

have great reason for humiliation and abasement, yet the work of God will prosper in proportion as we are influenced by pure and holy motives, and with a due regard to our responsibilities and obligations.

I would write much on this topic, a fire is enkindled within, I feel that much is in store for the church—greater things are to be experienced than we have yet met with, but I forbear; I have written in haste for conscience told me that the brethren must contribute their *mile* to the Harbinger.

Yours respectfully,

JAMES T. BYRNE.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE HARBINGER.

GENTLEMEN,—Within the past few years, a case has occurred under my observation, which you may deem worthy of notice in the Harbinger.

Mr. J. R. was born in A., Mass., U. S. He enjoyed in early life the instructions of a pious mother, and at the age of eight years, began to feel his sinfulness and betake himself to prayer. These early impressions, however, were subsequently effaced, and certain speculations into which he entered in maturer life, tended greatly to reduce his practical estimate of moral obligation—against which evil the preaching he attended, being of an *ultra-calvanistic* character, furnished no effectual antidote. At length he married, became the father of a numerous family, instituted family worship and at the same time outraged his conscience by fraudulent dealings with his fellow-men. At the age of sixty, he removed to Canada, when only at distant intervals, he heard the truth from the lips of an itinerant preacher. Here he became in sentiment, an universalist,—and this false creed operated, for a time, as an opiate to his conscience. Subsequent reflections, however, awakened solicitude for his spiritual welfare, and this subject almost exclusively occupied, for years, his anxious thoughts. He earnestly sought the intercourse, and desired the instructions of *serious Christians*, but he never seems to have found “peace and joy in believing.” He repeatedly declared in my hearing that he would willingly endure the severest and most prolonged bodily torture, in order to enjoy the authorized prospect of admission into heaven. “But oh,” he would add, “how can I endure to dwell with devils forever!” Being interrogated as to his former sentiments in reference to the term of future punishment, he declared that the adoption of those sentiments, was only an expedient to ease his conscience, and with tears implored the intercessions of his Christian friends that “one ray of light” might visit his beclouded mind, “one crumb of the children’s bread” be given to his hungry soul.

These and similar expressions often escaped his lips. They were entirely self-prompted, and conversation on such subjects was frequent during his de-

clining years, when rendered by infirmity unable to attend the public worship of God. He lived beyond the great age of *ninety*, yet no perceptible spiritual change had taken place.

At length, hearing that he was sick, I repaired to his abode. He was nearly speechless, but in a whisper thanked me for my visit, and said: “Now, ask Jesus Christ to bless me.” A few petitions were offered, he pressed my hand, and, in a few hours more, was gone to his account.

Let ministers learn from this short and simple record, how peaceful and, in their tendency, how fatal may be the results of that kind of preaching which J. R. attended in early life,—which lowers the claims of God, and proportionately liberates the mind from the restraints of moral obligation.

Let children and youth beware of trifling with early impressions, and let the death of this unhappy man, deter them from forsaking the throne of grace.

Let men of business guard against every compromise of principle and truth in their secular transactions, and ponder the consequences even of partial inattention to God’s word, and neglect of his instituted ordinances.

A. J. P.

Shipton.

The Harbinger.

MONTREAL, MARCH 15, 1842.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—The communication of H. D. N. is unsuited to our pages, the limited number of which compels us to confine ourselves to the elucidation of great principles and the record of important facts. Will our respected correspondent favour us with a communication in either of these departments?

The valuable communication from our Female correspondent at Stanstead is acknowledged. It will be used in due course.

We are not a little surprised at the silence of some parties from whom contributions, in the form of *intelligence*, were confidently expected. We are very unwilling to forego this confidence, and throw out *for the present*, a gentle hint—to them sufficiently intelligible—in the hope that it may secure the redemption of a virtual pledge. The non-arrival of the mail from England, deprives our readers, for the present month, of the usual amount of European intelligence. Our next number, however, will bring THEM *an ample compensation*.

It is not without some reluctance, that we advert to the high tone recently assumed by a