

the king upon his throne, as well as the beggar under his roof of straw: to the industrious father of a family amidst his workmen, as well as to the anxious mother beside her children; to the grey-headed veteran in his easy chair, as well as to the youngster, who full of buoyant expectation, longs to launch forth into a stormy world.

Our past life appears behind us, like a lengthened dream; the remainder of our days, before us, hangs like an impenetrable cloud over an unseen land. More fearful cares torment the melancholy man; brighter hopes swarm round the cheerful one. Each one directs his view towards the lot which the ensuing days and months shall probably bring forth. Each one would guess something of his own destiny, which yet lies hidden in a dark futurity; as the corn at present in the wintry closed up lap of the earth, continues still to germinate. With uncertain expectations, and fresh solicitude each one returns to his occupations, and draws out his designs and plans. The Christian also resumes his course. Fear and hope play around him also. But with what disposition does he set forward at the beginning of the new year, to meet the obscure future, and his unknown fate? He for a while seeks solitude, in which his soul may attain self-possession. He lifts up his spirit to his Almighty Father, and contemplates the infinite love of God. His mouth gives utterance to the gratitude of his heart. He says, "I am not worthy of all the mercy, love, and faithfulness which thou has shown me. For, that I am, and what I have, must be ascribed to thee! Thou hast preserved me through a thousand dangers, which I did not even know. Thou wast present when my need and difficulties were the greatest. Thou didst watch over me and my family when we erred. Whatever befell me in past days, I am sensible it happened for my advantage; and what I as yet do not understand that it also was for the best, I shall learn in the sequel to comprehend. For the inviolable order in which thou rulest the world is wise and wonderful, and conducive to that higher state of blessedness which thou hast been pleased to appoint to Man...."

Willingly would we proceed with this extract, says the Reviewer, which our limits warn us to break off. It is followed by a prayer of humble yet fervent devotion and self-exhortation to a due regulation of the hopes and fears which a Christian should cherish in his heart. The conclusion we cannot withhold from our readers:

"Fear nothing, if you have no cause to fear yourself. Labour to extricate yourself with a manly Christian spirit, from the present distressing circumstances which perhaps lie heavy on you. Reflect seriously on the whole state of your affairs: consider of the best means to help yourself. Take courage to use them with vigor and prudence; and if at last your strength be not sufficient; what you cannot effect that will God perform.

Yes; that Thou wilt do, Divine Father! Thou who dost preserve and regard the little worm which crawls in the dust beneath us. Full of confidence will I give myself up to Thee; and whatever happens to me in the coming year, nothing shall tempt me to abandon my faith, and the holy word of Jesus Christ, thy Son. How can futurity have terrors for me, if I find Thee therein? What loss can discourage me, if I lose not Thee?"

More pious, more virtuous, more circumspect, than during the past year, will I walk before Thee, and with a new year begin a new life. Whatever trouble, whatever effort it may cost me, I will endeavor to put away my faults, and to subdue those vicious inclinations which secretly corrupt me.

And should I not survive this year, should it be the year of my death! Ah, then, when the tears of my friends shall be shed around my grave, may a good conscience bear me witness of thy favor, and my acceptance with thee! I will prepare myself for it. If this be the year of my death, it shall also be the year of my birth for a better world. With a peaceful smile, and blessed in Thee, my God, may I depart hence, when my hour arrives; and with a joyful smile, enter upon that Eternity, in which awaits me unknown beatitude—thy wonderful and endless gift."

REPLY TO "AN ENQUIRER," ON ACTS xiii: 48.

Perhaps it is expected that we should enter into a discussion of the long disputed doctrine of Predestination. We deem it needless.

The case is a plain one, and can be readily disposed of. But still a few remarks on free will may not be out of place.

It is our opinion, that assisting grace is needful in the mind of a fallen creature to constitute free moral agency. Without this, there appears to be freedom on but one side,—towards evil, which constitutes rather necessity than freedom. Grace brings us back as it were to a balance level, and says, "choose ye whom ye will serve." On this level, we may either follow God or the evil one—"resist the Holy Ghost"—or "resist the devil." We are told that without Him we can do nothing; and that repentance is His gift. Of course that relenting of mind, and change of purpose and desire which accompany repentance must be preceded by something of real assistance. How these are we know not, nor need we know. Our business is, not to turn inside out those difficult things as to their manner of operation, but gladly to co-operate with the Spirit and be fellow labourers with the Lord. This view we think not contrary to reason or Scripture, and plain enough to satisfy reasonable men.

As for the text proposed, let us observe,

1. That to suppose that all the persons at Antioch of Pisidia who were to be saved, believed the first time they heard the gospel, is doing violence to probability,—nay to history.

2. That the word translated "ordained," is in 1 Cor. xvi. 15, rendered "addicted."—"They have addicted themselves to the ministry of the Saints" by supplying their wants. The word is also used for dressing a file of soldiers, ordering, arranging, setting them in order, ordaining them. The passage may then fairly be given thus: "As many as had their minds prepared for the reception of the truth, or the doctrine of eternal life, believed it when they heard it proclaimed." Those who believed were disposed in favor of it by, perhaps previous knowledge of prophecy, and at all events by a sense of sin and the need of deliverance from it; while the contradicting Jews were disposed against it by confirmed wickedness.

This furnishes a striking lesson to us all. If we would be ordained to eternal life and be saved, we must attend to the internal dispositions of the heart and mind, and see that we entertain right sentiments concerning God and sin, heaven and hell. Life and death are before us; grace and help are on the right hand and on the left; the word is nigh us, in our hands, hearts, and memories; we are in His holy covenant, and affianced to Him by a solemn bond of eternal allegiance; and if we put it from us and judge "Eternal life" unworthy of our best endeavors, we shall now be set in order for, and prepared as "vessels fitted to destruction," and in the end cast into "outer darkness."

Summary of News.—A change of the ministry has been effected in France, and it is said that several Bonapartists have come into office. What effect this change may produce in the measures of the Government, must be left to time to be determined.

The city of Antwerp has been bombarded by the Dutch troops from the Citadel. The whole square of public stores was destroyed, and more than two millions sterling of British property was consumed.—They were on the eve of a battle at Bruges on the 29 October, and the citadel of Ghent had capitulated.—There is talk of a mediation of the European powers between the King of Holland and the Belgians.

General Mina has marched into Spain. His forces are divided into two columns. The one under himself on the 26th October marched for Ernani; the other under Valdez was attacked by 6900 Spanish troops, beat back into France, and disarmed; while Mina proceeded on to the interior against the centre of the Royalist line. The standard of liberty was raised at Cadiz, Coruna, and Ferrol, and Don Miguel had given orders to send troops to the assistance of the King of Spain.

Poland is said to be in a state of fermentation. Travellers from Warsaw arrived at Leipzig, stated that the excitement extended throughout the kingdom. The Russians have a considerable army on the Frontiers.

A terrible mortality, like the cholera morbus, prevailed at Moscow; vast numbers of families had quitted the city, and