

## THE PROTESTANT, AND EVANGELICAL WITNESS.

Spirit had enabled him to believe this, he began to bless God, and praised His rich, free grace, to such a degree that some people said that he made the house "like a lower heaven, so full of joy." Well, he showed wonderful patience under pain and sickness; and not that the water from the cross, as well as the blood? He showed great humility, never lifting up his head. Was not this a sign of holiness? "We have this the water, not the blood?" Formerly he was a member of the Sabbath-school, and often would do every kind of mischief, so that he said, "He was like the devil for wickedness." But now he felt a horror at the sin of his nature, and of his heart, and was often noticed weeping when he confided his sins. Was not this the water as well as the blood? Dear young friends, have you yet got the water?

I could tell you of another boy, John Seales, who saw the preciousness of Christ's blood very early; and who used to redeem his time, over and over again; and who thought it wrong, when books were given him by his teachers, to read them slightly and without understanding. And I might tell you of Susanna Bicks, in Holland, who used to seek earnestly for "brotherhood of heart" after she found Christ, because she said, it is built upon the flows from the soul, and faith is built on Christ. This was just as if, after getting the *Mood*, she had asked for the water. And she was quite right. She was a very grateful girl, and had great delight in her Bible and her Catechism; and it is by such feelings as those that children are known to be God's children whom the Holy Spirit is sanctifying. This, we say again, is getting the water as well as the blood.

And, dear children, let me say to you, that if you are not feeling the water as well as the blood, you have not been at the cross. The two go together. You have not believed in Christ in the cleansing away of your guilt, if you live in the love and practice of sin. For whenever you get the blood for your soul, you will also get the sanctifying water.

I know a mother who, on being asked whether she thought her girl truly changed, said, "I have no doubt of it; she is so altered at home." How is she altered? "She never speaks back now." Was not that the water as well as the blood? One that really gets this blessing cannot lie, cannot swear, cannot willingly break any commandment. If you have been at the cross, you have got both pardon and holiness.

You that cannot say you have already found Christ, look now upon what John saw. O! come and see the same sight; come and get the same blessing. Do not go home to get it at some future time; take it now; take it with you.—G. Walker.

### Protestant & Evangelical Witness.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1861.

#### Divine Chastisements.

A good man perceives and acknowledges the hand of God in his afflictions. Job sees God contending with him. Though his sufferings were principally from creatures, he said, "The Lord hath taken away" whatever may form the twigs of the rod, God is the chastiser. He has a right to correct and can never err in doing so. Bearing this in remembrance, we report all unmeriting passions. This afflicted Job. It is the Lord, let him do what he wills him to do. While the affliction is recent, in the first burst of it, we may not be able to discern them to submit to the judgment of the Lord, and to say, the will of God be done. But when the hurricane, so to speak, has passed over, when the sun looks around, and contemplates what God has done, the reflection, an' prayer of the true believer will be: Thou hast chastised me and I was chastised. Turn thou me and I shall be turned. There is an acknowledgment that the affliction is from the Lord. "Thou hast chastised me." It was no chance that visited me, no concurrence of events without the direction of Jehovah. But there is also an acknowledgment that there is a necessity for improvement. "Turn thou me." There is a desire to make the dispensation an instrument of spiritual benefit. The affliction of a good man never occurs without a cause. They are never sent upon a proper errand. The principle of the Divine Government, in regard to affliction, may be thus defined. It is a discipline of love, necessary as a means, for purifying and for perfecting the people of God. It is represented to us as an instrument in the hand of God which he wields, speaking after the manner of men, with reluctance. "He afflicteth not unwillingly." It is a necessary discipline in which engages with feelings similar to those with which a parent proceeds to chastise a very dear child. As an affectionate parent will not administer discipline without informing his child that it is necessary, so God imparts the blessed spirit, to instruct, to chastise the sufferer that he is under the chastening hand of a kind Father, to display to him his need of the chastisement, and to assure him that it requires to be corrected, and to produce in him a quiet peace and acquiescence in the will of God.

What applies to an individual in trouble, equally applies to a society or church. We may refer in particular to the present trials of the New Hebrides Mission in the South Pacific. That Mission has been hitherto remarkably successful. Though the missionaries have oftentimes had narrow escapes, and were often surrounded with perils from the heathens; yet for many years their lives and health seemed very precious in God's sight. Lately, however, the waves and billows of adversity have rolled over that Mission. The mortality among the natives has been almost unparalleled. Of the mission females, Mrs. Paton first fell a victim to the climate, and found a grave in Tanna, far from home and kindred. Rev. Mr. Johnson succeeded her, and was buried by her side; and scarcely has the Church wiped her tears over his grave, when she is called to bewail the martyrdom of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, in Eromanga. These last tidings of the cruel murder of these devoted servants of Jesus, caused a thrill of sorrow to pervade the Church. "Show us therefore them that contend with us," is the language of many a heart, as in secret the friends of missions pour out their souls before God. Many are at a loss to understand why one concerning whom they had formed so many expectations of usefulness to come, was thus cut down and set aside. But let the thought that the Lord had done it who knew what was best both for the accomplishment of his holy purpose of love and salvation to our race, and for the happiness and holiness of his faithful ones who have with such singleness of purpose left all for Christ, exult all rejoicing from our hearts. Let us feel that although the dispensation is one of unfathomable mystery, that it is nevertheless perfectly right as well as wise. These missionary efforts, however, have been given up to God to be used by him as he should see best for the promotion of his kingdom and glory. This made no conditions as to the manner in which he should use them for his glory. He has been pleased to release them from pain, and evil, and sin on earth, and to receive them to a divine life and enjoyment in heaven. Our prayer is that the Lord may sustain and comfort their spirits and now relieved under this severe trial, and satisfy it to the minds of other friends, and to the Church in general, in reference to their great work of evangelizing the world. We are glad to learn that the most High did hasten to fulfill his promise to the parents of Mr. Gordon (who reside on the Island) in the extremity of their grief, and having enabled them freely to surrender their son to his service, enabled them also to acquire, in the manner in which he has been pleased to glorify himself in him, let us all seek the improvement of these trying dispensations. Jehovah does nothing in vain. If matters which merely ruffle the surface of the mind

are to be viewed as sent of Him for a purpose, shall we fail to mark his hand in those which agitate it throughout, which stir its depths? There is a purpose in affliction. It does not follow because an individual, or a family, or a church have been affected, that they have been sinners above all others. "Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans because their blood was mingled with theirs?" said ye not you?" But it may fairly be concluded that there is something more. Why is the ship in danger? Paul says, "The ship has fled from the presence of the Lord." Why does Israel flee before the men of Ail? This is an Achan in the camp. There is a sinner indulged, sound duty neglected, and idol adored. But his sins may be not only to shun for an evil act, but to hedge up our way with thorns to keep us from forbidden ground, or to prevent us from visiting the "Mother of Harlots." Judas was an enemis type of Antichrist. He assumed the character of an apostle and walked with the apostles, yet betrayed his Master at the very moment, above all others, when he had received him into his bosom, thinking him to be innocent. He was the chief instigator of a crew of robbers who had the power of robbing the rich, but had no power to defend themselves. He was the chief instigator of a crew of robbers who had the power of robbing the rich, but had no power to defend themselves.

*Answer.*—I am so persuaded. *Bishop.*—Are you now so persuaded, that the Church, these last years, has only in the love of God, and in the name of our Saviour, better acts in matters of faith, and do you recognize all the errors and superstitions of that Church so far as they have come to your knowledge?

*Answer.*—I recognize them all.

*Bishop.*—Do you acknowledge that you err, and were induced to do so only by the influence of the Devil? Why does Israel flee before the men of Ail?

*Answer.*—I confess my fault, and I am

all desirous requisite and necessary to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus!

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*Bishop.*—Are you persuaded the Pope, or Bishop, of Rome has any lawful authority or jurisdiction in this Province?

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