

ed. G. Lewis

THE COLONIAL CHURCHMAN.

"BUILT UPON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS, JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING THE CHIEF CORNER STONE. Eph. 2 c. 20 v.

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From the Protestant Episcopalian.

CONFIRMATION.

The young ones gathered in from hill and dale,
 With holy day delight on every brow:
 'Tis past away; far other thoughts prevail;
 For they are taking the Baptismal vow
 Upon their conscious selves; their own lips speak
 The solemn promise. Strongest sinews fail,
 And many a blooming, many a lovely cheek
 Under the holy fear of God turns pale.
 While on each head, his lawn-robed servant lays
 The covenant. The omnipotent will raise
 Their feeble souls, and bear with his regrets,
 Who, looking round the fair assemblage, feels
 That ere the sun goes down, their childhood sets.

SAME CONTINUED.

I saw a mother's eye intensely bent
 Upon a maiden trembling as she knelt;
 In, and for whom the pious mother felt
 Things that we judge of by a light too faint:
 Tell, if ye may, some star-crowned muse, or saint!
 Tell what rushed in, from what she was relieved—
 Then when her child the hallowing touch received,
 And such vibration to the mother went
 That tears burst forth amain. Did gleams appear?
 Opened a vision of that blissful place
 Where dwells a sister child? and was power given
 Part of her lost one's glory back to trace
 Even to this rite? For thus she knelt, and ere
 The summer leaf had faded, passed to heaven.

For the Colonial Churchman.

SHORT SERMONS.—NO. III.

I introduce the following selections, Messrs. Editors, with merely the accompanying remarks; as to the matter of them, my humble desire is that they shall be such as may afford food to each inquiring soul. As to the manner of them, I further hope that their brevity may attract readers of that class which retains with profit detached portions, while longer essays or compositions deter from perusal. It is to be hoped that few indeed will not sometimes willingly turn from the business or gaieties of life to the serious perusal of the observations of the wise and holy; and most especially to the blessed word of inspiration itself—the pure fountain of all true wisdom.

STICHA.

June, 1837.

Grace.—“O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death.”—Rom. vii. 24. When grace reigns in the heart, sin cannot bewitch itself as it once did: but yet in-dwelling sin, the law in the members is so subtle, that it will hide itself in secret places, difficult to be discovered, and far more difficult to be destroyed. There it is, and the believer is constrained to adopt the words of this text.—Burder.

Parental Instruction.—“Moses commanded as a father, even the inheritance of the congregation of Jacob.”—Among the Jews when a child began to speak, the father was bound to teach him this verse. Let me besides make my children acquainted with the law which our blessed Jesus has commanded

us! It is the best inheritance I can give them.—
 C. Mather.

Righteousness of the Saints consists in Christ's righteousness imputed to them: 2 Cor. 5. 21. 3. c. Phil. 9. in principles of righteousness implanted in them: 4 c. Eph. 23, 24. and in righteousness of life exemplified by them: 2 c. Eph. 10. 2 c. Tit. 14.—
 Barr.

And the door was shut: 25 c. Mat. 10. Death shuts the door. No more can then be done. It is too late to repent—to resolve—to promise—and to do—any thing.—Bp. Wilson.

“Resist the Devil, and he will flee from you.”—4 c. 7. “Withstand the beginnings,” (obstacles) is a wise maxim among physicians, because it is as much easier to nip a disorder in the bud, than to remove it when it has taken deep root in the constitution. This rule is not less useful in spiritual concerns. Satan is a coward when manfully resisted; but grows bolder, and the tempted soul becomes weaker, by yielding.—Anon.

When Moses was gone into the tabernacle of the congregation to speak with Him, there he heard the voice of one speaking unto him, from off the mercy seat. 7 c. Numbers 89.

“The excellent Bishop Patrick,” (as Henry terms him) observes that God's speaking to Moses, thus by an audible, articulate voice, as if he had been clothed with a body, might be looked upon as an earnest of the incarnation of the Son of God in the fulness of time, when the Word should be made flesh and speak in the language of the sons of men.—See 1 Heb.

And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them (the children of Israel) and He departed.—12 c. Numb. 9.

The removal of God's presence from us is the surest and saddest token of God's displeasure against us. Wo unto us if He depart; and He never departs till we, by our sin and folly, drive Him from us.—M. Henry.

“My burden is light.”—Thus saith the blessed Redeemer. A light burden indeed which carries him who bears it. I have looked through all nature for a resemblance of this, and I seem to find a shadow of it in the wings of a bird, which are indeed borne by the creature and yet supports the flight towards heaven.—Bernard.

INTELLIGENCE.

From the Episcopal Recorder.

Awful Calamity.—There probably has never occurred a more heart-rending calamity than has recently been experienced in the conflagration of the steamboat Ben Sherrod running on the Mississippi between Louisville and New Orleans. The disaster occurred about fifty miles below Natchez while the boat was on her way up. It seems certain that more than one hundred persons perished on this occasion. The following extracts in relation to its distressing scenes are from the N. C. Commercial Herald.

So rapid was the spread of the fire, and so destitute were those on board of all means of escape, that nothing could be saved, not even the register of the boat, so that it is impossible to say how many were lost, or what were their names. The passengers and crew amounted to over 160, of whom the following were picked up by the Columbus.

Officers.—Captain C. G. Castleman and lady; George Stiles, clerk, William Bell, first engineer; Stephen Hooks, do., Charles Greenlee, pilot; Samuel Pig, 2d mate; John Hill, carpenter.

Crew.—Patrick Rice, Jacob Lightstroof, John Egman, A. Goddin, Amos Burby, Bully John, N. O'Hara, Charles Simms, Frederick Cowen, Willis Caldwell, John Caldwell, John Johnson, Jacob Rose, Edward Fleece, B. M'Daniel, Moses Caldwell, Charles Anderson, Peter Sevier, Robert Louisianed, Andrew Moore, Joseph Corper, Josiah Fisher, John Cork.

Passengers.—James Smith, lady and son; Thomas Cook, William H. Cloud, William Beattie, Amos Brundell, Thomas Larmer, Samuel Ray, Lister Sexton, Mr. Gamble and son; and four lost at Fort Adams, names unknown, were in the cabin; Samuel Spuinness, and Asa Gates on deck.

Our limits preclude the possibility of enumerating the various heart-rending sights that this calamitous affair occasioned. The captain, for instance, saved his wife, but saw his two children perish. Mr. Smith saved his wife and one child, and saw the nurse rush madly through the flames with his daughter, and both perished. Mr. Gamble's wife, we understand, was burnt to death; he escaped, although very badly burnt. One young man had reached the hurricane deck in safety, heard the cries of his sister, rushed back to the cabin, clasped her in his arms, and both were burnt to death. One of the clerks, one of the pilots, and the first mate were burnt up. All the chamber maids and women employed on the boat perished. Out of 35 negroes that were known to have been on board, only 2 escaped alive. The Ben Sherrod had the largest crew of any boat on the river, and by reference to the above list of names it will be seen that out of the 50 saved, over 30 belonged to the boat, and out of the 60 or 70 cabin passengers, there are but 10 or 12 left alive. One of the officers of the boat assured us that in addition to the cabin passengers, there were at least 60 or more deck passengers of which scarce six are saved.

Altogether this has been one of the most serious disasters that has happened in the annals of Mississippi steamboats, there being at least one hundred and fifty families deprived by it of some dear and beloved member—over one hundred beings hurried by it out of time into eternity with scarce a moment's warning. And amongst those who are saved many are said to be severely burnt, some so much so that their recovery is very doubtful.

We have since learnt that the four left at Fort Adams are Messrs. James P. Wilkinson, G. Stansfield, Gamble and his son. Mr. Francis was burnt to death.

The Natchez papers contain the following additional particulars:

“At the time she took fire, she was engaged in a race with the steamer Prairie, and the fire caught from the great heat caused by raising her steam to its extreme power. A barrel of whiskey was placed on deck for the use of the hands during the race, who drank to excess, and became intoxicated!!

“The number drowned and burnt is now ascertained to be one hundred and seventy-five.

“At about 12 o'clock at night, the furnace became so heated that it communicated fire to the wood, of which there were on board about sixty cords. When the crew discovered the fire, they all left their posts and ran for the yawl, without giving alarm to the passengers, who were all asleep in their berths. The captain, for a time, attempted to allay the extreme confusion, by stating that the fire was extinguished; twice he forbid the lowering of the yawl which was attempted by the deck hands and passengers. The shrieks of nearly three hundred persons on board now rose wild and dreadful. The cry was—to the shore! to the shore! and the boat made for the starboard shore, but did not gain it as the wheel rope might have given way, or the pilot driven by the flames from his station. The steam was not let off, and the boat kept on. The scene of horror beggared all description.”