of Christianity intelligible to the meanest of his parishioners; devoted considerable sums of money to the relief of their temporal necessities; sedulously visited and relieved the sick and the afflicted, and established and superintended schools for the instruction of the ignorant. These labours were in many instances attended with beneficial results.

"Among other instances of good resulting from these exertions was the following interesting case:—An old man resided in the parish who had been a notorious poacher all his life, and who, through the combined influence of his irregular mode of life, drunken habits, and depraved associates, had settled down into an irreligious old age. He was a widower, had survived his children, shunned all society, and was rarely seen abroad. The sole inmate of his lonely cottage was a little grandchild, in whom were bound up all the sympathies of his rugged nature, and on whom he lavished the warmest caresses. It was considered an unaccountable departure from his usual line of conduct, when he permitted little Philip to attend the rector's school, and some one expressed to him surprise that this should be the case: 'why not?' was the old man's reply, 'Do you think I wish Philip to be as bad as myself? I am black enough, God knows.' The old man was taken ill and confined to his room. It was winter, he was unable to divert his mind. His complaint was a painful one, and there was every probability that his illness might be of long continuance. A neighbour suggested that his little grandson should read to him. He listened at first languidly and carelessly; by-and-by, however, with some interests, till at length he became deeply concerned for his soul, convictions of guilt flashed upon his mind, and he expressed an earnest desire to see Mr. Heber. Immediately on its being made known to the rector, he paid him a visit. The old man lay upon his bed in the corner of the room near a trellised window. His features were naturally hard and coarse, and the marked lines of his countenance were distinctly developed by the strong light which fell upon them. Aged and enfeebled as he was, he seemed fully alive to what was passing around him; 'and I had,' says the narrator of this anecdote, 'leisure to mark the searching of his eye, while he gazed with the most intense anxiety at his spiritual comforter, and weighed every word that fell from his lips. The simple phraseology in which Heber clothed every idea, the facility with which he descended to the old man's apprehension, the earnestness with which he strove not to be misunderstood, and the manner in which, in spite of himself, his voice occasionally faltered, as he adverted delicately, but faithfully and most affectionately, to the fundamental points of our

holy religion, struck me forcibly; while Philip stood on the other side of the bed, his hand locked in his grandfather's, his bright blue eye dimmed with tears, as he looked sadly and anxiously from face to face to the other, evidently aware that some misfortune awaited him, though unconscious to what extent.' Not long afterwards the old man died, in a state of mind so calm, so subdued, so penitent and resigned, that 'I feel myself cheered in my labours,' said Heber, 'whenever I reflect upon it.' Heber officiated at the funeral; and says our narrator, 'I shall never forget, I never wish to forget, if I were cast to-morrow on a desert island, it is one of the few things I should wish to remember of the world I had left behind me—the air, the manner, the look, the expression of hope and holy joy and steadfast confidence, which lit up Heber's countenance, as he pronounced the passage in our excellent ritual, 'O Father, raise us from the death of sin into the life of righteousness, that when we shall depart this life we may rest in thee, as our hope is this our brother doth.'"

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

Annual Meteoric Shower.—Facts already ascertained leave no doubt of the recurrence of "the Meteoric Shower," on the morning of the 13th November. The preceding day had been rainy, and early the same night the sky was overcast; but before midnight the firmament became cloudless, and the stars shone with unwonted brilliancy. About half past three o'clock, observing that the meteors began to appear in unusual numbers, I directed my attention towards the eastern part of the heavens, whence they mostly proceeded, and closely watched the stars from the Great Bear on the north to Canis Major on the south, embracing in my field view about one third of the firmament.—It was soon discovered that nearly all the meteors shot in directions which, on being traced back, met in one and the same point, near the Lyon's Eye. For a quarter of an hour, from half past three o'clock, I counted twenty-two meteors, of which all but three emanated from the above radiant point in Leo. Ten left luminous trains; twelve were without trains; and the three that did not conform to the general direction, moved perceptibly slower than the others. The greatest part shot off to the right and left of the radiant, a majority tending south, towards the heart of Hydra. The next fifteen minutes afforded but seven meteors, and the number gradually declined until day-light.

The exact position of the radiant was near a small star, forming the apex of a triangle with the two bright stars in the face of Leo. Its right ascension was 145 deg. and declination 25 deg. Its place was therefore very nearly the same as in 1834; differing only half a degree in right ascension, and all the phenomena very much resembled those observed that year, except that they continued for a shorter period. Although shooting stars occur at various seasons of the year, yet these meteoric showers, whether they occur on a larger or a smaller scale, are marked by several striking peculiarities: (1) The meteors are much more frequent than usual, and sometimes are exceedingly numerous. (2) A larger proportion than common leave luminous trains. (3) They mostly seem to radiate from a common centre, and for several years past, the radiant has been in nearly the same part of the heavens, namely in the Constellation Leo. It is also exceedingly remarkable that the shower is not only repeated on the same day of the year, but arrives at its maximum every where, and at every recurrence, at nearly the same hour of the morning—from 3 to 4 o'clock. By a letter obligingly communicated to the writer of this article from Samuel Dunster, Esq., agent of the Franklin Iron Works at Springfield, (Maine,) it appears, that the display was considerably more splendid at that place than here. The whole number of meteors counted from 3 o'clock, to fifteen minutes past 6, was two hundred and fifty three. An auroral arch which appeared in the north between the hours of 4 and 5, followed by auroral streamers, enhanced the interest of the meteoric exhibition. As was observed here, the meteors emanated from a common radiant situated in the Constellation Leo. This notice has been delayed in the hope of being able to add some particulars respecting the succeeding nights; but these have proved unfavourable for observation,

* To be concluded in our next number.

with the exception of the night of the 12th, when the heavens were attentively observed from half past 2 to half past 3 o'clock. Only six meteors were noticed, of which two only left trains. These proceeded from a common point near the western hinder paw of the Great Bear,—a position at least fifteen degrees north of the radiant observed on the 13th.—*N. Haven Her.* Yale College, Nov. 16.

Connection of an Independent Chapel with the Church of England.—The chapel in Castle-street, (Reading,) recently occupied by the Rev. James Sherman, was opened on Thursday evening as a chapel of ease to St. Mary's Church. The Rev. P. French read the evening service, and a sermon was preached by the Rev. W. Marsh, M. A., of Birmingham, from Isaiah liii 11. The Reverend gentlemen alluded with much good taste and feeling, to the gratifying fact of the return of so large and respectable a congregation into the bosom of the Church of England, a fact which must afford sincere joy to all lovers of our venerable Establishment. Most of our readers know that this Chapel was erected by the followers of the late Hon. and Rev. W. Cadogan, whose successor at St. Giles' Church did not, in their opinion, preach similar doctrines. They still retained the liturgical service of the Church, and always manifested a warm attachment to her discipline. A union with the Establishment had long been desired, but it was not until the recent vacancy found practicable.—We understand that a permanent incumbent will shortly be engaged—that he will be an efficient and able clergyman cannot be doubted.—*Berkshire Chronicle.*

Missionaries to Crete.—The Rev. George Benton and his wife, missionaries of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to Crete, Greece, together with Miss M. E. Spencer, sister of Mrs. Benton, embarked yesterday, the 29th of August, for the chosen scene of their future labors. Many deeply attached friends accompanied them on board the vessel, where they enjoyed the pleasure of uniting with the Rev. Mr. Vaughan, Foreign Secretary of the Board of Missions, in commending them to the mercy and protection of Him "who alone spreadest out the heavens, and ruleth the raging of the sea." And we doubt not that, in compliance with their wishes, the Church will send up united prayer for their "preservation on the great deep," and safe arrival at the "haven where they would be," as well as for the safety and preservation of all others who, like them, leaving all behind, have gone forth to this vast work and labour of love.—*Churchman.*

Steam Boat Disasters.—A steam-boat bound from New-York, lately while off New London, came in contact with a sloop laden with flour. The sloop was upset, but the crew, clinging to the bulwarks and side, were taken off by boats. With the exception of one female, all the passengers were saved, through a passage cut into the cabin.—An infant was missing, but Providence had watched over it, and kept it well; for on removing the rubbish above and around the child, it was found smiling happily amidst impending ruin and distress. Two other vessels also struck against each other in the Thames, during a dense fog on which one of them sunk in three minutes. Although there were 300 persons on board of each of the vessels, the lives of all were providentially preserved.

A Protestant Episcopal Church, said to be neat and commodious, has lately been built in Woodstock, N. B. The funds had thus been raised:—
Society for promoting the Gospel in foreign Parts, £120
Advanced by building Committee.....510
Voluntary subscriptions.....470

Currency.....£1000

Archdeacon Coster preached the first sermon in it, on the 6th Nov. last; and the sales of Pews were realized £825.

Heretical Books.—Rev. Mr. Dewey, in his very entertaining work, "The Old World and the New," mentions that in St. Jervois, not far up the mountains of Savoy, that there is a bathing establishment for the use of mineral waters. The keeper of the house had collected for the entertainment of his visitors, a miscellaneous library of about one thousand volumes. Last summer, in his absence, two Jesuit Priests visited the establishment, looked over the library, took the almost entire body of it and burned it on the spot.