

VOLUME XIII., No. 1.]

Poetry.

A CONSECRATION.

BY M. F. TUPPER.

The consecrated Temple stands serene,
Mostly deck'd in pure old English taste.

Our Monthly Review.

SKETCHES OF CANADIAN LIFE, LAY AND ECCLESIASTICAL; ILLUSTRATIVE OF CANADA AND THE CANADIAN CHURCH. By a Presbyter of the Diocese of Toronto. London: Bogue, 1849.

We have not received a copy of the work, the title of which is given above. When it comes to hand, we shall give it that attention which the interest of the subject, and the known ability of the reverend author, claim at our hands.

These sketches profess to be facts in the form of fiction. The object of the author is to exhibit the state of society in Canada, the prospects the colony opens to various classes of settlers, and the importance and urgent necessity of more religious instruction from the Established Church.

Harry Vernon, the principal person of the story, is the younger son of an English country gentleman; whose father's name being placed in the place learned professions, no opening seems left for Harry, since he dislikes trade, and his parents object to the "services" on moral and religious grounds.

These things operate in various ways upon Harry Vernon. The disregard of the Sabbath and other questionable habits of the settlement, do not attract upon him to the same extent as upon many, though at a religious friend who has pitched his tent in a more settled district.

Mr. Vernon's first missionary career is assumed in the present day to be very great; yet it is probably less than philanthropists imagine. "Mostly banished from the heart," says Voltaire, "takes refuge on the lips."

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Sketches of Canada exhibit a practical knowledge of the country, though the author has his colonial biases; and he seems to possess that uncertainty, not peculiar to colonies, which prevents a mind from exhibiting the complete or entire truth.

The writing is good, except when the story leads the Presbyter into religious discussion, and then he becomes rather professional or prosy. The narrative is clear; the description distinct, and at times almost poetical; the dialogue naturally sustained, except in the purely didactic parts, when the contrivance to bring in the information is rather too obvious.

"In the older settlements there were some things which annoyed Vernon even more, though they did not affect his personal comfort so immediately. Chief among these things was the general tone and manner which prevailed among the rising generation, particularly the young men."

Having for the most part been brought up, if not born, in the settlements, they had hardly ever seen persons in a rank of life superior to their own. The farms on which they lived were cleared and fertile; the families of which they were members were thriving and comfortable.

The extent to which delicacy affects morals is assumed in the present day to be very great; yet it is probably less than philanthropists imagine. "Mostly banished from the heart," says Voltaire, "takes refuge on the lips."

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Christ's Commandments as they themselves expound those commandments. "I have at the diversity of doctrine and opinion held by the different sects in our land, will show that there is hardly a doctrine or a practice that might not be thus introduced and prevail, instead of 'the Faith once delivered to the Saints.'"

It can hardly be necessary, therefore, to show from the Scriptures, that the Church has this right. It is implied in the very fact of its existence, and of the intention that it should continue to exist until the second coming of our Lord.

But after all, it is unnecessary to insist upon this point. For if the Church should recognize these sects as legitimate branches of the Church of Christ, and acknowledge them as such, she cannot acknowledge that they are heretical and schismatic.

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Church Windows. In Church decoration special attention should be directed to the mode in which the external light is admitted. The management of light in Architecture is always a matter of importance.

Let any one enter a church where the light of day has been softened down by stained glass, and then into another where the full blaze of sunshine, with a view of the surrounding roofs, chimneys and windows, is admitted—relieved perhaps, solely by the paltry apology of holland blinds—she will be quickly sensible how ill-fitted is this glare for a House of Prayer, and will subscribe to the full force of Burke's reasoning.

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The New Bishop of Down and Connor, and the Education Society. The new Bishop of Down and Connor (Dr. Knox) has commenced his episcopate with a speech of authority, which has excited his popularity among the Irish Clergy.

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