

From Rev. J. A. Clark's letters.

THE REV. MR. NOEL, —AN ADULT BAPTISM.

London, May 26, 1838.

The edifice before us, peering up from amid the trees by which it was embosomed, was a simple gothic structure, which, pointing upwards to the skies, and standing, as it did, in the midst of the graves of the dead, at once filled our minds with solemn awe and devout feelings. Having left our carriage we proceeded along through the church-yard, occupied with grave stones and sepulchral monuments, and shaded with numerous trees that stretched their thick and leafy branches over these heaped hillocks of earth and sculptured monuments of the dead. The interior of the church was exceedingly neat and beautiful. It may not be improper here to remark that the rector of this Church is Mr. Wilson, a brother to the present Bishop of Calcutta. The Rev. Mr. Noel resides within about a half of a mile of this church. As he is not permitted to administer baptism in his chapel, the law requiring this rite to be performed in a parish church, he had requested the use of Mr. Wilson's church for the administration of this ordinance, to witness which was the grand object of our visit to Walthamstowe. Adult baptism always presents a solemn and affecting scene. It appeared particularly interesting on this occasion. We had just left the noise and bustle of the city, and were in a place of sweet and quiet rural retirement. Around us, on every side, were the graves of the dead; a little company were gathered within the solemn sanctuary, and all had drawn around the baptismal font, to behold one confess Christ and give himself up to him in the bonds of an everlasting covenant. She was young, most elegant in form, and every way beautiful in personal appearance. Her dress, which was pure white, was neat, but exceedingly plain. She had been, by birth-right, and still was a member of the Friend's Society. The Holy Spirit, however, had enlightened her mind in the reading of God's word, and led her to see that it was her duty to confess Christ before the world, and to be baptized with water as well as with the Holy Ghost. I had enjoyed the pleasure of several conversations with this interesting young lady, and it was by her particular request that I had gone to Walthamstowe to witness her baptism. As I saw this lovely female standing at the baptismal font, so young and beautiful, and so full of the meekness and gentleness of Christ, I was strongly reminded of some scenes that we have witnessed at home. Though a slight crimson glow was on Mary's cheek, and an unearthly look beamed from her dark, lustrous eye, she seemed utterly unconscious of every thing around her but the presence of that God with whom she was entering into an everlasting covenant. The service appeared uncommonly affecting in the soft, sweet tones of Mr. Noel's melodious voice. From the church we went to Mr. Noel's house, which is situated in a most romantic spot, environed with ten thousand rural beauties. On one side is the border of an extended forest, and on the other a smooth and closely shorn lawn of the most exquisite green, gardens and fields, shrubbery and trees, and all the varied groupings of rural scenery are spread in delightful prospect around his dwelling. But we did not go at once to gaze upon this rich scenery. In our company were three clergymen beside Mr. Noel. Having reached his dwelling he proposed that we should spend an hour in prayer and praise. All being assembled in his spacious study, a hymn was sung, and an hour was delightfully spent in social prayer. It was most profitable to us all, but seemed peculiarly grateful to the young Christian who had just put on her armour. These religious exercises being ended, we all walked out to trace the serpentine walks, and sit beneath the pleasant arbors that environed Mr. Noel's residence, and also to see him relax himself in engaging with spirit and animation in the sports of his happy children, who were amusing themselves in running upon the green grass, or being borne aloft through the viewless air by means of the swings that were suspended from some huge elms that stood near the house. Directly dinner was announced. We all staid by invitation to dine with the pastor. The time passed quickly away in de-

lightful conversation; and as we returned, and I left my friends in Heathcote street, I could not but think with what delight they would look back upon this day, through all future time, so pleasantly and profitably spent. What added very much to the interest of this baptism, was not only that the subject of it was a Friend, but the daughter of parents whose names are extensively known, not only in this country, but in America. I hope I do not exceed the bounds of propriety, nor violate the claims of friendship, by mentioning a name which has become very dear to me by the hospitality and unbounded kindness of the family that bears it; and I therefore shall venture say, that Mary Caroline, whose baptism I witnessed, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Braithwaite, whose visit to America, about the time the Hicksite heresy broke out among the Friends, will not soon be forgotten.

DEVOTIONAL.

For the Colonial Churchman.

MORNING MEDITATIONS.—NO. II.

"The earliest duty of the day, after that of putting the body in a becoming state of cleanliness and preparation, is the indispensable duty of Devotion."

THURSDAY.

Prayer.—Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need—4 c. Heb. 16. This verse gives us a great directory how to perform in a right manner this great duty. 1st, it tells us *whither* to come. 2d, how we should come. 3d, for what we should come.—*Trail, A. D. 1696.*

FRIDAY.

The Sacrifice.—Christ hath given himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God—5 Eph. 2. Not like an offering or like a sacrifice, but an offering and sacrifice: not to do us a small kindness, but to offer His life for us—He would die in our stead, that we might live by His death. Christ's life was an offering, His death a sacrifice.—*Chamode. 1684.*

SATURDAY.

Our Saviour.—Acquainted with grief. 53 Is.

He—a man of woes,
Went on the way appointed,—path, though rough,
Yet borne with patience still! He came to cheer
The broken-hearted: to raise up the sick
And on the wandering and benighted mind
To pour the light of truth,—O task divine!—*K. White.*

SUNDAY.

Keep holy the sabbath day—20 Gen. Holy here means separate, or set apart from other days, in order to a religious use. We should, therefore, consider this blessed Day, as different from others, and should carry that feeling habitually about with us, through all the hours of it.—All sorrows mitigated—fears repressed—every angry motive softened—every envious, revengeful, or uncharitable feeling expelled,—we should look forward to that never-ending sabbath or "rest which remaineth for the people of God."

MONDAY.

Immediate Repentance.—Now is the accepted time; now is the day of salvation. Or the season for sinners to be saved. There will be no believing unto salvation, but while we have the light; nor any admission into the kingdom, unless we be ready at the call of our Lord. Flee, then, at once from the wrath to come.—*A. Fuller.*

TUESDAY.

Day of Judgment.—The wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment—but the righteous unto life eternal. Matt. 25 ch. 41.

Ye sinners, seek His grace,
Whose wrath ye cannot bear;
Fly to the shelter of His cross,
And find salvation there.

So shall that curse remove,
By which the Saviour bled;
And the last awful day shall pour
His blessing on your head.—*Doudridge.*

WEDNESDAY.

Happy death.—The hope of the righteous shall be gladness. The righteous hath hope in his death. 10 Prov. 28, and 14. 32. A devout man, (Preston) could say a little time before his death—I shall change my place, but not my company. Intercede with God, that he would order thy steps in His word, and hold up thy goings in His way, until thy feet take hold on eternal life.—*Burkitt.*

THURSDAY.

Mourning for sin.—My God! my God! why hast thou forsaken me. Ps. 1. Know, for thy comfort, that thy hiding Lord will return again.—Weeping may endure for a night—but joy cometh in the morning. The very breathing and longing of thy soul after Him, are a pledge of His return.—*E. Erskine.*

DEFERRED ITEMS.

Deaths by lightning.—During a thunder storm on Sunday the 1st inst. Mrs. Roby, wife of Gilman Roby, of Dunstable, Mass. was killed by lightning. Mrs. Roby was returning from church, and had just entered her dwelling, and as she was in the act of shutting the door after her the lightning struck her and killed her instantly. On Friday evening last, a thunder storm visited Wilbraham, Mass., during which Roderic C. Perry, of Sandwich, one of the students in the Wesleyan Academy, while standing under a tree a few rods from the Academy, was struck by lightning on the head and instantly killed! Ten persons who were near him were more or less affected by the shock, though none seriously. The tree probably first received the blow as it is much shattered.

Elizabeth Low, aged 21, and Emiline Low, aged 14, daughters of Mr. Wm. Low, resided near Spartanburgh Court-house, S. C. were killed by lightning on Tuesday the 19th ult. The young women had gone to a plum orchard at a little distance from their father's house, shortly after reaching which it commenced raining, when they took shelter under a tree, and were struck dead at the same moment. Another person fifteen feet off was struck senseless, and received some injury, but is now, we are pleased to say, rapidly recovering.—*Epis. Rec.*

A deputation from the Church of Scotland has made an appeal to a Liverpool audience in behalf of their poor fellow countrymen, who are suffering the utmost degree of spiritual destitution. Of 2,500,000 of which the population of Scotland is computed to consist, not more than 1,000,000 are provided with the means of public worship within the pale of the Established Church.—*Chr. Wit.*

Sentence of Abner Kneeland for Blasphemy.—There was a large concourse of people in the Supreme Court this morning, to hear Mr. Kneeland's sentence. He came into Court, attended by his wife and family, and a number of female friends. The Bench was full, and, at the direction of Chief Justice Shaw, Mr. Wild, the Clerk, read the sentence, which was sixty days' imprisonment in the common jail. Mr. Kneeland made no remarks on the sentence, and was immediately removed to prison.—*Ibid.*

The Philadelphia National Gazette estimates that during the year 1836 upwards of three hundred and fifty lives were destroyed by steamboat accidents; in 1837 six or seven hundred were cut off in the same way; and for the year 1838 we may already count nearly or quite a thousand persons killed.—*Ibid.*

Africa.—Moroka, chief of the Borolongs inhabiting the country north of the Orange River, had issued a proclamation in the Dutch, English and Schuana languages, prohibiting the traffic in ardent spirits throughout his dominions.—*Ibid.*

The British and foreign Bible Society issued nearly 600,000 copies of the Scriptures last year. The receipts of the treasury amounted to about \$450,000.—*Ibid.*

Mrs. Sigourney is to edit the Religious Souvenir for 1839. It was formerly edited by Rev. Dr. Badell.—*Ibid.*