

From the Halifax Guardian.

THE PROFLIGATE'S DREAM.

"God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumbering upon the bed: then he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction, that he may withdraw man from his purpose."

It is not our purpose at present to shew the wisdom or folly of putting implicit confidence in all the dreams and visions with which our minds may be occupied during the slumbers of the midnight hour, but only to give the substance of a dream of most thrilling interest, which we have lately read in the pages of a popular Gaelic Journal, published at Glasgow. The feelings which we experienced and which were excited within us while perusing the following simple and unvarnished narrative, we find ourselves utterly at a loss to describe, and we deem that man to have made most fearful advances in the path which leads down to the chambers of death, who can rise from its perusal without feeling similar emotions excited within his own heart.

Some years ago, there was formed in Glasgow a Society of wealthy young men, of the most dissolute and depraved habits, who assembled regularly once a week in the dead hour of the night at a certain house, where gambling, drinking, and similar vicious practices formed their principal pastime, and the horrible name with which they designated themselves was "The Infernal Society."

They exulted and boasted in this awful designation. None could be admitted as a member of this Society unless he rendered himself celebrated for the commission of every sort of crime and profligacy, and excelled in giving utterance to the most horrible blasphemies.

In this profligate assembly there was one young man who outstripped all his compeers in everything that was vicious and criminal. In his younger days he distinguished himself for talent and learning.—His personal appearance was commanding and prepossessing, and he stood connected with one of the wealthiest and most respectable families in Glasgow. This abandoned youth was nursed and educated by a fond and doating mother. She seldom could feel inclined to oppose the will of her wayward boy, far less could she think of rebuking or punishing him when she saw him err from the path of duty. Ere he attained his five and twentieth year, there existed not his equal throughout the whole extent of his native country, in every species of iniquity and crime. What was heaven, or hell, or eternity to him?—words, in his estimation, without meaning—matters of sport and derision.

One night after the young man returned from the Society, where he had passed the night in the manner above described, he retired to his bed with his mind full of the scenes he had left: and having fallen asleep, he dreamed that he was riding as usual on his favourite black steed—that he was returning to his home, now called Blythwood, in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, a place surrounded with most delightful scenery. He thought that some one whom he could not recognise in the surrounding darkness, approached, and seizing the horse by the bridle, with a commanding voice ordered him "instantly to follow." "And who art thou?" said the youth, uttering the most horrid and fearful oaths, as was his usual practice. "Let go the bridle, or I will find means to compel you," fiercely insisted the youth. "You will too soon learn who I am," replied this strange unknown. "Follow me instantly," said he with a voice which filled the mind of this infatuated youth with an overwhelming thrill of horror.—The youth applied the whip and spur to his horse with all his might to drive him onwards. The high mettled charger rearing, and suddenly starting, galloped as on the wings of the wind. It was with difficulty he could keep the saddle; yet though the horse fled with the speed of lightning, the "terrible unknown" kept close by his side, and he found it impossible to leave him behind! The rider was horror struck. He plunged the spurs into his charger's side, with the view of outspeeding this mysterious person, and leaving him behind, but his high, spirited horse suddenly sprang to the other side of the road and again reared. The rider now lost his seat, and in his fall anticipated that he would be crushed in a thousand pieces to the earth; but no earth underneath him could he feel, but he found himself descend-

ing with fearful rapidity to an inconceivable depth. At length he stopped his downward career, and to his unutterable amazement he found standing before him the same "unknown individual" who had before seized his horse by the bridle, and said to him, "Follow me instantly." A sudden thrill of horror and dread came over him. "Whither dost thou lead me?" said the youth. "Who art thou? Wilt thou not speak? Whither art thou leading me?" "To Hell," said the other, with an unearthly yell! O! how often was this word and place the butt of his scorn and ridicule, but now a rush of the most horrible emotions overwhelmed his soul. "Onward!" replied his mysterious guide, "Onward to the lowest Hell." A flood of the brightest light suddenly burst upon his astonished vision, and afterwards appeared a stream of liquid fire which illuminated the place whither he was conducted by his strange and mysterious guide; but instead of hearing the groans and cries of the damned, he could only perceive dancing, and merriment, and every demonstration of joy on every side.

At length he arrived at the door of the most magnificent palace he ever beheld upon earth, and within this stately fabric he witnessed sights which filled him with astonishment. Every species of gambling, of mirth, and of revelry, which take place on earth, were conducted here with tenfold ardour and intensity. Here might be seen the imprudent and unwary youth, the votaries of pleasure and vice, some riding their fiery steeds along wide extended plains—some qualling the maddening cup with horrid imprecations bursting from their blasphemous tongues—while others were amassing riches and wealth with the same unquenchable ardour as characterised them upon earth. He saw others staking with maddened infatuation their all of earthly fortune at the fatal gambling board. He soon found himself surrounded with a circle of persons who were at one time his boon companions, but whom he remembered to have been consigned years before to the silent tomb; but all were now apparently in the eager pursuit of that which occupied their time while upon earth.

The mysterious guide who conducted him to this place, now left him. He saw a lady of great pride and wealth, with whom he was but too intimately acquainted at one period, but whom he at once remembered to have left the world some years before. He advanced to where she stood and saluted her. "Do you know," said he "that the person who conducted me to this place this night has informed me that this is Hell? If this be hell, I would not desire to be in a happier place. Accompany me, and let us travel over these beautiful plains which extend before us as far as the eye can see. Rest from your sport and gambling, for a little while, I beseech you, and accompany me." "Rest," she replied, with a yell which penetrated his inmost soul—"Rest! there is no rest in hell! Behold," said she, drawing aside the fold of a rich robe, and disclosing to his horrified gaze a number of fiery serpents encircling her heart; "Behold the worm that never dies, and the fire that shall never be quenched." Within and around her heart these were incessantly employing their poisonous fangs on her very vitals. He shrunk back with horror, and turning from the loathsome sight, found himself among a dense assemblage of people, whose exposed bosoms presented the same revolting spectacle.—There were unnumbered thousands, and each was enduring his allotted punishment. The hearts of some were bared before his eye; and he could see showers of liquid fire descending upon them "burning and yet not consumed" through an unending eternity. From the excruciating pains which they endured they writhed and struggled on the earth with fearful agony, which evinced its intensity by "weeping and gnashing of teeth." In every bosom he witnessed spectacles of misery and torture, and anguish which it is not in the power of human language to describe, or finite mind to conceive; and all these unceasing torments the sad and baneful effects of a mispent life, the fruits arising from the gratification of their evil passions, while upon earth.

"This," said an unearthly voice which addressed him as with the noise of ten thousand thunders, "this is the joy and happiness of Hell." While he withdrew from these gloomy mansions of eternal woe, he met with unnumbered multitudes who were crowding thither. Some of them,

as already stated, he recollected to have left the world years before, and eager in the commission of every iniquity. As this was their delight upon earth, so now it has become their doom and punishment in Hell.

He saw among the rest one who was his intimate associate in this world, riding on a fiery steed, which flew by him swift as the wind of heaven, pursuing the fleet stag in the never ending chase. "Stay, stay!" said he "O! canst thou not stay for one moment and speak?" Scarcely had he spoken, when he again heard the awful words, and the same unearthly yell responded to, as with ten thousand voices as the sound of thunder. "Rest! there is no rest in Hell!"

He endeavoured to shut his eyes; but this was impossible. He threw himself upon hell's burning pavement, but even that seemed to reject him, and he was again thrown with violence upon his feet; and could not for one moment turn away his eyes from the unceasing fiery flood of everlasting vengeance which was poured upon the wretched inmates of the place of torment. And this place was hell—the sport of the unwise—the derision of the ungodly and profane.

He now perceived that his unearthly and mysterious guide who conducted him to this place was again at his side. "O take me from this place!" cried the miserable youth. "Let me out of this place!—for the sake of that Great God whom I had so often blasphemed, and whom I had so often contemned and despised—for his sake let me quit this awful place."

"Can you, dare you still take that name in your unhallowed lips?" said the wicked spirit who stood before him, with a fiendish grin of mockery and contempt. "Mark me," said he, "You may depart for the present, but twelve months from this day, you and I shall meet never to part."

The young man awakened, and these last words which the spirit of darkness had spoken he felt as if impressed by living fire on his heart and brain.

To be continued.

PRESSURE OF THE ATMOSPHERE.

THE weight of the atmosphere is near fifteen pounds on every square inch, so that if we could entirely squeeze out the air between our hands, they would cling together with a force equal to the pressure of double this weight, because the air would press upon both hands; and if we could contrive to suck or squeeze out the air between one hand and the wall, it would be pressed on it with the weight of above two hundred pounds, near fifteen pounds on every square inch of the hand! Now by a late most curious discovery of Everard Home, the distinguished anatomist, it is found that this is the very process by which flies and other insects of a similar description are enabled to walk upon perpendicular surfaces, however smooth, as the sides of walls and panes of glass in windows, and to walk as easily along the ceiling of rooms with their bodies downwards and their feet overhead. Their feet, when examined by a microscope, are found to have flat skins or flaps, like the feet of web footed animals as ducks and geese; and they have, by means of strong folds, the power of drawing the flap close down upon the glass or wall the fly walks on, and thus squeezing out the air completely, so as to make a vacuum between the foot and the glass or wall. The consequence of this is, that the air presses the foot on the wall with a very considerable force compared to the weight of the fly; for if its feet are to its body in the same proportion as ours are to our bodies, since we could support by a single hand on the ceiling of the room (provided it made a vacuum) more than our whole weight of two hundred pounds, the fly can easily move on four feet, in the same manner, by help of the vacuum made under its feet.

And it has likewise been found that some of the larger sea animals are, by the same construction, enabled to climb the perpendicular and smooth surfaces of the ice hills along which they live. Some kinds of lizards have the same power of climbing and of creeping with their bodies downwards along the ceiling of the room, and the means by which they are enabled to do so are the same. And in the large feet of those animals the contrivance is easily observed, of the toes and muscle, by which the skin of the foot